Why am I running for re-election?

I have been a Senator on the Student Government Association for the past three semesters. The SGA has provided me with the opportunity to help further student interests at UVM. I believe that representation of the student body is a vital aspect of the University as it serves to provide an environment in which students are and will continue to be heard. Over the past three semesters, I have served as a Senator on the Academic Affairs Committee. My accomplishments on the Academic Affairs committee include contributing to the negotiation of the United Academics contract, researching fair and ethical methods of grading, meeting with the Advising Center to discuss student interests, and more. I have also been a part of the ad hoc committee to bring back reading days which has consisted of reaching out to faculty and staff around campus as well as meeting with the members of the Faculty Senate in order to find a solution addressing the concerns of students. My mission is to serve the students at the University of Vermont in the most effective way possible.

What Characteristics do I possess that would make me a strong student leader?

I have been on the Student Government Association for three semesters. I have learned through my experiences the characteristics that make a strong student leader. Two that stand out to me in particular are my organizational skills as well as diplomacy. Organizational skills are very important to maximize efficiency as well as helping to retain optimal knowledge for tasks that may arise. Further, it is important to be able to organize a group in order to further a common interest. Diplomacy is important in order to reach agreements in which everyone is satisfied. It is important to view all aspects of a discussion before forming an opinion on the matter. It is also important to acknowledge any opposition to your own opinions in order to work with others to try and reach a compromised outcome. These are some of the reasons why I would be a strong representative of the student body at UVM.

Do you have any past experiences that qualify you for this position?

I have many experiences that qualify me for this position. As I have said before, I have been a member of the SGA for three semesters. In my second semester at UVM, I decided that I wanted to give back to the community and further the interests of my peers. I have been enjoying serving the community ever since. However, have also been a part of other leadership positions. I have been serving as the Vice President of my Hall Council for the past two semesters. It has been a great experience contributing to the transition of my residence hall from just a place to live to a warm community. I have also been part of the Mock Trial Club which allowed me to sharpen my public speaking and presentation skills while listening and hearing different perspectives of other students from other Universities.

Are there any student issues I am particularly interested in?
Overall, I am interested in hearing the concerns of students and voicing them to the SGA. Some specific issues that I am interested in include the following:

- **Maintaining the obligation for course syllabi and required materials be posted before course registration.** This is something that has been requested by the SGA in order to provide students with an accurate display of what a specific course may entail. This is one of the proposals made when I was working on the Academic Affairs committee to contribute to the negotiation of the United Academics contract.

- **More outlets in the library.** To be specific, I think the first floor of the library needs more outlets. There are many people who use the first floor of the library but not enough outlets to accommodate the traffic. We need to look into this problem and fix it.

- **Improvement of Reading Days.** I have been on the ad hoc committee for restoring reading days to their old schedule which many students prefer. I have e-mailed many faculty members on the issue to gain perspective as well as participated in discussions with members of the faculty senate to reach a decision which everyone can be happy with. Although I understand why the decision was made, I do believe student interests were fully considered. I would like to see the full restoration of the old reading days’ schedule. At least some sort of allocation of reading days would benefit the student body even if it is not a complete restoration.