INTRODUCTION

Yesterday we held the inaugural President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award celebration with a well-attended breakfast in the Billings Library. As Staff Council President, I had the honor to chair both the planning committee and the nomination review committee. As I mentioned in my opening remarks at the breakfast, reading all the letters for the twenty four submitted nominations impressed the review committee with the tremendous amount of contributions these staff members make as they perform their jobs, but what really stood out, was the positive spirit with which they do their work every day, regardless of level of responsibility or job title. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate two of the award recipients, our own Jeff Bukowski and Rodman Cory. To know that two out of the six awards were given to Staff Council affiliates speaks volumes about the values we uphold as a governance group. Congratulations Jeff and Rodman!

STAFF COUNCIL LEADERSHIP MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Vice President Renee Berteau and Staff Council Administrator Jeff Bukowski and I met with the President following the Our Common Ground Staff Award breakfast and spent the first few minutes reflecting on the significance of the event and these awards. We then discussed the transition of Staff Council leadership, the Staff Council Annual Update for FY 14, and the Staff Council Survey. We also discussed the Salary Equity Review and agreed that Staff Council leadership needs to meet with the Administration for further discussion.

We met with Vice President for Executive Operations Gary Derr on April 24th and discussed the following issues: UBAC Cost Share and our upcoming meeting with Wanda Heading-Grant and Richard Cate on the 12th and the need to discuss communication going forward. We also provided an update on the both the Staff Council Representative elections and the Officer elections.

PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL

The President’s Advisory Council met on April 29th and the sole agenda item was Student Wellness. Vice Provost for Student Affairs Annie Stevens, Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing Jon Porter, and Assistant Dean for Assessment, Student Learning and Technology Patience Whitworth presented data and research they have conducted concerning high-risk drinking and the use of other substances among UVM students. President Sullivan also shared the announcement of the President’s Committee on Alcohol and Drug Use memo that was to be sent out to the UVM Community following the Advisory Council meeting. Dr. Porter and Dr. Stevens informed the group that if they of anyone who is interested in getting involved in this initiative, to please contact either one of them.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The May meeting of the full Board of Trustees will take place on Friday, May 16th in the Davis Center. I will be addressing the Committee of the Whole in the morning. Board meeting details can be found here.

OTHER

During the month of April, Staff Council held elections for Representative positions in several Units/Divisions or Colleges at UVM. Please join me in congratulating our newly elected and re-elected Representatives:

- **JoAnne Dearborn**, CALS - (1) three-year term
- **Jeremy Arenos**, CAS – (1) three-year term
- **Jean Evans**, CESS – (1) three-year term
- **Leo Gaudreau**, COM Administrative – (1) three-year term
- **Karmen Swim**, COM Administrative – (1) one-year term
- **Christine Farnham**, Lyndelle LeBruin and Shirley Pine, COM Clinical Sciences – (3) three-year terms
- **Carrie Pratt**, Enrollment Management – (1) three-year term
- **Stephen Lunna**, Human Resources, Diversity & Multicultural Affairs – (1) three-year term
- **Valerie Carzell**, Libraries and Learning Services (ETS) – (1) three-year term
- **Dziyana Aydin**, Research and Graduate Studies – (1) three-year term
- **Willilam Valliere**, RSENR – (1) two-year term
- **Nicholas Gingrow**, BSAD – (1) two-year term
- **Nick Hall**, Student Affairs – (1) three-year term

Thank you one and all for your willingness to come forward and serve as Staff Council Representative and we look forward to working with you during the 2014-15 academic year.

May is the month when many of us are busy preparing for the end of the semester which culminates in the annual ritual of the conferring of degrees on all the students who have been supported by the efforts of the dedicated staff members at UVM. I look forward to participating in this year’s Commencement as a member of the platform party and will be delivering a brief welcome on behalf of all the staff. I hope you will join in the celebration on Sunday, May 18th.

The current Staff Council President and Vice President and the President-elect and Vice President-elect have been invited by President Sullivan to participate with other campus leaders in early June to discuss a variety of topics (yet to be announced). We will be joining deans, department chairs, other governance leaders, administrative unit directors, chief budget officers in the schools, colleges and administrative units and others. The President has expressed interest in gathering this campus leadership group twice a year – once in early fall and once near the end of the semester. More information will be forthcoming.

In closing, as this is my final official Officer’s Report, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your participation this past year and for your support during my two-year term. Although I know there are challenges ahead, the new Staff Council leadership is prepared to take the Staff Council to the next level. These past two years have been filled with many successful endeavors as a direct result of the efforts of an amazing group of Representatives and I’ve enjoyed working with you. This has been a truly rewarding experience and I look forward to continu-
ing to serve on the Staff Council as Past President. I hope to see all of you at our June luncheon when we “pass the gavel” and celebrate each other.

With great appreciation,

[Signature]

Catherine E. Symans, Staff Council President