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For Immediate Release

Faculty Representatives Dismayed, Outraged by UVM Executive Bonuses, Plan Forum with Student Government on University's Future

Burlington, VT--The administration at the University of Vermont, whose financial management contributed to a budget deficit of more than \$11 million, appears to have paid itself nearly \$900,000 in executive bonuses and additional compensation beyond their published base salaries between 2006 and 2009.

Tables detailing bonuses and beyond-base-salary compensation paid to 21 senior administrators were delivered by an anonymous whistleblower to United Academics, the union representing most faculty at Vermont's state research university.

"It is especially distressing that some of our administrators seem to have been rewarding themselves with bonuses that are bigger than the salaries of staff and lecturers being laid off," said David Shiman, Education professor and president of United Academics.

Shiman plans to question President Daniel Mark Fogel about the bonuses at a forum on "The Future of UVM" to be held tomorrow, February 26, 4-5:30 pm, in the Ira Allen Chapel.

According to the "Total Additional Pay & Bonus" tables, recipients of bonuses in 2008 and 2009--apparently drawn as the university's budget crunch was coming to light--include President Daniel Mark Fogel (\$30,000 in 2008), Provost John Hughes (total of \$50,000 for 2008 and 2009), Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Marcus Diamond (\$18,000 for 2008 and \$36,000 for 2009), and College of Engineering, Math, and Statistics Dean Domenico Grasso (\$21,000 in 2009).

While the administration has not confirmed these particular amounts, they have acknowledged that bonuses were given. Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate termed the payments "senior leadership bonuses" and counseled students at last Friday's "Emergency Protest of Staff and Faculty Layoffs" that "bonuses are common in the world of business."

The University of Vermont, a land-grant institution serving approximately 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students, is currently grappling with how to address a budget shortfall, 40% of which Fogel has attributed to his administration's financial priorities and mistakes. While Fogel and other senior administrators argue that they have no alternatives to reducing faculty and staff plus increasing the student body, United Academics and other campus groups are calling for the administration to slow the pace of addressing the deficit, follow the lead of Cornell and other universities in considering a small emergency tap on the endowment, plus reduce dramatically the size and expense of administration.

"We have been able to learn of no public university that has handed out to administrators these sorts of rewards," said Shiman. "It also seems telling that other public colleges and universities--the Vermont State Colleges, the State Universities of New York, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Massachusetts--have all avoided layoffs. Our administration may need to pay less attention to how Wall Street does business and consider the example of public higher education institutions around us."

To underscore that faculty are being entirely realistic in pressing for the administration to downsize itself rather than the faculty and staff on whom students depend, Shiman will also highlight in tomorrow's forum the hefty raises and promotion increases that have helped push the number of UVM administrators drawing above \$150,000 a year from four in 2002 to 25 last year and 38 today. Salary cost for these top-tier earners was \$641,543 in 2002; it has now jumped to \$6,931,241.

Joining President Fogel and Professor Shiman for the forum at Ira Allen Chapel tomorrow will be the presidents of the Student Government Association, and the Faculty Senate, Staff Council. The forum will also feature a discussion period so that students may pose their questions on the impact of--and alternatives to--the administration's downsizing plans.