

**Meeting Minutes:
Meeting of the 2008-2009 Student Government Association Senate
Tuesday, September 23rd**

Called to Order at: 7:04pm

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Varsakopoulos unexcused
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: Barnett excused
- CODEEE: Kennedy and Maciewicz excused
- Student Action: all present
- Public Relations: Krodel and Aldrich excused
- Academic Affairs: all present

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes PASS.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Tim Ash, Candidate for State Senate
 - Ash – I was here last school year and am a graduate of UVM, class of '99 and at the time we were taking classes in the UHeights trailers during construction. I got my master's degree from the Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge. My first job was working for Senator Bernie Sanders, the only independent in Congress. I've mainly had public service jobs, because then I worked for American Federation of Teachers, which supported the UVM faculty union to ensure fair treatment, and retaining and attracting the best professors. Then I worked in the Office of Economic Opportunity, working with low income residents to solve neighborhood problems. Then I worked for a non-profit called Cathedral Square which provides affordable housing for senior citizens. On the City Council, which I was elected 4-5 years ago as the youngest councilor, I played an important role in a number of issues. I created the Environmental Commission which is made up of residents and practitioners to take concrete steps toward solving the problems. I've been the biggest supporter of affordable housing and the biggest proponent of smart growth. I am running for State Senate and would be the youngest senator, and I am running a slightly unusual fusion campaign. I came in 5th place in the democratic primaries, and received enough write-in votes from progressives, so I will be listed as both parties on the ballot. Every year we see good people trying to appear different but they really have the same values.
- Hinda Miller, Candidate for State Senate
 - H.Miller – I've always found you all respectful, serious, and a good valued audience. I've lived in Burlington for 30 years but am originally

Canadian. I found myself in the UVM costume shop years ago when they designed the first women's sports bra, and have since been proud of a state that promotes entrepreneurship and creativity. You all are our mental, physical, and emotional prosperity. I've been in the Senate for 6 years and have focused on the green economy and creative music, dance, art, and innovation. This culture throughout history has supported innovation and I support the infrastructure for that. I am the vice chair of the Economic Development Committee and I invite young people to come in and testify. I am also on the Appropriations Committee and fight for funding to UVM, other Vermont colleges, and VSAC. This university is the engine for our economic development and job creation, and I have a son here at UVM as well as a daughter at Burlington High School, and your budgets are getting smaller, but we need to help you.

- Tom Costello, Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Vermont
 - Costello – I am running to protect the civil rights of Vermonters and the state of Vermont has been yellow in the past because we haven't allowed free speech, nor have had rights to be innocent or marry, but my record on civil rights is stellar. My father lost his father while his mother was pregnant with twins, which would be her 8th and 9th children, and my father made a commitment to teach for 1 year in a Vermont school and then he went on to teach in Williston. He was thanked graciously for being a public server and educator, and all students should have that opportunity. I have these cards that say thinking of you Tom, he has a wife at home, and his father was the President of UVM and a good friend of mine, so I told him I would bring them here on behalf of his son, so please write something in them as I pass them around. I grew up in Rutland and I practice law in Brattleboro. I got 80% of the votes in Bennington County, 80% in Brattleboro, and 80% in Rutland. I can win and can get a majority of the votes, and there is no 3rd party candidate this year.
- Van Backer – what is your specific response to how you'd fund higher education, as we got a \$2.5 Million cut this year, and get less funding than states with smaller populations?
 - H.Miller – I am the co-chair of the Committee for the future of Higher Education and made a proposal for designating money for higher education as Vermont is the 47th in the country to invest in its state's higher education and our revenues are only shrinking. We're making it a key issue, getting all the players involved, and collaborating. With all your research labs, you guys need the money and it is not coming out of the general fund anymore.
 - Ash – for starters we have to commit ourselves to the issue and start thinking about how we deliver education at the state colleges and how we can free up and combine services. Think about what drives costs, because it is the same things everywhere, like the rising cost of healthcare, where is that money going? We're not creating better care but more profits.
 - Costello – right now there's a \$20 Million deficit and it will increase to \$100 Million next year and it can't come out of the general fund. We need

to find specific solutions in the short run that will work in the present. I have proposed a 6 year medical school that you'd be accepted to with your admission to the university as long as you maintained grades and then you'd serve in Vermont for a certain period of time after.

- Glynne – what makes you the better candidate?
 - Costello – I am similar to Brian Dubie on values and military service but my accomplishments outweigh his. For example, I get people around the table over a resolution. We defeated Enron, and DWI legislation. I've demonstrated the capacity to bring people together and solve problems. He doesn't respect civil rights the way I do.
 - H.Miller – that's a deep question and you'd have to look at the candidate's own personal development and how they deal with people. I'm driven by compassion, listening, and abundance. I don't care about your party, just that you're getting the best people to the table that will get things done. I like practical and optimistic people that are open to ideas and don't judge.
 - Ash – I'm a good candidate because you'll be getting the most progressive representative on women, workers, housing, the environment, and you'll know where I stand on those issues. I have experienced managing a city and recognize the problem of young people leaving the state and as the youngest member of the senate I would be able to help solve the problem. I have a good record in the city of Burlington and you'll have a unique and energetic representative.
- Mensah – what are you doing to help under represented and marginalized constituents and promoting and serving their needs? And if you're promoting new jobs, what are you doing to deal with jobs not pertaining to the environment if that is not someone's passion?
 - Ash – first, I think this university has a long way to go. I represent the old north end which is the most diverse place in the state. With CVOVO my fundamental task was to make sure people had access to healthy lives. And I helped recruit the only black on the Burlington City Council. In terms of jobs you have to look at what people want to do and agriculture and farming is a key area. I helped a high-tech business get the space they needed to expand.
 - Costello – I am a lawyer and I have 10 people in my firm, only 2 of which are actually lawyers. Many of our clients are homeless and disabled and through my work in the private sector, I've gotten to know the suffering and injustices in our environment, and as a public servant I can try and change law. I encourage young people to work with me because being a lawyer is trying to understand problems and finding solutions.
 - H.Miller – I'm very proud that in Vermont 2 years ago, we put away prioritized money toward a program called Next Generation, which was \$8 million given away toward scholarships for higher education including technical education and training, and looking at all levels of people and the jobs they wanted, including giving internships for people to go work at companies.

- Michel – I was taught that politics was conflict resolution. In your opinion, what is the problem, who is the player, and how will you solve it?
 - H.Miller – the conflict in this state is the amount of revenues that are generated and the needs we have. The players are the institutions and all the people in Montpelier, who over the next few years will be dealing with increasing revenues. Government is conflict resolution, but it's a team game. The housing bill last year got the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Chamber of Commerce, Building and Housing Department, and others all working together and building a relationship. I see it more as people and relationships, influence, and willingness to do things differently.
 - Ash – there are 2 conflicts; the first that there are people that do and don't have aspirations for the state. People think they'll renew the energy contract, but people want renewable energy, just won't spend the time. So there is a big aspiration gap between the people that want to achieve things and those that do not. The second is the people with no sense of moral urgency versus the people that do. There are moral issues like gay marriage, women being paid equal wages, working conditions, etc.
 - Costello – it's exciting to look at you and see you listen. I see me years ago in you. I'd like to talk about energy. You need a Lt. Governor who cares and has a plan of what to do because there is no alternative to cheap and reliable energy.
- VLopez – Yankee Plant has had problems and people want to shut it down, but why not keep it running until we get a new form of energy?
- Costello – we need a system to dispose of it and decommission a plant, and we have no commitment. We need to put the money aside and get rid of waste. If the legislature makes a decision to relicense it, it's important to keep the process informed.
- H.Miller – we don't have an integrated energy plan and it's complicated. There's not enough decommissioning money to shut it down safely, even so our waste is supposed to go to Nevada but if it's shut down our waste will be put on the Connecticut River. We need renewable and sustainable energy which is a part of our 3-5 year plan. The legislature needs a specific energy plan.
- Ash – I have a strong opinion that when we talk about shutting down Vermont Yankee, we need to think about the public Burlington Electric wood burning plant as a natural model and now we need sustainable forests.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

- Issadore – Supplemental Funding to Feel Good
 - Issadore – they attend a Hunger Summit every year in NYC and will be allocated \$3,000. Any allocations over \$2,000 need to be approved. They usually receive more money from their national organization but that was cut and it's an amazing program and an asset, and it's a huge deal that they get to go as it helps them run a better organization.
 - Weiland – how many people need to go?

- Issadore – they’re not required to send any, but they’re looking to send 25 this year or at least hoping to send the same as last year and it is being held in Kansas City.
- Sander – what’s the purpose of the conference?
- Issadore – it consists of lectures and workshops to help them operate better and there are networking aspects, and they can meet members of the communities that they help.
- Cafarelli – is the \$3,000 mostly transportation?
- Issadore – it also includes registration fees, most of the transportation, and basic costs of what we allow for hotel rooms.
- PASSES

NEW BUSINESS

- Sander – Bills Recognizing the Accounting and Running Clubs
- Jones – Resolution Recognizing the Success of the Forest Crimes Unit
- Michel – Resolution to Create Party Smart
- V Lopez – Resolution Increasing Campus Safety

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Treasurer Porter – n/a
- Speaker Frank
 - Thanks for coming to the retreat and for your input.
 - Next week on public forum we have Claire Chevier from Dining Services, 2 candidates, and Anthony Polina
 - I am meeting with Pat Brown to discuss the constitution and I’d like names from every committee next week of who will be on that constitution committee.
 - Jones – are we giving binders to first-years?
 - Miller – Jess and I went over the budget and we’ll be doing folders with pertinent information to save on costs.
- Vice President Miller
 - I’m going to D.C. tomorrow with Senators Camden, Jones, and Mallea and will be putting together stats for underfunding UVM, meeting with Welch and a congressman from Colorado, we’ll see Senator Lahey do a floor vote, tour D.C. and attend cool workshops at the conference.
 - Next week we’ll tackle the appointments application. We’re doing it the same way as last time except you’ll send your chairs your tallies and then they’ll send them to me. Rank your top 2 and I will inform them and bring them forth to deliberate. You’ll get to choose by tomorrow afternoon and send tallies to chairs by Sunday at noon.
 - The Homecoming Parade is coming up, Chair Krodel would like a chair to step up and lead the way because he is taking his LSAT’s that day and will

also need 1 person per committee to decorate. They've already rented the truck.

- Chairs talk to your committees as we're starting campus wide appointments next week, so let Jay and I know of any people and I'll compile a list.
- Cafarelli – will we wait until we get 2 off-campus candidates?
- We're basing it off the old ones and haven't gotten any new ones.
- Corthell – the theme will be done by Friday, e-mail Ryan with any suggestions because we're getting the truck @ 4 on Friday and will be decorating it from 5 on and could really use your helps. The idea we have now is bad, so please e-mail suggestions.
- Tofferi – what committees will these people be placed on?
- I will e-mail you the ones.
- Robertson – can you please add me to the list-serve?
- President Taylor
 - I am passing around the Technology Innovation Fund Survey that'll be hitting your inboxes this week.
 - The meal plan task force met this week to see when to cut hours at Brennan's to open cook commons on weekends.
 - Board of Trustees committee meets on Friday and I need people to apply for the student position.
 - I met with the director of Transportation and Parking Services to accommodate students with disabilities.
 - I met with President Fogel and Provost Hughes and talked about alcohol, and instead of avoiding party nights for programming, targeting party nights for programming and talked about the Red Cross.
 - I also met with Pat Brown.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance, Chair: Senator Issadore
 - We funded money to campus progressives to have a concert.
 - We met with the Running Club to discuss their budget and are meeting with the Accounting Club later this week.
 - Mallea – we'll be having a fundraising committee within the Finance Committee and I am looking for 3 other senators to sit on it with me as it would set an example to our organizations.
- Student Activities, Chair: Senator Sander
 - We're bringing up 2 clubs next week. If you have any initial questions please send them to me but I'll be sending out a synopsis about the clubs so you have background before they come.
 - Each member of this committee will work with a specific group of clubs.
 - We're starting the derecognition review process and several clubs will be dealt with based on behavior.
- COLA, Chair: Senator Shackett
 - Tom Costello wants to have lunch with COLA.
 - More to come with Ride Along.

- I attended the Town Gown Group and discussed the Brooks Avenue stabbing and how bikers can be safe.
- New think/care/act posters.
- We've come up with COLA's goals for the semester and have a set path.
- We're inviting landlords to the new tenants fair on December 4th along with 4 off-campus living workshops.
- We're finalizing VSOP and Party Smart.
- The voter registration campaign is going well and lots of groups are doing it, but we don't have a goal for the number of people we'll register.
- In terms of state relations, we're mapping out our goals for the entire school year.
- I attended the City Council meeting last night.
- CODEEE, Chair: Senator Kennedy
 - We're getting the ball rolling on bias workshops, dealing with contracts, etc. but we also want to enforce the ARC memorandum. We'll also be following up on former Senator Carter's legislation on funding domestic war profiteering.
- Student Action, Chair: Senator Abda
 - Welcome Alex to our committee, he wants to work with the meal plan.
 - Cook Commons open on October 3rd and 4th but at the expense of Brennan's.
 - There's a meal plan task force meeting next week, so e-mail me if you're interested.
 - I am meeting with TPS and Physical Plant about complaints regarding parking on campus.
 - I am meeting with custodial services to get more sanitation stations on campus.
 - We are reposting posters on campus regarding student safety and tailgating.
 - Encourage people to send their thoughts to ticks me off.
 - In the paper, the Forest Crimes Unit got Kimberly Clark removed from campus, show it shows just how far student action can go.
 - Benay – could the parking issue deal with the inability to park on campus from off campus, specifically the gym?
 - Abda – if there is an issue you'd like addressed, tell me.
 - Cafarelli – does TPS have an inventory of spaces so they don't over sell passes?
 - Abda – I imagine they do.
- Public Relations, Chair: Senator Krodel
 - Corthell – We're working on Homecoming right now, tell Ryan if you have ideas, and we need volunteers for the 4th so tell him if you can come.
 - Mensah – KUDOS to PR for taking the initiative to start planning even though we didn't give any ideas when we were asked.
- Academic Affairs, Chair: Senator Taylor
 - Welcome to our committee Paul, he wants to tackle the textbook issue.

- Last week while you were all at the diversity training, we were getting trained to be on the Academic Integrity Council.
- We're collecting information and making a resolution on priority registration and online course evaluations.

SENATORIAL FORUM

- Glynne – I loved having the candidates in, Costello was crazy to attack another candidate that he wasn't even running against, and even as a republican, I thought Tim had a lot of good things to say and was very polished.
- Mallea – we had 10 people interested in the fundraising committee, but we would only like 3-4 sitting on the committee, but whoever would like can come to the meetings, so I have chosen, based on committees, Senators Goodman, Glynne, Benay, and Burnes.

SENATORIAL COMMENTS

- Frank – anyone that passed legislation tonight or will be next week, please e-mail it to me.
- Benay – there is a Jewish potluck on Thursday @ 7pm at the Allen House, Room 102.
- Sander – over 80 organizations have signed up for the lynx! Justin Gerboc, the assistant director of leadership from student life is leaving so I'd like to collect donations for a going away present before he leaves October 3rd for California.
- Mensah – there's a social justice photo shoot this Friday in the L/L fireplace lounge. And ALANA breakfast starts this Friday.
- Varsakopolous – I will be sending out a report on the BFI meeting if anyone is interested in finance.
- Glynne – UVM played their first D1 football opponent and will be playing an away game next week against Williams College, and will be playing Becker College for homecoming weekend.
- Van Backer – vote on November 4th and make sure you're registered to vote!
- Jones – did anybody go to the Speak Up event, what was it like?
- Mensah – the actors were RA's from all over campus deal with different issues that students deal with.
- Just – IRA has voter registration forms in the main hall of every building and the identity photo shoot is Sunday from 4-7pm.
- Ellis – huge food crisis, trying to bring organizations from campus together to help with that.
- Goodman – penny wars for National Prevention of Hazing week.
- Taylor – I got an e-mail from athletics on the ticketing policy and Jess will be back on Wednesday, so we'll be collecting for a present for Jess.
- Miller – I won't be here next week due to the Jewish holiday, as others will not be, but I will brief President Taylor and Speaker Frank on appointments.
- Garcia – I am heading to Connecticut to support Obama campaign this weekend, let me know if you're interested.

ROLL CALL

- Finance: all present
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: Barnett excused
- CODEEE: Kennedy and Maciewicz excused
- Student Action: all present
- Public Relations: Krodell and Aldrich excused
- Academic Affairs: all present

Adjourned at: 8:56pm