



From: A. John Bramley, Interim President

To: University of Vermont Students, Faculty and Staff

Re: Naked Bike Ride

The Naked Bike Ride (NBR) is a student-initiated event that has taken place in recent years each semester on the last night of classes before final exams. Although some have come to view the NBR as a harmless tradition, incidents that have seriously threatened the safety of our students have continued to occur and tell a much different story. Problems have included strangers in the residence halls, unwanted touching, sexual and other assaults, physical injuries, and alcohol-related incapacitation requiring medical assistance. Videos of students participating in the NBR also populate the internet and will persist for many years to come. In addition, with final exams beginning the following day, the atmosphere for studying is far from conducive for those who have important work to do.

While the University has worked conscientiously with student leadership attempting to make the Naked Bike Ride as safe as possible, nothing has seemed to work very effectively - students continue to be at risk, and negative impacts on our community continue. And these efforts have cost tens of thousands of dollars per year to implement.

While I certainly understand and support the desire of students to celebrate the end of the hard work of the semester, it has become apparent to me that the negative effects outlined above far outweigh whatever benefits some may perceive exist. NBR is simply not a safe or fitting event for our educational community, and I know we can do better. And, in light of this information, I am confident that the vast majority of our students will agree.

In this spirit, we will no longer deploy significant University resources to the NBR event. Instead, planning is underway for an alternative event that will take place on the night of the last day of classes (Wednesday, December 7th), that may include a charitable aspect to benefit members of our Vermont community. I support this approach because it creates an opportunity to celebrate the end of the semester and to do something meaningful for others at the same time. Such an event is much more worthy of our University. Discussions with student leaders are ongoing, and more details will be forthcoming soon.

I ask for your support in our effort to replace the NBR with something that better reflects our values as a community and creates a safe and celebratory environment as the semester comes to a close.

Your support and assistance in this matter is much appreciated.