

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2018**  
**Contact Tom Streeter, President, United Academics, 802 598-9348**

**UVM Faculty Say “It’s Nuts We Still Don’t Have a Contract”**

***Professors Will Take Their “Fund the Faculty” Message to Students and Trustees***

Burlington, VT—Full-time faculty at the University of Vermont, frustrated that **after fifteen months into bargaining no contract has been settled**, will take their message to students and to the trustees in two upcoming events.

**Wednesday, May 9, 12 to 1:30 pm outside Bailey-Howe Library**, faculty will distribute energy bars with *Fund Academics* and *It’s Nuts Faculty Still Don’t Have a Contract* to students and colleagues to keep them going as they complete final exams and grading. Faculty will also distribute fact sheets about UVM’s “Hunger Games,” calling attention to the administration’s budget policies that have diverted funds from undergraduate education and research and leaves departments to compete against one another for remaining resources.

“Our message is that UVM can afford to fund academics—to fund the faculty—without any increase in tuition or fees for students,” explained Thomas Streeter, Professor of Sociology and President of United Academics, the union representing more than 700 UVM faculty.

With the assistance of the American Association for University Professors, UVM faculty have done their own research. They note that adding just one percent more to the annual raise pool for faculty would cost in the first year only a third of what the administration paid in 2016 to a branding consulting. Over three years, the cost would be less than half of what administration spent to build a bridge between a new dorm and the library.

“A slick marketing campaign and a pretty bridge may appeal to some parents and students on a campus visit,” Streeter said. “But students stay at UVM for the faculty and the broad variety of courses.”

UVM faculty also plan to take to the trustees the message that the future of UVM is in peril as younger faculty leave for better jobs at other state universities and as senior faculty retire and are not replaced.

**Friday, May 18, 8 to 9:30 pm, in the Davis Center** a delegation of faculty from United Academics will go to the opening meeting of the UVM Board of Trustees to deliver information packets to each trustee about the UVM’s threatened “teacher-scholar.”

The American Association of University Professors last year warned that because the university’s new professor positions have declined so precipitously over the past decade, UVM “is in danger of no longer being a flagship state research university.” Since then, university provost David Rosowsky has imposed on the university’s largest college, Arts and Sciences, a plan to eliminate 25 more professor positions along with “non-renewals” (essentially layoffs) for full-time and part-time lecturers.

Last month **Arts and Sciences faculty voted “no confidence” in Provost Rosowsky** and the budgeting approach he promotes.

“The university still bills itself as a ‘public ivy’ on its admissions page,” Streeter pointed out, “yet the College of Arts and Sciences has lost 25 professor positions since President Sullivan and Provost Rosowsky arrived at UVM. Now they plan to cut 25 more.”

To date, UVM has lost faculty with expertise in Russian history, environmental history, Arabic, and more. Faculty in Anthropology, Geography, Sociology, History, and Religion are among those who have left UVM over the past three years to join other universities offering better pay and more research support for their faculty. Many faculty of color have left the university for greener pastures, reducing diversity and scholarly expertise.

“Our message is that it doesn’t have to be this way,” Streeter emphasized. “By spending less on marketing and administration, UVM has the resources to fund faculty positions. And UVM can’t afford not to.”

<http://www.unitedacademics.org/facts-about-uvm-spending/>

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