

Staff Council Officer's Report

August 2021

SC LEADERSHIP WITH VP OPERATIONS & PUBLIC SAFETY

On August 4, 2021, Jon, Laura, and Alan met with Gary Derr, VP for Operations & Public Safety.

- An idea was floated about reorganizing the Staff Council representation model from its current system of every 50 staff members in a defined unit entitles that unit to 1 rep, to a more senatorial model where every identified unit is entitled to 2 senators. A close look at current UVM org structure will need to be had as well as how this may work with unit and division changes over time.
- Discussion on improving communication from reps to constituencies and working with ETS/HRS on listsrvs for reps to use in their units
- The future of non-represented staff advocacy was discussed. Gary suggested the topic be brought up with President Garimella about options and possibilities. Jon and Laura were both vocal about the need for NR Staff to still have a voice when it comes to terms and conditions of employment.
- Vaccine requirements for staff was discussed. It was suggested Staff Council be surveyed on their constituencies thoughts on that possibility.

SC LEADERSHIP WITH HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES

On August 13, 2021, Jon, Laura, and Alan met with Mary Brodsky, Greg Paradiso and Andrea Mast. The discussion included:

- On teleworking, this is very close to being released to campus. The process will be online. Administration is very aware this is close to being the #1 topic of interest in the UVM community. Guidance documentation and a roll out program will be part of the release. Jon offered any assistance SC can provide to help move this along.
- Updates on PD&T, conversations have been ongoing with Richard Cate (PD&T falls under DFA) as well as working with CDE. There are classes already in the PD&T pipeline that are being offered and facilitated so there has been no screeching halt.
- Appropriate topics to bring to this meeting under the current climate include, staff morale issues, employee discounts, teamwork and solidarity issues with staff and more yet to be determined.

- Open enrollment timeline will be similar to previous years, roughly 10/25-11/19. The Benefits Fair this year will be a combined effort to include wellness. It will be held in Davis to allow more room.

SC LEADERSHIP WITH PRESIDENT GARIMELLA

On August 17, 2021, Jon, Laura, and Alan met with Suresh Garimella, President.

- President Garimella foresaw no reason for the SC Leadership meetings with him to stop, in fact he looks forward to and values the time very much. The conversation then turned to NR Staff advocacy for topics related to terms & conditions of employment. Jon offered a couple of ideas. The President encouraged Jon to pursue options for that voice to continue.
- Staff will have the opportunity to meet with the finalist for the Gary Derr replacement candidates similar to the DEI Vice Provost search.
- Who the SCO office will report to post Gary Derr was discussed. The President was clear that the office does not report to a person because of their position in administration, but because a person has access to the President and administration and is a good personal and professional fit for all those involved.