



The University of Vermont

Staff Council

Serving as a voice and advocate for all staff at UVM, since 1971.

MEMORANDUM

To: President Daniel Mark Fogel
Richard Cate, Vice President of Finance and Administration
Barbara Johnson, Associate Vice President of Human Resource Services
Gary Derr, Chief of Staff

From: Beth Walsh, Staff Council President *Beth K. Walsh*

Re: Wellness Program

Date: April 17, 2009

Staff Council has learned that the Wellness Program has been targeted as part of the possible Phase II budget reductions for FY10.

While final decisions regarding the budget have not been made, Wellness Ambassadors have organized a petition campaign requesting that the Wellness Program continue in a way that promotes the overall health and wellbeing of employees through on-campus, employee-centered exercise programs commonly held during the lunch hour.

Staff Council discussed this issue at our April 7th meeting and worked with Wellness Ambassadors to address concerns over the potential loss or restructuring of the Wellness Program.

Although the Wellness Program is not a traditional benefit like health insurance, the positive impact on employee health, morale and well-being is very real. The reorganization of this program with the elimination of exercise classes would significantly alter the services provided to employees and not meet the needs of this group.

While we all understand that difficult decisions must be made for the financial stability of the University, Staff Council supports the initiative of the Wellness Ambassadors and those employees who have signed the petition. We cannot afford to ignore the power of prevention and feel it is important to address the potential loss of this program with proactive and creative solutions.

Staff Council stands firm in its responsibility to advocate for the needs of staff and requests that you give serious consideration to the protection of funding for the Wellness Program to continue its positive impact on UVM employees, their health, and the wellbeing of our university community.