

UVM Staff Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 7, 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, Melissa Baker, Bob Bolyard, Adam Boothe, Sam Chambers, Chelsea Lynn Chu, Richard Cohen, Monika Donlevy, Amanda Duling, Skye Ellicock, Maureen Jennings, Cindy Lee, Gretchen Loft, John Lovelette, Karyn McGovern, Jennifer “JP” Payne, Jon Reisenweaver, Emily Press, Susan Sobczak, Douglas Stewart, Liv Townsend, Heather Winther,

Staff: Alan Shashok, Staff Council Administrator

Guest: Lindsey Melo, Interim Chief Human Resource Officer

Call to Order: Jennifer called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM

Approval of Minutes: March 2026 minutes were approved.

Public Comments: None

New Representatives

2 new representatives were introduced and provided a brief bio, Emily Press, serving CAS and Gretchen Loft, serving PACE

Lindsey Melo Presentation

Lindsey provided a high-level overview of the organizational changes in HR intended to better serve the UVM community. Lindsey addressed a few questions on retirement timeline, onboarding and a suggestion on holding retirement information sessions.

Committee Updates

Community Engagement

Chelsea, Co-Chair reported

- A lot of brainstorming on future events
- The book club on 4/2 had 18 attendees
- The FabLab Tour was a success
- Horsebarn tour on 4/28 is full with a waitlist

Social Committee

Susan, Co-Chair reported

- Skate Night had 48 attendees. Small glitch with the snacks that was taken care of
- Lake Champlain Chocolate purchase portal is up and running
- Door Decorating had only 3 participants, will evaluate these for future options
- Unable to secure Vermont Green Tickets
- Will select dates for Lake Monsters at next meeting
- Annual Golf Tournament set for August

Personal & Professional Development Committee

Amanda, Co-Chair reported

- Next Lunch & Learn set for 4/17 on the new mentorship program
- Possible additional L&L based on communication tool usage
- Amplify the HERS Leadership program
- The 3/13 CatChat was hybrid and recorded. Fall will be 11/5 and Spring 2027 will be 3/18

Compensation, Benefits & Budget Committee

Alan reported in absence of co-chairs

- Reviewed the FY27 budgeting guidelines
- Reviewed and approved the survey to be distributed to Non-Represented Staff and retirees

Officer's Report

Jennifer reviewed the report as submitted. Also provided an update on the OCG Award committee, to meet next week. Samantha offered a high-level overview of the leadership meeting with Alicia Estey, CFO. Richard Cohan offered there will be an "Assessment Fair" scheduled for the Strategic Plan. Johnathan D'Amore elevated the Green, Gold and Bold initiative roll out.

Staff Council 55th Anniversary observance

Jennifer sought ideas and feedback on ways this milestone may be recognized. Several ideas were given by council members

Council Member Concerns and Comments

- Jennifer sought interest level with tabling at the Employee Wellness Event on 4/29
- Alan reminded members to fill out the Exceptional Committee member form as soon as possible

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 PM