



The University of Vermont

*Staff Council*

## **Staff Council President's Report**

**Board of Trustees – Committee of the Whole  
Friday, October 26, 2018**

**Prepared By  
Stephen Lunna, Staff Council President**

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As I write this, my first report to the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont as the President of Staff Council, it strikes me that I am now the voice of many deeply dedicated, caring professionals that play a major role in making this University a highly respected institution. In my role as President of Staff Council, I will work tirelessly to earn your trust and confidence to help further our causes as we move forward to make the University of Vermont an even better place.

Staff Council is currently experiencing record levels of engagement. Staff Council is the largest it has ever been with every area on campus represented and dozens of staff submitted nominations to be considered for service on the Presidential Search Committee. We want to build on this energy and will be looking to further expand staff opportunities to have a voice in the governance of the University, including increased staff representation on boards, search committees and work groups.

We recognize it's a challenging time for higher education nationwide. We understand that the modern university presidency faces difficulties balancing the complexities of external forces with the needs and desires of the citizens of the institution. We are confident that the Board will be successful in recruiting a candidate who is skilled at both the external-facing role to secure the future of our university as well as sustaining a great environment for those who learn, work and live here.

Non-represented staff at UVM are pleased that the University will soon offer a short-term disability plan. This voluntary benefit will bring us into more parity with other large state employers and comparator institutions. It remains a top priority for Staff Council to preserve, maintain and expand our benefits, especially tuition remission. With the slow growth of salaries, we are focused on finding additional ways to leverage all of the possibilities for recognizing staff.

Parking continues to be major area of concern for staff. In the very simplest terms, there are too many cars and not enough parking spaces – across campus. With continued construction on campus, more spaces are being lost. There is currently a study being done to recommend solutions. Staff Council would ask for the Board's support for this critically important issue.

In closing, I look forward to the next two years. I am excited to be part of this team. I learned many years ago that leadership is primarily about building relationships and that it's not enough to be great by yourself, you have to be great together.