



The University of Vermont

*Office of the Provost
and Senior Vice President*

Date: October 8, 2012
To: Faculty and Staff of the University of Vermont
From: Jane Knodell, Provost and Senior Vice President
Subject: Envisioning Environment at UVM Work Group Membership

As discussed in my September 21 memo to campus, the Fall, 2012 semester presents the University with an opportunity to engage in creative and bold thinking about how we can achieve greater excellence, visibility and impact in the study of the environment. Working in partnership, the Offices of the President, Provost and the Faculty Senate have developed an *Envisioning Environment at UVM* work group. This cross-college faculty group is charged with conducting an inventory of the strengths of environmental education and research at UVM; identifying our comparative advantage in this realm; evaluating our current organizational structure related to environmental education and research; assessing “best practices” nationally and internationally; and developing several alternative models for how we might organize, support and maximize this work at the University of Vermont.

The committee that we have assembled for this task is not intended to be a ‘representative body’ – indeed our breadth in the study of the environment would make creating such a group a near impossibility. Instead, the members of this group will function as University citizens in the truest sense, with responsibility for identifying our current strengths as an institution as well as soliciting ideas and feedback from all corners of the University. To be sure, they have expertise in the study of the environment, but they will not be advocating for their units or for any particular approach.

The work group’s methods will include extensive outreach and consultation. The Provost’s Office website includes an *Envisioning Environment at UVM* link and will soon provide information about the group’s work and opportunities for participation.

I have great confidence in this accomplished, creative and dedicated group of faculty members and I look forward to the results of their work.

Envisioning Environment at UVM Work Group Membership

Stephanie Kaza, Co-Chair, Professor, Environmental Studies, Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources; Director of the Environmental Program

Beverley Wemple, Co-Chair, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences

Bob Bartlett, Professor, Department of Political Science College of Arts and Sciences; Gund Chair of Liberal Arts

Breck Bowden, Professor, Watershed Science and Planning, Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources; Director, Water Resources and Lake Studies Center

David A. Jones, Associate Professor, School of Business Administration

Ernesto Mendez, Associate Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Matthew Poynter, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine – Pulmonary Disease & Critical Care Medicine, College of Medicine; Associate Director, Vermont Lung Center

Taylor Ricketts, Professor, Environment and Natural Resources, Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources; Director, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics

Donna Rizzo, Associate Professor, School of Engineering

Regina Toolin, Associate Professor, Department of Education, College of Education and Social Services

Provost's Office Liaison, Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Curricular Affairs