



UA Member Update- January 12, 2016

Welcome Back to a Union in Motion

Welcome back to campus! We hope you had a wonderful break and winter holidays, had some time to rest before (or amidst) the syllabus edits and research emergencies that always come up at this time of year. UA is in motion and will be even more so this semester – with your participation. Members will visit departments and colleges across campus to learn more about your concerns. The goal is for us to strengthen our union, and to know what we want to use our democratic, member-driven strength for. Some of the things on our docket for consideration: rebuilding the civil rights committee and creating a civil rights agenda for UA (we need co-chairs!); possibly participating in Vermont legislative and electoral politics to strengthen state support for higher education and labor ; responding to new challenges to our workloads and quality of work lives on campus; and preparing for the contract bargaining for full-time faculty that will begin in Spring, 2017.

Remembering Professor Judy Cohen

Dr. Julie Roberts, UA member and Past President of the Faculty Senate, wrote with a remembrance of active UA member Professor Judy Cohen, who passed away on December 30, 2015.

The UVM community and I have lost a dear friend, colleague, and supporter with Judy Cohen's passing. Judy's service to both United Academics and the Faculty Senate is impossible to reduce to a list, because her many titles do not capture the depth of her contribution. Judy was a charter member of United Academics, serving on the organizing committee which resulted in the successful election of United Academics, and subsequently served as both a CNHS delegate and Nursing Department representative. Her service as Vice President of the Senate was key in the relationship between UA and the Senate]. Professor Cohen served as Faculty Senate Vice President (for nine years), committee member and chair (many times), and Executive Council member (20 years).

When Judy served in any capacity, she served with her whole being, going far beyond the requirements of the post. I was fortunate to have experienced this phenomenon first-hand during the last four years. As Faculty Senate executive council member, at-large for four years and as the representative for the Retired Faculty and Administrative Officers this past semester, Judy, of course, fulfilled her obligations: She attended meetings (lots of them); she strengthened alliances with other campus groups like the UA; and she gave of her time tirelessly, even when she was ill. However, she also did much more. She provided historical knowledge of the university that cannot be replaced. Her insights made serious and in-depth discussions possible in a way that they could not otherwise have been and will not be now.

One of my dearest memories of Judy is that she would come to the senate office before many, many executive council and senate meetings, and we would talk about the agenda, strategies, challenges, and successes. Her advice was always on point, always useful, and often very witty. It was during one of these informal (and, for Judy, very generous) meetings that she and I discussed one of her most memorable traits. She brought it up herself by noting her tendency to say what she thought, regardless of consequences. I countered that, although this was true, she did so with diplomacy. Judy laughed at the thought that anyone would think she was diplomatic, but she was wrong. She was very diplomatic in that she approached all issues with a determination

to make positive change, courage (she was one of the bravest people I have ever known), and a deep love for the institution and its people. It is the kind of diplomacy that goes far beyond skill and that Judy Cohen had and shared every day of her life.

About “UA Discuss” . . .

UA’s Member Discussion List is an open forum for discussion of issues of interest to us. It is unmoderated. Any union member is welcome to post an opinion, and no one regulates the discussion. It is NOT in any way a policy organ of United Academics; any view posted on the discussion list is the opinion of the member who posted it, not endorsed by the elected Executive Council, Delegates Assembly or Membership of United Academics. If you don’t like something posted on the list, feel free to debate it – or delete it from your inbox.

If you have trouble posting to the list, try posting from your other UVM email address (if firstname.lastname@uvm.edu doesn’t work, try your NetID, and vice versa). There is a bug that causes the list to accept postings from only one address per person. Which one works for a given member is somewhat random (it’s whatever address you used when you signed up for the list, which could have been several years ago). And if all else fails, contact Dan Wells, UA Communication Director at [communication@unitedacademics.org] and he can post it to the list on your behalf.

Upcoming Meetings:

Next Executive Council Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2:00-3:30 PM, Faculty Senate Conference Room (Waterman)

Next Delegates Assembly Meeting Friday, Jan. 15, 2016, 3:00-4:30 PM, Bailey/Howe Dean’s Conference Room

United Academics Spring Member Meeting Monday, March 21, 2016 4:00-^:00 PM, Sugar Maple Ballroom (Davis Center 400/400D)