Summary of Staff Council Meeting
October 6, 2009

During this month's meeting President Daniel Fogel addressed the Council with a Q&A session; several new Council policy statements were reviewed and voted on; the Council President provided an update of her previous month's work; and several staff-related announcements were made.

President Fogel shared that he enjoyed the opportunity to recognize and thank staff across the University during Staff Appreciation Week (Sept. 21st – 25th) and how he is especially grateful to those who serve as elected representatives on Staff Council, giving staff a presence and voice in the shared governance of the University. He further said, as we face great challenges they "…require that all of us put our heads together, with open discussion, promoting shared understanding of what the challenges are and tapping ingenuity and dedication of staff, faculty and students to help us solve problems together."

President Fogel declared that UVM is in a relatively strong position as compared to other higher education institutions, coast to coast, among publics and privates. He provided details of how UVM has made significant investments to support student access given the increased need for financial assistance this year. He explained how we all need to work together to increase the academic quality and distinction of the University in order to succeed in an increasingly competitive and resource-constrained environment. And although UVM continues to have a lot of national recognition, what we really care about is academic quality, student outcomes, and the quality of the University as a community where faculty and staff thrive and develop professionally. President Fogel said, "It doesn't work without the staff of the University being pillars in that success and I am very grateful for your service on Staff Council and for the service of all of our staff colleagues."

Council business included discussion and approval of four new policy statements titled: Appointed Representative Policy Statement; Staff Council Presidential Policy Statement; Working Relationships Policy Statement; Absenteeism and Removal Policy Statement. Additional business included the review and approval of the September 1, 2009 Staff Council Meeting Minutes.

Committee chairs Joanne Montanye and Marie Tiemann addressed the Council. Joanne summarized the efforts of the Communications Committee these past two years and welcomed new ideas to promote greater communication both among staff and across UVM's campus. Marie said the Recreation Committee is focused on organizing a very successful Holiday Craft Bazaar on Thursday, December 3rd and invited Council members to volunteer and support this significant fundraiser that promotes the artistic talents of our collective community, raises money to offset the cost of events planned for University employees and retirees, and funds Community Service Awards to non-profits when staff volunteer their time. Council members were asked to encourage their coworkers to consider either participating or volunteering to support this year's Holiday Bazaar.

The Staff Council Office has relocated to Waterman 313, retaining Waterman 305 as its conference room. The deadline for *Staffline* submissions for the November issue is October 16th; the deadline for Jay Peak season passes is Wednesday, October 7th and Smugglers' Notch is October 31st.

Council President Beth Walsh reported on a September 8th meeting with President Fogel where they discussed Council matters that were addressed over the summer and current issues including parking and transportation. Beth reported that she and Staff Council Representative Marty Burrows participated in recent interviews for the next Director of Parking and Transportation. Beth took part in the three events that make up Staff Appreciation Week including the Social on the Green, the Staff Luncheon for those celebrating their 10th anniversary at UVM, and the Staff Recognition Dinner for those celebrating 15 years or more at UVM. She attended the Campus Leadership Forum where the roles of each of the governance bodies on campus were discussed. She also met with the committee discussing UVM's 2010 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Nominees. Lastly, Beth met with the SGA President Bryce Jones and Vice President Kate Ash to discuss future opportunities for collaboration between staff and students and followed up with a letter of welcome to all students, on behalf of Staff Council.

Council representatives were asked to review the September 29th Retreat Notes, particularly the Creative Thinking Exercise, and instructed to identify recurring themes and issues for further discussion by the Executive Board. The Council was asked to reply to this request by Wednesday, October 21st to staff.council@uvm.edu.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 12:05 to 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Bldg.