Dear Members of the University of Vermont Community:

We are delighted to announce the launch of the UVM Self-Study as part of our ten-year continuing accreditation review and to invite broad participation in this process. The 18-month Self-Study will culminate in a report to be submitted to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) as the central document by which we will be reviewed. On April 19-22, 2009, UVM will host an Evaluation Team charged with preparing recommendations to NEASC’s Commission on Institutions of Higher Education; we look forward to the opportunity the visit will give our community to highlight all that is going on at the University of Vermont.

In addition to serving as an application for continuing accreditation, the Self-Study will demonstrate ongoing analysis of, and future planning for, institutional effectiveness. Furthermore, it will provide evidence of how UVM meets each of the eleven accreditation standards. To be submitted to NEASC in the fall of 2008, the report will set the stage for the visit of the Evaluation Team. You may find additional information about the accreditation process and the Standards for Accreditation at http://www.neasc.org/cihe/cihe.htm.

Preparation for UVM’s visit began a year ago under the leadership of Associate Provost Jill Tarule and a Steering Committee. The resulting structure for the Self-Study is seven committees. Each committee will have broad University representation and will be charged with examining how UVM meets one or more of the standards, collecting evidence of how each standard is met and creating a document that reports the findings. Committees must submit their reports by the end of the spring ’08 semester. The seven standards committees and their co-chairs are as follows:

- Mission & Purposes; Planning & Evaluation; Organization & Governance (Standards 1, 2 & 3): Robyn Warhol and Domenico Grasso
- The Academic Program (Standard 4): Eleanor Miller and Cynthia Forehand
- Faculty (Standard 5): Fran Carr and Chris Landry
- Students (Standard 6): Annie Stevens and Beverly Colston
- Library & Other Information Resources; Physical & Technological Resources (Standards 7 & 8): Jane Knodell and Kathy Marmor
- Financial Resources (Standard 9): Rocki DeWitt and Ted Winfield
- Public Disclosure; Integrity (Standards 10 & 11): Tom Gustafson and Ruth Farrell

University faculty, students, and staff are urged to participate in this work. You may volunteer to serve on one of the Standards committees, participate in open forums, and follow the process through the accreditation website, where there will be an ongoing blog for ideas and reactions. The Self-Study provides an unusual opportunity for us to reflect on how we are progressing toward our goals, to identify our strengths, and to examine new ways of achieving our aspirations for UVM.

If you wish to serve on one of the above committees, please email Nancy Bercaw at Nancy.Bercaw@uvm.edu, by September 14, 2007. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dean Mara Saule or Associate Provost Jill M. Tarule, the co-chairs of the Self-Study Steering Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Mark Fogel, President

John M. Hughes, Provost