Office of the President
November 29, 2016

To: UVM Campus Community

From: Tom Sullivan, President
David Rosowsky, Provost

Re: Reintegration of Extension into the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

As many of you are aware, Doug Lantagne, Dean of Extension for more than 13 years, will step down effective December 31, 2016. His service to the University, and particularly to Extension, has been laudable. Doug is highly respected in our community and throughout the State of Vermont; he will be greatly missed as the leader of Extension. As we reflect upon his departure, it is apparent that this is the appropriate time to consider for a variety of reasons the reintegration of Extension into the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), as it had been in the past.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has long enjoyed a close working relationship with UVM Extension. In order to facilitate closer working relationships among the faculty and strengthen economic development and education, CALS and Extension are being reintegrated to unify outstanding research, education and outreach in a single unit. Starting in 1937, the State of Vermont’s Charter included Extension as a division of the UVM College of Agriculture. Extension was rooted within CALS until 1998 when, for largely administrative purposes, Extension became a separate budgetary unit. Faculty from both units collaborate on research and outreach on economic and social issues that are significant to Vermont including community development, nutrition education, and advancement of the agricultural economy. In FY15 faculty in CALS and Extension garnered $15,580,093 in extramural funding to work on these fundamental issues, contributing to the annual impact of more than $157.9 million generated in the State of Vermont by UVM and supporting 809 jobs throughout the state.

With the return to the previous arrangement, UVM joins the majority of land grant institutions where Extension is part of a college of agriculture. Joining forces through this realignment will create more cohesion and integration in strategic areas of interest to the State and builds a platform for more effective communication with the public. Given the rapid progress in developing an agricultural economy in Vermont, this reintegration concentrates a significant amount of UVM’s expertise in Food Systems into one administrative unit, thereby setting the stage for enhanced synergy and effectiveness with the State. The mission of Extension always has focused on outreach and service to the State of Vermont. We intend this realignment to underscore and enhance our commitment to that mission.

Combining faculty professional contacts and expertise in these two units will greatly increase opportunities for student internships with businesses, government agencies and nonprofits. Opportunities abound for student experiences in the newly created B.S. degree in Food Systems and for policy research in state agencies. Providing greater access to practitioners and leaders will create a dynamic program for student engagement, innovation, and success thereby supporting UVM’s strategic plan to enhance the student experience and cultivate talent.
An added benefit is that realigning CALS and Extension will result in greater administrative efficiency thereby freeing resources for teaching, research and outreach to better serve students, faculty and Vermonters.

Starting on January 1, 2017, Dean Tom Vogelmann will become the Acting Dean of Extension, until the realignment is completed. Any questions you may have can be directed to Dean Vogelmann or Dean Lantagne as they work to move this process to completion. Please join us in thanking Dean Lantagne for his important service to Extension. We will continue to update you on our progress moving forward with this realignment.

Attachment (1)
1. Why is Extension realigning with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)?

_The University is reintegrating the resources and expertise of faculty, staff, and community partners of these two units to strengthen our commitment to our land grant mission and outreach to the State._

2. Will Extension continue to focus on outreach to the State of Vermont.

_Absolutely. Extension is a critical part of UVM’s service to Vermont, and will continue to receive the same level of state appropriation. Reintegration into CALS will only enhance our commitment to serving Vermont._

3. Why did it Extension separate from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the past?

_Historically, Extension has been a part of CALS and under the direction of one Dean. In the late 1980s the Dean transitioned out of his position in the College but retained the Directorship of Extension. This was the origin of the division of the units._

4. How is extension organized in other land-grant universities throughout the country?

_The model for most land-grant universities is to have Extension embedded within a college of agriculture._

5. Will people lose their jobs?

_The merger of CALS and Extension will not cause layoffs._

6. How will the budget be impacted by this realignment?

_This realignment is an opportunity to increase operational and programmatic efficiencies that will have a positive impact on the budget of both units._

7. How will services provided to Vermont communities change?

_Our goal is to build on the quality outreach already provided to our communities and be responsive to new and emerging needs. Bringing together experts in education and outreach in areas such as water quality, food systems, renewable energy and community development, will help strengthen the economy of Vermont communities._

8. How do I contact Extension?

_Visit the UVM Extension website for phone numbers and office locations._

9. How will academic programs be impacted by the realignment?

_CALS is deeply committed to engaging students in their community as part of their educational experience. Students worked thousands of hours in Vermont communities as a part of internships, service-learning courses, and volunteerism. Building a closer relationship with
Extension will bring students closer to Vermont families, business owners, and non-profit organizations, and ultimately will enrich and enhance their personal educational experience.

10. Will the priorities for Extension change now that it is reintegrated with CALS?

There will be no immediate changes. Priorities will continue to be evaluated and changed as needed, as is currently the practice.

11. Who will be the leadership of the realigned organization?

A Director of Extension will report to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

12. When will the change go in effect and how long with the process take?

The reintegration of the two units will commence January 1, 2017. It is expected to take 12-18 months to fully complete the realignment.

13. How will information about the change be made available?

A website will be established to post information and to answer questions.