Minutes

UVM Staff Council
November 1, 2016
12:05-1:30 p.m.
Livak Ballroom, Davis Center


Ex-officio: Meryl St. John, Staff Council Administrator

Members Absent: Nancy Bercaw, Valerie Carzello, JoAnne Dearborn, Monica Devino, Mary Dunne, Jean Evans, Nick Hall, Gwen Landis, Anita Lavoie, Stephanie Loscalzo, Noël McCann, Judy Riani, Bill Valliere,

Also Participating: Interfaith Coordinator, Laura Engelken, Vice President for Executive Operations Gary Derr, Staff Council Assistant Amy Gilman

Call to Order

Karmen Swim called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Discussion/Q&A with Guest Laura Engelken, Interfaith Coordinator

Laura came to talk about what her role as the UVM Interfaith Coordinator involves. Where does this fit in on this campus? She suggested that faith means strength and resiliency in our lives – both personal and professional – and that faith does not have to be religious, but can be any worldview that influences the way a person interacts with the world. She explained that she will help the UVM community (students, staff, administration and faculty) with training, support and thinking about spirituality and religion and what that means to them. Also, she can help with assessing if accommodation is appropriate such as when a new group wants to be formed or recognized. When Laura uses the term spirituality she means “meaning making” – who am I? what’s important to me? What leads me? What are my core values? She also will support and educate with religious literacy (to know a little bit about religions and their practices to better support our students and colleagues). Laura shared that Wednesday, November 16 there will be an Interfaith Center Open House Celebration from 11:30am-1:30pm located next to the Catholic Center on Redstone Campus.

Call for Discussion Topics

None were brought up at this time.

Approve Draft Minutes from October 4, 2016

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the October 4, 2016 Council minutes. With no edits and no discussion, the minutes were adopted.
Public Comment Period

No comments were made.

Officer’s Update

The full Officer’s Report is posted online on the President of Staff Council’s webpage.

Committee Updates

CBB – The committee continues to try to identify a HRDMA representative to meet on a flex basis to help define or provide clarity around HRDMA procedures or policies for projects that this committee might be working on. In regards to FY18 merit raises and staff wage increases, an invite to Richard Cate has been extended to get a sense of where the numbers are right now, what info is still to be determined and what are the metrics at play (numbers & processes) in order to successfully implement merit and help communicate around FY18 wages/salaries. This group is preparing to put forward the proposal of Town Meeting becoming an administrative closure day for staff, faculty and students. It’s hoped this will be determined prior to March 2017. The information shared with this committee regarding the Health Insurance premiums was helpful to understand how the numbers were determined.

Outreach – The committee continues to review the last round of SC survey results looking for those trending concerns to hold future focus groups. There was also information shared that adds more value to our survey. The way it stands now the biennial Staff Council survey can be multi-purposed to count as a measuring tool for the UVM STARS program. STARS stands for The Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (also referred to as AASHE STARS). It is a voluntary, internal rating framework from AASHE (Assn for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education). STARS differs from other "green" surveys in that it is much more comprehensive and includes in the definition of "sustainability" not only environmental considerations, but also economic and social dimensions. The major STARS categories under version 2.1 are: Academics; Campus Engagement; Operations; and Planning and Administration. Points are also available for Innovation. The Office of Sustainability has used STARS as a framework to track progress related to best practices in sustainability in operations and policy since 2010, when the Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution in support of UVM participation in STARS. The Committee will investigate whether it is feasible to request some funding for data analysis efforts in the future since the Staff Council Survey is able to fulfill this requirement.

PPD – The letter to UVM leadership regarding parking issues on behalf of staff is in draft now. The letter is currently being reviewed for the next meeting. Parking and Transportation will be sharing data and numbers to be used in the letter. A draft plan/policy for a centralized Professional Development Central Fund is also being reviewed by this committee. A save-the-date was shared with the council for uvm@edu, the dates will be March 14-16, 2017.

Social – The last push of advertising is underway for the Darn Tough Sock Sale Bus Trip. The committee is diligently working on Holiday Bazaar & Food Drive being held on Wednesday, December 7th. We are currently seeking volunteers for both the Holiday Bazaar and baked goods for the Bake Sale, as well as raffle prizes for the Raffle Table. The proceeds from these tables and the rental fees for
vendors help to support Staff Council Social Committee events such as bus trips, Champlain Valley Fair ticket discounts, Community Service Award Program, and much more.

Call for Volunteers

Meryl and Amy outlined that there would be an email going out by the end of the week regarding volunteer opportunities for Staff Council representatives at the Holiday Bazaar & Food Drive as well as volunteering to bring in a bake good for the Bake Sale at this same event. Hyperlinks will be provided to the electronic sign-ups.

Other Business

UVM ETS has rolled out the Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) process, it is being rolled out department by department, and staff will receive an email and steps to take. Meryl asked if there were any issues or feedback. Discussion ensued about how secure this process is and potential barriers for staff who do not have smart phones. The office is prepared to assist staff who have concerns if any arise.

Adjournment

Karmen asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.