More than anything, having a faculty union makes me feel safe. Safe that my rights as a worker will be protected, that I will always have somewhere to go if I need help, and that my voice will always be heard.

Jamie Abaied
Psychological Science
UA Delegates Assembly

As the daughter of farm worker labor activists, UA has given a venue to channel my parents’ work and commitment to social justice.

Yolanda Flores
Romance Languages and Literatures
UA Executive Council

Without our union, I most likely would have moved on to some other institution, choosing a place and a department that were outside of my beloved Vermont, or following a series of precarious contingent teaching jobs wherever I could get them. Our union has allowed UVM to offer me stability, security, and a life that I love in a place I love.

Erica Hurwitz Andrus
Religion
UA Delegates Assembly Chair

I have worked both Union and non-Union jobs as both an educator and as a theatre professional. Given the choice, I’ll take the Union every time. Belonging to a Union gives me a seat at the table and the right to have my voice heard about my salary, benefits and working conditions.

John Forbes
Theater
UA Post President

While presidents and provosts come and go, it is our dedicated faculty and staff who stay and provide the continuity that moves UVM forward.

Susan Comerford
Social Work
UA Vice President

I’ve been able to work alongside a dedicated team to bring tangible benefits to faculty, while holding our administration properly accountable to the terms and conditions of our contract. Above all, I’ve gained a true appreciation for all of the varied, hard work that UVM faculty do on a daily basis.

Keith Burt
Psychological Science
UA Grievance Officer

UA is where I go to feel camaraderie and support. We have a common purpose that goes beyond fields of expertise: a university that truly prizes teaching, scholarship, justice. Solidarity is a word that can be overused in the labor movement, but solidarity is exactly what I feel when I think about my United Academic colleagues.

Julie Roberts
Linguistics
UA President
Celebrating 20 years as the Faculty Union at UVM

UA has been central to my process of understanding and benefiting from my contract as a part-time faculty member. In my nearly five years as a very active member of UA, I have received over $3,000 in professional development funds to support my teaching, and I was promoted to Lecturer II - both of which would not have happened without UA's support.

Katherine Elmer  Part-time Faculty  UA Executive Council

There was a time when the administration determined almost everything. No longer! With our union, we have built a faculty community and become an important voice and force in decisions that affect our professional life.

David Shiman  Education (Emeritus)  Former UA President

United Academics places UVM's faculty squarely where they belong: in solidarity with the broader labor movement for workers' rights and dignity. It has been an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with my labor colleagues across Burlington and beyond. I started at UVM a decade before UA, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it now.

Larry Rudiger  Psychology  UA Member

I am proud to be a member of United Academics from the very beginning. My daughter was born in February and I cobbled together coverage for my classes, but was back teaching after five weeks. That doesn't have to happen now, because of benefits gained through collective bargaining.

Karla Karstens  Math & Statistics  UA Delegates Assembly

Because of how a grievance I filed was handled (before I became a dues-paying member), joining the union was the right thing to do. Now I have seen firsthand how hard our union works for us and how much we have to lose without a strong union.

Julie Smith  Agricultural & Life Sciences  UA Member

Faculty voted to unionize when a UVM president asserted that healthcare benefits were "a thing of the past" and that we must "learn to live with anxiety." United Academics has defended and expanded critical benefits for all faculty, and campus workers beyond, and has been our bulwark against the anxieties of living under poor administrative decisions.

Nancy Welch  English  UA Membership Chair