

UVM Staff Council Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2026

12:05-1:30 PM

Chittenden Bank Room or MS Teams

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: President Jennifer Jorgenson, Vice President Samantha Dickey, Hanna Blankenship, Bob Bolyard, Adam Boothe, Sam Chambers, Chelsea Lynn Chu, Richard Cohen, Corinne Cooper, Jim Court, Martha Hinchman, Aakash Karki, Kayla Johnson, Madeline Larson, Cindy Lee, Karyn McGovern, Jon Reisenweaver, Angus Robertson, Amanda Roer, Laura Selin, Perri Schodorf, Susan Sobczak, Jake M. Spiegler, Douglas Stewart, Rachel Valyou, Heather Winther

Staff: Alan Shashok, Staff Council Administrator

Guest: Lauren Griswold; Chief Communications and Marketing Officer
Alessandro Bertoni; Deputy Chief Communications and Marketing Officer

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

Approval of Minutes: August 2026 minutes were approved.

Public Comments: None

Strategic Communications Presentation

Lauren and Alessandro provided current and future Strat Comm plans. This included the upcoming listening sessions with consultant SimpsonScarborough (yes one word) on UVM marketing and branding. Addressed questions on access to tools, updating logos across campus, accessibility, budgetary support for changes and strategic alignment plans.

Consideration of new committee Co-Chairs

Bob Bolyard, Laura Selin, Heather Winther, Sam Chambers, Perri Schodorf and Richard Cohen were all approved as committee co-chairs for FY27.

Committee Updates

Community Engagement

Laura, Co-Chair reported

- Approved a Community Service Award
- Discussion on volunteerism and opportunities
- Upcoming Book Club gathering
- Update on the stormy Proctor Maple Tour
- Update on the UVM Garden Tour
- Wednesday Walks will continue to the end of 2026 and then reevaluated
- Monthly Crafting group to the end of the calendar year
- Discussion of another clothing swap event

Social Committee

In absence of Social Committee Leadership, Alan reported

- Member introductions
- Committee failed to elect leadership, will address in the September meeting
- Reviewed summer events
 - July Skate
 - Golf Tournament

- Champlain Valley Fair
 - Cocktails on the Rails
 - Lake Monsters Games
- Initial planning for the annual Holiday Bazaar
- Goals for FY27 included
 - Corn Maze
 - Student Welcome Door Decorating
 - Flynn Tickets to two events
 - Vermont Comedy Club
- Call for interested people to attend the retreat planning meeting on Monday

Personal & Professional Development Committee

Sam, Co-Chair reported

- Selected new leadership
- Member introductions
- Update on CatChat
- Discussed Staff Council Retreat ideas
- FY27 goals discussed
- Replacement of HR Liaison to PPDOE will be Adam Boothe

Compensation, Benefits & Budget Committee

Perri, Co-Chair reported

- Membership introductions
- Began discussion of FY28 NR Salary letter
- Retiree premium changes
- Additional retiree member to UBAC
- Ombudsmen topic in discussion

Officer's Report

Jennifer reviewed the report as submitted. Jennifer sought feedback and agenda items for future leadership meetings. Addressed questions about Staff access to recreational facilities. Question about vendor notes on reallocation journals.

Staff Council Retreat

Jennifer reviewed current retreat plans and encouraged everyone to fill out the retreat survey.

Other Business

Feedback was positive on the State of UVM address by Dr. Tromp

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM