

**Meeting Minutes:
Meeting of the 2008-2009 Student Government Association Senate
Tuesday, September 9th, 2008**

Called to Order at: 7:06pm

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Senator Issadore excused, Senator Varsakopolous unexcused
- Student Activities: Senator Mensah excused
- COLA: all present
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: all present
- Public Relations: Senator Goodman unexcused
- Academic Affairs: all present

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes PASS.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Keith Williams
 - I'm here to talk about the new UVM faculty, staff, and student portal and will do a quick demo and let you ask questions, and let me know if you want to test it. It'll be launching this semester and we're currently working on the online course evaluations and a preferred name tool. The web address is myuvm.uvm.edu and you use your net id and password. We're using the live system right now. Everyone is being loaded into the system and you can add faculty and student tabs to see how others use the system but you can only do what is authorized. It was built with students on the idea of having a single sign on, to use your net id and password for everything and eventually eliminate your student id number, but would require everyone to make their password stronger. There will be no spam, messages, or advertisements. You can access people soft, register for classes, display other information, and set up tabs so you don't have to login separately and go directly to your webmail or calendar, but you can make any tabs you want. There's also a help button which could be very helpful. The security is also good, you can collapse the information when you close out of it, and can do so wherever you are.
 - Van Backer – would black board messages show up or would you have to login to that separately?
 - Black board is a portal itself, so you could make a tab. We've also talked about posting syllabi beforehand when registering for classes, but faculty would still control that.
 - Just – when is the projected release?
 - We haven't done any publicity yet because we keep fixing things, but the staff has been great. Testing was supposed to happen today, but we need 2

more days to do that. The soft launch to test it for faculty and staff is targeted for September 29th. The launch for students is slated for October 20th but could move up a week depending on the first 2 phases, but the idea is that you'll all have been using it for a while before registration starts.

- Benay – club homepages are currently being solidified, could there be a link to those homepages?
- It could be a tab or a link to open a separate window, but most will launch in the frame of the portal, so as long as it has a web address you can do that.
- Benay – there are no sponsors?
- No, it's a university product, so we're here to find out what works for students and what they want.
- Caferelli – as a business student, can you use your business e-mail account?
- 85% of students use webmail so we just did what was most popular, but we're currently looking into different email services such as Outlook which currently only business and medical students use. If you can access that in a web format, then you can put it on here.
- Dru Ellis – if you haven't done any advertising yet, how do you plan to get the word out to students?
- We're working on a communications campaign, but you are the first large group of students to see it. We'll do promotional things to get the word out and trace how many transactions happen.
- Kennedy – would online course evaluations be included?
- Yes, the tools we're looking at would integrate that into the same system. If we move forward with it, we'd ask for student input on when to ask students to complete course evaluations, because we don't want to tick students off, and different campuses do it differently, and our system would prompt students to do them but then there's a debate on whether or not it should be mandatory. You'd immediately see how others rated and there would be university, college, department, and course specific questions.
- Ford Hutchinson – would the information be available when signing up for classes?
- Yes, but just for the students, not on a public forum.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sanders – Bill Recognizing the Christian Ministry

OLD BUSINESS

- Sanders – Bill Derecognizing the 9/11 Truth Movement

- They're no longer an active and functioning club, and formally requested to be derecognized by checking the box on the club update form, and then I followed up with the club president.
- PASSES

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Treasurer Porter
 - Frank – Treasurer Porter is running the treasurer's workshops right now, so tell people you know because it's mandatory.
- Speaker Frank
 - Thanks for welcoming Keith, he'll be back again, and thanks for not eating during public forum.
 - Just a reminder to get legislation to me by Monday at 8am.
 - An update on the list I sent out, it'll be changing because we've added 3 more and some may be removed, but I'll keep you updated.
- President Taylor
 - Shackett – at the EPIR meeting there was a new course schedule introduced.
 - Miller – the meeting opened up the discussion of differentiated tuition, which was confusing at first, but there would be different tuition depending on the college you're in because of different requirements. In the end, I came out in favor for it. As of right now, some students are supplementing for other students. Smaller schools will cost more but it is dependent on the profession you'll go into. Also, there was a furious Board of Trustee member who was an RA in CBW and it hasn't changed since, so that'll be on the agenda for next time.
 - I asked the Board of Trustees to consider the issue we passed last week, and they were for it, and put it on the agenda to discuss and ask the administration to discuss it as well.
 - The lynx, at uvm.edu/clubs has news at the top, and right now just has SGA clubs and sports. It makes it easy to manage groups and sub groups. There are events tabs to click on. You login with your net id and password, could possibly link to the portal. The club president will be the administrator for the page, but when you put a task into a club's mailbox, they can delegate it to other people in the club. Once elections are live, you'll do the first year ones through this. The first time you login, you'll have to register before going to the main page, and it designates you as an undergraduate for the purpose of elections and surveys. This enables us to do things quickly that used to take us a long time. Drew and Leon have been planning trainings. I wish you didn't have to register for the system but hopefully it will not hinder people from voting.
 - Due to comments made during last time's appointment process, we're having a speaker come in so it'll be fair and equitable.
 - Mallea – for the tuition differentiation, what if you're in 2 colleges?
 - Miller – it is based on projected earning potential from that college, would probably take the higher of the two.

- Jones – what about if you switch?
- Miller – we didn't go into much detail, I can email the provost and ask for materials, but they're still hashing out the details, and the Board of Trustees is building the plan.
- Sanders – what about it discouraging low income students?
- Miller – yeah, that was brought up.
- It makes some majors out of reach for some, but the financial aid package would adjust based on your major and need.
- Kennedy – how definite is this?
- Miller – it's serious, the Board of Trustee is always talking, I can research more, I like it now but it'll be researched and amended.
- Shackett – everything they discuss in one meeting will come up again, so it'll be voted on.
- Van Backer – did they discuss that UVM is already the most expensive state college in the country?
- Miller – that's always taken into consideration, and the numbers are always going up, but we'll be back with more information.
- Dru Ellis – tuition keeps going up by 6% with only 4% income earned, so how will this be distributed?
- Miller – let's wait until we have more details, I didn't want to broadcast this, and we'll bring in numbers.
- Van Backer – would SGA support even have an effect?
- Miller – I don't know.
- Vice President Miller
 - I have an email from Mackenzie, she's resigning from SGA because she's very busy but she still wants to be involved.
 - We have 5 appointment spots to fill next Tuesday, 3 off campus, and 2 on campus. The process will be open until Thursday at noon. I will scan the 15 applications I have, email them to the chairs, and it's up to you to get that information from your chairs, because we'll be deciding on Monday at noon to inform the appointees. Email me your full ranks so we can reach a consensus on 5 people, so hopefully you'll confirm 5.
 - Kennedy – we're having a diversity workshop before the retreat and it'll be pretty straightforward, and is mandatory next Tuesday from 5-6:45pm so cancel or reschedule your committee meetings.
 - I need 3 people to put on campus wide committees, including the DC Advisory, which you can be a senator for, and I'm on it, so email me if you're interested.
 - I've picked 3 people for the D.C. trip at the end of the month that wrote excellent applications, those being Alex, Bryce, and Jimmy. It was first come first serve, and will include a few days of workshops, lobbying, and a tour of D.C. Last year, Jay went with Kesha and DaVaughn.
 - Jess and I are working on the website, because DaVaughn has been forwarding me stuff that he keeps getting. I need a volunteer with a camera to take pictures and give to me. We're re-doing the roster, so fill out this shit with your information.

- We've divided exec up into 2 meeting groups because we're all so busy but we'll meet monthly.
- Senator Issadore informed me Vasilis will be starting a sub-committee on fundraising since we make our clubs do it, but we don't.
- Drew has his workshop coming up on Sunday.
- We need volunteers for the activities fest, so sign up for that.
- Jones – we're rating them, and then you decide for appointments?
- Yes, it's like a pre-vote.
- Just – where can the applications be accessed?
- The website, or bring it to Jess or to me. 5 spots available, 3 off, 2 on.
- Just – does our cell phone information go just to you?
- Yes, but your email is public.
- Mallea – just a point of information, I'll be heading the fundraising sub-committee.
- Mensah – can we vote on the SGA attire?
- We have a previous supply but we can vote on a design.
- Ford Hutchinson – will people be lobbying for specific spots?
- No, I'll place them on committees that need to be filled.
- Just – can first year students run for appointment?
- Yes.
- Kennedy – can we say we'd like people on our committee?
- Yes, but no promises. All committees need at least 1, so we'll see.
- Corthell – where's the activities fair?
- In the oval outside.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance, Chair: Senator Issadore
 - Benay – Kevin is at the Treasurer's workshop, so tell people you know that are in clubs that they have to go. So far we've gotten to talk to field hockey, football, gymnastics, and college progressives.
- Student Activities, Chair: Senator Sander
 - It's sad to see Mackenzie go.
 - The Student Organization Management Workshop is coming up this Sunday and a lot of clubs have already signed up.
 - We're looking into derecognition for clubs who didn't turn in their club update forms, including the Accounting Club, Tennis, and Wakeboarding.
 - I passed around a sheet for people to help out at activities fest; we need people for check-in.
- COLA, Chair: Senator Shackett
 - We have SGA welcome bags and Gail asks that any available senators help hand them out to off-campus students on Thursday from 4-5:30 and Friday from 2-3:30, so sign up if you can help.
 - I got a letter from the Office of State Federal Community Relations stating that we didn't invite all the candidates, but Mandy responded with a great e-mail.

- The Community Coalition happened last Friday from 2-4 and we proposed the Party Smart initiative and we're passing around logos to vote on.
- Have a Heart happened at 5:30 on Friday at 4 different locations, and the first years particularly took interest in the off campus shuttle bus.
- Gail said to look at the Burlington Free Press because there was a stabbing on the corner of N. Williams and Brooks Ave, no one connected to UVM but the person was our age and was in critical condition.
- Ride Along applications are available.
- I'm attending the Ward 1 meeting to talk about Community Coalition tomorrow night with Joe Speidel.
- Jesse Bragg taught us how to do voter registration properly, so we have tables for that.
- CODEEE, Chair: Senator Kennedy
 - I met with the Office of Sustainability and we're talking about using Clean Energy fund and CODEEE doing a walk through with physical plant.
 - We're waiting to hear from Tom Gustafson about the ARC because there hasn't been any communication from the administration to students.
 - We're excited to work on the diversity training and trying to do more bias education this time.
- Student Action, Chair: Senator Abda
 - I attended the Dining Services Advisory Committee meeting and discussed our plan for the year and revisiting the meal plan issue.
 - We want to implement a small informal poll, so please write down one question we could ask students on how they feel about dining services so we have results to bring to the meeting with the Meal Plan Task Force.
 - I'm sending a copy of the lounge space audit report from last year in the campus wide e-mail.
 - I'm studying abroad next semester so I need someone to sit on the CALS Dean Selection Committee as well as a representative on the Dining Services Advisory Committee.
 - DruEllis – I met with Provost Hughes and VP Lucier and they're getting a complete analysis of where scholarships are being allocated and where they can get money from to give to upperclassmen and possibly run a pilot program to see how it would work and would include transfer students.
- Public Relations, Chair: Senator Krodel
 - Aldrich – I have a letter from Ryan and it says that PR will be chalking for 1st year elections so we can move away from paper resources so feel free to chalk with us. We also need senators to staff the activities fair at the SGA table and if someone could bring a laptop for people to vote right there. There will be a marketing piece at the workshop this Sunday as well as an activity at the retreat on what PR is doing with SGA. And we're working on getting the VSOP prize winner a prize.
- Academic Affairs, Chair: Senator S. Taylor
 - With what Keith discussed, we'll be putting something together so SGA can affirm its support for online course evaluations.

- There are talks of changing the schedule for spring and having classes start at 8:30 instead of 8 and possible other modifications which are all a part of a larger attempt to spread out classes.
- Elections, Chair: Senator Corthell
 - Elections are tomorrow, so please vote, we've got the system up and running.
 - We're chalking tonight as our advertising has been a failure. But we don't want to use any paper because people don't read them and it is cheaper and will go away on its own.
 - Jones – do you have to go to the lynx to vote?
 - Yes, it will be in your e-mail.
 - Taylor – if it's your first time entering the lynx, you'll have to register.
 - Valenta – are there candidate profiles for first years?
 - Online on our website, but there are also links to them on the ballot this year.

SENATORIAL FORUM

- Glynne – I'm taking issue with the mandatory training next week because it is prefacing something said during executive session but the point is that it is supposed to be confidential.
- Mensah – a lot of things were said that should not have been and it should be mandatory because we represent the student body and we don't want to see them discriminated against, so it is upsetting to hear you say this.
- Miller – executive session is used to talk privately, not to bash or to bring up things from someone's personal life and what happened went out of whack. The diversity training helps you as social justice and diversity are the theme of this campus.
- DruEllis – I can appreciate it at the retreat, but not holding it right before our appointments meeting because we may be pressured to vote a certain way and we're opening up a can of worms from executive session and it's a new school year, that happened in the past.
- Kennedy – I've been pushing for a diversity training a lot and I cannot believe there is so much resistance. The people elected to this body shouldn't violate affirmative action laws. I understand we're busy but it's not about a specific executive session or intentionally before appointments to get you to vote a certain way. I'm pushing this because someone's major has meant more than their platform and that is ridiculous. Look at this as a chance for education to a group that needs it and it is necessary for anyone who will serve.
- Corthell – this all happened last year, I don't even remember any personal attacks and maybe some inappropriate things were said but diversity is not the issue. I just think it is ridiculous on such short notice.
- Benay – not that we don't think there should be a diversity training, it's just that it could have been done any other time before the appointment process so it just feels like an attack on the things said during executive session.
- Jones – I think we should notify students about the fact that if they registered last year, they might not actually be registered.

- Sanders – I see both sides, I agree with the purpose of executive session, but I also agree with the criticisms brought up and that the purpose is so we don't have what happened last year happen again.
- Valenta – I just want to reiterate that it seems like a really inappropriate time to do it and I respect us doing it but not at that time.
- Cafarelli – can we reconsider the mandatory training? Because I just had this in my RA training.
- Miller – it's not meant to be right before appointments but come talk to me if you have a problem with it. It's an hour out of your life that will benefit you.
- Mensah – I cannot fathom the idea that some people are resisting a social justice and diversity training. I don't understand how it'll hurt you, and you'd be at a committee meeting anyways. It is meant for awareness, not guilt. People are focusing more on executive session but it has happened multiple times and I don't think it'd be forced on you because you're bad people.
- Kennedy – the timing wasn't intentional, I was adamant on having a diversity training prior to the retreat.
- DruEllis – there's one thing I can't forget and that is how the people even know what was said. I can appreciate forgetting about executive session but what is the difference between this and what we have at the retreat?
- Miller – I'm flying in a lecturer, who is a tenured faculty member at Columbia and Harvard and the President of his law class at Columbia and the President of the governing body at Harvard. He's talking about diversity and leadership and is enthusiastic about it. He does diversity trainings for the U.S. government and he's busy so it's great that he's coming. That is just a few hours of our retreat and we'll be doing other things too. At least attempt to know your constituents because you represent them and that's your job.
- Glynne – I understand people may not agree, but I represent people at UVM and my feelings are shared by others here, but the community I represent is often not heard here.
- Van Backer – how long will it be?
- Miller – we'll be meeting at 5 and it'll be 1-1.5 hours

SENATORIAL COMMENTS

- Frank – see me after meeting Drew about your bill, tidy up your space when you leave, and I'm looking for a squash partner.
- Benay – Kate Ash says hi from France, she's drinking wine and eating brie and a baguette.
- Glynne – it's sad that Brady is done for the year, but Go Sox!, and UVM has its first home game and lost 27-15 but our next game is this Sunday at Endicott.
- Mensah – congrats COLA on Have a Heart, I was surprised at the amount of first-years going out in packs and we should continue to inform students.
- Valenta - \$1 drafts at What Ales tonight.
- Corthell – Goodman is buying.
- Mensah – Friday from 4-6, ALANA is having their welcome back BBQ on the Redstone green.

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Issadore excused, Varsakopolous unexcused
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: Barnett excused
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: all present
- Public Relations: all present
- Academic Affairs: all present

Adjourned at: 9:02pm