

UVM Staff Council
August 7, 2018
12:05-1:30 p.m.
338 Waterman

Members Present: President Steve Lunna, Vice President Caleb Gilbert, Heather Allard, Brendan Andrews, Tatiana Andrievskaya, Bob Bolyard, Holly Brevent, Laura Clayton, Cindy Fonseca, Aimee Gale, Nick Hall, Miriam Harrison, Cheryl Herrick, Alex Howe, Mindy Kear, Jessica Lalime, Anita Lavoie, Cindy Lee, Stephanie Loscalzo, Deb McAdoo, Michael O’Sullivan, Becky Swem, Holly Pedrini, Shirley Pine, Parvin Pothiwala, Katrina Preiss, Jon Reisenweaver, Sherri Rigby, Alan Shashok, Bridget Tully, Amy Vile, Marissa Wells, Erin Wertlieb

Ex-officio: Meryl St. John, Staff Council Administrator

Members Absent: Kait Bedell, Valerie Carzello, Kristen Cella, Jen Cournoyer, Noël McCann, Lacey Ure

Also Participating: Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations

Collette Toussaint, and Caitlyn Sisler – Human Resources Services

Call to Order

Steve Lunna called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Welcome of New Representatives and Introductions

New and returning members of the Council introduced themselves.

Officer’s Update

Steve and Caleb provided a brief update of their activities over the preceding month. These included a Staff Council Leadership meeting with Gary Derr. The Standing Committees are not yet officially chaired and have not met yet this academic year, so there will be nothing else to report until September.

Short Term Disability

Colette and Caitlyn presented coverage details and processes regarding the voluntary Short Term Disability benefit, which will become available during this fall’s Open Enrollment period (beginning on October 31st) for coverage beginning January 1st, 2019. This benefit is different from other benefits as it requires independent registration with the provider and is debited from a checking account instead of via a payroll deduction.

This presentation is also being given to other governance groups and will be repeated around campus for general audiences throughout the fall. Questions about the coverage can be directed to either Human Resource Services or Staff Council.

Discussion on Vision, Focus, Issues for the Year

Steve and Caleb asked the representatives for issues of concern that could be topics for potential Council and Committee work this year. The Council produced a list of initial ideas.

- Parking situation on campus. Staff Council will continue discussing and monitoring this issue and its concomitant issues including other commuting options, parking permit policies, traffic flows, and flexible scheduling for those commuting via non-car means.
- The vision for UVM's benefits package and exploring how our benefits fit into parents' lifestyles.
- Guest speakers, trainings, workshops, and ongoing development for those serving as Staff Council representatives.
- Diversity and inclusion training and how can we advance these goals as a governance body.
- Invite the President's Commission for Inclusive Excellence to discuss ongoing issues.
- Sponsored projects: the university blocked placing a childcare expense for a nursing mother on a grant. The sponsor approved this expense, but the university blocked it. Is this a formal policy that should or can be adjusted?
- Presidential transition plans: the Council will be involved in this process throughout.
- Continued work on compensation amounts, cost of living and the merit process.
- Extension is especially affected by the new telecommuting policy and mileage reimbursement. Non-exempt employees may not telecommute right now, but telecommuting can reducing need for university-owned space as well as parking spaces.
- Professional development - what's currently offered and what should be offered to better meet staff needs.
- Half day teambuilding at the Staff Council Retreat.

Updates from the Staff Council Office

Meryl reported that the hiring process has commenced for a new Office Assistant. She reminded the representatives that email is the most reliable way to contact her right now as the office must close while she attends meetings until a new Assistant is hired.

She also asked that any representatives who have not yet selected committees to please do so as soon as possible.

Call for Staff Council Executive Board At-Large Members

Meryl outlined what a Member-at-Large role does on the Executive Board. Bob Bolyard, Brendan Andrews, Holly Pedrini and Kristin Cella volunteered to be considered for service. The Staff Council Office will distribute a poll so the representatives can select which two volunteers will serve.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were made.

Adjournment

Steve asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.