To: University of Vermont Faculty and Staff

From: James Burgmeier, President, Faculty Senate
Jane Knodell, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President
Domenico Grasso, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College

Subject: Call for Applications & Nominations: Transdisciplinary Research Initiative
Steering Committees

Among the initial implementation steps for the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative (TRI) is the establishment of a Steering Committee for each of the three initial Spires: Complex Systems; Food Systems; and Neuroscience, Behavior and Health. The primary functions of the Steering Committees are to provide leadership and proactively cultivate cross-campus collaborations and transdisciplinary research teams and projects. To further advance our efforts at collaboration and connection, the Steering Committees will meet with the administration, the Faculty Senate and the Council of Deans once each semester. In addition to assembling an appropriate mix of faculty members, we believe that size is an important consideration and that smaller groups will facilitate a more nimble response to the exciting work the committees will undertake. Thus we will appoint between four and six faculty members to each Steering Committee. It is likely that Steering Committees will call on affiliated faculty members to support their work; we might best think of a Steering Committee as small executive core within a broad and inclusive band of faculty activity. A further discussion on the Steering Committees can be found in the September 8, 2010 memorandum from Faculty Senate President, James Burgmeier, and Provost Knodell on the TRI website.

Resources and Support
A liaison from either the Office of the Provost or the Office of the Vice President for Research will be assigned to each Steering Committee to provide guidance on process, offer practical advice and to help identify areas where we can offer the groups additional support. In addition, the central administration will provide administrative support for the Steering Committees and each committee will have an initial operating budget of $5,000 per year. It is expected that Steering Committee members will incorporate this effort into their usual service activities. The demands of the Steering Committee Chairs warrant further consideration and will be recognized appropriately based on the selected individuals’ annual workload plans and the most productive way to support participation.

Call for Applications and Nominations
We invite members of the University of Vermont faculty to apply for one-year renewable terms on one or more of the Steering Committees. Application materials should consist of:

- A letter of interest including:
  - Identification of the Steering Committee(s) in which you are interested;
A statement of the qualifications you bring to the project; and,
An indication of whether you would like to Chair the Steering Committee and a discussion of your qualifications for this leadership role.

- A curriculum vitae

Please e-mail your application as a **single attachment** including your letter of interest followed by your curriculum vitae, to Associate Provost Rachel Johnson (**Rachel.Johnson@uvm.edu**), by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 1.

If you would like to nominate a faculty colleague for service on a Steering Committee, please send the faculty member’s name, home department, and the Steering Committee of interest to Associate Provost Rachel Johnson at the above address as soon as possible. Application materials from nominees are due by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 1.