**Summary of Staff Council Meeting**
**December 1, 2009**

December's meeting included a presentation by Kim Howard, Director of International Education, and Joe Russell, Graduate Assistant in the Office of the VP of Enrollment Management on the U.S.-Sino Pathways Program at UVM; there were several staff-related announcements, and the Staff Council President's update.

Joe Russell explained that the U.S.-Sino Pathway Program (USPP) is a newly formed partnership between the Consortium of North American Universities (CNAU), comprising Baylor University, Northeastern University, the University of Utah and the University of Vermont, and global education service provider Kaplan China. The program will provide a pathway for Chinese students to pursue undergraduate studies in the U.S. The first cohort of USPP students will arrive at UVM in June 2010 and begin with a 10-week Summer Bridge program directed by two UVM faculty: Assistant Professor Tao Sun and Research Assistant Professor Ned McMahon. UVM aims to enroll 40-60 Chinese undergraduate students in Fall of 2010. They will have support from resident assistants, three program assistants and teacher assistants to help them adjust to life in Vermont, their course work and the American university system. Kim Howard welcomed direct inquiries by phone or e-mail by staff and faculty.

Council business included the review and approval of the November 3, 2009 Staff Council Meeting Minutes. Recreation Committee chairperson, Marie Tieman reminded everyone that the annual Holiday Bazaar will take place Thursday, December 3rd in the Davis Center Grand Maple Ballroom from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Forty vendors, comprised of staff, faculty, retirees, and alumni, all artisans, will have their hand-made items on display. This year marks the first time a Food Drive is tied to the Council's Holiday Bazaar, collaboration with the Chittenden County Emergency Food Shelf. To promote this effort, the Recreation Committee will give one free Raffle Ticket to each person who makes a non-perishable food donation.

Staff Council Office Administrator Jeff Bukowski provided a brief tutorial on how to communicate out to each representative's unit via individual UVM listservs. He asked Council Representatives to distribute the monthly Council meeting summaries (sent to Reps by the SC Office) via these listservs. Any questions regarding this request should be directed to Jeff at jeff.bukowski@uvm.edu.

Today's announcements included: the deadline for submissions for the January issue of *Staffline* is Friday, December 11th; First Night Burlington 2010 Buttons are now on sale, $5.00 for children (age 3 – 12) and $15.00 for adults; Bolton Valley Discounted Season Passes are on sale until December 15th; Lift Tickets (Day Vouchers) for Jay Peak Resort, Smugglers' Notch, and Sugarbush Resort are now on sale (note, the Staff Council Recreation Committee makes $1.00 for every lift ticket sold).

Staff Council President Beth Walsh reported on a meeting with Gary Derr, VP Executive Operations and Chief of Staff, and Jon Reidel, Staff Council Vice President. This meeting occurred without President Fogel because he was out of town. They discussed President Fogel's recent publication, "Road to

Excellence", the establishment of Graduate Student Senate and SGA as separate governance bodies, and the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative (TRI).

Beth reported attending the Campus Leadership Forum where Fran Bazluke discussed a Compliance Program. Beth requested that mandated training for UVM's employees should be tracked by PeopleSoft/HRS, so that they have this information readily available if they transfer from one department to another. Also discussed was the FY 2011 Budget Update by Richard Cate, where he explained there is a gap in this year's budget and that cuts being considered will not affect the academic side of the house. Staff Council Representatives were asked to check in with their constituents, asking for suggestions to lower our budget this year, and report those recommendations back to the Staff.Council @uvm.edu by Tuesday, December 15th. These recommendations will be shared with Richard Cate.

Two Proposed Draft Policies were distributed with today's agenda. They include the "Missing Student Policy" and the "Acceptable Use Policy." Council members made several points regarding the Acceptable Use Policy, suggesting that UVM's HRS and General Counsel Office will need to do a "good job" of educating staff regarding all the implications of the "Acceptable Use Policy" especially as it pertains to the use of one's UVM email address. Council members were asked by Beth to review these policies and send their comments to Staff.Council@uvm.edu by Thursday, December 17th.

Beth reported appointing and notifying 15 staff members, at all levels, as Staff Advocates. Barbara Johnson, Associate Vice President Human Resource Services, will be announcing the training schedule for the newly appointed Staff Advocates shortly. Once Barbara confirms the appointed Staff Advocates along with their training dates, a link will be posted on the Staff Council's website listing the Staff Grievance procedures, a list of the Staff Advocates, and a link to the Grievance Coordinator. Although Jeff Bukowski and Diane Trono are not Staff Advocates, they will attend the training to better understand the process.

Lastly, Beth reported receiving a Staff inquiry about UVM's not having an Ombudsman Beth will look further into this issue and will report out shortly.

The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Davis Center Livak Ballrooms, Tuesday, January 5th, 2010, at 12:05 p.m.