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UNITED ACADEMICS NEWS RELEASE

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Part-time faculty at University of Vermont ratify tentative agreement on new contract

Burlington, VT - On August 17, United Academics' part-time faculty unanimously ratified the tentative agreement on a new three-year contract that the union had reached with the University of Vermont administration on July 2.

Over fifty percent of those eligible voted via mail ballot, according to David Shiman, chief negotiator, professor of Education, and president of United Academics, the union representing 160 part-time faculty at UVM. Negotiations began in January of this year.

Highlights of the tentative agreement include a 2 percent salary increase each year over the three years, increased UVM contributions toward health savings accounts, post-employment benefits similar to those for emeriti faculty, retention of rank and salary level for those who leave and re-enter the bargaining unit, and new titles and promotion opportunities for clinical faculty.

"We are happy to report that there were no give-backs to the University, and we were able to build upon the excellent initial contract signed in 2006," Shiman said. "We believe that we have made some valuable gains, particularly given the economic climate in which we negotiated."

An electronic copy of the tentative agreement can be found under "Current Contract" at the United Academics website <unitedacademics.org>.

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