My name is Ben Steinlauf and I want your vote in this year’s SGA Senatorial Election. I am a current sophomore majoring in Political Science. In my past, I’ve held leadership positions such as: Philanthropy chair, team captain, special events coordinator, and law clerk. Throughout my time so far at UVM, I’ve noticed things that need to be changed while hearing similar thoughts from my peers. The greatest vehicle for change at UVM is our student body. I have ideas that I believe will benefit the entirety of the student body, and I hope that students will share their ideas for change with me. I will do my very best to serve the UVM community with honesty and integrity.

The biggest problem that I see at UVM is the lack of community. UVM is known for its warm and welcoming community, which is most definitely prevalent. However, I’ve found that once a student finds his or her place on campus, whether that be a friend-group or a club, the student closes itself off to other options. I want different people, different clubs, and different organizations to come together and combine an abundance of skills so that our school can be as powerful as possible. For example, I work for UVM Hillel, where recently, I’ve been organizing a guest speaker event. I’m not just making it Hillel exclusive. I’m using my resources at UPB and IRA to make sure that this event is as amazing as it can possibly be. Other examples of this are combining Greek Life organizations with different clubs. Greek Life is constantly doing community service just like UVM clubs. We should be combining our resources to make these events bigger and better, not cutting ourselves off from the vast networks at our school.

Another problem that I notice often at UVM is our building hours. I live on Redstone where the dining hall closes at 8pm, and the only other food option is Redstone Market, equivalent to a rundown Champlain Farms. Most college students are nowhere close to finishing their day at 8pm. At that hour, I consistently find myself in the library, which leads me to my next point. The library hours are undeniably unfair. My dorm environment is not suitable for homework, so I rely on the library to complete the majority of my work. I’ve been interrupted countless times in the library to be told that I have to leave because the building is closing. At an institution for higher learning, a student should never be told that he or she must leave the library.

These are just a couple of the many ideas that I hope to bring to the table if I’m elected to the Senate. I love UVM, but there is always room for improvement.