INTRODUCTION

It has been a busy month for the Staff Council office staff, encouraging campus participation so that we’re truly a representative body. I applaud both Jeff Bukowski and Diane Trono for their commitment that all elections are held in a consistent, fair, transparent fashion.

STAFF COUNCIL LEADERSHIP MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

In our April meeting with Gary Derr we were happy that our by-law changes were cleared by General Counsel, thereby allowing us to vote on these changes that would allow participation of The UVM Foundation to send a liaison to our monthly meetings. I believe since we are working with one cause, the success of the University, it seemed appropriate to more formally include these Foundation employees as part of our university community. Gary reiterated his appreciation of Staff Council’s attention to reading and editing the many policies for review. The Staff Council has a great record for making this process meaningful. In this meeting, we provided a rough draft of our memo formerly called “MOU” and we believe it will turn out to be very much an annual summary of achievements, as well as a plan laid out for the work of the standing committees in the following academic year. The memo will address achievements and even shortcomings of administration’s efforts on behalf of staff.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES QUARTERLY MEETING WITH STAFF COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

The next regularly scheduled meeting with HRS leadership is scheduled for May 8, 2012.

PRESIDENT’S CAMPUS LEADERSHIP FORUM

The President’s Campus Leadership forum was cancelled for April.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Executive Committee: The Staff Council President serves as a staff representative, is able to ask questions, but has no voting rights.
- Committee of the Whole: The Council President provides a written Staff Council Report in advance of this meeting, and a brief update at the meeting. The Board meets three times a year. Click here to view current and past Staff Council Reports to UVM’s Board of Trustees.
- Honorary Degree Work Group: The Honorary Degree Work Group identifies those candidates who best meet the established criteria and places those recommendations before the UVM Board of Trustees at their May meeting. It is the University President’s authority to select the Commencement speaker, in consultation with the Work Group. The Staff Council President is a voting member.
In my May written report to the Board of Trustees, I have asked the Board to reach out to the group of employees who have been here for twenty-five years or more, but who will still miss the criteria set forth to retire and receive their health insurance fully paid, as they had believed. Wherever the PRMB line is drawn, there is always someone on the other side, and while Staff Council doesn’t have an answer to “fix” this issue, we encourage the Board to consider any options they feel may be prudent in addressing the needs of this group.

OTHER

The Provost’s office held another “Town Meeting” style forum for Staff Council to share their opinions on the current cost structure and productivity improvement proposals. Provost Knodell spoke about our opportunities to “reshape and rebalance” our workforce. So while there may be position eliminations in the coming fiscal years, we’re certain there will also be new positions as well. Our hope is that these changes will actually bring much more opportunity for our staff to advance, and to create positions with well-balanced duties and manageable workload capacities.

The President’s office invited me to attend a luncheon to celebrate the success of the Graduate Student Senate. We had a nice lunch, some wonderful conversations, and I remain very impressed by the exciting research happening both by our faculty and our graduate students at UVM.

I’m pleased to announce that one of our Staff Council Representatives, Marie Tiemann, has been honored by “Vermont Works for Women.” Marie, along with her fellow UVM honorees Deborah Lisi-Baker and Candace Taylor will be participating in the “Labor of Love” exhibit, recognizing working women from all backgrounds. Marie is the Endowment Accountant in the Controller’s office, and is Chair of the Social Committee. Congratulations Marie, and thanks for representing staff at UVM so well!

CONCLUSION

I look forward to announcing the new Staff Council leadership in the next report.

Sincerely,

[Signature]