PRESENT: Marty Burrows, Jeff Bukowski (Ex-officio), Michelle Chapman, Yuliya Cruz, Naima Dennis, Isis Erb, Carol Gross, Mark Hall, Eric Hoefel, Molly Hubbell, Allen Josey, Shelly Jurkiewicz, Eileen Kristiansen, Rita Lemire, Mary Parent, Nelson Sears, Michelle Smith (Vice President), Todd Stewart, Marie Tiemann, and Diane Trono.

ABSENT: Patricia Forguites, Anthony Fouche, Theresa Goddard, Scott Hipko, Karen Lemire, Sharnel Martelle, Tracey Maurer, Sharon Mone, Joanne Montanye, Julia Paradiso, Ida Russin (President), Mary Schliecker-Brigham, Beth Walsh (Immediate Past President), and Susan Williford.

GUESTS: Abu Rizvi, Dean, Honors College, John Sama, Director, Living/Learning Center, and Erin St. John – Office of the President.

Council Vice President Michelle Smith called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Abu Rizvi, Dean of the Honors College and John Sama, Director of the Living/Learning Center, both members of the Joint General Education Committee (GEC), addressed the Council with an overview of the work the GEC is engaged in. Dean Rizvi outlined a proposed profile of student knowledge and competencies drafted by the GEC in an effort to “… capture our collective aspirations for UVM graduates and provide the framework for a University-wide approach to general education.” The proposed profile is based on the University’s mission and vision statements and the work of the Joint Committee on General Education.

Abu explained the motivation for reviewing and revising UVM’s general education requirements is twofold. The students’ view is there needs to be a better way to satisfy and transfer the general education requirements in one college to another college. The other driver is the accrediting bodies that have called on UVM to examine its general education requirements. The GEC has consulted faculty and staff widely this semester and they’ve received very little resistance. The most common response has been, “they like the idea, but they’ll have differing thoughts on the substance.” The timeline for complete implementation is three to four years. The timeline for the GEC to complete its charge is about two months.

John Sama distributed a handout asking Council members to fill out the on-line survey as soon as their department discussed the proposed profile of knowledge and skills for UVM undergraduates. The URL is http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L3RWHTC. Both Abu and John invited the Council to send them additional questions, care of the Staff Council Office.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES
The November 2, 2010 minutes were approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Council Survey - Chair Eric Hoefel reported a presentation for the Executive Board is scheduled for Monday, December 13th. He will then consult Human Resources Services and then Institutional Studies. He expects these consults may result in further research. A preliminary survey will be tested on the full Council before it goes out to the non-represented staff community.

Social Committee – Marie Tiemann reported that the Staff Council’s Holiday Bazaar was a huge success and thanked the many Council members who donated baked items and volunteered to assist with this event.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jeff Bukowski, Council Administrator, announced the deadline for submissions for the January edition of *Staffline* is Friday, December 10, 2010. Discounted Ski & Ride Season Passes are available for Bolton Valley Resort and Sugarbush Resort and remain on sale through the Staff Council Office. Bolton has extended their discounted rates to UVM employees indefinitely and Sugarbush has a final deadline of December 14th. Discounted Ski Vouchers (day passes) for Jay Peak and Smugglers’ Notch, and discount coupons for Bolton Valley are also available in the Staff Council Office. First Night Buttons may be purchased for a fee of $15 for adults and $5 for youth (ages 3 – 12). Button sales will conclude on Friday, December 17th at 1:00 p.m. The Social Committee has a bus trip to the Montreal Casino on Presidents’ Day, February 21st. Registration forms were included in the December issue of Staffline. The registration and risk and release forms are available on the Staff Council’s website.

The Staff Council Office will close on Friday, December 17th at 1:00 p.m. and reopen for business Monday, January 3rd. We will include an announcement regarding the Staff Council Offices’ hours in UVM’s Winter Break Fact Sheet distributed by Gary Derr in the Office of the President.

**PRESIDENT’S UPDATE** (as presented by Michelle Smith, Vice President)

Michelle Smith reported that the Council’s Executive Board members interviewed the Provost candidates and submitted a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate to President Fogel. The Executive Board continues to examine the Council’s standing committee structure, reviewing each committee’s purpose, where they overlap, and how we can reorganize them. Most chairs have discussed the process of this review with the committee members and explained that the work continues. The Board hopes to report out on its work around restructuring to the full Council by February. Council members were encouraged to contact the Staff Council Office with any additional questions.

The Council adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Livak Ballroom, 4th Floor Davis Center, Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 12:05 p.m.