Staff Council Officer’s Report

September, 2015

STAFF COUNCIL OUTREACH TO STAFF

On August 17, 2015, Jeff and I met with Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations and Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs to discuss the objectives that emerged through our outreach efforts on the common themes of Inclusive Decision Making and Institutional Integrity and Respect. These were presented in our Staff Council Outreach Report. Through this discussion we identified key areas of advocacy, learned about work and initiatives already underway, and determined who Staff Council should partner or reach out to on each objective. This was another robust discussion about initiatives already in the works, communication needs, and what steps would be needed and who should be involved to make progress. This meeting underscored the support Staff Council has to accomplish real change on behalf of staff.

STAFF COUNCIL MEETING WITH CONTROLLER AND HRDMA

On Tuesday, August 18, Jeff and I met with Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Claire Burlingham, University Controller, and Penny Cayia, UVM Payroll Manager, to discuss the possibility of the University using Direct Deposit for all University employees. All state colleges had been mandated by the Vermont legislature a couple of years ago to use only direct deposit, and the legislature has now approved a bill that allows UVM to do so, if warranted. Reasons for UVM to do so is that paper checks are very often lost or destroyed accidentally, and must be stop-paid and replaced, and the cost to produce paper checks and track and reconcile them is estimated at $20,000 and $.85 of an employee FTE. Additionally, there are federal requirements to make sure students receive their work-study compensation, and so paper checks have to be closely monitored, and students contacted if they are not cashed. All of these issues could be resolved if all employees were paid via direct deposit. This meeting was a first discussion; we encouraged these leaders to survey all employees to solicit input and opinion on this possible change.
On August 25, 2015, Jeff, Johanna and I met with Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations. We discussed the idea of Direct Deposit and efforts to seek employee input, President Sullivan’s attendance and areas of discussion at the September Staff Council Meeting, the progress on Staff Council Outreach (work is being assigned to committees and Staff Council will report on progress), Staff Council representation from CEMS (we are continuing to work with the Dean of CEMS to appoint a representative), Tobacco Free UVM (good results so far, but we’ll see what happens when the students arrive on campus), and the Dean Search Committees for CAS and CESS.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Berteau, Staff Council President