The Delegates’ Assembly of United Academics joins with its fellow Vermont labor organizations in the Vermont AFL-CIO, which states that it “endorses the youth-initiated Global Climate Strike on September 20th, and urges union members and other workers to stand in solidarity.”

United Academics, the faculty union of the University of Vermont, stands in support of UVM students and a global community of young people, as they call a strike to raise awareness of global climate change and what can and must be done to address this threat. The proposed action of the students is to gather on the Andrew Harris Commons between 11 a.m. and 11:45, when a march to the rally in downtown Burlington will begin, on Friday, September 20th in solidarity with climate strikes around the world. The event invites students, faculty, staff, and community members to build community through conversations, art, music, and outreach by clubs, organizations, and offices dedicated to addressing the climate crisis.

This action demonstrates the best qualities of Our Common Ground: to listen respectfully to each other as we share ideas and passions for the future of our biosphere; to search with integrity for solutions to the problems we face now and into the future, solutions based on scientific research and shared globally; to innovate the form of a strike into an artistic and vibrant community celebration, encouraging all of us in the UVM community to think of innovative solutions for planetary challenges; to welcome all ideas with openness by making the event happen in a busy public crossroads of our campus; to foster justice for the community – on campus, in our city, our state, country, and globally – by exploring solutions that seek to listen to and take seriously the concerns of those who are most impacted by extreme weather events, and whose voices are rarely heard in the corridors of power; and finally by demonstrating that they are willing to step up and take responsibility for the changes we need to make in order for our community and our biosphere to survive and flourish into the future.

UA encourages its members to talk to other faculty members, students, and colleagues at other institutions to determine how they can support our students in this climate crisis action before, during, and after the event.