



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the University of Vermont Academic Community

FROM: David V. Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President

DATE: April 2, 2014

SUBJ: Institute for Environment Task Committee

I am writing to update you on plans for the Institute for Environment at UVM. The vision for a university-wide institute, the first of its kind at UVM, evolved out of the campus-wide conversation that led to the *Envisioning Environment* report last year. The plan to create an Institute for Environment was first announced in my February *'Across the Green'* memo.

I am pleased to announce the creation of a university-wide task committee to take us to the next step in this process, toward what I hope will be a successful launch of the institute by the end of the calendar year. The mission of the task committee is to develop (1) a **mission statement** for the institute, (2) a **strategic vision** for the institute (with goals, measures to assess progress, and metrics to assess impact), and (3) an **operating plan** (financial and governance) for the institute. These will be transmitted as a series of recommendations for my consideration.

The following distinguished faculty members have agreed to serve on this task committee:

Donna Rizzo, Dorothean Chair and Professor of Engineering, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, Co-Chair

Taylor Ricketts, Gund Professor and Professor of Natural Resources, Rubenstein School of the Environment and Natural Resources, Director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, Co-Chair

David Barrington, Professor of Plant Biology, Interim Department Chair of Plant Biology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Pablo Bose, Assistant Professor of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences

Breck Bowden, Patrick Professor of Watershed Science & Planning, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

Alison Brody, Professor of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Melody Burkins, Senior Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Vice President for Research

Jan Carney, Professor of Medicine, College of Medicine

Christopher Danforth, Flint Professor and Associate Professor of Mathematics, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences

Joshua Farley, Professor of Community Development and Applied Economics, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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

Burton Wilcke, Associate Professor of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Sciences

The task committee will start meeting this month and complete its work by the end of October. The task committee will submit its specific recommendations to me as a report at that time. My office is providing support for the work of this task committee.

The academic deans suggested potential task committee members from their colleges. Individuals were selected because of their scholarly record and area(s) of expertise, their thought-leadership and vision, and their record of interdisciplinary and/or collaborative scholarship.

If you have questions or suggestions for the task committee, please send them to either of the co-chairs, Taylor Ricketts (taylor.ricketts@uvm.edu) or Donna Rizzo (donna.rizzo@uvm.edu) or you can direct them to Gary Derr (gary.derr@uvm.edu).

Thank you.