From: Tom Sullivan, President
      Richard Galbraith, Vice President for Research

To: University of Vermont Faculty

Re: Faculty Activity Network (FAN)

There is no denying that the rise in access to and use of computers, the Internet, media
and social media has lead to sea changes in how individuals “in the academy” engage in
research, scholarship, and the creative arts. Much of the change is positive, of course, but
there are downsides to the new reality of how faculty members work, and how they work
together. The vast amounts of data have made it easier for faculty members in many dis-
ciplines to stay within the confines of their own laboratories, studios, or other university
workspaces. The irony is that as it’s become easier for faculty members to keep to them-
selves, those in the academy are now encouraged, incentivized, and in many cases re-
quired to partner with colleagues to work in an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary fash-
ion.

In order to encourage UVM faculty members to work collaboratively, we are pleased to
announce the Faculty Activity Network (FAN), a pilot program designed to encourage
and foster faculty members (ideally between three and five individuals at a time) to tour
each other’s laboratory or research space, studios, design/creative spaces, or wherever
their work is done. After the tour and discussion, participants are expected to then have
lunch at Waterman Manor (on President Sullivan!) to talk about their experiences that
day and any possible collaborations, projects, or proposals that might come out of their
time spent together.

If you are a faculty member and would like to apply to host a FAN gathering, please send
a 1-2 paragraph memo (to Dan.Harvey@uvm.edu) explaining why you would like to be a
host and what you offer that is likely to be of general interest to other faculty members
who have no expertise in your field; if there are particular dates that would work well for
you; and how many guests you can accommodate. We will collect and organize the dates
and opportunities and then make them available for other faculty to review and sign up.
In all cases the gathering should be approximately 10-noon, followed by lunch at Water-
man Manor (approved dates subject to Manor availability.)

Teams of faculty members that participate in a FAN gathering will be eligible to apply
for up to $1,000 (per team) in funds for proposal or pre-proposal development, or small
collaborative projects that might further interactive research, scholarship, or creative
works. Please note that in this pilot phase, we have budgeted for up to ten FAN gather-
ings, so be sure to get your application in early. There is no particular deadline to apply,
but when the ten FAN gatherings have been approved, the application window will close.
We hope to hear from you soon!