

Summary of Staff Council Meeting November 3, 2009

November's meeting included a presentation, "Greening your Workplace" by Corey Berman of UVM's Recycling Program, several staff-related announcements, and the Staff Council President's Update.

Corey Berman reviewed "Practical Tips for Reducing Your Environmental Footprint", as part of the UVM Physical Plant Recycling Program. Today's presentation called: "[Greening Your Workplace](http://www.uvm.edu/~recycle/Presentations/Greening_Your_Workplace_v2008.pps)" is available at http://www.uvm.edu/~recycle/Presentations/Greening_Your_Workplace_v2008.pps. Corey asked Council members to challenge their coworkers to carry their own hot/cold cups and help UVM reduce its consumption of paper cups and bottled water. Feedback and questions for Corey may be directed cburman@uvm.edu or Erica Spiegel at erica.spiegel@uvm.edu. As follow-up to this discussion, Scott Lewins added that the Department of Plant and Soil Science is working with Recycling and Waste Management on a pilot program for staff, faculty and students called Compost Your Lunch Scraps. For more information on how staff in your area can compost, please email Scott Lewins (slewins@uvm.edu). This presentation was initiated by Staff Council's Employee Environment and Facilities Committee (EEFC).

Council business included the review and approval of the October 6, 2009 Staff Council Meeting Minutes. Committee chairperson, Marie Tieman announced that the Recreation Committee is working in concert with the Chittenden County Food Shelf in collecting food donations at this year's Holiday Bazaar on Thursday, December 3rd. As an incentive to promote food donations, a Free-Raffle Ticket will be given to each donor. Marie explained that the Raffle Ticket Sales are part of the Holiday Bazaar's overall fundraiser and asked Council members to encourage staff members in their units to help the Recreation Committee collect donations of items to raffle at the December 3rd Holiday Bazaar, explaining that Gift Tax Receipts will be issued in turn. This form will be available online, at the [Holiday Bazaar's website](#).

Today's announcements included: the deadline for *Staffline* submissions for the December issue is Friday, November 13th; the Council's End of Year Luncheon, hosted once again by President Fogel, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15th from 12 to 1:30 p.m.; Staff Council Representatives' photos are now posted on the Staff Council's website – questions or requests for a new photos should be referred to the Staff Council Office; First Night Burlington 2010 Buttons are now on sale, \$5.00 for kids and \$15.00 for adults (groups of 10 or more adults qualify for a bulk rate of \$12.00 per button) through December 18th; Ski Vouchers for Jay Peak are on sale now, Sugarbush and Smugglers' Day Voucher Ski Passes will available December 1st.

Jeff Bukowski announced that the Staff Council Office is recruiting Staff Advocates to serve as trained volunteers, to help (unrepresented) University of Vermont staff in difficult work situations (between employee and supervisor) that may or may not result in future grievances being filed. Friday, November 13th is the deadline for completing a nomination form, available

through the Staff Council Office and distributed via the November issue of *Staffline*. Five-Year Comprehensive Reviews of two college deans are under-way and input is requested by this Friday, November 13th for Dean Fayneese Miller and Dean Eleanor Miler. Jeff will send a request for this information out later this afternoon. Council members were asked to review the Solicitation Policy Draft (distributed with today's agenda) and forward any concerns or questions to the Staff Council Office by Friday, November 6th.

Council President Beth Walsh reported that she served as a member of the Honorary Degree Workgroup that reviewed nominations and helped select the Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree recipients. Beth, Jeff and Jon Reidel met with President Fogel and Gary Derr on October 13th and discussed the outreach efforts by the Council, focused primarily on staff for whom English is a second language, and the recent newspaper coverage regarding UE negotiations, however, since negotiations were underway this discussion was quickly concluded. Beth explained that since that meeting, the salary increase negotiated and approved by the UE and its members provides a 2% increase for FY 2010, and is tied to what unrepresented employees receive for FY 2011, should it be greater than the 2% agreed to by the UE. Deb Stern and Beth attended a University Benefits Advisory Committee meeting this past month, where the discussion focused on retiree benefit costs and recent federal regulation changes that are affecting UVM as an institution. Beth reviewed her address to the Board of Trustees, where she expressed gratitude for Staff Appreciation Week and also talked about the broad representation the Council has from across campus. The Leadership Forum was cancelled last month, however, President Fogel did communicate that UVM will begin its efforts with a new capital campaign early next year. Lastly, Beth joined several other Council members at the Vermont Women in Higher Education Conference last week.

Beth closed with discussion regarding Staff Council Retreat follow-up. It was decided, as a result of input from Council membership that the Executive Board review and put forth recommendations for the full Council to consider at the December meeting. She reminded everyone that the overall goal is to make certain we don't lose the momentum and ideas that came out of the retreat.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st, 2009, 12:05 to 1:30 p.m. in the Livak Ballrooms, 4th Floor Davis Student Center.