FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 28, 2018
CONTACT: Tom Streeter – (802) 598-9348, President United Academics
BURLINGTON VERMONT. United Academics, the union representing more than 700 faculty
at the University of Vermont, will rally this Wednesday against proposed cuts to faculty and
classes that threaten education and research at the state’s public research university.
Faculty were spurred to plan the 12 noon event in the Davis Center atrium (event poster
attached) by news that a possible five-year budget plan for the College of Arts and Sciences
proposed by Provost David Rosowsky includes,
· The immediate elimination of 40% of part-time faculty
· Layoffs of 20 lecturers
· No replacements for the 50 senior professors expected to retire
· Up to 458 fewer available classes for students
Recent student demonstrations calling for more effort to struggle against racism and support
diversity at UVM called for more hiring of faculty of color. Freezing hiring in the College of
Arts and Sciences conflicts with that goal.
Arts and Sciences—the largest of UVM’s colleges—provides foundational courses for all UVM
students in the physical sciences, writing, foreign languages, history, social sciences, and more.
Recently, Arts and Sciences’ department chairs and program directors sent a letter to top
administrators warning that “the quality of instruction at the University will progressively
degradede” if starvation budgeting for the college continues.
“The provost celebrates the idea of the teacher-scholar at UVM,” said United Academics
president and Sociology professor Tom Streeter, “yet his planned cuts threatens to make the
teacher-scholar model extinct.”
Faculty stress that the budget crisis is artificial, the result of a new budgeting practice that aims
to deliver a university education as cheaply as possible even as the university plans for a lavish
new arena and event center.
“It’s evident to all that UVM has the resources to support the faculty and staff our students
depend on,” Streeter observed.
He added, “Our message is straight-forward and reasonable: UVM needs to spend less on image
and branding and more on the academic mission. And this Wednesday we’ll be standing up and
speaking out to make sure that message is heard.”
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http://www.unitedacademics.org/ibb-101/
https://www.uafaircontract.org/spending-at-uvm/