SUMMARY OF THE UVM STAFF COUNCIL MEETING - December 3, 2013

This summary provides the most relevant information for staff from Staff Council’s recent meeting.

Cynthia Belliveau, Dean of Continuing and Distance Education

This month the Staff Council invited Dean Belliveau, Continuing and Distance Education. She gave a brief overview of CDE’s work and role at the University and how it relates to the larger context of Continuing and Distance Education within the field of Higher Education. Dean Belliveau also discussed how CDE identifies, develops, and manages educational courses in a strategic manner to meet the needs of UVM, but also further support the niche markets our university is developing and further promoting in Vermont and across the world. She also gave the group many examples of how distance education is changing the four-year on campus college experience, as well as the way faculty are being impacted and adapting to this trend.

Approval of Minutes

November 5, 2013 minutes were adopted.

Staff Council President’s Update

The full update by Staff council President Catherine Symans is available here.

Group Discussion

Ex-Officio Role and Staff Council: Due to the restricting that occurred July 1, 2013, several updates needed to be made to the Staff Council bylaws. One of these was the title of the current senior administrator who serves in an ex-officio position. This need to update the title led to a larger discussion on whether or not the ex-officio role is helpful or unnecessary. The discussion led to the idea of putting forward a by-law change that would retire the ex-officio slot at the VP leadership level, but keep wording in the by-laws that enables an individual to be appointed to an ex-officio role at a later date or time if determined necessary. Furthermore the Council agreed in keeping the Staff Council Administrator role an ex-officio and consider making the Staff Council Assistant ex-officio as well. Language will be drafted and the by-laws reviewed with UVM Legal Counsel and should be ready for a vote at the January 7, 2014 meeting.

Staff Emergency Loan Procedures were reported out and a consideration for modifications to the procedures were suggested: including increasing the maximum loan amount to an amount higher than $350 but no more than $500; and increasing the pay back schedule from 10 pay periods to 12 pay periods so as to not present anyone paying back the loan with an additional financial hardship.

Staff Connect: Susan Williford reported that the Outreach, Assessment and University Engagement committee had been working on Staff Connect, a new version of the current Staff Council Contact Sheet and working on ideas of how to re-brand it.

Incentive-based Budgeting (IBB): – Johanna Brabham shared that the IBB Steering Committee had almost completed meetings at UVM with representatives from other schools that have already
implemented an IBB like model as well as visits of UVM representatives to these other locations. Johanna said that her sub-committee group Facilities meets weekly for about 1 ½ hours. She reported that offices on campus were very responsive to requests for research or information needed quickly to move ahead with their committee work. The Interim Reports with suggested implementation plans are due to President Sullivan in January 2014.

**Announcements**

*Staffline:*

The submission deadline for the January edition of *Staffline* is Friday, December 13, 2013. This edition will be distributed on Thursday, January 2, 2014.