Zach Merson-2017 Senate Platform

I am a Fisheries Biology major in the class of 2020 in the Rubenstein School. I am running for re-election in the Fall 2017. I started on the SGA in the Spring of 2017 on the Student Action Committee, and I hope to be elected to the Committee on the Environment this coming Autumn. As a Senator so far, I have been able to begin laying the groundwork for future projects, in addition to voting on the issues that matter most to the UVM students, faculty, and community.

Going forward, my plan is to continue working this semester on collaborating with the Committee on the Environment to help with the upcoming Earth Week, which we hope to use as a platform to launch further combined efforts between the SGA and other environmentally concerned groups on campus. If elected, I would advocate for a more formal system of collaboration between the Committee on the Environment, Eco-Reps, VSTEP, and other clubs and groups with a stake in making UVM more environmentally friendly. The group, likely to be named ECO (environmental collaborative organization) or E4E (Earth Forever), would include leaders from each organization and would seek to find common goals and delegate responsibilities in order to best achieve them. For example, if both the CotE and VSTEP wanted to improve composting on campus, another issue which I will work on, ECO/E4E would allow the two groups to share resources such as funds, labor, and public support to quickly and effectively change the composting system to be more accessible and efficient. With all the organizational power combined, no environmental challenge on campus will be too steep for us to tackle.

I believe that if elected, I will be able to make a strong change to sustainability on campus. When we all work together on what matters most to us, we can create lasting impacts, be it carbon neutral clubs or reducing plastic waste. I hope that you vote for me for the Student Government Association, and I will be your voice in creating a new system to rise to the most pressing environmental issues at UVM.