



The University of Vermont

*Staff Council*

**Staff Council President's Report**  
**Board of Trustees – Committee of the Whole**  
**Friday, May 17, 2019**  
**Stephen Lunna, Staff Council President**

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As we close out this academic year, there is much to be thankful for - we have had many successes. There have also been a few bumps in the road, and ongoing work to do. As we continue to strive to be the voice for UVM's non-represented staff, and to insure concerns and issues are discussed openly and honestly, the Staff Council remains committed to continued collaboration with this Board and with the University.

Staff Council has been busy preparing to formally thank President and Mrs. Sullivan for 7 years of exemplary leadership. They have always been strong advocates for staff, and we are deeply appreciative of their hard work and dedication to our university. Words don't always accurately portray the deep appreciation one might feel and I believe this is one of those cases. So, let me just state unequivocally that ours is a better university with a stronger staff because of Tom and Leslie Sullivan.

Staff Council is also preparing to welcome Dr. Garimella and his family to our campus and our community. We are dedicated to providing this University's 27<sup>th</sup> president with the knowledge he'll need to be a successful and trusted partner for staff. We look forward to a collaborative atmosphere and to working closely with Dr. Garimella and his administration to keep the momentum rolling forward for staff.

Our sub-committees are diligently working to provide staff opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. We've added new social gatherings and fun events with the aim of strengthening a sense of community among staff. We are also looking at re-tooling some of the benefits in order to better serve staff needs. With pay increases barely able to keep up with inflation (not a complaint, but accepted reality) we are examining possible updates to Tuition Remission benefits as a means of offering staff and their families added educational opportunities. Finally, we are reorganizing a sub-committee that will focus on special topics and on volunteering within the community.

With summer just around the corner, I look forward to the longer, sunnier days and all the outdoor activities the season will make possible. Staff Council remains steadfast in our desire to provide this university with a happy, healthy, professional staff that will keep the University of Vermont at the forefront of higher education in the northeast, the US and the world.

On behalf of Staff Council and the non-represented staff at UVM, I want to thank you for your time and your ongoing service to the University.