



The University of Vermont

Office of the Provost
and Senior Vice President

TO: Members of the University of Vermont Academic Community
FROM: David V. Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President
DATE: December 17, 2014
SUBJECT: Update on Institute for Environment Planning

I am writing to update you on continuing planning efforts surrounding the Institute for Environment at UVM. A university-wide task committee was created in April 2014 and charged with developing a mission statement, strategic vision, and operating plan for a possible institute. The committee's report with recommendations was delivered to me in early November. Over the last month, I have carefully reviewed the committee's report and discussed their recommendations with various stakeholders. I am now writing to share with you what I believe to be appropriate next steps.

First, let me offer my thanks to the university-wide task committee, led by Professors Taylor Ricketts (RSENr) and Donna Rizzo (CEMS), for their thoughtful, forward looking, and detailed report and recommendations. The model envisioned and recommended in this report is exciting and, I believe, meets all of the goals set forth for such an ambitious institute in the 2013 *Envisioning Environment* report and my February 2014 *Across the Green* memo to the academic community.

The task committee's [report](#) has been posted on the Provost's webpage.

The committee's recommendations to launch and sustain an institute include an annual budget of \$2.5M, far beyond the one-time resources the University may be able to offer in support of the launch of an institute and what might reasonably be envisioned in terms of annual support from the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research, or the participating colleges and schools. That said, I defer to the committee's assessment of the needed resources to properly launch and sustain such an ambitious institute.

As a next step, I will be appointing a small group of stakeholders (from among the task committee), academic deans, administrative leaders, and Foundation personnel, to examine possible funding sources (both internal and external) and resourcing models. I am asking this group to provide recommendations for developing a sustainable resourcing plan by the end of the spring 2015 semester.

Clearly we cannot meet our earlier goal of launching an institute this year. I am committed to working to develop a resourcing plan that is both sufficient and sustainable. But we will not launch an institute unless and until the resources are available. Our resolve has not changed, only our timeline.

I will continue to provide updates as this important effort evolves and progress is made.