Staff Council Officer’s Report

January 2015

MONTHLY MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

On December 4, 2014, Johanna, Jeff and I met with Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (HRDMAN), and Barbara Johnson, Special Assistant to the Vice President for HRDMA. We discussed the Statement of Collaboration between Staff Council and HRDMA, and progress is being made on a final draft to be adopted by the full Council. We discussed Staff Handbook language around Town Meeting Day, and whether there could be language added to address Election Day. Since Election Day is not a State or National Holiday, it is not similar to Town Meeting Day, and Election Day voting is an employee’s personal decision on when to vote. Wanda and Barbara did not support adding language to the Staff Handbook to address this topic. We discussed the idea of Staff Council pulse surveys, and Wanda and Barbara liked the idea of the surveys. Finally we discussed the Staff Salary Equity Review Study, and Wanda noted the study would be underway all during the Spring semester, and a website is being developed and will be available soon regarding what the study will cover, and frequently asked questions with responses.

MONTHLY MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

On December 18, 2014, Johanna, Jeff and I met with Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations. We discussed the results of the VLRB election, and implications for Staff Council’s work in the new semester. We reviewed a revised format for central communications being developed by Gary’s office. And we reviewed the FAQ’s that will be posted to inform the UVM community about the Staff Salary Equity study that will be conducted during the spring semester.

MEETING WITH HAROLD PIERCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BENEFITS AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, HRDMA

On December 18, 2014, Johanna, Jeff and I met with Harold Pierce, the new Executive Director, Benefits and Employee Relations in the Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs division. We gave him the last two Staff Council Annual Updates in an effort to provide him background on staff concerns, as well as a copy of my verbal comments to the Board of Trustees in November. We introduced ourselves
and the work of the Council, as well as giving him the staff perspective on the world of higher education at UVM. He is a very kind man, expressed happiness at finding an active, passionate Staff Council, and said that he looked forward to collaboration with Staff Council to move forward in areas of concern for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Berteau, Staff Council President