

**UVM Staff Council Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**February 1, 2022**  
**12:05-1:30 PM**  
**Microsoft Teams & Jost Foundation Room – Davis Center**

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](#).

**Chair:** Jon Reisenweaver

**Attending:** Barbara Asiimwe, April Berteau, Bob Bolyard, Carol Brakenwagen, Amanda Broder, Kristen Cella, Monika Donlevy, Ashley Eaton, Jenna Emerson, Cheryl Herrick, Cindy Lee, Garaun McKenzie, Lindsey Moore, Jen O'Donnell, Michael O'Sullivan, Allison Spain, Joe Speidel,

**Ex Officio:** Alan Shashok

**Staff:** Elisabeth Blair

**Introduction to new Representative**

Sarah Mell was welcomed by Jon and introduced themselves to the group.

**Minutes Approval**

Meeting Minutes from January 2022 were approved.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comments were made.

A representative suggested that we think more about how best to offer the public comment period.

**New Co-Chair Election**

As Mindy Bean stepped down from co-leading the Social Committee, a motion was made to approve Monika Donlevy for the position. Motion passed.

**Staff Council Professional Development Fund (SCPDF) Proposal**

The Personal & Professional Development Committee (PPD) has created a proposal to temporarily include represented staff in the pool of eligible applicants for the SCPDF. Having already offered it to the Staff Council Executive Board and had it approved by that body, they now ask the full Staff Council to vote on one of the following courses of action:

- approve the proposal and send to Administration as is
- approve the proposal pending edits
- reject the proposal entirely

A motion was made to send the letter as is to the Administration. A discussion was had which included concerns about where the money comes from, the small amount (\$500) compared to the costs incurred by most conferences etc, and whether amounts can be increased. Last quarter, individual applicant awards were in fact increased due to a small applicant pool. A motion was made and passed to approve an amended version of the proposal, striking the final sentence of the proposal.

**Committee Updates**

**Personal and Professional Committee (PPD)**

The committee welcomed new member Sarah Mell. Most of the recent meeting was spent discussing the Staff Council Professional Development Fund proposal.

### **Community Engagement Committee (CE)**

The committee had their first book club meeting which went well. They had 7-8 people (all new participants) come to the first meeting. Two more meetings are coming up in February. If you'd like to join, just email Jenna Emerson. Food insecurity work continues. Upcoming CE meetings will include self-care and wellness sessions in their second halves, and the committee wishes to expand this to the broader staff community. The committee is also thinking about how to possibly work with DEI to add a question to the Campus Climate Survey; however, the survey will be coming out next week so it's too late this year.

### **Social Committee**

More trivia will be coming up soon, including a Black History Month trivia game. Smuggs' Daycation has been hard to pin down due to lack of communication from Smuggs'. The winner of the space decoration contest will be announced in this week's Staffline. Skate Night is planned for March 25<sup>th</sup>. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruise will hopefully take place in the fall.

### **Officers' Report**

- The SCPDF Committee needs an additional member. Carri-Ann Rock volunteered.
- The Staff Council Office will be moving departments and will now be part of Human Resource Services.
- There is a plan in the works for Professional Development & Training and the Staff Council Office to combine forces.

### **Other Business**

- Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) meet regularly with the Dean and they also met with Gary and Dean Page last week and discussed the telework policy put into effect in August 2021. Since then, we've had the Delta and the Omicron variants, and the problem is that anyone on probation is not eligible. Given that new hires and those moving laterally to a new position, this can be an issue. The Dean asked Monika to bring this to Staff Council for discussion.
- Gary Derr urged us to get a booster and to upload our Booster information if possible. UVM is offering a booster clinic from 9-6 on Monday February 7<sup>th</sup>; the location is being finalized and will be announced.
- The Campus Climate Survey will be going out next week. The results will help with DEI strategic planning. Please fill it out and spread the word, because it will help us have an honest conversation about where we need to grow and how we need to invest in DEI across the campus.
- There will be a celebration of the Lunar New Year this weekend at the Davis Center.
- The Black Lives Matter flag will be raised today at 5:30 in honor of Black History Month.
- A question was raised about replacing Elisabeth in the Staff Council Coordinator position and the timeline for replacing this. The positions descriptions for both Staff Council Office positions will be reviewed and changed. The intent however is to fill the position rather than dissolve it. Several people in HRS who work in Communications will be providing support to Alan during the period in which this position remains unfilled.
- Elisabeth was thanked and bid adieu, as she is departing UVM after three years.

**Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.