To: UVM Community

From: Tom Sullivan, President
       Annie Stevens, Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Re: Executive Director for the Center for Health and Wellbeing and Public Health Officer

We are very excited to announce that Dr. Harry Chen has accepted the position of Executive Director for the Center for Health and Wellbeing and Public Health Officer. His new role in this permanent position will begin effective October 15, 2018.

Through a national search and thorough interview process, it became clear that Dr. Chen possesses the unique experience, talents, skills, and qualities to lead the Center of Health and Wellbeing and promote an effective public health model for the campus.

Dr. Chen attended the University of Michigan for his undergraduate degree and the University of Oregon for his medical degree. Dr. Chen has served as a member of the UVM Medical School Faculty since 2001. He served as Attending Physician for the Emergency Departments at the Rutland Regional Medical Center and also Fletcher Allen Medical Center for over 22 years. In the last decade, Dr. Chen served as a three-term Vermont State Representative and two terms as Vermont Commissioner of Health and, in between those terms, he served as Acting Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Human Services. While serving as Acting Secretary, Dr. Chen was also a co-chair for UVM’s President’s Commission for Alcohol, Cannabis and other Drug Use.

Dr. Chen has extensive public health experience. He led the statewide response to the catastrophic flooding of tropical storm Irene. He has played a regional and national leadership role in the public health response to the opioid crisis. He also provided national leadership in guiding the Center for Disease Control’s Office of Infectious Disease and its role in implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act. In the past year, Dr. Chen co-led the first Emergency Medicine residency program for the Global Health Service Partnership of the Peace Corps in Uganda.

His strong leadership skills coupled with his collaborative approach will be critical assets to the future success of our Center for Health and Wellbeing and our campus community.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest gratitude to the search committee for their time and commitment throughout the search process. David Nestor - Chair, Sarah Childs, Joe Gervais, John Paul Grogan, Jacqueline Hayes, Matt Lunser, Caitlin McHugh, Mark Reck, Joe Russell, and Lisa Schnell. They were an outstanding team who led the search with much patience, thoughtfulness, integrity and professionalism.

Please join us in extending congratulations and a warm welcome to Dr. Chen in his new role at the University of Vermont. We are excited about Dr. Chen’s leadership and look forward to working with him as we work together to enhance our student health services and promote a public health model for our campus.