

**Provost's Report**  
**February 6, 2026**

**Board of Trustees**  
**Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee**

**Prepared by**  
**Interim Provost and Senior Vice President Linda S. Schadler**

After a restorative winter recess, our students, staff, and faculty returned to campus recharged and the Spring semester is in full swing! I knew UVM was a special place before I accepted the position of Interim Provost, but after more than a year in the role I am overwhelmed by the commitment and quality of our faculty and staff, their ability to innovate, and their enthusiasm for continuous improvement.

**CAMPUS COMMUNITY**

**Go Cats!**

Our athletic program gave us so many reasons to cheer this fall. For the first time in America East history, after the conclusion of the fall season, UVM led all league schools in the [Commissioner's Cup standings](#)—an annual recognition of the strongest athletic program in America East. For the first time in school history, UVM hosted the men's soccer, women's soccer, and field hockey championship games! UVM men's soccer repeated as regular season and tournament champions while field hockey earned their first-ever regular season title. In addition, the women's cross-country team placed fourth at the 2025 America East Championship. The fall highlight was men's soccer finishing the regular season undefeated and becoming the first America East school to receive the number one overall seed in an NCAA tournament as they made their fifth-straight appearance. Go Cats!

**Historic \$16M Estate Gift for Nursing Scholarships**

In a testament to the excellence and impact of our College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) and our Department of Nursing, this fall CNHS received a [\\$16M estate gift](#) from George Bemis '60, MD, in honor of his late wife, Nancy Wicks Bemis, RN, to expand nursing scholarships at UVM. Supporting the health professions in Vermont is an important component of our land grant mission and this gift will provide opportunities for more students to study nursing at a time when there is an urgent need for nurses in our communities and nationwide. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Bemis into the pantheon

of UVM's most generous and impactful donors, and equally delighted that Nancy's name will live on through the many students who will benefit from this remarkable gift.

## **Catamount LEAP**

Last fall, Catamount LEAP (CL) was launched under the leadership of Chief Information Officer Kellie Campell. As noted on the [initiative website](#), Catamount LEAP is about aligning our people, processes, and technology to create a more connected and agile UVM. This initiative empowers our community to rethink how we work—removing barriers, embracing digital tools, and building systems that support excellence across every unit. The work of the initiative falls into two broad categories: modernizing our ERP system (which will take several years) and operational excellence proposals submitted by campus academic and administrative units (shorter-term projects, ideally including some 'quick wins'). Over 100 operational excellence proposals were submitted by colleagues across campus. The proposals were reviewed in December by a broad and representative committee, with final prioritization and the selection of projects for implementation in early 2026. The projects range from training so that we use the tools we have more effectively, to enabling digital signatures broadly across campus, to more complex changes to HR and business functions.

## **Research Funding Update and Highlights**

Despite the uncertainty in the federal funding landscape, the research enterprise at UVM has thus far proven resilient and shows no sign that researchers are slowing in their efforts to conduct innovative and impactful research. In the first six months of FY26, grant proposal submissions *were significantly higher* than for the same period in both of the last two years (FY24 = 481 submissions; FY25 = 525 submissions; FY26 = 588 submissions), despite a marked decrease in federal funding solicitations released at the end of FY25. New awards declined by 13% during this period, reflecting the 35-day cessation of award activity during the government shutdown in October, yet total awarded dollars increased from \$94,530,034 in FY25 to \$99,642,189 in FY26. And total research expenditures, which reflect a broader window of research activity, show an almost identical increase from \$95,857,565 in FY25 to \$99,119,035 in FY26. It is of course difficult to predict how events unfolding in Congress and the federal agencies will affect the health of UVM research over the course of this year and beyond, but the data we have to date are encouraging, and we will continue to monitor the situation and provide support and resources to researchers to help them diversify their funding portfolios beyond the usual federal funding agencies.

In line with our new R1 designation, UVM's researchers have been highly productive and have already achieved some notable successes this year. Our reputation as an environmental research powerhouse has been bolstered by new research from an interdisciplinary team, revealing that exposure to smoke from Canadian wildfires

occurring hundreds of miles away in the summer of 2023 could be directly tied to worsening asthma symptoms in children in Vermont and upstate New York. And two new studies from researchers at UVM revealed a growing public interest in natural solutions, from wetlands for flooding prevention to holistic health care approaches. Thus far in FY26, there are 21 active sponsored awards — across seven colleges, schools, and offices — worth \$1 million or more, including: Polly Ericksen’s project — "Improving the Performance of Food Systems in the Northeastern United States" — in the Food Systems Research Institute; Stacy Sigmon’s "Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Rural Centers of Excellence on Substance Use Disorder" project in the Larner College of Medicine; and Jason Stockwell’s "Lake Champlain Fish and Community Ecology: A Multi-Basin Mesocosm for the Great Lakes" in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. The Office of the Vice President for Research is also about to multiply the research enterprise’s computing capabilities by more than 25 times with the Vermont Advanced Computing Center’s newest supercomputer — IceCore. Funded through a \$2.1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, IceCore will replace UVM's six-year-old DeepGreen GPU cluster with one of the fastest academic supercomputers in the region, delivering more than 100 petaflops of computing power.

### **Academic Leadership Transitions**

At your meeting, I will share with you the outcome of the searches for the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), and the Dean of the Grossman School of Business (GSB). The positions attracted many very strong applicants, and we’re delighted with the remarkable scholars who emerged as the final candidates in each of these searches. Later this spring, we will recognize Dean Anderson (CNHS) and Dean Sharma (GSB) and thank them for their outstanding service and contributions to UVM. The search for the Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences is on a slightly different timeline; interviews for this position will conclude in early February.

### **Academic Leadership Development**

Our efforts to develop academic leaders on our campus continue. Two recent efforts include the Research Leadership Program led by Sara Cahan, Associate Vice President for Research, and the Emerging Academic Leadership Program led by Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Jane Okech. The goal of these small cohort-based programs is to fill gaps in our leadership pipeline and to develop faculty members for roles including department chair, program director, associate dean, and center/institute director. The year-long Research Leadership Program provides eight weeks of leadership coaching with an external coach and monthly UVM-focused sessions. The one-semester Emerging Academic Leadership Program focuses on a variety of leadership themes generally, and specific to UVM. We’ve found that there is great demand for these programs, and that the small-cohort approach has worked particularly well. We’re excited to add these programs to our portfolio of

faculty professional development opportunities and look forward to learning how we can make them even stronger over time.

## **TEACHING, LEARNING, AND STUDENT SUCCESS**

### **“Ask UVM”**

In my last report, I noted that we were in the early stages of developing a centrally located, integrated model for student services and supports – a “one-stop shop” where students can easily find the academic success, involvement, health, and career readiness information and support they need. As I wrote in my last report, “Think Apple Store combined with tailored digital support and our excellent student service providers.” For several months now, we have been referring to this as the “one-stop shop,” but we’ve now landed on “Ask UVM” as the name for the hub.

In October, after an extensive listening tour, I charged a Phase I working group with developing recommendations on an operational model, hours and delivery modes, staffing and leadership, a training approach, technology needs, and feedback and assessment. The group worked diligently and efficiently and developed thoughtful recommendations in each of these areas. The proposal summarizing their recommendations is being circulated for feedback from the appropriate partner offices and the colleges and schools. Once we have this feedback, we’ll fine tune our approach and proceed with hiring staff, purchasing the necessary tech equipment, and upfitting the identified space.

We will implement a small Phase II pilot in March of 2026 and will go-live in Fall 2026. At our May meeting, I’ll share a more detailed update on Ask UVM.

### **AI in Teaching and Learning**

Also noted in my prior report, and bearing a continual update, among the university’s broad AI efforts are two working groups that are focused on teaching and learning: (1) faculty development and support, and (2) AI in the curriculum.

The faculty development working group has developed AI-specific language for UVM’s academic integrity policy, has developed draft guiding principles around AI for faculty, and is developing AI ethics and literacy modules for students and faculty, and creating a Brightspace course where faculty can learn from each other on how (and how not) to use AI in teaching.

To jumpstart our efforts to embed AI in our curriculum, in December we announced, “AI in the curriculum fellows” an opportunity for faculty members to participate in the development of dynamic and innovative courses that integrate AI concepts, principles, and practices into the curriculum. Each dean will choose a faculty member from each of

their academic departments to participate in the effort, and these faculty members will be responsible for developing or updating a significant component of an existing undergraduate upper-level course – or modules that can be used in multiple courses – to ensure that their students have experience with AI applications within their field of study. The group is also considering opportunities for a first-year introductory AI module for all entering students, and if/how that can complement the ethics and literacy modules being developed by the faculty development group. Each Fellow will receive a summer stipend and a course release during the semester that they implement the module/course. I am excited to see what emerges, and as in several of our new projects, a continuous improvement mindset is important!

### **UVM Career Center Wins Handshake Career Spark Award**

This fall, our Career center was named a winner of the [2025 Handshake Career Spark Award](#), recognizing the top 2% of career centers that utilize Handshake. Handshake is the largest early talent career platform in the U.S., connecting 75% of all U.S. colleges students with over one million employers. The winners were evaluated along three categories: student engagement, employer engagement, and reporting and analytics. As a result of the Career Center's creative efforts (like the Orientation Mingler) and its monthly learn-to-network events throughout the academic year, UVM students are utilizing their Handshake accounts more effectively than ever, with an activation rate eight points higher than national average (which is 54%). We take seriously our responsibility to support students' efforts to find meaningful employment opportunities, and we're delighted that the outstanding work of our [Career Center](#) was recognized.

### **Credit for Prior Learning**

At your meeting, you will be asked to approve two sets of guidelines related to awarding Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) at the graduate level for (1) credit awarded by credential, and (2) credit awarded by portfolio. In its simplest terms, CPL is the awarding of college credit for skills and knowledge that students have acquired outside of a formal academic setting. The benefits of CPL include decreased cost of attendance, reduced time to graduation, and increased completion rates. It can also support increases in the diversity of perspectives, experiences, and thought in our student body, and this is an increasingly common practice among our competitor institutions. Key to the success of CPL is that it is governed by faculty and administered by staff, in close collaboration; and that an established set of policies and documented processes are essential to the integrity of awarding credit, and also for equity and accreditation purposes. Chief Professional and Continuing Education Officer Bettyjo Bouchey will share more CPL information with you when we meet.

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To help our faculty and staff start the year on a positive note, our Employee Wellness office offered employees two months of personalized, complimentary, and confidential coaching in December and January, designed to help them identify priorities, set goals, navigate transitions, and build habits that support well-being and success. We are working to create the foundation and conditions that will encourage and support all of our employees on their personal wellness journeys.

As all this good work has been happening, academic units have also been contributing deeply to the Strategic Planning process and I look forward to seeing what comes forward from the units as they develop their own Strategic Alignment plans. Thank you for your commitment and your time. I look forward to working with you in this new year.



## **Vice President's Report**

**February 6, 2026**

**Board of Trustees  
Budget, Finance and Investment Committee**

**Prepared By  
Alicia S. Estey, Vice President for Finance and Administration**

### **Annual Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund**

The Vice President for Finance and Administration is required to provide an annual update on the \$13.0 million Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. The University has committed \$5,027,994. The University received \$319,901 in rebates from the utility companies for projects, for a net cost of \$4,740,006. The projects have an average annual savings to the general fund of \$898,162. As of December 31, 2025 the total payback to the fund has been \$4,505,461 and the fund balance as of the same date was \$12,765,455.

### **Net Asset Balance**

The University Cash Management and Liquidity Policy calls for the institution to retain unrestricted, unencumbered cash reserves in an amount not less than \$30 million, and requires an annual report on the matter to the Board. As of June 30, 2025, this amount was \$67.7 million.

### **Project/Transaction Notifications**

#### **Real property as of January 13, 2026**

According to the [Resolution Regarding Delegation and Retention of Board Authority](#), the administration is required to report to the Board or the Executive Committee at least once annually any transfer of UVM interests in real property at a value greater than \$500,000 and less than or equal to \$2,000,000.

<b>Agreement Type</b>	<b>Prop Name/ Address</b>	<b>Tenant/ Owner (to)</b>	<b>Landlord/ Seller (from)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>SF/ Acres</b>	<b>Term/ End Date</b>	<b>Est. Aggregate Value</b>
Lease	225 Market Street (Catamount Run Phase II)	UVM (LCOM)	CatRun Phase II	Residential	30 Beds	6/1/25 - 5/31/26	\$543,516
Warranty Deed	50 Fletcher Place	Junieh, LLC	UVM	House	.21 acres	12/4/25	\$593,905

**\$13M Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund as of 2/6/26**

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Create Date</b>	<b>Project Completion</b>	<b>Initial Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Initial Rebate</b>	<b>Initial Total From Loan Fund</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>Total Payback</b>	<b>Annual Savings Estimate</b>
026909	LUMEC Ext Lighting Phase I	3/5/2012	9/30/2012	\$ 31,238	\$ 21,525	\$ 9,713	\$ 743	\$ 10,455	\$ 5,170
026916	Simpson Hall Insulation HVAC	3/6/2012	7/31/2012	\$ 16,160	\$ 8,221	\$ 7,939	\$ 468	\$ 8,407	\$ 6,916
026971	L/L Mechl/Elect THERMAXX	3/28/2012	5/31/2012	\$ 24,633	\$ 7,883	\$ 16,750	\$ 2,142	\$ 18,892	\$ 4,733
027168	Shoebox LED Ext Lighting	4/26/2012	9/30/2012	\$ 26,615	\$ 17,675	\$ 8,940	\$ 447	\$ 9,387	\$ 10,266
027261	Bollard LED Ext Lighting	5/25/2012	7/31/2012	\$ 6,353	\$ -	\$ 6,353	\$ 445	\$ 6,799	\$ 4,117
027262	UH South-Thermal Blankets	5/25/2012	8/31/2012	\$ 18,316	\$ 4,560	\$ 13,756	\$ 2,930	\$ 16,686	\$ 2,348
027263	KIM LED Exterior Lighting	5/25/2012	7/31/2012	\$ 8,089	\$ 3,325	\$ 4,764	\$ 1,347	\$ 6,111	\$ 640
027264	UH North-Thermal Blankets	5/25/2012	6/30/2012	\$ 14,751	\$ 6,390	\$ 8,361	\$ 816	\$ 9,177	\$ 3,291
027475	LUMEC Ext Lighting Phase II	7/26/2012	8/31/2012	\$ 24,668	\$ 17,080	\$ 7,588	\$ 519	\$ 8,107	\$ 5,170
027481	Christie - Blankets Phase I	7/30/2012	9/30/2012	\$ 19,498	\$ 4,925	\$ 14,573	\$ 2,145	\$ 16,718	\$ 3,579
027482	Christie-Blankets Phase II	7/30/2012	9/30/2012	\$ 13,065	\$ 3,300	\$ 9,765	\$ 1,143	\$ 10,908	\$ 3,100
031072	Energy Improvements Waterman	7/28/2015	6/30/2016	\$ 467,095	\$ 119,680	\$ 347,415	\$ -	\$ 241,900	\$ 55,623
032767	Miller Research Farm Solar	10/24/2016	6/30/2018	\$ 42,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ 17,000	\$ 2,437
031749	Attain Net Metering	3/3/2016	6/30/2018	\$ 800,000	\$ -	\$ 800,000	\$ -	\$ 800,000	\$ 114,286
029781	Chiller Plant Expansion	6/11/2014	6/30/2016	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 600,000
035941	Stafford 2nd Fl Fume Hood Upgr	3/20/2019	7/10/2020	\$ 298,112	\$ 40,924	\$ 257,188	\$ -	\$ 115,014	\$ 37,277
042093	Colchester Research ECMs	2/20/2025	2/20/2026	\$ 44,901	\$ 17,989	\$ 37,401	\$ -	\$ 37,401	\$ 13,381
042094	STEM Retro Commission	2/20/2025	2/20/2026	\$ 172,500	\$ 21,424	\$ 172,500	\$ -	\$ 172,500	\$ 25,828
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 5,027,994</b>	<b>\$ 319,901</b>	<b>\$ 4,740,006</b>	<b>\$ 13,145</b>	<b>\$ 4,505,461</b>	<b>\$ 898,162</b>





## **Faculty Senate President's Report**

**Board of Trustees – Committee of the Whole  
February 6, 2026**

**Prepared By  
Abigail McGowan, Faculty Senate President**

The Faculty Senate is responsible for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University, responsibility it shares with the administration.

As we all know, this has been a year of profound change at UVM. Policies and decisions at the federal level have affected funding and research, impacting both the scope and finances of intellectual inquiry. Actions taken by universities elsewhere in the country to limit what is taught or to censure faculty for political statements have generated deep anxieties about the present and future of academic freedom. The rapid expansion of AI capabilities has demanded re-evaluation of teaching strategies, even as many struggle with the environmental and human costs of AI.

In the face of these upheavals, the Faculty Senate has focused much of our energy this year on change management. By centering faculty in discussions of the challenges *as well as* the opportunities posed by the current moment, the Senate is committed to helping UVM navigate its path forward.

That commitment to change management is visible in part in our ongoing, everyday work. As you will hear in the proposals being presented for Board approval, our Curricular Affairs Committee has been hard at work reviewing new minors, majors, graduate degrees and certificates, representing exciting new offerings responsive to current contexts and careers. Our Catamount Core Curriculum Committee has reviewed hundreds of proposals aligning courses to UVM's general education requirements, ensuring our liberal arts education is kept up to date.

The Senate has also helped to navigate change in more ad-hoc ways. Our Faculty Affairs Committee has been working to refine university supports offered to faculty in the face of possibly dangerous students. We have very good protocols in place to

support individual students in crisis, as we should; the goal of this new initiative is to make sure that we are also supporting the faculty and other students in class with a student in crisis, developing clear lines of communication, training for response options, and action plans ready to be deployed. Our Student Affairs Committee, meanwhile, is working to address challenges faced by our D1 student athletes around university attendance policies; we hope to bring proposed revisions to those policies to the Board later this year, in order to better support athletes as well as other students.

More broadly, the Faculty Senate has been a committed partner in a range of initiatives underway across campus that are setting UVM's direction for the future. The Senate managed campus-wide elections for faculty to serve on the new Strategic Planning committee which was hard at work in the fall; we have also hosted regular updates on the plan as it has developed, to ensure robust faculty engagement with the process along the way. The Senate has provided members for the Project LEAP steering committee, and provided feedback to Project LEAP goals, embedding faculty voices within discussions of improving efficiencies and processes on campus. And the Senate has been involved in discussions of AI integration on campus, helping to brainstorm new approaches, offering a forum to discuss AI principles, and helping coordinate curriculum expectations to prepare students for careers in the AI era.

Navigating change in an uncertain world is not easy. Emotions are high, anxieties spiral, consequences loom. While the Senate cannot make those anxieties disappear, we can and do provide a forum in which concerns are aired and different viewpoints expressed—in open conversations, face to face (or Teams screen box to Teams screen box). Sometimes the conversations are contentious. But the process of dialog is vital to our functioning as a community. Our core focus at the Senate is to bring faculty and administrators together to listen, engage, and find common ground, involving faculty in helping to chart UVM's path forward.



University  
of Vermont

Staff Council

## **Staff Council President's Report**

**Board of Trustees**

**February 6, 2026**

**Prepared By**

**Jennifer Jorgenson, Staff Council President**

Members of the Board,

The UVM Staff Council continues its work advocating for and elevating the needs, experiences, and contributions of staff across the university. The Council has engaged deeply with institutional planning efforts, strengthened collaborations with administrative leaders, expanded professional development and engagement opportunities, and advanced multiple committee level initiatives aligned with our mission.

Strategic Planning Participation: Council leadership and representatives played an active role in the university's ongoing strategic planning initiative. In October, Dean Katherine Shepard and Director Sarah Heath briefed the Council on emerging pillars, planning timelines, and campus engagement strategies. Staff Council leadership has emphasized the importance of inclusive staff perspectives throughout this process, with Staff Council Vice President Samantha Dickey serving directly on the planning committee. President Marlene Tromp later reaffirmed the critical role of staff voices in shaping the plan and a revised draft was shared with all campus members in December with an invitation to engage in the final stages of the plan's development by participating in a short survey.

Facilities, Technology, and Campus Operations: Responding to staff feedback and committee requests, Facilities Management leadership presented in October on operational structures, service request pathways, and the zone management model to improve clarity and responsiveness. Council members also received a detailed update on Catamount LEAP, UVM's multiyear digital transformation initiative, including clarification that the project aims to free staff from repetitive tasks—not reduce staffing—while improving student and employee experiences. Council member Monika Donlevy served on the LEAP task force. Further, staff engaged in discussions around campus Wi-Fi performance, digital communications processes, and opportunities to streamline internal information sharing. These discussions continued in December with a session led by University Communications Executive Director Adam White on *Inside UVM* editions, content submission processes, and establishing a centralized point of contact within Staff Council.

President's and Administrative Leadership Engagement: Staff Council leadership continues proactive, recurring engagement with university administration, including the Interim Provost, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Alicia Estey, and Human Resources (HR) leadership. Discussions included compensation analyses, retiree communication challenges, and broader institutional priorities. These conversations have strengthened collaborative pathways for addressing structural staff needs and communicating staff concerns effectively.

## Committee Work and Accomplishments

*Community Engagement Committee (CE)* advanced several initiatives to build community fostering a sense of belonging among staff:

- Continued coordination of the Staff Council Book Club.
- Organized or supported numerous experiential events, including:
  - CREAM Farm tour (November)
  - Cancer Center tour scheduled for February 10
  - Energy Plant tour scheduled for January 13
- Partnered with Davis Center Arts to prepare for the annual Staff Art Show.
- Conducted seasonal craft and social events, including potato stamp gift wrap workshops.
- Formed an ad hoc group to explore partnering with Real Estate & Property Services on promoting Catamount Run.
- Across all events, the committee experienced strong turnout, reinforcing staff desire for connection and community building.

*Social Committee* delivered several high visibility, campuswide engagement activities:

- Sold out tickets to the Winter Lights event, demonstrating robust demand for Council supported social activities.
- Finalized preparations and hosted a successful annual Holiday Bazaar, held December 3.
- Began planning spring engagement events, including a door decorating contest to promote the spring CatChat.
- Continued work with Lyric Theatre to offer discounted tickets to Frozen in the spring.
- The committee continues to serve as a key driver of campus morale and informal connections.

*Personal, Professional Development & Occupational Environment Committee (PPDOE)* advanced multiple initiatives designed to support staff growth, learning, and work environment quality:

- Coordinated with HR on shared Lunch & Learn programming.
- Organized the spring CatChat—a hybrid, recorded professional development event—with presenters confirmed early in the planning cycle.
- Facilitated campus leadership attendance at Staff Council meetings to address facilities, occupational environment, and campus recycling.
- Explored development of a mentorship program in partnership with HR.
- Worked with Enterprise Technology Services to review Wi-Fi performance and plan follow up surveys to assess occupational environment needs.
- The committee remains focused on ensuring staff have access to meaningful growth opportunities and functional, supportive work environments.
- The Staff Council Professional Development Fund for Non-Represented staff has awarded \$7950 to 13 applicants through the end of Q2 FY26

*Compensation, Benefits & Budget Committee (CBB)* continued its core advocacy and policy review work:

- Advanced work on the annual Non-Represented Staff Salary Letter, completed and provided to university leadership in December.

- Discussed findings from the Non-Represented Staff Survey.
- Continued refining FY26 goals focused on compensation, transparency and equitable benefits.
- Elevated staff questions about benefits and compensation in leadership meetings, ensuring alignment with CFO Estey and HR leadership.
- CBB's work remains a foundational component of Staff Council's policy and advocacy responsibilities.

#### Council wide Issues, Member Concerns & Feedback

- **Volunteerism initiative** and renewed interest in expanding opportunities for staff supported service.
- **Improving communications** with retirees, off campus staff, and Extension colleagues.
- **RallyCat Cupboard and basic needs** visibility emphasized during the Fall Council retreat.



## **Student Government Association (SGA) President's Report**

**Board of Trustees**

**February 6, 2026**

**Prepared By**

**Kennedy Connors, SGA President**

Hello all,

The Student Government Association has had a successful start to 2026! I am excited to share our accomplishments from last semester and our goals for this new semester.

We continue to make progress on our three senate-wide goals for this session: expanding student support amid the current U.S. political climate, leading efforts to foster a culture of consent at UVM, and reforming SGA operations to engage more directly with students. Since the Board meeting in October, we focused on ending the fall semester strong and setting ourselves up for success this spring.

To further support our student body, we continued our partnership with the CARE (Connect, Assess, Refer, Engage) team and the campus club, UPRAWR (a service-dog club that works with ACT dogs), throughout the semester and will be continuing this in 2026. Additionally, we held the Week of Kindness in November and the Week of Wellness during Finals Week in December. The Week of Kindness featured student-centered programming, including flower-making and a coat drive to support those in need. Week of Wellness featured similar initiatives, including free snacks in the SGA Galaxy Space and a coffee-and-study event. Both weeks will continue this semester, starting with the Week of Kindness occurring in the second week of February. To address student concerns with the current political climate, we are hosting a Civic Engagement Fair in partnership with the Office of Civic

Engagement on February 25th. This event will provide an opportunity for students to engage in activism, advocacy, and service.

Our sexual violence prevention efforts advanced with two trainings for campus leaders—Sexual Violence Prevention Training and EndTab: Dating and Sexual Safety in the Digital Age. This semester, we aim to continue these conversations and explore new approaches to creating safer spaces in residential halls. Additionally, we are preparing for Sexual Violence Awareness Month in April.

We made SGA visibility a priority throughout the semester with three SGA pop-up events to better engage directly with the student body. These took place in a residential hall, a dining hall, and an academic building. We are continuing these pop-ups this semester, with our first at the end of January. We held countless events in the fall, from Community Clean-Up to our first TEDx event to two SGA athletic games. To stay in closer contact with students, we published monthly SGA reports in the student newspaper, The Vermont Cynic, and sent out an end-of-the-semester newsletter. Internally, we held a leadership training with the Career Center to reflect on how we can best serve our fellow students.

Looking ahead, we are eager to apply this momentum and achieve as much as possible as we finish the 2025-2026 SGA session.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support of student leadership.

Best,  
Kennedy Connors

**UVM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION President's UPDATE**  
**UVM Board of Trustees**  
**Friday, February 6, 2026**

**Prepared by: Deb Mignucci '82, Alumni Association President**  
**Susan Higgins '85, Alumni Association Vice President**

The UVM Alumni Association is pleased to present this report reflecting recent accomplishments and areas of focus in the first half of the fiscal year. Our volunteer leadership consists of more than 150 individuals representing eight decades of graduates. This report contains a small sample of the wide array of engagement programs we offer to our UVM community.

**Student engagement thrives across campus**



*SAA leaders represent at the Presidential Installation Dinner.*

This fall, student engagement prospered through events like the LCOM Student Interest Fair, Rally's Rally, and the White Coat Ceremony. During the LCOM Reunion Medical students were recruited for volunteer roles and recognized with prestigious awards, strengthening alumni connections. For undergraduates, initiatives ranged from supporting New Student Convocation and hosting student-alumni networking events with new programs such as "Alumni House Blend: Careers and Coffee" and "Cats in the Classroom." These events were hosted in part by the Student Alumni Association (SAA), a student-run club that aims to foster a sense of **pride, tradition, and home** in our university through student and alumni engagement on campus. They will kick off their 11<sup>th</sup> LUVMYCLUB campaign, a crowdfunding campaign where students raise money for their club or organization, with hopes to crush last year's record-breaking results and raise over \$250,000 within a week.

**See our alumni community across the country**

The Alumni Relations team held over 30 events



*NextGen watch party in Boston, MA, for the Men's Soccer playoffs.*

this fall on campus and across the country helping to connect our Catamounts to each other and back to UVM. Over 1,900 constituents engaged with us individually and at events in

New York, Massachusetts, Colorado, Connecticut, California, Chicago, Oregon, Washington DC, and Vermont. Connecting regionally helps to keep relationships strong for our Catamounts who cannot regularly make it back to Burlington.

**Bleeding green and gold**

This fall season, our student athletes excelled on the turf! Our women's



*UVM women's soccer team*

field hockey and soccer team played in the America East Championship game. Our men's soccer team won the America East Championship and had the number one seed in the NCAA tournament. The season's schedule provided a perfect platform for alumni to gather near and far. Pre-event gatherings and watch parties were held



*UVM field hockey team*

in six states, engaging over 300 alumni. In addition to the success our student-athletes are showing on the field, they also took the time to connect with over 20 alumni in our third annual alumni and student-athlete career night. The Catamount pride that our student athletes are helping to create is contagious. Fans across the country not only show up to cheer on the team but they also help support our student athletes by engaging philanthropically. This fall our Catamount



Challenge (week-long crowdfunding campaign) raised over \$500,000 from 1,300 donors. Go Cats!

### Learning directly from the experts!

Alumni love to share their expertise directly with students, and this semester we gave them multiple opportunities to do so right here on campus. In the College of Arts and Sciences, alumni participated in four career networking panels in a variety of topical areas. The Larner College of Medicine encouraged students to join UVM Connect, our UVM-exclusive online networking platform, during the White Coat Ceremony. In addition, the Alumni House Blend: Careers & Coffee program, launched this year by SAA, brought back alumni monthly to the UVM Alumni House. Alumni also engaged through the Career Center's Interest groups: September-Health Professions, October-Business and Entrepreneurship, November- Education, Policy, and Social Impact. The series continues next semester- we can't wait!

### Nominate an outstanding alum!

The UVM Alumni Association and the Larner College of Medicine honor alumni each year with a handful of awards. Alumni can be nominated for awards that honor outstanding teaching, service, dedication to their field or the university and



(L-R) UVM President Dr. Marlene Tromp, Megan Camp '84, and UVM AABOD President Deb Mignucci '82.



Alumni Awards presentation at LCOM Reunion 2025

professional achievements. Please consider helping us celebrate our alumni in the fall of 2026. Nominations are open through February 22<sup>nd</sup> and can be submitted online:

[alumni.uvm.edu/awards](https://alumni.uvm.edu/awards).

### Measuring impact with Engagement Score

The Engagement Score analyzes data on alumni experiential (e.g., event attendance), volunteerism and giving to differentiate and track engagement levels among different groups and benchmark the success of outreach programs.

### Returning home: Celebrating Larner alumni and preparing for the undergraduate golden reunion

One of the key programs executed by the Alumni Relations team is class reunion. This fall, roughly 100 LCOM alumni returned home for their LCOM class reunions. This year's LCOM reunion program included class dinners, updates from the Dean, an awards ceremony, tours of our Firestone Research Building, engagement with current students, tours of the college, and much more. In 2026, LCOM



Sim lab tour during LCOM Reunion



Photo taken from Ariel 1975 yearbook

Reunion will join UVM Weekend October 2-4. Since summer 2025, we've also been readying for the return of the classes of 1975 and 1976 for their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. In June, we'll welcome home the

classes for affinity gatherings, a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain, campus tours, connections with faculty and students, the signature class dinner, and so much more. The weekend festivities are being coordinated through the Foundation and in partnership with six longstanding alumni volunteer leaders and dozens of enthusiastic classmates conducting peer-to-peer outreach. Stay tuned- registration goes live soon!

### Regional programming on deck for spring 2026!

This spring, there are many ways to connect with other Catamounts in person! Alumni are once again partnering with the admissions team to support regional admitted student receptions, NextGen events are in the works, and fingers crossed for March Madness! Stay updated by visiting our website at [alumni.uvm.edu](https://alumni.uvm.edu).

Follow us on social media: [go.uvm.edu/socials](https://go.uvm.edu/socials)



And join us on UVM Connect: [uvmconnect.org](https://uvmconnect.org)