Staff Council Officer’s Report

November 2014

STAFF COUNCIL RETREAT

On October 7, 2014, prior to the October Staff Council Meeting, Johanna Brabham, Vice President, Jeff Bukowski, Staff Council Administrator and I led the majority of our representatives in an annual retreat. This year, we focused on the staff contribution to 6 Student Success Goals, and then had an identity awareness discussion. Discoveries from the staff contribution to Student Success will be summarized and shared with senior leaders as well as staff at large and the rest of the UVM community, as determined by discussions with the Staff Council Executive Board.

CAREER CENTER MEETING

On October 14, 2014, Johanna, Jeff and I met with Mary Beth Barritt, Assistant Director and Career Counselor at the Career Center. We met in the Hub on the ground floor of the Davis Center. Our discussion centered on ways that staff might contribute to help students prepare for life after graduation, from mentoring discussions about pursuing a discipline to networking opportunities with local businesses. One major step we are now pursuing is how to publicize the Four Year Plan for Career Success to staff so they can bring it up with students. We will continue to pursue other ways to collaborate.

STAFF COUNCIL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On Friday, October 17, 2014, I addressed the UVM Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole. At each regularly scheduled board meeting, each of the four UVM governance groups are given a brief opportunity to address the trustees, and respond to any questions they might have. My address, along with reports from our staff representatives on the Board committees can be viewed here.

MONTHLY MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

On October 29, 2014, Johanna, Jeff and I met with Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations. We discussed next steps on the requests in the Staff Council report to the Board of Trustees, suggestions on how to present the results of the Staff Council Retreat to senior leaders, described our Career Center
partnership efforts, outlined next steps on updating the Grievance and Mediation Policy – Staff (Non-Represented) to address changes in staffing within Human Resource Services, discussed the Tobacco-Free UVM initiative, and reviewed the timeline for the committee for the President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award. Gary also shared with us the report given to the Board of Trustees by John Ryan and Gary Derr on “UVM Employees Recent Trends and Comparison”.

PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

On October 29, 2014, I attended my second President’s Advisory Council meeting. President Sullivan has the focus of each of these meetings on one large topic affecting the university campus. This month’s meeting was to discuss, 1) What it means to be an educated person, 2) What it means to be educated at the University of Vermont, and 3) What it means to hold a degree from the University of Vermont. President Sullivan has asked the Faculty Senate to spend this year considering these foundational questions, and brought them to this council having members who are alumni, faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The discussion touched on the importance of UVM for Burlington and Vermont’s identity, the regard a UVM degree has been given nationally and internationally, the balance between education providing a student with a rounded base of knowledge and preparing them for their future as a contributing citizen. President Sullivan has written an article which will be featured in the upcoming Vermont Quarterly magazine.

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP MEETING

On October 31, 2014, Johanna and I attended the Campus Leadership Retreat in Billings Library, North Lounge. Presentations were given by President Sullivan (“The University of Vermont 2020”), Provost Rosowsky (“Academic Excellence”), Vice President Stacey Kostell (“Enrollment Management”), Vice Provost Annie Stevens and Dr. Jon Porter (“Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force Report Discussion”), and Vice Provost Annie Stevens and Director Pamela Gardner (“Career Center – Four Year Plan”).

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Berteau, Staff Council President