

Staff Council Officer's Report

October 2026

SC LEADERSHIP WITH CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

On October 20, 2026, Jennifer, Samantha, and Alan met with Jonathan D'Amore, Chief of Staff to the President. Items discussed included:

- Continued prior conversation on a Staff Ombudsperson. Jonathan stated it continues to be an item of interest. He will be interested in learning about CBB's discussions as well.
- The future process for the Our Common Ground Award was discussed. The process will remain the same as this year. Many of the same people involved in the process and planning will continue to be involved, but details of roles may evolve and change.
- The topic of Staff Council Leadership meetings with the Provost was discussed since 3 of the 4 Provost candidates brought this up when the Executive Board met with them. Staff Council leadership has historically not had regular meetings with the Provost. It was noted by Jonathan; Staff Council Leadership meets with UVM Senior leaders more frequently and with more of them than any other governance group on campus. The idea of adding the Provost to that schedule is clearly reasonable. It was suggested to consider combining it with one of the other leadership meetings, possibly with the President and Provost together. More discussion on this to follow.
- Volunteerism and the current Employee Relations website were discussed. This website is not likely to be updated any time soon as the office is a 1 person operation (Wendy L. Koenig, Executive Director of University Relations). The discussion then continued on the path of elevating, promoting, amplifying, etc., any current volunteerism opportunities already in place. A possible partnership with Student Life Civic Engagement may be one path.
- **Next Meeting 11/17**

SC LEADERSHIP WITH CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

On October 23, 2026, Jennifer, Samantha, and Alan met with Molly Probst, Chief Human Resources Officer. Items discussed included:

- AI Workforce Development sub-committee was discussed. Molly now leads this group and asked how Staff Council and in particular PPDOE may be involved. Since Adam Boothe and Sam Chambers, both members of PPDOE, already serve on the AI sub-committee, it was thought they would be good liaisons between the two.

- Debrief on Caitlyn Sisler's attendance at the October Staff Council meeting. The feedback was positive. Molly will be attending the 12/2 Staff Council meeting and asked for questions in advance.
- Debrief on the Benefits Fair was discussed. Molly observed some vendors had very little or no signage, is possible support next year may be offered. Molly also continued to be sensitive to off main campus and remote staff in this process. Additionally, we brainstormed possible ways for folks to have more private conversations with HR staff at the fair.
- Kronos conversation, but as noted in prior meeting, Payroll is the driver behind anything Payroll. There may be increased engagement now, however, with HR's hiring of a Director of Operational Excellence.
- Molly followed up on a prior discussion. There was a new hire survey in the past. However, nothing was ever done with the data collected, so it was discontinued. Molly is hoping to reinstate the survey and actually use the data while also possibly surveying candidates not chosen to receive their feedback on the process.
- Jennifer shared the OCG updates received from Jonathan at their 10/20 meetings
- Molly offered information on updates to HR's customer service and email support process/changes.
- **Next Meeting 11/16**

Upcoming Leadership Meetings

- Strategic Communication Leadership – 11/2
- CFO, Alicia Estey – 11/16
- UVM President, Dr. Tromp – 12/7