Staff Council Officer’s Report

November 2015

STAFF COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH

During the weeks of October 12-16 and 19-23, Johanna and I met with Gary Derr to review applicants for the Staff Council Administrator position. Four were selected for interviews, which were scheduled by Jeff Bukowski, and interviews were held during that second week (October 19-23). I attended all Executive Board sessions with the candidates, and Johanna and I had 30 minute sessions with each candidate. On Monday, October 26, the Executive Board determined our first and second choices, and at a meeting with Gary Derr later that afternoon, Johanna and I conveyed those choices. Gary is completing the negotiations from here, and is in communication with Johanna and I on the progress. We hope to have a hire shortly.

FALL UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP RETREAT

On Friday, October 30, 2015, Johanna and I attended the University Leadership meeting. This is a meeting developed and held twice a year by the President and senior leadership to bring leaders across the University together for discussions on current topics. President Tom Sullivan opened and closed this meeting with remarks. This meeting covered “Shaping the University of Vermont Narrative”, “Professional Development”, “First Year Student Experience”, “University-Wide Assessment”, “Budget Planning Fiscal Year 2017”, and “University of Vermont Campaign – Next Steps”.

During “Shaping the University of Vermont Narrative”, the work of the consulting organization “160 Over 90” was presented – UVM is working to develop a marketing strategy for better reaching prospective students and inspiring them to choose the University of Vermont. They hope to implement this strategy for the next admissions class.

During “Professional Development”, Wanda Heading-Grant described her division’s ongoing review of professional development offerings, with a goal of improving professional development at UVM. Then, Jim Vigoreaux, Associate Provost of Faculty Affairs, outlined beginning efforts of his office to review and improve faculty professional development.

During the “First Year Student Experience”, Annie Stevens, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, and Stacey Kostell, Vice President for Enrollment Management presented data on student retention factors, and what other similar universities have done to improve retention of first year students. UVM’s retention of first year students is currently 86%; it is critical that we meet or exceed 90%.
During “University-Wide Assessment”, Provost David Rosowsky outlined the process that will be followed to successfully be fully accredited by the NEASC accreditation due in 2019. During “Budget Planning Fiscal Year 2017”, Richard Cate, Vice President for Finance, and Alberto Citarella, University Budget Director, outlined the revenue and expense drivers for UVM, source of funds, historic numbers, and the realigned budget process under IBB that provides targets and information much earlier in the fiscal year to allow units to plan. For most in the room, this was reminder of the where the bulk of our revenue comes from (tuition) and where the bulk of our spending occurs (salaries, benefits, and financial aid).

During the “University of Vermont Campaign – Next Steps”, Rich Bundy, President and CEO of the UVM Foundation, thanked everyone for the successful launch events, and presented materials that may be used by Deans, Chairs, or anyone with an opportunity to talk with prospective donors about contributing to our Comprehensive Campaign. The materials are beautiful booklets that describe successes of UVM in many areas. A full listing of the materials will be available on the UVM Foundation website shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Berteau, Staff Council President