

February 11, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

On behalf of the Academic Reorganization Working Group, I am writing to give you an update on our work this semester and to invite you to participate in a number of opportunities to share your input on academic reorganization.

Over the last few weeks, the Working Group and its three subgroups (Internal Alignments, External Benchmarks, and University Resources) have met to plan their work for the semester and identify necessary resources and collaborators. Our conversations have been robust and energetic, and I am grateful to have such a dedicated and engaged group of faculty, staff, and students participating in this important effort for the future of the University.

One of the tasks we have already begun is analyzing the results of the campus-wide survey about academic reorganization. With nearly 300 responses from every part of the University, the survey demonstrates both how passionate we are about our University as well as the breadth of ideas faculty, staff, and students have about the ideal academic model for the future. In the coming weeks, we will continue the process of engaging the campus community to get your input, hear your ideas, and answer any questions you may have about academic restructuring. We will begin with an [open forum](#) on Wednesday, February 24 from 4:00-5:30, followed by facilitated conversations with various campus stakeholders including students, staff, academic units, administrators, and faculty. Dates for these future events will be announced at the open forum.

Additionally, in response to the feedback we received that the Working Group should enlist external expertise in market analysis related to our strategic reorganization efforts, the University has engaged the Art & Science Group (ArtSci), a firm specializing in empirically based strategic planning in higher education (www.artsci.com). As part of their work, they will be interviewing a number of campus groups in parallel to the Working Group's outreach efforts. The interviews led by ArtSci will help them identify questions to use in their research and data collection from the external market.

As we continue our conversations this semester, I would like to remind everyone of the conceptual framework presented to the campus in November, UVM 2050. Our hope was that this framework would provoke engagement and a community-wide effort to imagine how UVM could position itself as a leader in higher education for the decades ahead.

To spark ideas and invite the campus to participate in an informed and constructive dialogue as we collaboratively shape the future of UVM, we will be sharing with the campus reports from previous reorganization efforts over the last decade in advance of our first Teams Live Event this spring. This and other information related to the reorganization work will be made available on the Provost's website.

Throughout the semester, I will be providing the campus community with updates on our work. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or members of the Working Group if you have any questions. We are looking forward to hearing from you—and to the exciting, collaborative work ahead. Thank you.

With all best wishes,
David Jenemann
Dean, UVM Honors College
Chair, Academic Reorganization Working Group