

# Add Two Voting Faculty and Staff Members to UVM's Board of Trustees

*Strengthen UVM governance for the future with representative, democratic decision-making*

## Shared governance is the future of higher education.

- Shared governance ensures that stakeholders who are most knowledgeable about and affected by decisions have a voice in making those decisions.
- Shared governance improves institutional trust and morale, promotes transparency, broadens diversity of experience and thinking, and reduces unintended consequences.
- In higher education, universities whose governance includes stakeholders with the greatest expertise in their daily operations – faculty, staff, and students – have an advantage in an increasingly competitive market.
- This bill provides an opportunity for Vermont's flagship university to join a vanguard of visionary higher education institutions and to demonstrate UVM's Common Ground values.

## Positive system change that costs nothing.

- Implementation requires no state funding.
- Faculty and staff representation may return an education-focused perspective to the Board, likely improving UVM's quality of education, ability to attract and retain talent, and its rankings and reputation.
- Public higher education is an economic engine for Vermont: students who thrive at UVM are more likely to stay in Vermont as skilled workers, homeowners, entrepreneurs, and to raise families here.

## Strongly supported by faculty and staff across all colleges and departments.

- In a 2022 vote, 96% of the UVM Faculty Senate voted in support of a shared governance bill. The Faculty Senate represents faculty across all colleges and departments at UVM, including the Medical School.
- This vote was a clarion call from faculty and staff to advance shared governance and collaborative, student-centered, democratic decision-making in UVM's leadership structure.

### Is it a conflict of interest to have faculty and staff on the Board of Trustees?

No. The Board of Trustees does not negotiate faculty salaries, and along with any other board member, faculty and student trustees can recuse themselves whenever a potential conflict may occur. A growing number of public universities include voting faculty on their governance boards – including Cornell, New York's land-grant university.

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