Faculty to Defend the Future of the Professor at UVM
Study Warns that University’s Status as a Flagship University is in Peril
Details to be Released at 1:30 PM Rally Today
234 Jeffords Hall

A major study of spending and staffing at the University of Vermont finds that the university’s much-celebrated “teacher-professor” model faces extinction. The study, by the American Association of University Professors and drawn from the university’s public reports and audited financial statements, warns that UVM’s 62-percent decline in new assistant professors jeopardizes UVM’s future as a flagship public research university.

The study also finds that spending priorities, not lack of cash, is to blame. Compared with peer universities, the UVM spends 3 percent less of its budget on faculty positions needed to carry out the university’s central tasks of research, teaching, and mentoring while spending 3 percent more on executive, managerial, and other non-teaching positions. In fact, the study shows, only $1 in every $3 spent on compensation at UVM supports faculty involved in research and instruction. If administrators rein in managerial spending, the AAUP concludes, UVM will net $12.7 million annually to replace retiring senior professors with new assistant professors, to better support the lecturers hired to fill the professorial gap, and secure UVM’s future—all without a tuition hike.

Full-time faculty, represented by UVM United Academics, head to the bargaining table Monday afternoon armed with the AAUP’s findings and with proposals to correct the university’s spending priorities. The afternoon begins with a Faculty: We Sustain UVM Kick-Off 1:30-2 pm outside 234 Jeffords. (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE.) At the kick-off faculty will detail the AAUP’s findings and outline goals to put education—and the faculty whose teaching and research serves students and the public—first at UVM.