



Staff Council President's Report

**Board of Trustees
February 9, 2024**

**Prepared By
Monika Donlevy, Staff Council President**

Members of the Board,

I am delighted to share that our Staff Council committees have been inspired to develop and plan some great initiatives for this academic year. Our members are thoughtful in their approach and have worked hard to select action items that are relevant and impactful to our UVM family.

Our Community Engagement Committee continues to provide fun activities on campus, such as a tour of the greenhouses and a walk around campus to learn who and why buildings were named after. Our Social Committee held another successful Bazaar in early December. This featured vendors who are local artisans, many of which are UVM staff. The Bazaar is our primary revenue stream for events Staff Council either hosts or subsidizes throughout the year. I encourage you to drop in if you are ever in town on the first Wednesday in December! Both the Professional Development and Compensation, Benefits and Budget (CBB) Committees are working with our HR team to build out programs that we feel will be beneficial to all UVM staff. Professional development opportunities were compromised during the Covid period, and we are working hard to rebuild them to help staff learn and grow. At UVM we have over 600 staff that are not served by a Union and the Staff Council CBB committee is both honored and privileged to represent this population to UVM Leadership.

As Staff Council President I had the privilege to serve as Chair of the Our Common Ground Award selection committee (the most prestigious staff award at the university). The committee identified several areas for improvement in the nomination and selection process. A proposal for changes to both the nomination process, and the selection process, was submitted to President Garimella which he has approved. These refinements will ensure a more staff appropriate nomination and a more objective selection process, further enhancing the significance of this award.

Early this year Ellen Brennan with the UVM/NASA team met with Staff Council to talk about campus events on Monday April 8th when Burlington will experience a total eclipse of the sun around 3:30pm. All students, faculty and staff will be issued special glasses to ensure safe viewing of the solar eclipse and there will be multiple celebratory and educational events on campus. Staff Council will be volunteering across campus during this event.

I am excited about the upcoming events for the Spring and Summer and grateful to serve alongside such hard-working council members to make UVM a place where we all thrive. We greatly appreciated Chair Ron Lumbrera meeting with Staff Council in the spring of 2023 and invite him and any other interested board member to join us again this year at a meeting.