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UNITED ACADEMICS NEWS RELEASE

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UVM faculty say "we won't turn our backs on the next generation"

Burlington, VT--University of Vermont faculty represented by United Academics are concerned that the same administration that's given generous separation packages to outgoing executives wants to eliminate retiree healthcare for future UVM faculty and workers. At Tuesday's scheduled mediation session between the administration and United Academics, faculty plan to "welcome" administrators with the message "We won't turn our backs on the next generation."

The mediation session will begin at 10 a.m. in Jeffords Hall on the UVM campus. Faculty will gather starting at 9:45 a.m.

All three campus unions--representing faculty, service and maintenance workers, and police services--are at impasse in contract negotiations. The biggest sticking point is the administration's aim to eliminate or reduce key benefits including retiree health care. United Academics questions the values of an administration that's recently drawn criticism for its lavish hiring and separation packages for top executives.

"It's a tale of two UVMs," said United Academics president and chief negotiator Professor David Shiman. "What we really need is to get back to one UVM, with all of us focused on our core academic mission and our core values."

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