

Staff Council Officer's Report

August 2026

SC LEADERSHIP WITH HUMAN RESOURCE LEADERSHIP

On August 17, 2026, Jennifer, Samantha and Alan met with Molly Propst, CHRO and Lindsey Melo, Director of HR Operations. Items discussed included:

- Feedback on the Come & Go / Meet & Great that Molly held for HR Partners on 8/5. About 1/3rd of those invited were able to attend. Attendees appreciated the opportunity. Molly attempted to meet with each person individually to build bridges between Central HR and HR in the “field”. Molly’s approach is a collaborative one and not to control campus HR from the central office.
- Discussion on PT FTE and contributions to retirement accounts. It may vary, so folks should contact their HR representative for their specific eligibility. HR will put together a “one sheet” to be made available on the HR website to streamline the ability to locate this information.
- HR will have discussions on how new hire employee contributions and matching contributions to retirement may roll out. These discussions will happen after open enrollment.
- Classification clarification were discussed. There was and is a request process if a classification needs to be looked at. Much of this process was done from the unit/division/college level down to HR, not HR pushing up classifications.
- Molly is very enthusiastic about attending Staff Council meetings. We agreed on a full Staff Council meeting for 10/6. Alan indicated CBB will be meeting this week to discuss a possible invite.
- Samantha offered feedback on Staff Appreciation (this meeting took place before the email sent by Molly) and hoping more solid communication about Staff Appreciation would be coming out soon. Staff Appreciation website updates regularly on events and opportunities.
- New Director of Total Rewards to begin the 3rd week of September
- A 4th HR generalist to be hired to increase and improve communication workflow and responsiveness.
- In addition to his Career Development duties in HR, Adam Boothe (also the Staff Council HR Representative) is taking over much of what Jack Dorkey was holding since his departure.
- **Next meeting 9/21/26**

SC LEADERSHIP WITH CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

On August 19, 2026, Jennifer, Samantha, and Alan met with Jonathan D'Amore, Chief of Staff to the President. Items discussed included:

- A lengthy conversation on the Staff Council Professional Development Fund for Non-Represented staff took place. Jonathan stated the fund can anticipate an increase of \$30,000 to its annual budget and proceed under this assumption. Samantha, as chair of the SCPDF Committee, noted they will be reviewing the rubric used to evaluate applications in the weeks to come.
- Discussion on support/amplification of the State of The University event.
 - The event starts sharply at 11am
 - Will not be live streamed
 - Will be recorded and made available
 - Not a Q&A event, Dr. Tromp has a specific agenda and information to deliver
 - We also discussed the undertone on campus regarding concerns this is replacing Staff Appreciation events. **(It is Not)**
- Discussion on the role of the Staff Council office supporting Non-Represented staff in the grievance process. The idea of a staff ombudsmen was again raised. May be a good topic to discuss with HR Leadership.
- **Next meeting 9/15/26**

SC LEADERSHIP WITH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS LEADERSHIP

On August 21, 2026, Jennifer and Alan met with Lauren Griswold, Chief Communications & Marketing Officer, Adam White, Executive Director – University Communications and Alessandro Bertoni, Deputy Chief Communications & Marketing Officer. Items discussed included:

- Vendor has been selected and a Scope of Work is being put together regarding the Branding Project.
 - Framework to be built on messaging strategy
 - Three phases to the work with final roll out Fall 2027
 - Many stakeholders, including Staff Council, will be included in this process
 - The logo, colors, fonts and other Brand info are NOT changing
- Education on Inside UVM is included in the new hire orientation materials
- There is a roadshow planned soon to all units/divisions/colleges to re-educate the campus on Inside UVM
- A feedback survey is in the works to be sent out apart from Inside UVM.

- Regarding “Rogue Logos” there is a hard line against the use and development of non-brand logos in official UVM use
- Facilities is in the process of updating signage and logos in the high visibility locations including vehicle signage. If there is internal signage to be updated, the unit/division/college will want to contact facilities to make arrangements for the changes.
- All digital signage is being moved to the Popullo platform which will enable a one stop contact to Strat Comm for getting materials on digital signage. There is a form on their website where digital signage submissions can be made. If a screen is not currently on Popullo, Strat Comm will make the needed contacts to get the content on those screens.
- **Next meeting 9/21/26**

Upcoming Leadership Meetings

- Alicia Estey, CFO – 9/18/26
- Dr. Tromp, UVM President – 9/21/26