

May 14, 2020

UVM Board of Trustees
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont 05401

UVM Board of Trustees,

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed life for all people and has forced us to adapt quickly to these uncertain times. We understand that the University of Vermont has been dealing with many challenges, including moving all classes online, vacating residential facilities, and refunding students, which has taken an enormous emotional and financial toll on everyone involved. Thank you for your efforts to provide continued education while managing public safety.

At this time, we are concerned about the plan to implement budget cuts that disproportionately puts the financial burden of those cuts on to the shoulders of the faculty members who will suffer the most from cuts in pay: Part Time Faculty, Lecturers, and Senior Lecturers. By cutting the appointments from the contractually standard 1.0 FTE to .75 FTE, you will move some of the lower-salaried full time faculty below the state-determined minimum livable wage, especially those faculty members who are single people with dependents. These workers may not be able to make up for the loss of income due to the nature of their jobs and their schedules.

We, the undersigned legislators who are members of the Working Vermonters' Caucus, call on the UVM Board of Trustees to pause the plan for drastic cuts to lecturer work. We ask that you work with United Academics and the Faculty Senate in the spirit of shared governance to develop a plan to get through this budget emergency that protects all workers. Thank you for your consideration.

Legislative Working Vermonters' Caucus Members:

Representative Brian Cina
Representative Mary Howard
Representative Peter Anthony
Representative Selene Colburn
Representative Sandy Haas
Representative Emilie Kornheiser
Representative Avram Patt
Representative Theresa Wood
Representative Mike Yantachka
Senator Christopher Pearson