



TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009
TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF 2008-2009 SENATE

CALL TO ORDER
START TIME: 7:08

ROLL CALL
STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present
CODEEE: all present
STUDENT ACTION: Tom Ford-Hutchinson (excused) Tyler Wilkinson-Ray (unexcused)
PR: all present
FINANCE: all present
COLA: Tyler Van Backer (excused)
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Paul Robertson (excused)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Last week approved
Emergency approved

PUBLIC FORUM

Tyler Baeder

I am here because SGA votes on the sanctions for sailing today and we wanted to make a presentation before voting. The facts are that on October 21 there were sailors drinking on campus. One ended up being brought to hospital. Police investigated the matter and 4 people were charged with hazing, not the whole organization. They went through the court system and the hazing charges were dropped. We ask that you consider our experience. All 50 team members have been humiliated and we want for you to consider what we have been going through so far. It's been humiliating and we feel we went from a great club to a textbook example of a weaker club. Team members are ashamed to wear their team jackets. We have forfeited many competitions. Our road to nationals is going to now be much harder and cost more money. This cost seniors the ability to sail in major events that they have been waiting in line to do. They were not involved and now they will be unable to compete. We have lost respect among the national sailing community. We were 6th in the country and competed with all teams. It is

hard to maintain a team and compete with this hanging over our heads. We do not ask to be excused for the actions just consider the humiliation, schedule, recruiting, and our presence in SGA. Along with the sanction we plan to introduce a new team alcohol policy and we propose to do a hazing seminar that will be held in the beginning of each semester and will be a requirement for all club sports.

Leon Lifschutz

Over a third of the student body has used The Lynx this year. It has been well adopted. The idea behind it is there are a lot of clubs. It's powerful because from the administration standpoint they can do a lot of things, such as search users. You can also track students' involvement. You can see how many different events we have had. You can see a complete list of events from all the different clubs. We can show and access all the great things we do year-to-year. From a club standpoint you can manage your members and positions in a roster and list serves are complicated but an email list is made for you and you can send emails for recruiting such as all first years. It has functions for discussions and also a calendar. Women's Ice Hockey has done a very good job of that. You can browse events, practices, and games. We are working on for the future to expand its capabilities and layout. It also has an involvement transcript, which is a resume of all your extra curricular activities. You have the ability to choose what you want to be on it. It makes a PDF resume for your resume. If you have thoughts about what you would want it to do let us know. On it right now are 1,006 club sports wavers and 3,200 users. 20% are on more than once a week. It also lets you know what's going on this week at UVM. It's another avenue for clubs to recruit and advertise.

Viadero Lopez: Do you have plans to show other students how to use it?

Leon: It's been somewhat adopted by happenstance we offered workshops earlier in the year. But we haven't marketed it very well. At the start of each semester and orientation do some workshops. We are including information on it for new and transfer students

Bryce Jones: Is there a blog or message feature?

Leon: There are two different ways to do that. News articles are posted on the home page. And there is a discussion section and you can use it to make decisions within your club. They have been slowest for adoption. You can also restrict who can see what you put up.

Jay: Thanks for the update. What else is going on in club sports?

Leon: We have had 4 teams win regional championships. Right now there are 48 club sports and more pending. And we have just started a Club Sports Council which we are really excited about.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Open government act is implemented tonight so you must record what your committee votes

Bryce Jones: Are we still doing vocal votes?

Yes

Appointments

Francesca and Sarah

Sarah: I have been involved in several clubs, am an RA, in IRA, and I am an AdvoCat. Because of my involvement I feel like I know UVM. I feel the need to give back by serving students. I know I am a second semester senior but I feel I still have work to do to further this institution. What I would do would be truly beneficial, I will work for the students. I believe in the senate's ability to be a leader on campus. Just because I am a senior don't think I won't pull my weight. I will add a unique perspective to the organization.

Francesca: I am a junior here at UVM and a history and education major. I am an RA and part of the women's leadership community. I want to work with students, that is why I became an RA. I like the interaction and I like doing things to help other students. I will be there and do anything you want from me I don't know your expectations but I assure you I will meet them.

Fendo Is not present but we will be voting on her

Michael Glynn: Motion to table the appointment of Thendo because she is not here
Second

Tabled

Glynn: Sarah, you have a very impressive resume but it seems that since you are involved in so many things how can you have the time and only 5 weeks left how can you help?

Sarah: I am involved in many things but I can set this as a priority. I am very good at time management. It is clear that as I am a senior I know the institution pretty well and whatever I do will be for the students because I will not see the benefits of what I am doing.

Megan Benay: What kind of voice will you bring to senate?

Francesca: I see what the students want and need every day as an RA. I will be better able to project my voice if I join the senate.

Sarah: I have seen students through there time at UVM. I see the stresses and all faults for first years and all students. I have seen what happens in residential halls and off campus. My drive and passion to work with students and since it is my future career goal to work with people will make me a great senator.

Nick Cafarelli: Why did you wait till now to be on senate?

Francesca: I applied last semester but didn't get elected and I like advocating for students and this is an opportunity to do this so I am taking a chance.

Amanda Wong: What is one large issue that you each want to see through in the last final weeks?

Sarah: I am not sure.

Francesca: I personally would like to know more about diversity. People struggle with that I think it would be good for more people to be more aware.

Wong: Please elaborate on diversity.

Francesca: I have been told to question my background and color of skin and I want to know why I have been told to question that. I want to understand people of all backgrounds more.

Kofi Mensah: I worked with students a lot. What would you say students want to change most on this campus?

Sarah: Mostly students are interested in speaking with the administration and that they have a say on what going on on this campus.

Francesca: The alcohol policy. All students question why UVM does certain things.

Corthell: Describe yourself in one word

Sarah: compassionate

Francesca: Dedicated

Motion for Executive Session, approved

Francesca appointed, Sarah not appointed.

NEW BUSINESS

Corthell: Recognition of VSI club for Club of the Fortnight.

Resolution in support of baseball and softball programs.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Sanctioning the UVM Sailing Team

Sander: All of the chairs have a copy of the bill as well as a highlighted copy of the hazing policy. The bill was read. List of sanctions was read. Here is some background the committee has been dealing with since November about the Sailing teams. We received the police report and hazing report and then met and came up with a list of sanctions. We then had a hearing with the Sailing team where they could make a statement, give testimony, and ask questions. We then had an info gathering session. Incident report: the student was found non responsive in their room and a member of the sailing team was escorted to detox in the middle of the day and said individual was forced to drink by members of the Sailing team. Four senior (upper classmen) members of the team coordinated the event where they and eight underclassmen met at places and they passed around alcohol on campus and served alcohol to minors. The student was found in her room non-responsive. The event was planed as a tradition based

activity and almost every one interviewed knew. I have cause to believe that the said individuals committed the offense of enabling consumption of alcohol to minors and also hazing.

The list of sanctions created took a long time to put together and did not focused on punishing the organization but giving consequences based on the organizations actions. The organization should be held accountable for the actions; one of the upperclassmen involved was an executive board member in the club. The sanctions are made to reform the group. The budget cut was due to the fact that the only real precedent we have with this was with the Rugby team and they lost their funding and then a 50% cut. We stipulated 75% because theirs was a limited membership that was actively involved in this. They are great at fundraising so we believe they can withstand this cut.

Ellis: We heard what they have done since this incident. What did they do to handle the incident themselves as an organization? Are all members not allowed to participate?

Sanders: They have had several meetings to discuss this and they made it clear that this is not something they actively supported. They have developed a preliminary alcohol policy. And they want to host seminars about hazing. The four suspects and eight victims are the ones who we are suspending, not the rest of the team. We are suspending the victims as well because they drank on campus. The leadership did not plan this event and seniors should not be hurt by this when they had no involvement.

Lopez: You are sanctioning the whole team, they said what they have gone through. I feel it's not necessary to sanction the whole team again. Suspending them completely, isn't that harsh?

Sanders: Only the people involved are being suspended. This occurred under the leadership of an organization and was part of a cultural thing. The team as a whole has contributed to this cultural attitude an allowed it to be created and continued.

Benay: No doubt that it's a big deal. But I don't think this is the correct way of doing it. I think that if you freeze their account they are not going to get to do anything. So all the team members are being punished for the rest of the semester. Do graduating seniors need to do the five hours of community service?

Sanders: Not if they are graduating but I am open to a friendly amendment.

Benay: None were found guilty so do they have to do the 60 hours of community service?

Sanders: We as a committee find them responsible.

Benay: The hazing seminar is something that the SGA should have dealt with before. If we implemented this then this wouldn't be happening.

We did try to with student organizations workshops but they offered to do it.

Rick Valenta: Has any investigative committee found them actually guilty?

Sanders: Police report sights them as responsible. That's what we based our decision around. We don't have the time or students to do our own investigations. Our focus was on the organization where as student ethics was on the individual level.

Goodman: The way it is phrased it sounds like they can't go home and go sailing? Change to active sailing within the club setting friendly amendment (accepted).

Issadore: We are not experts on hazing, so how can we form a position to if the statement of a court decided that they were not? Taking any personal point out of it, I am scared to assign that language when we are not qualified to do that. Is not our job to say if someone is guilty of hazing and who isn't

State hazing policy is different form the school. Furnishing alcohol to minors is considered hazing.

Lopez: You are taking down a whole club of students for the actions of a few of them.

Mensah: We are not trying to punish the sailing club. We are clearly only saying that the members implicated are going to be targeted the most. We are forgetting about the potentially harmful events that happened. The student could have passed away! Take that into account. We are here to build and create strong organizations. If we thought the sanctions were to the extreme we wouldn't have allocated them to the Sailing team. We are sure they can abide by these sanctions.

Maciewicz: Has the university put any sanctions on the four people?

CSES usually handles this stuff on an individual level. They will deal with the repercussions for them and the SGA is responsible for charges to the organization.

Ellis: The Sailing Team recognizes that something has happened so we need to recognizes it too. For their organization they already drafted and alcohol and hazing policy.

Cafarelli: We are not trying to take down and organization. We are just trying to make them uncomfortable. We are allowing them to go forth with sailing. The budget I can understand. We are making the team work a little harder for that money.

Pat Brown: State law is a law and University policy is policy and they are two different policies. University policy is stricter than State law. When police are involved they gather information and they look to deal with it in a court situation. In this situation there are four students charged with violations and they went through individual court and a civil violation for hazing. The civil part is a lot less strict. That's what the police did. Hazing charges were dropped by the states attorney. That happened because the standards are different. On campus if a group is found responsible, SGA has to respond to the organization in different ways. They are supposed to take on the responsibility to deal with these things. The senate is the decision maker.

Friendly amendment, for them having there full funding and if the conditions are not met then 75% (accepted)

Issadore: Our goal is to allow them to compete for this spring, is that right?

We are not denying them from competing.

Issadore: By freezing all their accounts that includes fundraising so that means that they can't fundraise because it has to be deposited into an account. They can only compete if every member paid out of pocket. If they are to be able to compete, this has to be modified. Friendly amendment to strike it

I would accept an amendment where their accounts wouldn't be frozen but more constraint on what

Friendly amendment pending a stipulation to reallocate funding for hazing seminars (accepted)

Bill called to question

Bill was read

Vote to vote on it passed

Vote for the Bill Passes

SENATORIAL FORUM

Chevrier: The next senate meeting is Saint Patrick's Day. I got Rasputin's to agree to make that night our fundraiser from 10-2. We are doing it to raise money for the club banquet.

Mensah: Speaker Frank asked us to abstain and we chose to. Don't feel like you need to abstain too when your committee presents something and there is a vote on it.

1hr 42min 30min 1:20

Jay Taylor: I would like to say that I think it's our job to sanction because we are the organization for organizations, and if you think about it we are beneath the State and University and Nation. In this case it will stand that University policy and SGA policy through the senate, we may deal with things differently but we have our own policy for our own organizations. I thought that our decision tonight was really great. This is the first case of anything like this sanction occurring in our clubs. Hazing leaves me liable for a civil suit. The purpose of the sentence is to send a message to other organizations that is not tolerated. This sh*t will not fly. The Student Activities Committee abstaining, well I don't think this should happen anymore. Abstaining is the same as not being here. Unless conflicted I urge you not to abstain. I want to talk about the rest of the year. We have this week and then spring break and then two weeks in March and then we have one week in March and April and then we have a week and then a transition on the 14th and have dinner with Fogel and administration and on the 7th is SGA banquet. We have 4 full weeks left 5 meetings the 5th is where we have the dinner with Fogel. The 4th meeting on the 7th is the banquet and then there are 3 meetings other than those so a small amount of time left. You time is dwindling. I need nominees for the Dean search committee for The College of Nursing and Health Services. It would be good if they were in the nursing school or had a medical background. I nominate not appoint. Friday night is the Men's hockey second SGA t-shirt giveaway. It was a mistake that not everyone will be in town on Friday, but if you are here get a ticket and go. Senatorial election are on the 7th and 8th so that makes the next week a transition week and once the chairs are picked

there will have to be brief transition time where current chairs not returning will be responsible for transitioning the successor. I will have time to transition my successor because the elections are earlier. Update on election results the new mayor is Bob Kiss.

Wilkinson-Ray: We should look at how we appoint people again. Our senators are elected democratically but the appointments are a lot of the power in one person's hand.

Candon: I have an issue with how names will be taken down off the website. I feel like there are parts of our constitution that are not being followed, where someone pleads guilty and we find them innocent. I did research and came across this document that is legislation about senate operation and organization act. I found this legislation that called for if a bill is not vetoed through is a piece of legislation and must include the signature of the SGA president. If not vetoed it should be signed.

Point of information Bryce: I take responsibility for failing to find out how that will be done. With the new website, as of right now the way its set up is you can click on a senator's name in a search engine. The clause said that when you graduate your voting record will be terminated. The problem is that someone will have to go in and change all the excel documents. It's more of a tedious job then I thought it was going to be. I will take that responsibility until the next term decides to deal with it.

Benay: motion to adjourn pending role call

Voted passed

SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ROLL CALL:

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present

CODEEE: all present

STUDENT ACTION: Tom Ford-Hutchinson (excused) Tyler Wilkinson-Ray (unexcused)

PR:

FINANCE: all present

COLA: Tyler Van backer (excused) Eddy Foster (excused)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Paul Robertson (excused)

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ENDS: 9:37