

## **UVM Staff Council Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**March 3, 2026**

**12:05- 1:30 PM**

**Chittenden Bank Room - Davis**

Please note that the content below is a summary;  
for the full context, the video recording of the meeting must  
be referenced, available on the [Staff Council website](#).

**Members Present:** Jennifer Jorgenson, Samantha Dickey, Bob Bolyard, Adam Boothe, Sam Chambers, Chelsea Lynn Chu, Richard Cohen, Monika Donlevy, Amanda Duling, Skye Ellicock, Maureen Jennings, Meredith Grasso, John Lovelette, Karyn McGovern, Jennifer “JP” Payne, Billy Rison, Jess Romanelli, Perri Schodorf, Susan Sobczak, Jake M. Spiegler, Douglas Stewart, Liv Townsend, Heather Winther, Sawyer Zundel

**Staff:** Alan Shashok, Staff Council Administrator

**Guest:** Mike Austin, Chief Technology Officer  
Cynthia Barnhart, Chair UVM Board of Trustees

**Call to Order:** Samantha called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** February 2026 minutes were approved.

**Public Comments:** None

### **Mike Austin Presentation**

Addressed issues pre-submitted regarding IT infrastructure, WIFI, long range improvement plans

### **Cynthia Barnhart Presentation**

Provided a high-level overview of the Board of Trustees. Addressed issues pre-submitted regarding endowment usage, budgeting and enrollment

### **Communication Matrix**

Richard Cohen and Jennifer Jorgenson provided a summary of the project and process used to develop the communication matrix. Other members of the ad hoc committee offered additional context and support. The matrix was approved by unanimous vote of the Staff Council.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Community Engagement**

**Chelsea,** Co-Chair reported

- Horse Barn Tour set for 4/28
- Book club to meet 4/2, previous 2/17 meeting very well attended
- Staff Art Show last day 3/6
- FabLab Tour set for 3/31

## **Social Committee**

**Maureen**, Co-Chair reported

- Regroup a reduced-price chocolate offer, maybe surrounding Mother's Day
- Skate Night is set for 3/27 from 5-7
- Door Decorating contest up and running to support CatChat
- Beginning planning for Golf Tournament, may offer tiered pricing
- Essex Mini-Golf passes in the works
- Research on expanding fair tickets to other fairs

## **Personal & Professional Development Committee**

**Amanda**, Co-Chair reported

- CatChat all set to go on 3/13, hybrid and recorded
- Collaboration with HR on the Lunch & Learn series for a spring offering
- Short notice meeting space booking has a process, but not to be communicated, best to contact UES or Davis Center Events if booking on short notice

## **Compensation, Benefits & Budget Committee**

**Perri**, Co-Chair reported

- Non-represented Staff survey and retiree survey in final stages

## **Officer's Report**

Jennifer reviewed the report as submitted. Also provided an update on the OCG Award process, staff appreciation recognition process, and strategic plan conversation. Strat Comms seeking to expand marketing of UVM. HR Leadership to attend April Staff Council meeting

## **Council Member Concerns and Comments**

- Adam offered the AI Academy session is coming on Wednesday
- Alan discussed the open staff seat on the BoT BFI Committee and spoke to the planned Provost listening sessions
- Heather spoke about the Employee Circle group she is heading up on VT Local Events
- Samantha sought feedback on any LEAP questions or issues

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 PM