



Democratize UVM

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H.446 – Adding Faculty to the Board of Trustees
Testimony by Suzy Comerford and Justin Morgan-Parmett

IT'S STRUCTURAL NOT PERSONAL

- The **more** the Board of Trustees know, the **better**. Faculty have valuable input to help in the commitment to **Shared Governance**.
 - Currently this requires volunteer efforts and rely on individuals to make that happen.
- **Inclusive** and **Democratic** Leadership is best for Vermont and UVM
- The time for **Change** is **Now**

26.1% of Public higher education boards have voting faculty members 2021, American Association of University Professors Report.



**H. 446
Faculty on
the UVM
Board of
Trustees**

H.446 HAS WIDE SUPPORT & NO COST

Misperception

There is a conflict of interest

The UVM Faculty Senate's role would be diminished by this bill.

There are other ways to communicate so H.446 is not needed.

Reality

Many university boards do this; recusal is always an option

The Faculty Senate overwhelmingly supports this bill in a vote of 55-1

H.446 will help those other options.

Faculty representation on an institution's governing board and its committees should not be a substitute for regular, substantive communication between the faculty and the board.
(Ehrenberg, et al, 2013)

H.466 MAKES THE BOARD AND UVM BETTER

- Increased transparency and more trust
- Enhanced decision making
- Better ability to evaluate the President

