



TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009  
TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF 2008-2009 SENATE

CALL TO ORDER  
START TIME: 7:06

ROLL CALL  
FINANCE: all present  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present  
COLA: all present  
CODEEE: David Maciewicz (excused)  
STUDENT ACTION: all present  
PR: Seth Corthell (excused)  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Paul Robertson (excused)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: approved

PUBLIC FORUM

Students speaking on VT Yankee

Conner: I do not believe that a resolution to support the continued operation of VT Yankee is in like with this university. We stand for clean energy and nuclear energy is dirty. From mining to milling to enrichment to fabrication and transportation. You are using a lot of uranium from Native American reservations. Yucca Mountain shut down and Yankee was one of the first to have an agreement to store there waist there so now it will jus sit on the Connecticut River. I am a native Vermont student and an activist with green peace. We visited [Bartalbruio](#). Vernon VT loves the place due to the tax revenue. All other towns hate it because they are scared.

Basil: When I heard about the proposed resolution what first came to mind is was is this a decision you should be making. What are you going to gain or loose from it. You are making a decision that will impact Vermonters the most. You should think about this as if this was happening in your backyard. What if you had iodine tablets sitting in your cabinet incase the alarm goes off. Think about those people. Also March was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Three Mile Island and in April is Chernobyl. We don't know how to prevent it or how to reduce the impact on the environment and people. I view it as a set

back. You worked with Kimberly Clark campaign to remove it from campus. At first it wasn't financially feasible but you passed the bill and we ended up saving money. Maybe we have VT Yankee but that's the old so we should rise to the new. Maybe propose bills to adopt wind farms into VT. You are not going to gain anything from passing this bill. You will lose students who support you for taking environmental initiatives. There is no gap when we rise to the challenge and make it happen.

Benay: Do we actually mine uranium in VT?

No.

Benay: Do you know if the people with iodine tablets have ever had to use them?

They have not had to use them.

Foster: Here is my background. I am from Pennsylvania. I live 20 miles from a nuclear power plant and I was very close when Three Mile Island happened. I am scared to death of nuclear power, however in these economic times I am concerned about the cost of getting rid of it. What do you think of the potential increase of cost to consumers who buy electricity in VT?

I am saying the amount of people who work at a nuclear factory is much less than the amount of people who would operate other energy sources such as wind farms. The idea is VT Yankee, part of it collapsed this year and they had to fix it up. Other energy alternatives will be operated by many.

Benay: In terms of the wind power, have you guys done any inquiry of what the actual cost and if would be? And is there support in Vermont for it? Last time I checked they were not popularly accepted in VT? What's another alternative?

There is a mixed perception of it in VT. How are alternative energy sources in VT going to be adopted when we are relying on a nuclear plant? Renewing VT Yankee will be the easiest thing to do but is that the best thing.

Benay: You are right that renewing VT Yankee is easier but what is your idea for an alternative? Will there be support?

I am not an expert about that so I don't know, but there is a huge conversation going on and lots are not being heard. By doing this you can open up alternative methods to a true discussion

Wilkinson-Ray: The guy from VPERG who came had a chart that outlined how we can replace it. We owe it to them for coming so someone who supports the bill should explain it to them.

Van Backer: How did you hear about the bill and what did you hear about it?

I got an email on the environmental list serve about a possible bill being written up about VT Yankee. So why not show our concern. Over 500 students signed a petition to not pass this bill.

Cafarelli: People question the role of SGA to talk about these kinds of issues. Cola is in charge of working on things on state level. I don't recall anyone ever coming in on public forum to speak in favor of it. I think that us as senate needs to recognize who we are representing.

Lopez: I support nuclear power. No offence but until we see physical evidence I really don't see the big deal.

Whitmore: I just wanted to respond to Wilkinson-Ray. I am on the finance committee. I would agree that overall it is more detrimental than not to have nuclear power. But in a small state like Vermont it is important to think about the economic impact. If VT Yankee is shut down than we as the state of Vermont can help in investing in new forms of energy.

Van backer: Where did you go in **Brattleboro**? Because half of it is in support and the other half isn't. It depends on where you are.

We found it was an overwhelming response when we were petitioning in an area in the town center.

Rep. Zuckerman

Facts form what I know and some things I think I know. There are about 560 employees that work at VT Yankee and about half live in Vermont. One of the easiest ways of avoiding nuclear power is conservation. Nuclear power is artificially cheap given that the companies were told that the federal government will take care of the disposal of waist so no cost has be attributed for it. Moving forward the government now will not take the waist t and that will be a cost to bear. Most surveys showed that vast majority of Vermonters who support wind power. Some are concerned about it in there back yard but they realize that the visible blight is not the significant scenario people portray it as. At this point it is primarily in the hands of the legislature. The decommissioning process will keep almost the same number of people employed for at least a decade. We do have to address a shift in those jobs over time but many are engineers and can be put to work in other fields. Form a contract perspective the City of Burlington has no power contract with Yankee and now has some of the lowest cost power. There will be a new contract if it is renewed and they are not for 20 years anymore so the price of power will be significantly higher.

I want to speak briefly about the budget, which the house of appropriations committee just passed. I think our appropriations committee did a great job to use the stimulus bill and the drawdowns to fill most of the holes. \$14 million in cuts is being bore by our state employees. What would the impact of that be on our economy? We were told they didn't do an economic analysis of that. We are going to cost the state more money in unemployment and earn far less money from people spending money. They agreed to \$14milloin instead of \$17 million. Putting 50% of the burden on 10% of the budget. I am on the ways and means committee. One thing we are collaborating on is to raise \$24 million by implementing a temporary income tax surcharge for the highest tax brackets. Spending is what fuels the economy. Taking an income tax surcharge which is for the people at the very top will stimulate the economy more by putting that money into jobs and paving and keeping our state implies paid. This hand out has tax comparisons and rankings, it shows that we are in the middle or better than our

neighboring states. The next page shows who made money and who has in the past 10, 20, and 25 years. The wealthiest people reaped all the benefits from the good times. The average didn't make any more money. It's pretty obvious that the wealthy made out like bandits.

The next piece is a legislative report from the commerce committee. I am frustrated with the house economic committee. Our committee voted 10-0-1 to strip all the tax credits out of the bill. Now on the topic of marriage I appreciate your support. We are a hand full of votes away from getting a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s majority. We have had a huge improvement from nine years ago

VT Yankee and the utilities are not being open about their rates. The other companies have been soliciting energy bids for replacement power. They came into the ways and means committee saying they had about 46 different bids. And brought it down to about 18 for possible consideration. 2% of New England power pool is VT Yankee. We are in a relatively good time looking for 3 or 5 year contracts. Burlington has many contracts and try to stagger there expirations so I don't think Burlington will be affected too much by it.

Jones: What the largest percentage in the pool coming from?

I don't know. Hydro is a big one but it comes from Canada. Gas is a large one. Natural gas, plants. There is always some coal power but New England is not big on that.

Issadore: With the decommission of VT Yankee are there specific plans going around the house if decommissioned and if so shed some light on those please.

It's not entirely up to us. We have authority over if the continuation of the plant is good for the common good or not. I suggested legislature that would eliminate some state barriers for more wind energy. There is a lot of discussion of lowering the hurdles on wind energy.

McDonald: Given you were once a UVM student, do you think it is appropriate that this senate votes on it?

I think it's legitimate for this body to weigh in on matters of the state. This is a representative body of many people in Vermont. And to me this body has a right to make that decision on its own. I am absolutely opposed so your resolution. If you pass it supporting it I would tell you why I disagree with that. I would appreciate the input but I want to be clear with you what my position on this is. That it is entirely your decision. I would hope you have taken the time to gather your information.

Van Backer: Do you know how many representatives are swing votes?

It's all in fluctuation and one of the challenges presented to me is I have less time to work the halls. We know we are in the mid 90s there is probably 40 that are solid we don't have that leaves plus or minus 15 that are in play.

Vanbacker: If you have say 98 votes do you think he would let it pass without his signature on it?

I think the governor is a phenomenally shrewd individual. He did this as a way to win both sides. I think he is generally uncomfortable with the issue of gays and lesbians. I think it's a tough issue for him personally. Politically he has appeased the real hard cores that are apposed. By also stating he will veto it; it made some of the people in the middle who were not getting involved because now it is an even bigger distraction than it needs to be. We have gotten many more calls which will help us. If we get 100 votes he might let it pass without his signature. Because everyone will be thankful he didn't prolong the whole processes any longer than necessary.

Crowley: Last week we heard about the farm and plat bill?

I think it is a great bill. I am sorry I am not a cosponsor. What I heard today about the bill is that it is going to get moved to the committee on agriculture because they can't get it out of the committee of commerce. I believe they are going to make some major amendments to it. I understand similar language is being put on a bill in the senate. Hopefully it is moving forward.

Ford-Hutchinson: I was under the impression from a presentation from VT Yankee that the fund for decommissioning was so low that it will not happen for many many years if they were shut down now?

We just passed a decommissioning bill, which would force the company to put more money into that fund immediately which would make that happen sooner. There will be a short drop in employment but then it will be decommissioned in 10-15 years and not 30 to 40 as they hoped.

## EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Bill to recognize pre-med club

Sanders: read bill I sent an email about this early I have been working with people from the club since September. They have been operating as much as a club as they could be. We brought Kyle here.

Kyle: We decided to create the pre-med club because I noticed that a lot of students were coming into the university as pre-med but not a lot of students were fully aware of what that meant. 6000 people apply to med school and they enroll 130 so med school has around 2% acceptance rate max. So what that means is that when students look at those numbers that means you have a 99% chance of not getting accepted. We wanted to clarify what it takes to get into med school. There is a big misconception that it is all about grades. We try to make sure the students understand what a doctor does, the types of individuals medical schools are looking for. Recently we had a panel of medical students and had an open Q and A. That was a really good experience for those people. It's not as out of reach as people think it is. We want to start focusing on options. We want people to know the different routes you can take. It's not what everyone thinks it is. It is a lot of work and it's really degrading and it's scary. If you fail you think the world is going to end. Also not very many people know about the other options and we want people to understand the options. We have had people shadow the radiology department. We have about 20 students that we are going to have shadow in the emergency department. We have 93 people on our list serve. If you look at the number of people who were interested in medicine their freshman year and then look at who applies it's only a fraction of it. Our

connection to the med school is through a mentor program. We are trying to create a connection between UVM and the Burlington school district. There are serious issues like childhood obesity and smoking. It's not good when you see the outcomes from the people who chose these risk factors when they were young.

Jones: I am for the club being created. What kind of resources are you going to be able to provide different from what's already provided?

A lot of things that we do students could not do on their own probably. It gets really confusing and that's why I created the club. We want to get people involved and get them opportunities like shadowing which are great resume builders that get you into a hospital. Could they do that on their own? If they knew how to then yes. It's about connections as we being a club are developing a lot of connections.

Jones: What will your club provide for people without the specific target of getting into med school?

We had a speaker come in and his was about an alternative. We want to make sure people know that there are ways of helping people without an MD. We revolve around healthcare not MD and med school.

Ash: Talk about your turnout and what the repercussions of your group have been so far.

We generally have pretty good turnouts. Our last meeting was with the medical student and we had about 40 students. Our list serve has 93 students on it. Usually we see between 15-25 students per meeting and a lot of those meetings have speakers.

Ash: I am asking how do you force what you're doing with your club members into forming their future?

The biggest results we are looking for is that they get into med school. We want to make sure that people understand different issues with healthcare. We want to make sure when we have speakers come in that people know about their life style. The aim is not to get into med school but to let people know the disparities in health care right now also. It's a big healthcare thing.

Van Backer: What if anything are you going to have with the PEP program?

Many are in that program. I am not. I don't know about it till my sophomore year unfortunately. Right now we don't have a connection; it really does its own thing. That is for people who are solely interested in going to med school. I encourage students to apply if they are interested. We try and offer the same opportunities as PEP.

Van backer: What about the resources on campuses? Ann Sullivan?

We are still developing a better connection with Ann Sullivan. Students are very encouraged to go and meet with her at the beginning and talk with her and she thought we had a good idea but she didn't have the time to devote to it until we are recognized by the SGA. We do have a connection and it will

grow. Once we have the ability to become consistent with our meetings. I do intend to become close with Ann but right now we are comfortable.

Bill is called to question

Executive session 8:21 over at 8:26

Vote passed

NEW BUSINESS

Sander: Bill recognizing the student dietetic organization

McDonald: Water bottle resolution

Frank: constitutional amendments

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SPEAKER FRANK:

The constitution committee met last night and finished addressing the constitution. We did not touch on by laws we will compile a list of recommendation for the speaker next year. There are still 4 pieces of missing legislation.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR:

I have something from Ben who is not here tonight. The budget was sent out over email be sure to check it out. University is having budget issues. And one reason is because we are allowing our recurring revenues to cover those. Another thing is we are heavily reliant onto returned earnings. So what they did is take a look at the history of the clubs and budgeted more fairly based on what they actually spend. Treasurer applications are out. If you are interested you can pick one up in the SGA office.

Katie Rifkin is helping me with UVMers guide to UVM. People signed up for things and I think that if you live on or off campus then you are experts. This is about having student opinions and experiences documented. If you are already signed up for a topic, go ahead and sign up again.

We have been talking about hazing on the SGA level. We need to do something as the parent organization and we are talking about all members of club sports sign a hazing document we put together and the club signers for all other clubs. The agreement will be I will not Haze and I will confront it if I see it. It's important we send a strong message. I was disappointed that people didn't spend a lot of time recognizing the amount of work that SAC put in.

Club banquet. It went great. I hope that is a lasting event. I was reading through the chair applications and Drew Sanders said that he wanted to do a club banquet.

You know that Bryce and Kate are the next president and vice president of SGA.

Walsh: I was wondering when was the hearing period for committees to go and do their budgets because I read all my emails and I didn't see anything?

Issadore: The Hearings are for clubs that asked for over \$15 thousand. If you wanted one you could have scheduled it but it was not necessary.

Jones: The club signers signing the hazing thing is that something all members should do? Is it a liability for the club signers?

It is a liability for them anyway. I would have been responsible for the hazing that happened this year if something worse had happened. By passing it to the leadership we think it's the best place to start.

Whitmore: The budget thing we are talking about. The return on earnings does that affect the clubs future budget?

In general if a club doesn't use all their money then they are likely to not have that much money allocated. If they are constantly going in for supplemental funding then they might get an increase.

VICE-PRESIDENT KENNEDY:

Please RSVP to our banquet. It's the 7<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who don't know the tradition it's to dress up slightly nice and that chairs get every member of the committee a gift and the members return the favor. You should be planning for transition so every chair should be planning a transition binder. I encourage you to speak to the current chair if you are interested. The tradition of leaving after public forum is damaging to anything that is done after. We lost form for the past 3 meetings after public form.

Just: maybe a 5 min recess after public forum

No

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE- SEN. ISSADORE:

Might be surprised but the finance committee was involved in most of the process of budgeting. There was an overwhelming amount of positive feedback.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES- SEN. SANDER:

Banquet was great. It was fun and went off with out a hitch had about 120 people there and gave out 13 awards and I hope we will continue it. I think we have enough money got a plaque up with club of the

year on it. We have sweet t-shirts. Thank you for recognizing the premedical club. Next week we are bringing in the student dietetic club.

COLA- SEN. SHACKETT:

With VT Yankee I will continue to give my support to and at least bring up some legislation.

City counsel last night was supposed to vote on the city building ordinance but they didn't get to that.

Van Backer: We are going to the state house tomorrow. We are going to hopefully see Kesha's first bill pass and we will be back around four.

Corthell: Where did you get the cash for the shirts?

It was budgeted for. Think Care Act campaign no longer exists on campuses. So I used that money to market my web page.

Van Backer: If you are going to bring in an elected official to speak please let me know, because if I don't tell certain people about it they will be mad at me.

Kennedy: point of information Rep. Zuckerman emailed Jay to ask permission to speak, no one asked him to.

Just: Why did care think act go away?

It was part of the university budget cuts.

CODEEE- SEN. JONES:

We are coming to our last initiative that will be brought up in legislation, which is the water bottle legislation. More in line of asking for departments not to allow the vending of bottled products because they are expensive. Just focusing on reaching out and contacting folks and making relationships and see what we can do to network for the summer.

STUDENT ACTION- SEN. WALSH:

Since spring break there have been seven break-ins to vending machines so we have been working on correcting this. We also filmed a public service announcement.

Whitmore: a vending machines break-in?

In the residence halls it goes under unassigned room damages.

Jay: basically each time its happened its done between \$500-1500 in damage and unless it gets assigned to one individual it get assigned to the complex and if this doesn't stop we are going to have to put metal cages around the vending machines which are really expensive.

PR- SEN. CORTHELL:

22 on campus and 43 off campus people running. I have the written in totals. The candidate write-ins were read.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS- SEN. S.TAYLOR:

I will email out my report

SENATORIAL FORUM

Candon: jay suggested doing devils advocate session this Thursday at 8:30pm in jay and Emma's office. I am going to draw up the legislation tomorrow and anyone interested should come and give me feedback. I want to do this in a comprisable way so come critique it and tell me what you want what you like what you don't like. This is to make a stronger resolution. Also no limit for the number of people, but keep it senators.

Jones: I think that if the people that didn't see a representation of their view points should encourage them to come.

Foster: When we get a group of students that ask us to do something I feel like sometimes we don't like it. There is this feeling of us wanting apathy for the students. When we ask students to come and talk in public forum and we see a big group of students come that says something. The fact that they show up with a petition with 500 signatures I think that that is showing something.

Wilkinson-Ray: When we ask how you herd about this we introduced a bill, people are going to hear about this. It's great that there were here.

Benay: I wanted to say I didn't mean to come off as a mean person when I asked questions earlier I just feel like we have so off set extremes I just feel so torn and I hear this but I can't agree with either one and we never get anyone to come form the middle ground. And they got 500 signatures but that's not a lot out of 10,000.

Van Backer: Please read everything you can because it's going to be a close vote. Don't form an opinion yet at least be open to change form both sides. I apologies if my comments came off as rude. I asked because we have slant when things are sent out through different organizations.

Ash: when are you planning to write the legislation and when will it be available for us to see?

Candon: By Thursday and I will send it out today if not tomorrow night.

Just: I just want to say that this is a huge controversy but I think it's a really good thing we are doing. It is also bringing a lot of attention to senate. We are a representative body and it's our job to represent people. I want to thank Candon for writing this. Now lest all make sure we do our research.

Lopez: we represent the student body. Let's support them. Let's not forget we represent the students.

SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Frank: this weekend we are hosting the national debate tournament this year. We have teams coming from all over the country and the world. I encourage you to come and watch the rounds. Finals should be fantastic.

Benay: I have a concert tomorrow night. There are going to be 2 mini operas at Southwick and you should come see my solo recital next Wednesday at 7:30 and it's really important to me.

Foster: I have three things. Tonight is the first special election of Obama's presidency and it's supposed to be very competitive and it's close to us. Some of you guys are already aware I am not seeking reelection. There have been three big controversies this year; the first is the sanctioning of the sailing team the second is the sanctioning of Just and Jones and then Jay not signing and allowing it to pass into law. They are all asking us to judge our own pears. The American government works with a three-part system. The executive and legislature yell at each other if they don't agree. If we have to sanction one of our own members we are not the best to just. I am going to right a proposal and I would hope that someone would take this up in the next year because we keep running into these problems and it keeps us from discussing the issues that are important to the students. We would get an impartial group of students that is somehow selected by us that have good knowledge of how these things work. And it would allow more leadership opportunities on campus.

Wilkinson-Ray: This week is the food summit and there is an iron chef competition and you should come its \$2.

ROLL CALL:

FINANCE: all present

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Cafarelli (excused)

COLA: all present

CODEEE: Maciewicz and Just (excused)

STUDENT ACTION: all

PR: Ellis (excused)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Robertson (excused)

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ENDS: 9:27