



Social Committee End of Year Report FY26

Committee Charge

The committee shall be responsible for planning and executing social and recreational activities for staff and the University community as well as providing community service opportunities within the university and in our larger community.

The committee shall collaborate with University leaders, units, departments, governance bodies, students, staff, faculty or any other group created to address these matters to ensure transparency and equity while promoting effective problem resolution and efficient use of University resources.

Members FY26

Kristin Allard; Member at-large
Melissa Baker: Representative
Bob Bolyard: Representative
Maureen Jennings: Co-Chair
Karen Lemire: Member at-large
Carrie Honeman: Member at-large
Katherine McGinn Hall: Representative
Linda Gregoire: Member at-large
Jess Romanelli: Member at-large
Susan Sobczak: Co-Chair
Diann Varricchione: Member at-large

Year-End Recap

The Social Committee had a very busy and successful 2025 - 2026 academic year, providing new discounts, expanding ongoing events, and selling out of many offerings within the same day or first week. The committee continues to explore offerings relevant to and valued by our UVM community.

Trends are towards increasing the scope of family-friendly activities such as adding a Summer Skate Night, and partnering with local business both in the greater Burlington community and across the state, with a specific goal of increasing offerings to employees working outside of Chittenden County (e.g., offering discounted tickets to the Addison County Fair and Field Days).

There has been great response to some newer offerings, as well as a drop-off in interest in previously offered opportunities; the Committee has adjusted its offerings accordingly.

The Committee also launched its inaugural year of grants to the Employee Wellness program, which supports employees' health goals through both a discounted Group Fitness pass combined with a dedicated support program administered by Employee Wellness.

A discount on Vermont Green tickets was explored, but due to the popularity of games, there are currently no options which would allow for Staff Council to offer any subsidies at this time.

Many offerings sold out the same day or within days, indicating that the Social Committee's offerings are of great interest and value to the UVM community.

Events in FY26

- Lyric Theater Tickets – *A Chorus Line & Frozen*
- Lake Champlain Chocolates – spring sale (LCC logistics postponed usual Palentine's Day sale)
- Skate Nights (March & July)
- Door Decorating (low participation rate; might be sunset in FY27)
- Golf tournament at the Williston Golf Club
- Discounted tickets to Essex Family Fun & Entertainment Center (mini golf)
- Portable mini-golf set up at the annual employee picnic
- Vermont Lake Monsters tickets (both Hot Dog Hysteria and BBQ/fireworks nights)
- Discounted tickets to the Champlain Valley and Addison County fairs
- Discounted tickets to Sam Mazza's Corn Maze
- Discounted tickets to UVM Hockey and Basketball games
- Discounted tickets to Shelburne Museum Winter Lights
- Annual Winter Bazaar & Bake Sale/Raffle

New & Continuing events planned for FY27

- Smuggs' Daycation tickets
- Cocktails on the Rails
- Vermont Comedy Club discount (initial inquiries ongoing)
- Expanding County Fair ticket discounts to Franklin Co. (St. Albans) and the Vermont State Fair (Rutland)

Other Work in FY26

As mentioned above, FY26 saw the inaugural launch of a partnership with Employee Wellness on the Employee Wellness Grant to support employees' health goals through a discounted gym pass and personalized coaching support. The initial two offerings were

successful (more applicants than spots), and the program continues to be monitored to make sure it's a worthwhile use of SC funds.

Thanks to the hard work of our committee members (both current staff and retirees), we have enjoyed another successful year of planning and coordinating affordable recreational events and activities that have brought the UVM community together.