From: Tom Sullivan

To: University of Vermont Community

Re: President’s Advisory Council

In my Installation address delivered on Friday, October 5, 2012, I outlined four pathways to ensuring success for our students, faculty, and staff all of which have to do with investing in people, specifically:

“First we must provide our students access to success through more scholarships and financial aid. Affordability must be our top priority!

Second, we must advance academic excellence by rebalancing priorities and investing in this University’s strengths to create a distinctive teaching and learning environment.

Third, we must improve facilities and support creative endeavors and breakthrough research for our faculty and staff to attract and retain talent of the highest quality.

Fourth, central to our mission are public service, civic engagement, and outreach throughout Vermont to further economic development, health, civic life, and environmental sustainability. We seek to inspire students to apply what they learn here and to build vibrant communities wherever they live.”

The complete text Installation addresses can be found at the following link: http://www.uvm.edu/installation/?Page=sullivanspeech.html

These are bold pathways that will require significant commitments and investments in order to succeed. Equally, they will require prioritization and decision-making.

To assist me with that effort, I have established the President’s Advisory Council and appointed members of the University of Vermont community to serve on that Council for the academic year 2012-2013. Appointments to the Council are for one year. The purpose of the President’s Council is to provide me substantive advice and counsel on major university-wide strategies as we establish a course to advance the University. The members of the Council are:

Rosario Arias, UVM Alum
Connor Daley, President of the Student Government Association
Jane E. Knodell, Provost and Senior Vice President and Professor of Economics
Carl Lisman, UVM Alum
V. Ernesto Mendez, Associate Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences
Julie Roberts, President of the Faculty Senate and Professor of Linguistics
David Shiman, President of United Academics and Professor of Education
Kelly Swindlehurst, President of the Graduate Student Senate
Catherine Symans, President of the Staff Council
Russell Tracy, Professor of Biochemistry and Pathology
Judith Van Houten, University Distinguished Professor of Biology

The Council will serve as an advisory body rather than a deliberative body and act as a sounding board for me to draw on the collective wisdom and impressive talents of this group. Meetings will be informative, data rich and content driven. The Council will serve to further supplement the advice and counsel I receive from existing campus governance and leadership groups with whom I meet regularly, including: Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Student Government Association, Graduate Student Senate, Staff Council, Council of Deans, and President’s Senior Leadership.

I want to thank the members of the President’s Advisory Council for the willingness to serve in this capacity and I look forward to working together with them to continue the advance of our University.

And, to all in the University Community who made last week’s Installation events successful, please accept my deep appreciation!