To: University of Vermont Staff  
From: Ida Russin, Staff Council President  
       Michelle Smith, Staff Council Vice President  
Re: UBAC Information Sessions on Post-Retirement Medical Benefits  

September 27, 2010

This morning the University Benefits Advisory Council (UBAC) held their first information session on the advisory report they have drafted regarding their review of Post-Retirement Medical Benefits. A second information session is scheduled this afternoon from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. Staff Council encourages all staff to attend this afternoon session if their schedules permit.

If you are unable to attend, you can review today’s power point presentation as well as the draft of the UBAC advisory report at the UBAC website here.

Staff Council also encourages staff to continue to submit their concerns to StaffCouncil@uvm.edu as well as directly to the UBAC at ubac@uvm.edu. Any comments that are collected will be incorporated into the UBAC’s advisory report without the name of the individual who submits them. The UBAC has asked that all additional comments that arise after today’s information sessions be submitted by noon, tomorrow, Tuesday, September 28, 2010.

While Staff Council is not a collective bargaining unit or union, we are the voice of the non-represented staff at the University of Vermont. Our mission is to advocate for staff by seeking out and responding to their ideas and concerns, representing them to the University administration, and keeping staff informed of University initiatives. Staff Council also works to create a cohesive community, have a positive impact on staff culture, and promote the betterment of all. Staff Council has representation on numerous university wide boards, committees, and work groups as well as continued access to senior members of administration.

Throughout the summer and the beginning of the semester, Staff Council has been diligent in monitoring the UBAC’s review of Post-Retirement Medical Benefits. Staff Council not only has two appointed staff representatives on the UBAC, but has also had additional members of our organization present at each meeting where these benefits were reviewed. We have advocated from the beginning for transparency and openness around this matter. We also have collected nearly 20 pages of comments from staff and retirees, which have been submitted to the UBAC as well as members of the Administration which have been incorporated into the draft advisory report. Additionally, last week the Staff Council Executive Board met with Robert Cioffi, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and not only provided these comments to him, but reiterated that this matter is one of great concern for all employees of UVM and requires careful consideration by our University leaders.

We fully realize that this is an emotional issue that impacts all of us, represented and non-represented employees alike. All concerns, comments, and opinions, from all employees are valued and need to be heard and considered in this process. We hope you take this opportunity to make the UBAC and UVM’s leaders aware of how this issue affects you. Staff Council will continue to advocate for those voices.