



TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009
TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF 2008-2009 SENATE

CALL TO ORDER
START TIME: 7:05

ROLL CALL
FINANCE: Alex Mallea (excused)
STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present
COLA: all present
CODEEE: Mikayla McDonald
STUDENT ACTION: Rick Valenta (excused)
PR: Ana Dru Ellis, Seth Corthell (excused)
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Paul Robertson Jeff Whitmore (excused)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: approved

PUBLIC FORUM

Catherine Oliver

I requested money in order to go to Florida for equestrian sports massage course for to rehabilitation from an injury. After graduation I am going to go into hoarse training or vet school maybe.

Representative Jason Lorber and Kasha Ram

Kasha: I represent the district encompassing UVM. This is Jason's third term. Last time I was here I herd a lot of questions about what job opportunities are being created and how the federal stimulus will impact that. I am on the general housing and military affairs committee. Part of the reason Jason is here is he serves on the commerce committee. I want to talk about the marriage bill. It's a historic event. I will start by talking about marriage, then farm to plate initiative to support local agriculture, then economic development bill. You will get a copy of the legislation. Green jobs, a tenant bill that passed through my committee unanimously.

Jason: I was the first repetitive in the nation to have a civil union so this legislation has added meaning to my husband and myself. We will pass out a copy of the bill that we have in the house. It is going to pass in the house next week and then it will go to the governor and hopefully it will become law. I serve on the house commerce and economic development community. We are looking at ways to spur the economy. Let's look at the economic stimulus package. The thing in Vermont is that we can't just put money into the economy. Vermont is one of 2 states in the nation that does not have a requirement to pass a balanced budget in, but we do. We have to cut cost and raise new revenues. We have created an economic development bill. But on another note, I co-authored a bill. What can we do to preserve Vermont as a state and that will move us forward. We came up with the Farm to plate bill. It looks at farms and sees how we can connect them better to consumers. It is part of the buy local movement. If you buy locally the money stays in the local community. For farms there are not enough storage and not enough slaughterhouses. There are lots of gaps in the system. We work to identify the holes and then fill them in by giving grants and technical assistance. In the national economic bill H313 it does a lot of different things. The main thing is that it prepares for the future by looking at things long term but takes actions to act now. It takes our goals at this stage and for the first time puts them into a bill. Lots of specifics like more economic development in the film industry, to give tax cuts to bring filming into Vermont. Investing more in tourism, investing in digital business. Wikapeida is a company that exists on the Internet so we want to create laws so that companies like wiki who don't have a home base can register their business in Vermont. They will pay us their registration fees. We want to be first with this e-business. It will bring more money into micro businesses and entrepreneurship.

Kesha: Green jobs are something our generation talks about. Obama will create 5 million jobs around the country. Never underestimate the power of students your own age. We don't have a research service in the legislature here so having a class here pulls together a lot of what other states are doing. Before we can do anything we have to define green jobs. California has done a lot. But they spend money they don't have. Taking half stimulus money and half state funds and put together a \$20 million package for training programs for people of all ages from middle school to formally incarcerated people and single moms. Taking the people who were most vulnerable. They are looking at who is being left behind and how we can reinvest in them. They are head of households so giving them money is giving their kids money to grow and thrive. Young people go to the back of the hiring line. We are set as the generation to take over and move forward with green jobs. I want to mention that housing things are happening. There are huge stimuli for neighborhoods and job opportunities. Affordable housing is top on the list. Unfortunately the governor has recommended they have their funds cut 70% for the housing committee. We can't provide the seed money for the housing trust that exists in our state. Providing money for housing projects are going to be put in the back burner if they can't afford to do the work that they were set forward to do. These are huge losses we are facing.

Wilkonson Ray: I want to know about the farm to plate bill. You mentioned storage and slaughterhouses. What about dairy specifically. And raw milk, if there is a bill going through would you expand on that?

Raw milk is being discussed right now in the agricultural committee. If you are interested in hearing about any particular bill I will put you in touch with the right committee. I do expect something to

happen. The issue with raw milk is that a lot of Vermonters grew up drinking raw milk straight from the cow and right now there are limits on how much you can make. We want to expand that to boost the local economy and help these farmers to sell more raw milk to make a living. We are going to take a statewide look at the farming economy from the farm to the plate and say where are the holes. We are not going to be specific to one program. We are going to wait to see what the research tells us. This is valuable for people who want to start a business and banks that want to lend money who don't have this information. If you are a small farmer you can't do the market research because that's a huge cost. If the state can lay that infrastructure so any business can take advantage of that.

Jones: Is the digital business in hopes to bring jobs locally? If so how will that create jobs. I am making an assumption that they already have all their employees.

We are hoping to create jobs. I think there are a few different goals in mind. What we talked about most is it could create revenues. The fees we would collect from the business could get us some money. It would create some jobs for lawyers and computer programmers. But this corporate structure doesn't exist. What this legislation will do is if we can set up the infrastructure to allow companies to form this way who knows what we are going to create. Companies like Facebook or other online companies don't have to be housed in a location, but if Vermont can make it ready for them to incorporate here we can reap the benefits from the money

We polled people on meeting day on same sex marriage the district went 90% in favor of legalizing same sex marriage.

Scott McCarty on behalf of Vermont freedom to marry action team

I am the former chairman of the Legislative action committee in the senate. Yesterday the state passed S115 recognizing civil marriage in our state, which is for equality and will grant gays and lesbians same marriage rights that heterosexuals have in our state. But a resolution is coming before you tonight supporting what the legislature is doing. It passes 26 to 4. Back in 2000 we pass civil unions, which is same rights, which set up a fire in our state. And now in 2009 we don't see that. This resolution supports what the legislature is doing and there are some up there who say that gays and lesbians have enough rights that they get special treatment. I find that offensive. They happen to be your neighbors, friends, teachers, police officers, and professors. There was a lesbian couple and one was a breadwinner and one took care of their child. That woman was killed in a car accident. Her child and partner could not any benefits from the state. You have to make a choice tonight. You have taken stands on numerous issues. You can support marriage equality for our state and finally shatter this glass ceiling. We are lucky to have so many representatives who support this. I want you to speak up and be heard and send your voice down to the house right now. I hope that you make a thoughtful decision and I hope that you guys can at least understand what it's like to walk in someone's shoes and what it's like to not be able to marry someone you love.

Foster: Is there a statistic on the potential economic impact?

If you pass this it will bring more people in to the state. And people who want to stay in Vermont after they graduate from UVM that means tax dollars, which means adding to the work force. We don't have the numbers but it can be interpreted as a value adding impact. People are going to say they won't come to Vermont now but Massachusetts is doing fine and so is Connecticut. The sky is not falling, nothing bad is happening

Glynne: If this passes will this marriage be legal in other states?

Right now we have several roadblocks. It's a step in the right direction. Many states recognize it but they don't have it. This is a step that the federal government needs to take. Several states have recognized it but some states have outlawed it completely like Texas.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of club of the fortnight

Resolution supporting Vermont Yankee

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution Supporting Vermont House of Representatives Bill H178 and Vermont Senate Bill S115 for Marriage Equality in the State of Vermont

Foster: read bill. Earlier when I asked about the economic impact I looked it up. It showed that over the next 3 years legislation would generate \$31million in spending and many many jobs. It's right on the verge of passing. It will pass in the house but we don't know if we will get 2/3 to override his veto. It is going to be close so we need to make our voices heard on this one

Ash: I have a comment regarding recent resolutions we have been passing. We are elected as student representatives we need to represent the student body. Step out of your comfort zone and concenter this from that perspective.

Glynne: Personally I am totally for this. If two people love each other and want to get married that is totally fine by me. I don't know how I am going to vote because I do tend to represent a community who do not speak out and the majority of those people are against it. To be an accurate representation of the student body there might need to be some opposition. To pass it unanimously will not be a fair representation. I am catholic the church makes it clear they are not in support. Not that this is a religious issue. I still don't know how I am going to vote. I am leaning towards no.

Vanbacker: Glynne raised a reasonable point. Keep in mind that there is a majority of students who are in support of same sex marriage even if they are not personally going to use it.

Mensah: I think it is a great bill. You may represent a population that might be in opposition. Students that are for this bill are here. I would have appreciated if people were not in support, if they came here tonight and spoke in opposition to this. If they are not here then that's their loss.

Foster: Sometimes you have to be a follower and sometimes you have to be a leader. If you believe there is a population of people on this campus who don't support it, you need to lead these people. This is about morality. We need to lead these people towards having what we believe to be the right opinion. As a representative sometimes you need to say you need to learn a thing or two.

Corthell: call to question

Second

Vote to called to question

VOTE passed

Derecognizing U. U.

Sander: read bill. After a series of emails we got an email asking to be removed from the club signers listserv.

Lopez: call to question passed

VOTE passed

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SPEAKER FRANK:

I was a bit disappointed we had a constitution committee meeting on Sunday which people failed to show up for. We are running out of time on the constitution. It's not going to happen if we don't do it soon.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR:

I am not signing the baseball and softball resolution but I will not be vetoing it. They called a meeting to address this topic and I was told that the board of trustees was meeting so by not signing it I have allowed the senate's voice and student's voice to hold its strength but I made my very valid concerns also clear and this neutralized the resolution. Let the board of trustees do their thing.

The water tower came out with a bad article about SGA yesterday and they send an email to some people that some of the stacks of their paper have been stolen. If it is anyone in this room stop stealing the water tower papers.

Last day to withdraw is Monday

As of 6:30 we had 621 people vote in the election.

I am pleased to sign the resolution that just passed.

Vanbaker: When are we selecting classes?

Week of April 13th

VICE-PRESIDENT KENNEDY:

Today and tomorrow are the presidential and VP elections. March 30th is the club banquet, and submission of platforms. April 7th and 8th are the senatorial elections. And the SGA awards banquet is the 7th. April 14th is the dinner with the president and porvos and senior administration, and graduate senate. April 14th is transition. April 16th is dinner with the Provost. John Hughes and his wife are asking senators to come with the person who has influenced them the most at UVM. April 21st is appointing a new treasure and chairs. April 28th is the last meeting and the 29th is the last day of classes.

Put any superlatives in my mailbox. Walsh was the only committee to submit photos. Other chairs please do so.

Thank you for passing the marriage equality bill.

TRESURE POTER REPORT:

I am going to do a presentation about the budget process for this year. The constitution says that the budget has to be ratified by 2/3 vote by April 30th. I would like to get it done before hand. There has been an issue that some clubs were not using their full allocations leading to large returned earnings. Returned earnings were used a lot for next year's budget. The student fee is collected on a yearly basis. That money should be used on the year that the fees were paid. They were used in an inappropriate manner from a budgeting perspective. The returned earnings are being relied on to allocate the next year's budget for clubs. So we were expecting clubs to not use our allocations. Those were the philosophical issues with how budgeting was done for this occurring year. Some instructional issues around the Finance Committee needing to do marathon weekdays to do them. They had no time to prepare for them. We address that by spreading out the hearing schedule over the middle three weeks of February as well as initiate a feedback mechanism. Once this body ratifies the fy10 budget we will be doing another feed back. I hope to make changes to finical policy and budget process. We required and used more information from clubs on their activities impact and need. Utilized finical history of clubs included use and allocation of supplemental funding for the past three fiscal years. We request more information then in years past about club community service hours and fundraising efforts. If they didn't use all their money that led to a reduction. We need to stop relying on returned erring for building purposes. Overall we need to be more conservative with our allocations. We have leadership change for many clubs but that means we should not be budgeting it in just in case we use it supplemental fund. We increased supplemental fund by \$125,000 to accommodate more flexible club spending. Last year it ended up at twice the allocated amount we planed on. This year is a more realistic refection of how the SGA operates while not leaving us with a giant slush fund. I wanted to have the spreadsheet for you today but I don't have the number for University wide salary increases for

our staff. But now I do have that. I would like to know what more information you guys would like as we ratify this budget.

Wong: It looks great.

Jones: Is there a possible system to implement for supplemental funds for clubs to give back any that they did not use.

Supplemental funds are different because they are specific and done right before an event. And generally no supplemental requests are given in full. There is not a problem of these funds not getting used.

Just: Is the budget being sent out in the next week or two?

Tomorrow. It is ready to go. Every year there is a percent increase given the staff and it's likely to be 1.9%. As with any income expense the department's budget can't be finalized. We don't know if we have a drop in enrolment for fall semester. We are dependent on the number of students. There has to be some flexibility.

Think about if you know anyone that would be a good treasure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE- SEN. ISSADORE:

A few allocations. We approved funds for the Alana Latino for their event coming up April 11th. It is their big event for the spring. Also funding for Chabad and Hillels Shabbat 200.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES- SEN. SANDER:

Rasputin's was a huge success. We were able to raise \$460. If you have any questions about the banquet ask.

Cafarelli: we decided that SGA as a whole will co-sponsor Redstock. It is going to be a carnival with live bands and WRUV is going to be on Redstone. There will be pickup flag football games and a free buffet catered by sedexo with burgers and stuff. There will also be a dunk tank, 2 or 3 inflatable, and airbrush tattoo artist.

Corthell: how did you get a Dunk tank? They are very expensive?

For the first time ever IRA is getting involved and giving us lots of money and hall council is donating \$1500 so it is going to be big.

Jones: Are we donating money?

No

COLA- SEN. SHACKETT:

Glynne and I went and heard public form on a UVM issue. People are not happy that UVM can build buildings as high as 140 feet. They feel it will take away from the green university. We ordered 144 party smart t-shirts yesterday. Last week the police chief worked on a draft of an off campus letter being sent to parents of students moving off campus for the first times.

Van Backer: We will be leaving at about 11. Can I see who wants to go to the state house? We will get there at 11:45 and have lunch and meet up with representative Brom and Senator Ash and be back by about 4.

It will be occurring on the day that the marriage bill is being voted on

Wong: What brand are the t-shirts?

We ordered them from select design, from an alumnus.

CODEEE- SEN. JONES:

We are still working on local food and water bottle campaign. We are working to see if we can figure out a resolution to support water bottles for next year. We had a presentation for today however we felt that we wanted to obtain some more information. We are focusing on class sizes. We are in the process of getting in touch with various deans on this campus and getting some good feedback.

STUDENT ACTION- SEN. WALSH:

We had a really fun time when we started the filming of our public service announcements. We have a first round ready to go and we are going to look at them and evaluate. They are really witty. Ticks me off have not been exiting. People are just upset about wireless in the library. We discussed how there is moisture in the books which prohibits the wireless signal to come through. People complain that trinity is too far away and are upset about the water tower. People are upset about the hours of the fitness center during spring break. And also people don't like smoking on campus. We are looking into ways to enforce that.

Jones: Do you know if you had a conversation with the technology folks; is there a lack of funding?

Point of information there is no lack of funding; it's just a matter of the logistics

PR- SEN. CORTHELL:

It's been a good week; we changed the display cases to advertise for Steele Taylor's event. We have been doing work for advertising for elections. We doubled the number of packets that went out and now we have 52 out. As for the event that I requested money for. It is an idea that we had for a fundraiser for relay for life. We will be buying a 6x7 canvas. At spring fest there will be a graphite artist. We will put it next to him and people can donate money and then they get to mark on the canvas something about relay, they can tag it, or they can put their name. Spring fest is the week before relay. We also rented out a table outside DC so we can table for relay. It's a way to make money for a good cause and get our name out there as an organization that does good things. We are still working on van

fest. We are working on a clothing drive at the naked bike ride. Ana has gotten the name of some clothing shelters that will take large amounts of cloths. Katie is going on UVM TV this week to talk about the winners from the election. It will be a getting to know you kind of thing.

Elections are going well as of 6pm we have 642 votes. Last year only 745 voted all together. I would say we are doing pretty well. We have doubled the amount of packs for senate in one day. That's good. Tomorrow at 4 I will know who won and I will contact them and then I will send an email to you

Wittmore: if we don't have enough on campuses seats what do we do?

We just appoint people form on campus.

Jones: Does it cost money to use the UVM TV studio?

No it is free

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS- SEN. S.TAYLOR:

Our event went very well. Each presentation had about 40-50 in attendance, which is very good. I want to thank PR and academic affairs committees. If you were unable to make it to the event last night I have a link to a page with all the information I provided. And when I have time I will put together some information about what the other people talked about as well.

We have in the mean time gotten our self's involved in eh right conversations with a lot of people. We are working with the Dean of students about off campuses workshops for fall of 09. We will see some real changes that directly are derived from our original resolution in priority registration.

SENATORIAL FORUM

Benay: usually I have only positive and cheerful things to say however I told you to read my email. Only two people emailed me back. I don't mind organizing relay for life but you have to help me. I asked for a response. If you don't want to do it we don't have to do it. If you don't like my ideas say so.

We need to vote on what theme we are having for our team. Lights camera action is the over all theme. Relay for life is about spirit and I want to have a team. We have to fundraise money. The only committee to get back to me about fundraising was PR. What are we going to do because it's coming up? We are supposed to raise \$1000. We have raised zero. Other clubs have raised hundreds. We are other SGA. Floors in halls are doing this. And the have raised more money than us. If you are on another team tell me. Do we have enough people to have a team? If you are not going to be on the SGA team. Does anyone oppose still raising the money for the SGA team? Is anyone going to help the committee raise money even if you are not on the team? Any ideas? Do we want to have a team?

Ana Dru Ellis: Last year we had the same problem. You can have a team with 6 people just those 6 people need to care.

Benay: I would like to have each committee raise \$150. I am asking that every chair please email me by Friday their idea for what they are going to do and when they are going to do their fundraiser. Also please email me if you are going to be on the team so we can get together and talk about the fee. Thank you.

Issadore: This has to do with provose diner. I RSVPed today and I decide to bring jess our office manager and with that in mind of you don't know who you are going to bring. I think it would be nice to invite Blanka or Leon, they do some much for us.

Glynne: Meagan, I will walk on relay for life with you. A few things echoing what Kofi said how the people I voted for were not in attendance. I don't think they would be here speaking in this forum because it would be a witch-hunt. They just don't want to face that kind of thing and I don't blame them. I am glad that it passed; it is a positive step in the right direction.

Lopez: I support the bill but I voted against it because I of my constituents. I am happy it passed but I want to justify why I voted the way I did. The people I represent here would not have voted for it and I vote for them.

Candon: I want to address voter transparency. I feel like if we had not had voter transparency maybe we would have voted differently. And another note by not signing the resolution that is braking the rules as much as me not wanting to participate in voter transparency so I will not be, I will find a way around it

Corthell: if you are not a on a relay team then join the SGA team

Mensah: I wasn't swayed by voter transparency. If I had known the information that I knew afterwards I would have voted no. I am against the resolution not the team. But in times of economic hardship athletics will be the first thing to be cut on a university campus. Some of you are looking at this saying want about campus recreation. If we look at cutting campuses recreation that would affect 9000 students and it this way it only affects 50 students between both teams. As SGA we make budget decisions and we have to make hard choice to allocate less money to clubs then they received in past years. I haven't come across any student who is greatly against the resolution for the softball and baseball teams. This isn't to say that in following years they won't be back, it's just fiscally for the next year we can't finance these teams.

Jones: Benay, I will be happy to be on the relay for life team as long as you don't surprise us with something at 3am.

Tom Ford-Hutchinson: a few things with elections packets. It says that petitions must be signed by members so the SGA who pay the student fee. Points of information people ask me about trying to get senators to sign it. On the back sheet is says time designate to campaign is only 3 weeks before the elections but earlier it says one week before the election. But that should be changed.

Walsh: It was not voter transparency last week as much as actual transparency with large athletes sitting right behind me. I am not saying I would have changed my vote.

Wilkinson-Ray: I have trouble with the way we have been voting. The fact that we can vote on a bill and then under an hour later say that if you had certain information you would have changed your vote. We need to get the information before hand. The bill we are bringing up next week I don't think we should vote on it. We don't have enough information to actually vote on the bill. We have to take the time to let people say what they want. With 6 people on the speaking order they might have something valuable to say. I also think that we need to focus on issues on campus instead of what's going on in Montpelier.

Crowley: I am confused when people talk about the people they represent. We all either represent on campus or off campus. I have no idea where this idea that we each represent a different group of students came from.

Rifkin: I sent out some of this on the list serve. It is a packing list for incoming students. I am compiling a list for new students of what were some things you thought you didn't need and some things you thought were valuable. If you have any suggestions let me know.

Foster: First off thank you for voting in favor of my resolution. Our voice will be heard on this. On voter transparency if it made you change your vote I think that is the point. People need to be held accountable for their actions. At the end of the day if we didn't have voter transparency in the US congress it would be bad. With that I feel like it is doing what it needs to. The presidents gesture to not sign the bill is almost a veto but not. We need to chose one-way or the other. We can't have half of one and half the other.

Van Backer: If we did just in this room do all the research all we would get though is 1 or 2 bills. We are bringing in stuff from Montpelier because that is what our committee does.

Candon: We have been on this so many times. Why COLA brings up state issuers. Vermont Yankee there has been months notice of this and I hope you have been keeping up. I am not bringing 2 pieces of legislation before you because I feel strongly one-way and I don't' have time to write to, I am very busy.

Just: As for the baseball and softball resolution I want to say that the SGA president is here to represent the students and not the administration. It is the job of the SGA president to represent the student voice.

Issadore: Voter transparency was passed. I understand people have some issuers with it but it's done. If you want to just get rid of it that fine, but we need to stop waiting our time on it.

Taylor: I hate to bring this up but I want to say that sometimes in developing an opinion there are things that take place in your mind that depend on time or the setting or sleep and we can't control that. And although I don't suggest we all take a nap before we vote. I also have to say that during last weeks meeting when we tried to prematurely override a veto. We had people shouting at each other over a premature override I within that type of bullying is deeply inappropriate.

SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Frank: Please turn in your voting records right now.

President Taylor: Emma is going to send information about RSVPing for dinner with Fogal. You need to get in touch with Lesley Logan. For the Hughes diner you want to email that to John Huges.

I am not sure where to start with the whole I didn't veto and I did not sign this but I stand firmly by my decision. I was asked by both teams not to sign it. So I did it mostly because I wanted to allow the board of trustees to deal with it. It was an overwhelming vote. And I didn't want to have people up to me afterwards and say they would have voted differently if they had some information. And some information that was presented was wrong. And I talked to both the teams and did some research. It's a bill passed by this senate and is now being upheld by the speaker you elected. The document that you are referring to was passed in 2003 so maybe that's valid. But 50% of the things in that document we don't follow. These senates voted to remove it from the constitution so it should not be brought up now. My role is different; I made the decision I made with the interest of the students in mind. We have to make a decision where to cut money and it shouldn't be in academics. We model our self after government bodies so we are like the government in that sense.

Kennedy: I participated in relay for life last year but it was very upsetting because my mom passed away from breast cancer and to see the way that students at UVM were treating survivors and was so triggering that I will not participate in that event again. I am sorry I can't participate with you but I would appreciate some consideration in the demands of the senate. It's not just a fundraiser for a lot of people. It can be deeply upsetting to some people.

Glynne: I just wanted to let you know that the student voice is being heard

Jones: I have a question for President Taylor, what is the board of trustees meeting about?

President Taylor: The meeting starts at 1 and it's an emergency meeting with a regular agenda. But the rest of the agenda is business with a star which means executive session and sometimes the meeting is 5 minutes and they go into executive session after 15 minutes and they will be in it for a long time. I am not always this stressed out or angry and proof is there is a racket ball meeting Sunday if you are interested in the club let me know

ROLL CALL:

FINANCE: all present

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present

COLA: all present

CODEEE: all present

STUDENT ACTION: Valenta (excused)

PR: Goodman (excused)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: all present

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ENDS: 9:27

