

**THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Vice Chair Donald McCree, Secretary Catherine Toll, Theresa Alberghini DiPalma, John Bartholomew, Scott Beck, Susan Brengle, Frank Cioffi, Shannon Deegan, Matt Devost, R. Stanton Dodge, Jodi Goldstein, McKenzie Hart, Stephanie Jerome, Jason Maulucci, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano, Kristina Pisanelli, Monique Priestley, Lucy Rogers, Governor Phil Scott, Shap Smith, Shahriar Tafti, Tristan Toleno, and President Marlene Tromp

Friday, May 15, 2026

9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Silver Maple Ballroom, (401) Dudley H. Davis Center

AGENDA

	Item	Enclosure/ Exemption	Discussion Leader(s)	Time
	Call to order			*9:30 a.m.
1.	Approval of the February 6, 2026 meeting minutes	Attachment 1	Cynthia Barnhart	9:30-9:32
2.	Chair's report		Cynthia Barnhart	9:32-9:35
3.	President's report		Marlene Tromp	9:35-9:45
4.	Governance leaders reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Council • Student Government Association • Graduate Student Senate • Alumni Association • Faculty Senate 	Attachments 2-6	Jennifer Jorgenson Kennedy Connors Saba Rafiei Deb Mignucci Abigail McGowan	9:45-10:35
5.	Interim UVM Foundation President & CEO report		Kathleen Kelleher	10:35-10:45
6.	Multipurpose Center project update		Marlene Tromp Jeff Schulman	10:45-11:00
	Break			11:00-11:05
	Motion to enter executive session**			
7.	Multipurpose Center project update	Contracts	Jeff Schulman	11:05-11:20
8.	Amendments to the UVM Foundation Bylaws	Attorney-client privilege	Sharon Reich Paulsen	11:20-11:35
	Motion to go out of executive session			

	Item	Enclosure/ Exemption	Discussion Leader(s)	Time
9.	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution regarding amendments to the UVM Foundation Bylaws 	Separate Distribution	Cynthia Barnhart	11:35-11:45
	Adjourn			11:45 a.m.

*Times are approximate.

** The Chair will entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss contracts and for attorney-client privilege discussions. Action is anticipated following.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Board of Trustees was held on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., in the Silver Maple Ballroom (401), Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Vice Chair Donald McCree, Secretary Catherine Toll, John Bartholomew, Susan Brengle, Frank Cioffi¹, Matt Devost², R. Stanton Dodge², Jodi Goldstein, Jennifer Ha, McKenzie Hart, Stephanie Jerome, Jason Maulucci, Ed Pagano², Kristina Pisanelli, Lucy Rogers, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno, and President Marlene Tromp

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Beck, John Dineen, Carol Ode, Monique Priestly, and Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Faculty Senate President Abigail McGowan, Staff Council President Jennifer Jorgenson, Student Government Association President Kennedy Connors, Graduate Student Senate President Saba Rafiei, Alumni Association President Deb Mignucci, UVM Foundation Interim President and CEO Kathleen Kelleher, College of Education and Social Services Dean Katharine Shepherd, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Lauren Griswold, Interim Provost Linda Schadler, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Sharon Reich Paulsen, and Vice President for Finance and Administration Alicia Estey²

¹Joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

²Joined the meeting via remote conferencing.

Chair Cindy Barnhart called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chair Barnhart presented the October 17, 2025, meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Chair's report

Chair Barnhart (see full report appended, beginning on page 10)

President's report

President Marlene Tromp began by expressing her appreciation for the Strategic Planning Committee's work in preparing the final plan to be presented to the Board for approval later in the meeting. Now eighth months into her tenure at UVM, she noted that she is thrilled and privileged to serve as president and is inspired by the incredible achievements of faculty, staff, students and alumni. Reflecting on UVM's history, President Tromp highlighted two enduring themes: bold innovative thinking and values-driven learning. She referenced James Marsh, UVM president in 1826, who championed active learning and created one of the first English departments in the country. The President concluded her report by emphasizing that these same themes continue to define the work of UVM's students, faculty, and staff today.

Governance leaders' reports

Chair Barnhart invited constituent group leaders to share important, strategic initiatives on which they are working.

- Faculty Senate President Abigail McGowan provided an update on recent Senate activities, highlighting work in curriculum development, strategic and systems planning, and support for faculty amid national uncertainties.

The Catamount Core Curriculum Committee continues to review hundreds of courses every semester for possible inclusion in the university's general education requirements. The committee also contributes to program assessment, and evaluates proposed revisions and innovations to academic programs including minors, majors, graduate degrees and certificates.

The Senate has been an active partner in assessing existing systems and planning for the future with members participating in Catamount LEAP (the Learning Environment and Professionalism Committee) and the Strategic Planning Committee. Additionally, the Senate is partnering with the AI Task Force to help guide the integration of AI-related training into the curriculum.

President McGowan reported that the Senate is focusing on supporting faculty as they navigate heightened uncertainty and tension with the broader national landscape. She shared examples of how faculty have experienced increased vulnerability and outlined the Senate's efforts to gather feedback and host conversations about changes in research and teaching practices. The Senate has also developed new guidelines to support faculty in maintaining classrooms as safe spaces for the exploration of critical ideas, addressing issues related to

academic freedom, disagreements over invited speakers, and situations in which students decline to do assignments for political reasons.

She concluded by expressing appreciation for the Board's commitment to sustaining UVM as a community grounded in inquiry and innovation.

- Staff Council President Jennifer Jorgenson reported that the Council continues to contribute actively to UVM's strategic planning efforts, ensuring staff perspective and operational realities inform the future direction of the university. Regular working sessions with Interim Provost Linda Schadler, Vice President for Finance and Administration Alicia Estey and Human Resources leadership have strengthened partnerships with administrative leaders.

She noted increased staff engagement and community-building through Council committees, along with expanded access to professional development opportunities. In the first half of FY 2026, the Professional Development Fund awarded nearly \$8,000 to 13 staff members. She emphasized that compensation and benefits advocacy remains a key focus, particularly regarding pay equity, transparency, and market competitiveness.

President Jorgenson concluded by highlighting that UVM staff are engaged, solutions-oriented, and committed to advancing the university's progress through collaboration, transparent communication and continued investment in staff development and connection.

- Student Government Association (SGA) President Kennedy Connors provided an update on recent accomplishments and goals for the spring semester. Key initiatives include expanding student support in response to the current U.S. climate, strengthening efforts to foster a culture of consent at UVM, and improving SGA operations to better engage with students. Signature programs such as the Week of Kindness and the Week of Wellness will continue this semester. To address student concerns related to the political climate, SGA will host a Civic Engagement Fair in partnership with the Office of Civic Engagement on February 25th.

President Connors also highlighted the progress in sexual violence prevention efforts, including two recent trainings for campus leaders, with additional strategies being explored to enhance safety in residential halls.

She introduced a resolution passed earlier this week supporting the completion of the athletic facility. The resolution included a statement from UVM's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee emphasizing that finishing the Multipurpose Center

would significantly enhance the student-athlete experience by demonstrating the university's commitment to their well-being.

President Connors concluded by expressing enthusiasm for the Strategic Plan and appreciation for President Tromp's leadership.

- Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President Saba Rafiei reported on progress towards five organizational goals:

Increased Transparency: The GSS has increased access to information by publishing full budget reports, spending details, and weekly newsletters explaining what GSS is working on and available resources. The Senate also approved a public comment period prior to voting on any resolution.

Strengthening Collaboration and Engagement: The Senate advanced a resolution focused on member retention and empowerment. The GSS is actively collaborating with campus partners including the Graduate College, Counseling and Psychiatry Services (CAPS), the Vice Provost and Dean of Students Office, Transportation Services, the Office of International Education, and Enterprise Technology Services. Graduate students are also well represented on Faculty Senate committees across academic and student-life areas.

Raising Visibility and Accessibility: Outreach efforts have expanded through broader communication about GSS initiatives and graduate student participation in institutional initiatives.

Centering Graduate Student Voices: The GSS is finalizing a survey to gauge student priorities for funding allocations. It is also launching structured listening sessions to better understand academic, financial, and wellbeing challenges students are experiencing.

Improving Quality of Graduate Student Community: Recent initiatives include bi-weekly open-space breakfast gatherings, pizza nights twice a semester, and a combined pizza and games event during exam week. Additional social programming will be guided by upcoming survey responses.

To address safety and transportation concerns, President Rafiei reported that GSS is collaborating with CAPS, the Vice Provost and Dean of Students Office, and the Equal Opportunity Office to launch a new initiative that will begin with an educational workshop focused on gender-based, sexual, and relationship violence and assault. The long-term goal is to develop a sustained safe-space

community for graduate students and, potentially through collaboration with SGA, evolve this effort into a fully supported student organization. President Rafiei concluded by noting that the GSS will continue focusing on visibility, data-driven advocacy, safety and mental health initiatives, and strengthening graduate student community life.

- Alumni Association President Deb Mignucci provided an update on campus partnerships and highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen the student-to-alumni engagement pipeline. She noted that the Student Alumni Association (SAA), a student-led organization committed to fostering connection among UVM students, past and present, continues to collaborate closely with the Association and its student leaders serve as voting members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. This fall, SAA offered a range of on and off campus programs including *Alumni House Blend*, a new monthly career program held at the UVM Alumni House. SAA is also preparing for two major spring initiatives, including the 10th annual LUVMYCLUB crowdfunding campaign and Senior Week 2026.

Additional Alumni Association activities included partnering with Enrollment Management to host Admitted Student Receptions in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City, with additional events scheduled for March, including one in Denver, Colorado. President Mignucci highlighted that through in-person programs, athletic events, one-on-one student mentoring, and virtual programming showcasing current UVM research, the Association continues to broaden engagement opportunities for alumni and students.

She concluded by expressing pride in the outstanding group of current students and alumni representing UVM at the 24th Olympic Winter Games in Italy.

UVM Foundation President & CEO report

UVM Foundation Interim President & CEO Kathleen Kelleher reported that the UVM Foundation has raised \$47.5M as of December 31, 2025—62% of its FY 2026 goal of \$75M in new philanthropic commitments. Progress continues to be ahead of last year. Current commitments total \$47.5M, and with three seven-figure gifts nearing completion, the Foundation is expected to surpass \$55M soon. Gift receipts exceed \$35.5M representing 71% of the \$50M annual target, continuing a post-2019 trend of annual receipts between \$45M and \$60M. A priority for the next campaign will be sustainably increasing commitments to drive higher receipts in future years.

Interim President Kelleher highlighted several recent major gifts including: the Larner College of Medicine receiving a \$2M gift to support stroke research, a \$1.4M gift from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the African Clinical Research Network's Early Infant Probiotic Implementation Research, a \$1M gift from the Hoffman Family to the Grossman School of Business to launch the Hoffman Family Center for Student Success, a \$800K gift from the Patricia Pizzagalli Estate to augment a Professorship in Neurological Sciences, a \$1.25M new Estate Commitment from Howland Hartley M'77 to a Professorship in Dermatology, an additional \$2.1M gift from the Osher Foundation, and finally a \$1.2M new Estate Commitment from Darryl Raszyl M'82 and Stoner Lichty to establish a named scholarship as well as support for the Larner College of Medicine General Fund.

FY 2026 fundraising priorities include: supporting research which directly impacts endowed faculty positions graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, and UVM's nationally recognized research centers and institutes; supporting student success through scholarships, internships, experiential learning, and a broad range of programs that directly impact students; and securing additional philanthropic support to complete the Multipurpose Events Center.

She noted that the Foundation continues its national travel schedule to introduce President Tromp to alumni and donors, is developing a campaign staffing plan, and is supporting the search for the next the Foundation CEO. She concluded by stating that staff enthusiasm is high as preparations for a fourth comprehensive campaign progress.

Adoption of 2026 UVM Strategic Plan and University mission and visions

President Tromp presented the Strategic Plan: *Green, Gold, and Bold - Green Mountains, Gold Standard, Bold Future* and acknowledged Alumni Association President Deb Mignucci for proposing the name. She expressed appreciation to the committee and thanked Dean Katharine Shepherd for her leadership.

Dean Shepherd and Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Lauren Griswold summarized the planning process which included 53 listening sessions and engagement from more than 1,000 campus and external participants. Four successive drafts incorporated community feedback. The final plan includes a message from the President, new Mission and Vision statements, and four core pillars with associated strategies. Dean Shepherd pointed out that the President's message sets the stage for who we are as a university, where we are now, and where we will be in the future.

Dean Shepherd noted that over two dozen members served on the Strategic Planning Committee and recognized Enterprise Technology Services, Senior Systems Engineer Ian Davis and Larner College of Medicine Senior Executive Assistant Vicki Gilwee for their support throughout the process. Committee members were invited to share their experiences.

She then reviewed the Mission & Vision which are centered on Our Common Ground values. The mission articulates UVM's purpose and objectives, and the vision delineates the university's strategic outlook for the future. The plan is organized around four integrated pillars:

1. **Forge Bold Futures:** Student Connection, Purpose, and Impact
2. **Study What Matters:** Values-Driven Learning, Research, and Practice
3. **Create Opportunity:** Access, Engagement, and Partnerships
4. **Enable Excellence:** Campus Community, Systems, and Infrastructure

Dean Shepherd described the implementation process, which includes unit-level alignment, tactics and metrics, annual reporting, and oversight by an implementation committee. The plan will guide fundraising efforts, shape communications, and be supported through a centralized Strategic Alignment Plan (SAP) led by Strategic Communications and Marketing.

Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Griswold explained the purpose of the Strategic Alignment Plan. The Office of Strategic Communications will create a brand-level annual communications and marketing strategy aligned with the strategic plan. Phase 1 includes: 1) conducting and building on existing market research in alignment to the strategic plan, 2) developing a brand platform to help UVM's messaging better connect to audiences, 3) building out capacity to enhance visual identity in support of the messaging strategy, 4) building and launching a paid, earned and owned media strategy—surround sound, and 5) making investments to mature the marketing model and supporting the strategic plan alignment and implementation.

Reflecting themes from community feedback, President Tromp emphasized UVM's aspiration to make a meaningful impact for its students and for the state of Vermont and to elevate the university's national reputation. She highlighted alumni as essential partners in advancing this vision.

An opportunity for discussion followed. Trustees expressed appreciation for the committee's work. Questions focused on student recruitment, selectivity, and Burlington's public image. Vice President for Enrollment Management Jay Jacobs affirmed that selectivity is a key priority, and President Tromp underscored the

importance of UVM's partnership with the city, noting alignment with the plans third pillar.

President Tromp concluded that campus leaders will now begin developing alignment plans to operationalize the strategic plan, with annual reporting on metrics by units and a yearly progress report from her office.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Barnhart presented the following resolution for endorsement and referral to the Board for approval:

Resolution recommending adoption of the 2026 UVM Strategic Plan: Green, Gold and Bold – Green Mountains, Gold Standard, Bold Future (and mission and vision statements)

WHEREAS, the administration has presented the 2026 Strategic Plan: Green, Gold and Bold – Green Mountains, Gold Standard, Bold Future, appearing as Appendix A to this document; and

WHEREAS, the Plan establishes four foundational pillars and related strategies to position the University for future success; and

WHEREAS, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members contributed through listening sessions and surveys;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee recommends Board approval and adoption of the 2026 UVM Strategic Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee recommends Board approval and adoption of the updated statements of the University's Mission and its Vision presented in concurrence with the new Plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President report periodically on progress toward the Plan's goals.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

At 12:23 p.m., Chair Barnhart called for a recess.

The meeting reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Vice Chair Donald McCree, Secretary Catherine Toll, John Bartholomew, Scott Beck, Susan Brengle, Frank Cioffi, Matt Devost¹, Jodi Goldstein, Jennifer Ha, McKenzie Hart, Stephanie Jerome, Jason Maulucci, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano¹, Kristina Pisanelli, Monique Priestly², Lucy Rogers, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno, and President Marlene Tromp

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Dineen, R. Stanton Dodge, and Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Interim Provost Linda Schadler, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Sharon Reich Paulsen, Vice President for Finance and Administration Alicia Estey¹, UVM Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Lauren Griswold, Foundation Board of Directors Chair Robert Brennan¹, Director of Athletics Jeffrey Schulman, UVM Foundation Interim President and CEO Kathleen Kelleher, and Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig

¹Joined the meeting via remote conferencing.

²Joined the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Executive Session

At 3:03 p.m., Chair Barnhart entertained a motion to enter into executive session to discuss contracts and the evaluation of a public officer. She noted the session would last for approximately one hour and no action is anticipated following.

Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees, Interim Provost Linda Schadler, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Sharon Reich Paulsen, Vice President for Finance and Administration Alicia Estey, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Lauren Griswold, and Chair of the UVM Foundation Board of Directors Rob Brennan.

Rob Brennan was excused from the meeting at 3:28 p.m. and Director of Athletics Jeffrey Schulman, UVM Foundation Interim President & CEO Kathleen Kelleher, and Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig were invited to join.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 4:12 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Barnhart, Chair

Cynthia Barnhart
UVM Board of Trustees Chair's Report
February 6, 2026

Welcome to the winter Board of Trustees meetings.

This morning, trustees will hear from the governance leaders and receive a report from the Interim CEO and President of the UVM Foundation. The university's Strategic Plan –including new vision and mission statements – will be presented for adoption. I want to thank Katie Shepherd for her leadership of the Strategic Planning Committee, and its members, for gathering community perspectives and shaping a vision for UVM's future.

After lunch, the Educational Policy & Institutional Resources (EPIR) and Budget, Finance & Investment (BFI) Committees will meet to conduct annual reviews, receive routine reports, and hear a presentation on UVM's Cancer Center. BFI members will preview fiscal year 2027 budget assumptions, and the administration will seek authorization for bond refunding.

This afternoon, the Committee of the Whole will meet in executive session to discuss the UVM Foundation CEO/President search and the Multipurpose Center project.

The Board will convene tomorrow morning to receive committee reports, elect university and board officers, and vote on a consent agenda of recommended action items.

I would like to thank governance leaders for the written informational reports included in the meeting materials and I encourage trustees to review reports submitted by the Provost and the Vice President for Finance & Administration.

Finally, I would like to recognize our outstanding student trustee, Jenn Ha, who is concluding her service on the Board. Jenn, we are grateful for your contributions and you will be missed. Let me also offer a note of thanks and appreciation to John Dineen, who is completing his term of service at the end of February and is unable to attend these meetings. Tomorrow's consent agenda includes resolutions honoring both Jenn and John for their service to the University.

Later today, the UVM Board will elect John's successor and fill the seat that would have been vacated by Don McCree. Don, who was scheduled to complete his second term this month, was re-elected last fall to serve the remainder of Ron Lumbr's term through 2028. Both incoming trustees will serve 6-year terms. The

Associate Directors for the Appointment of Student Trustees will select Jenn's successor for a 2-year term. All new trustees will begin their terms on March 1st.

DRAFT



Staff Council President's Report

**Board of Trustees
May 15, 2026**

**Prepared By
Jennifer Jorgenson, Staff Council President**

Members of the Board,

Staff Council continues to serve as a key advisory and communication body, working collaboratively with senior leadership to support the University's mission, strategic direction, and commitment to transparency, shared governance, and staff engagement.

Engagement with Senior Leadership

Over the past several months, Staff Council leadership has met regularly with members of the President's senior leadership team, including the Chief of Staff to the President, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, and Chief Communications and Marketing Officer. These meetings have focused on improving institutional communication, supporting staff inclusion in major initiatives, and ensuring staff perspectives are incorporated into institutional planning and decision-making.

A central theme of these conversations has been communication and transparency. Staff Council finalized and shared a Communication Matrix designed to strengthen information flow between senior leaders, Staff Council, and the broader UVM community. Senior leaders have responded positively, with Staff Council noting that communication has already improved in advance of the full rollout. Over the coming weeks, Staff Council will continue discussing this tool individually with senior leaders as part of our regular liaison meetings.

Strategic Planning and Institutional Priorities

Staff Council leadership has been engaged in discussions regarding the University's Strategic Plan and its implementation. Units across campus will be participating in a strategic alignment process, with broad staff involvement through committees and listening sessions. Our role as Staff Council is to help amplify staff voices, support engagement, and encourage participation at all levels of the institution.

Staff Council leadership has also been informed of ongoing dean and senior administrative searches, as well as the planning stages for the permanent Provost search. I will be serving on the Provost search committee to ensure staff representation in this important process.

Staff Recognition and Appreciation

Staff recognition and appreciation remain high priorities for Staff Council and for the President's Office. Planning is underway for multiple staff appreciation activities, and a reimagined approach to Staff Appreciation Week. There is a shared understanding that these efforts may look different from prior years, with a focus on expanding the concept of appreciation beyond a single event while maintaining valued traditions.

In addition, Staff Council continues to lead the **Our Common Ground Staff Award** process, the University's highest staff-level presidential recognition. Work is ongoing to finalize the review committee, incorporate feedback from the Division of Intercultural Excellence, increase accessibility through translated application materials, and ensure that the nomination process remains both inclusive and rigorous. A celebratory event is planned for September 24, 2026.

Budget, Compensation, and Financial Transparency

Staff Council leadership met with Finance and Administration to discuss budget planning for FY27. Discussions included potential targeted salary adjustments for certain positions, consideration of increasing the Professional Development Fund for non-represented staff, and the importance of transparent communication around budgeting processes.

Staff Council strongly supports efforts to increase clarity and understanding of UVM's financial model, including discussions around the Incentive-Based Budgeting framework, ERP implementation planning, and the possible development of a Finance and Administration summit to promote transparency and shared understanding.

Human Resources, Performance, and Staff Experience

Meetings with Human Resources leadership have focused on the staff experience, including the performance review process, onboarding, and the sharing of employee survey results. Staff Council has provided direct feedback and encouraged broader community input, reinforcing the importance of consistent, equitable, and development-focused practices for staff across the institution.

We have also been included in interviews as part of the search for a permanent Chief Human Resources Officer as it nears conclusion. We look forward to continued collaboration with HR leadership as these initiatives progress.

Communications and Institutional Identity

Staff Council leadership met with Strategic Communications to discuss processes for elevating staff initiatives, governance of enterprise systems (such as EMMA an email tool), and ongoing work around UVM's institutional brand. Staff Council appreciates the opportunity to contribute staff perspectives to these discussions.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the summer and fall, Staff Council remains committed to:

- Strengthening communication and transparency across the institution
- Supporting inclusive staff engagement in strategic planning and major searches
- Advancing meaningful staff recognition and appreciation
- Advocating for professional development, equitable compensation, and a positive staff experience

Staff are deeply invested in the success of the University of Vermont, and Staff Council serves as a bridge between staff and leadership to ensure that investment is recognized, supported, and sustained. I appreciate the Board's continued interest in staff perspectives and welcome any questions or opportunities for further discussion.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to the University.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Jorgenson (she/her)

President, Staff Council
University of Vermont



Student Government Association (SGA) President's Report

Board of Trustees

May 15, 2026

Prepared By

Kennedy Connors, SGA President

Hello all!

I am thrilled to share that I have been reelected to serve another year as the President of the Student Government Association. We had another competitive election cycle with the student body electing 34 senators. I am very proud and excited to work alongside such a wonderful group to enact more positive change across campus.

As we approach the end of the school year, SGA has completed many semester-long projects. Internally, we have finished our SGA Operational Documents, which will be presented to the Board next semester for approval. These documents will ensure we have increased institutional knowledge to make SGA stronger for years to come.

April was a very busy month for SGA, filled with Earth Week and Sexual Violence Awareness Month events. Our Committee on the Environment spearheaded Earth Week programming, featuring a community clean-up, an Earth Day Pub Quiz, working with UVM Program Board to make UVM's spring music festival, Springfest, certified sustainable, and more. Our Committee on Our Common Ground Values managed Sexual Violence Awareness Month planning, collaborating with numerous

campus partners to bring Take Back The Night, Illumination Week, and more. We also held our end-of-semester Town Hall in April, during which students could ask us questions and provide feedback.

As we approach Finals Week, the Academic Affairs Committee is organizing the 3rd annual Week of Wellness to support students' mental health. This will take place from May 4th to the 8th.

Looking ahead to the next school year, SGA has set three new senate-wide goals for the 2026-2027 session: advocating for improved campus infrastructure, broadening student well-being initiatives, and expanding our presence to build on SGA's current momentum. We are eager to work collaboratively across campus to advance these goals.

Best,
Kennedy Connors



Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President's Report

Board of Trustees

May 15, 2026

Prepared By

Saba Rafiei, President of the Graduate Student Senate

At the beginning of AY2025–26, GSS identified five priority areas requiring specific attention: transparency, continuity and engagement, student voice, visibility, and graduate student well-being. -We launched targeted initiatives to advance each priority, and by year's end, nearly all have been completed.

Transparency, Budgeting, and Student Voice: GSS made detailed budget and spending reports publicly available for the first time, established a public comment period for resolutions, and expanded weekly communications and newsletters, with 81% survey-reported use. We also initiated a survey-informed budgeting process, aligning spending with student priorities, including, at the top, conference funding, professional development, social programming, and well-being initiatives. This helped ensure that student fees directly support the priorities students identified.

Guided by our goal of “*No voices unheard,*” we asked students directly what GSS should communicate to University leadership and the Board, and how we can better serve them. Responses highlighted concerns around affordability, including housing and the broader cost of living in Burlington, health insurance, parking access and safety, the Graduate Student Union contract, and recognition of graduate students' work. Students also appreciated GSS and the University's ongoing support. Results from this multi-section survey continuously informed our advocacy and programming and will continue to guide future initiatives.

Community, Safety, and Support: GSS strengthened community and professional development through bi-weekly full breakfasts, social and exam-period wellness programming, support for graduate student clubs and associations, international student events, and workshops, co-hosted with the Graduate College. Following

the January workshop on graduation processes, GSS is exploring a webinar on work and internship confidence and readiness. We also continued investment in the Elevate Grant, which supported 46 students in attending conferences this year.

In response to graduate student concerns, GSS launched a new initiative on preventing emotional, physical, and sexual violence, with a focus on boundaries, safety, and healthy relationships in academic, professional, and personal settings. In partnership with the Office of Equal Opportunity, Counseling and Psychiatry Services, HopeWorks, and the Graduate College, we hosted a workshop and resource event with counselors and a live Q&A to make these resources more visible and accessible, and the topic more approachable for graduate students.

Engagement, Visibility, and Approachability: GSS expanded connections across the University with organizations such as the Student Government Association, Office of International Education, and UVM Innovations, while maintaining active representation in important groups including the Faculty Senate, AI Strategy Group, Graduate College strategic alignment planning, and the Board's standing committees. To support long-term continuity, we initiated a structural constitutional review, which remains a key priority for the Senate's future.

We began the year facing significant engagement and continuity challenges, including officer and leadership resignations and recruitment difficulties amid graduate students' demanding schedules. In response, we prioritized member empowerment, retention, and visibility through a proposed resolution, town halls, outreach and tabling events to stabilize and strengthen the Senate. These efforts increased participation and helped fuel a highly competitive GSS election this spring, with voter participation more than tripling from the previous year and candidates stepping forward in the spirit of continuity and collaborative leadership.

Incoming Leadership: The new team, led by Collin Coil and Kush Sharma, has outlined plans to empower GSS in supporting the University's new Strategic Plan. Their plans reflect Pillar 1's focus on community, belonging, and well-being through a robust programming calendar and deeper collaboration with SGA and GSU; Pillar 3's focus on opportunity and affordability through community partnerships addressing food insecurity and affordability; and Pillar 4's focus on modern systems and shared governance and transparency through a constitutional convention this summer, standardized workflows, and metric-driven website updates.

Together, these priorities, carried forward by the incoming team's plans, energy, and vision, will help GSS continue serving as a genuine partner to the Board in advancing UVM's bold and hopeful future.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in advancing the graduate student experience at UVM.



UVM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION President's UPDATE
UVM Board of Trustees
Friday, May 15, 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.



LUVMY Club sets new record in 2026 Campaign

The Student Alumni Association, in partnership with the Student

Government Association and the UVM Foundation, hosted its tenth annual LUVMYClub campaign February 23 through March 2. We are proud to celebrate a new fundraising record of \$365,869 from 4,854 donors—we've now officially raised over \$1 million for student clubs since 2017. We had over 150 clubs participate, or 25% of all UVM student clubs and organizations. Clubs who were champions in terms of overall donors and alumni donors include WRUV-FM Burlington, UVM Viridescent, Chicks on Sticks, FeelGood, UVM Bikes! Co-op, Women's Ultimate Frisbee, Men's Ultimate Frisbee, Outing Club, The Vermont Cynic, and Sailing Club. We saw notable increases in young alumni and student participation for this year's campaign, which reinforces that this generation likes to see direct impact from their donation dollars. Congratulations to all the students and clubs who joined us this year, and thank you to everyone who donated for being a part of this year's success. Here's to the next ten years!

Admitted Student Receptions 2026 Celebrate Future Catamounts. Eight receptions were held in DC, PA, NYC, CA, CO, MN, IL, and NY. Over 30 alumni volunteers shared their UVM experience with prospective students and families and helped answer their questions. The collaboration between admissions and alumni helped to ensure

that prospective students felt confident and empowered in their college decision.

Increasing our Career Focus for Liberal Arts Students. Led by the energy and enthusiasm of the CAS Board of Advisors Career Committee, CAS Alumni Relations has increasingly focused on expanding career networking opportunities for students and alumni.

This spring, we organized two student-alumni engagement trips to strengthen networking and career exploration: the Economics Club visited Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Bank of America in Boston, while the Political Science Department traveled to Washington, D.C. to connect with alumni working in government and public policy. In addition, we are cultivating relationships with leading technology firms, such as Celonis—ranked #3 on the Fortune Future 50—to bring career-focused projects to campus. These partnerships allow students to develop practical skills, connect with employers, and strengthen their career readiness.



*CAS Students in Boston.
(top) and D.C. (Bottom)*

Learning directly from the experts!



SAA Leadership at UMASS

Alumni are eager to share their expertise directly with students, and this semester we provided multiple opportunities for them to do so right here on campus.

Many of our winter programs emphasized career development, helping ensure students are well prepared for what comes next. The *Alumni House Blend: Careers & Coffee* program, launched this past fall by SAA, brought alumni back to the UVM Alumni House on a monthly basis. Alumni also connected with students through the Career Center's interest groups. SAA further expanded the program's reach by bringing it to the CASE District I community during a one-day workshop at UMass Amherst, where they presented on the Alumni House Blend series—sharing successes and gathering feedback.



Bleeding green and gold

This winter season, our student-athletes excelled on many playing surfaces, including the Olympic stage. The season's schedule provided a perfect platform for alumni to gather near and far. The 2026 Olympics had nine Olympians and a handful of other UVM Connections in Milan! 2026 was UVM's most successful Games to date—with four medals won by former students Ben Ogden (two silvers, CEMS), Ryan Cochrane-Siegle (silver, CEMS) and Paula Molzan (bronze, CAS). Pre-event gatherings and watch parties were held to help support our athletes. 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 also support our student-athletes by engaging philanthropically.



UVM women's basketball



UVM Olympic Coverage

Medical Students Ride into Residency. The Larner College of Medicine Alumni Executive Committee President Dr. Michael Upton MD'94 congratulated the class of 2026 on Match Day. 118 Larner students—100% of those who participated in a Residency Matching Program—matched, in 18 specialties at 74 institutions.

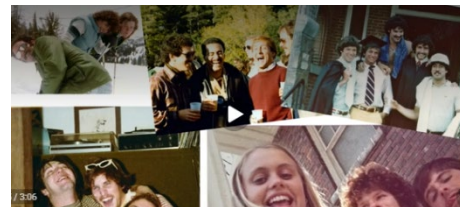


LAEC President & UVM Foundation Staff



UVM to host Class of 1975 and 1976 for their Golden Reunion

This June, we look forward to welcoming members of the Class of 1975 and 1976 back to campus for their 50th Reunion. More than 250 individuals have already registered—including 180 alumni—traveling from as far away as Hawaii. Over three days, alumni will reconnect with one another and experience campus as it is today, including a featured faculty lecture. Engagement among this group remains strong: more than 125 registered attendees have made a gift to UVM within the past three years, with nearly 100 contributing during the current fiscal year. As one class member put it, "This is not your grandparents' reunion... we have pickleball!"



Alumni from 1975 and 1976

Save The Date Mark your calendars now for UVM Weekend 2026, Oct. 2-4! Plan to be part of this festive weekend at the height of fall's beauty. Weekend highlights include Milestone celebrations, Celebrating Excellence Alumni Awards Ceremony, and **Rally's Rally** on Athletic Campus—featuring food, music, fun, and vibrant community spirit.

Follow us on social media: go.uvm.edu/socials



And join us on UVM Connect: uvmconnect.org



Faculty Senate President's Report

**Board of Trustees
May 15, 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.

During the past few months, the Senate has focused its work on several key areas, including updates to the curriculum, AI engagement on campus, and changes to university attendance policies.

Curricular change continues to be the steady, ongoing work of the Senate, ably handled by the dedicated faculty who serve on the Curriculum Affairs Committee (CAC), under the leadership of co-chairs Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse. Since the last Board meeting, the CAC has reviewed proposals for new undergraduate minors, several new graduate level micro-certificates, revisions to two PhD programs, and one uncontested termination of a B.S.Ed. in Physical Education. Collectively, these proposals represent both the continual review process aimed at keeping our curriculum relevant, but also an expanding commitment to serving community needs through new offerings aimed at working professionals.

In terms of AI, the Senate has been engaging the faculty in conversations about the possibilities and challenges of AI on campus. A proposed set of AI principles, developed by a university-wide committee, is before the Senate CAC for consideration and review; assuming those pass, they would come to the full Senate for a vote in May. This spring the Senate conducted a faculty review of a proposed online module intended to introduce incoming students to core AI concepts and ethical considerations, so they will have a common foundation from which to engage AI when they start classes. A proposal for adopting that module is under consideration with the CAC, again with the hope that it will come to the full Senate in May.

Finally, our Student Affairs Committee has been wrestling with university attendance policies, asking how to better support students who have to miss classes, without unduly burdening faculty. In February the Senate passed changes to the attendance policy related to UVM's D1 athletes, clarifying what assistance faculty must give students representing UVM in official intercollegiate varsity athletic or academic program-sponsored competitions. We are also working on a second proposal to revise the general university attendance policy. This latter proposal (which will be discussed further in the fall) would set minimum standards for when students should be given excused absences—when, for instance, a student is hospitalized, has required National Guard/military service, or has a required legal appearance like jury duty—while also clarifying that a student absent more than 15 percent of a course cannot reasonably expect to make up all missed work. Together, the changes (approved and proposed) to the athletic and general attendance policies help to balance student support with faculty workloads, ensuring equal and reasonable treatment as students navigate their commitments in and out of the classroom.

The Senate is, in these concrete ways, helping to advance change, working to adapt and adjust what we do at UVM to meet new needs and new opportunities. At the same time, the Senate facilitates change in more abstract ways, by providing a forum and structures in which to deliberate core issues facing the university. This work is ongoing and productive; we look forward to continuing these efforts in partnership with the administration and the Board.