September 2019 statement on F-35 basing

Both the Civil Rights Committee and the Executive Council voted to endorse the following statement (by Meaghan Emery):

We, the Members of the United Academics Executive Council, advised by the Civil Rights Committee, stand by the resolution passed by United Academics in October 2013, which presents as our foremost concern the goal to protect the public health and welfare of the residents of Burlington and neighboring communities. In anticipation of the arrival of the first F-35 jets, we agree with the CRC’s position that the basing of the F-35 is contrary to that primary goal due to the noise alone, which will expose over 2,600 households and over 6,100 people in Burlington, South Burlington, Williston, and primarily Winooski to unlivable conditions, including negative impacts on their health and real estate investments. Furthermore, the fact that these planes are relatively untested, the crash risk is higher than it was with the F-16s. Additionally, the F-35’s inclusion in the United States Nuclear Posture Review as a first-strike tactical nuclear bomber automatically makes the base, and therefore our region, a target for our nation’s enemies, which places our community at risk. Finally, we agree that the basing of the F-35 is a source of concern for faculty as well as students since it affects their living and working conditions. We will specifically address the following concerns with the University President and Provost:
- impact on housing for faculty, many of whom live in the noise zone
- impact on off-campus housing for students, many of whom live in the noise zone
- impact on recruitment of faculty and students
- overall impact on the communities in the Burlington area since this basing inordinately impacts the working class (people of low income) and minorities.