GENERAL SENATE OVERVIEW

In order to be run for Senate on must be a fulltime matriculated student. This means that one must be enrolled fulltime in classes at UVM. Additionally, it is suggested that a student have a year’s worth of commitment available for Senate although it is only required that one have a semester left at UVM. A year is encouraged, especially for new members, because it can take up to a semester to become acclimated to Senate, understand all of the rules and procedures, and feel comfortable drafting legislation. Of course this is not the case for everyone but still something to think about when considering SGA Senate.

Once elected to Senate, the Executive Committee (made up of the chairs of the seven standing committees, the president, vice president, treasurer, and speaker) will have discussed vacancies and a newly elected senator will be appointed to one of the seven standing committees. Those committees are: the Public Relations Committee, the Committee on Legislative Action, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Environmental Ethics, the Committee on Student Action, the Committee on Academic Affairs, the Finance Committee, and the Student Activities Committee. A description of these committees can be found on the Lynx SGA page or better yet in our constitution which can be viewed here: http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmsga/resources/documents/SGAConstitution.pdf

Senatorial obligations include attending a Senate general body meeting every Tuesday evening at seven pm. Depending on the content of the meeting; speakers on public forum, the number of bills and resolutions, and length of senatorial forum, and surprises, these meetings can range from two to four hours a night. They generally follow this agenda:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of the Minutes (We have a note taker whose minutes we must review and vote to approve)
- Public Forum
- Emergency Business (Time sensitive legislation)
- New Business (Legislation that will be tabled and discussed for the next two weeks)
- Old Business (Old new business which will be voted upon)
- Senatorial Forum
- Executive Reports (Reports from the President, Vice President, Speaker, and Treasurer)
- Committee Reports
- Senatorial Comments/Announcements
- Roll Call
- Adjournment

Additionally senators will have to fulfill obligations respective to the committees which they have been appointed. While committee purposes vary (again, see above posted link) all are responsible for holding a total of fifteen office hours in the SGA galaxy space (otherwise known as the space where club desks are located or the SGA office). For a committee of five people each person would individually hold three office hours each week. And lastly, committees will have one meeting a week which a senator must attend.
ELECTIONS

To run in the upcoming SGA midterm election which will start on the 19th of January 2010 when students can pick up elections packets at the front desk of the SGA office (galaxy space) where they will also be returned by the 25th of January at 4pm. Upon checking out a packet students will be asked to fill out a waiver which ensures that student realizes their running in the upcoming election and their agreement to abide by the SGA Rules and Regulations pertaining to candidacy and elections. The Rules and Regulations can be found here: http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmsga/resources/documents/OperationalDocuments.pdf.

The elections packet includes an annotated copy of the SGA Rules and Regulations which pertain to elections, and a timeline for the upcoming election. But, perhaps most important, candidates will receive a petition which they must fill with 150 student signatures and return to the SGA office (galaxy space) by the 25th of January at 4pm.