



April 23, 2020

Dear faculty, staff and students of the Vermont State Colleges,

We, the Executive Council of United Academics, the faculty union at the University of Vermont, are writing to express solidarity with faculty, staff and students of the Vermont State Colleges. We were disturbed by the VSC Chancellor's proposal to close 3 campuses, and we stand in support of the VSC community who have been experiencing uncertainty, anger, fear, and stress over the potential loss of employment, benefits, and future that you have planned on.

As neighbors in this small state, we are deeply concerned about the future of the Vermont State College system. We too are dedicated members of a Vermont public higher education institution, and we believe in the importance of a strong, affordable public education system for all Vermonters. Our leaders and members in United Academics have been discussing with great concern the far-reaching impacts of VSC campus closures. Our members have called and written the Board of Trustees and Vermont legislators and attended the protest and are standing by to take further actions in support of the State Colleges. We have been concerned for faculty and staff who had to suddenly face the news that they were likely to lose their jobs and livelihoods, for the students suddenly wondering where they would study and live next year and how they would complete their college degree, and for the communities surrounding Lyndon, Johnson, and Randolph and the negative ripple effects that would be felt immediately and for years.

We are heartened to learn the news that Chancellor Spaulding has withdrawn his initial proposal. As the VSC Board of Trustees and the Vermont legislature continue discuss the fate of the Vermont State Colleges, we ask for them to commit to sufficient funding and a plan that ensures the survival of these vital public institutions. And for the thousands of people who are affected by these decisions, we continue to stand in solidarity with you.

In solidarity,

The UVM United Academics Executive Council

United Academics, AAUP-AFT local 3203, is the union of full- and part-time faculty at University of Vermont, representing over 700 faculty from departments and colleges across the campus.

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