



protecting academic quality

May 11, 2009

For Immediate Release

UVM UNITED ACADEMICS AND STUDENTS STAND UP! TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE TUESDAY

University of Vermont Faculty and Students Oppose Budget Cutting Measures Together

Press Conference

Tuesday, May 12

12 Noon

Mildred Livak Room (4th floor) in the Davis Center

University of Vermont

We are encouraged to see that the UVM administration has recently agreed to provide a \$3.2 million reinvestment mostly to teaching and research activities. This distribution of monies reflects the hard work and strong voices of students, faculty and staff on campus who spoke out about the original cuts and the severe impact they were likely to have on academic quality. Despite this positive step, other administration actions still threaten to damage the quality of our academic life and our reputation as a student-friendly institution. This need not happen.

United Academics is inviting Students Stand Up! to join us in expressing our serious concerns over the administration's budget cutting measures. "Faculty and students share this university," said David Shiman, president of the faculty union. "We share a commitment to academic quality in the face of increased enrollment, fewer instructors, larger classes, and diminished curriculum offerings. We share a commitment to opening up what has historically been a rather closed budget decision-making process so that the voices of the stakeholders in the university can be heard and valued. And we share a commitment to the fair treatment of those students who were arrested for engaging in peaceful civil disobedience in late April."

Explained Kait Del Pozzo of Students Stand Up!, "We are trying to engage the administration in a constructive dialogue. We understand the economic climate the university faces. But we also know that the budget doesn't need to be balanced on the backs of students, staff, and faculty. We see other solutions that aren't being considered, such as Administrative pay cuts."

United Academics, the UVM faculty union, represents full- and part-time faculty members at UVM. Students Stand Up! is a student group formed in the fall of 2008 in opposition to some of the university's budget-cutting measures. While their agendas and tactics might differ from time to time, both organizations share the goal of maintaining academic quality at UVM. United Academics values the students' commitment to protecting the quality of this institution as demonstrated by their

hard work, enthusiasm, and concerted action, and we call on the University to respect these rights both practically and legally.

The press conference will include both faculty union and Students Stand Up! speakers.

For information, contact:
David Shiman, President
United Academics
656-1428 or 881-4583