

**Meeting Minutes:  
Meeting of the 2008-2009 Student Government Association Senate  
Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

Called to Order at: 7:07pm

**ROLL CALL**

- Finance: Issadore, Varsakopolous excused
- Student Activities: Burns excused
- COLA: Camden excused
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: Wilkinson-Ray excused
- Public Relations: Paquette excused
- Academic Affairs: S.Taylor excused

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- Minutes PASS.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

- Thomas Herman, candidate for state representative –
  - I was an Iraq war vet and I work in Barre on an organic farm and am running for the house on the progressive party ticket. My platform is to end the war and divert funds to build a green economy. I enlisted to fight in a war I originally believed in, until I saw mercenaries and families being shot and dying. After my 16 months in Iraq, I felt used and betrayed. So I'm running to end the war and use the money to build schools, roads, alternative energy sources, etc.
- Jerry Trudell, candidate for state representative –
  - I am a licensed pilot and aerial photographer and businessman. I am running for congress because we have an energy emergency. 60% of heat in Vermont comes from heating oil and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest expense for the average household is automobiles. Vermont has a rainy day fund and we should use that to invest and that's my plan. I want to replace heating with solar panels. Elected officials have not done their research. Oil production already peaked and consumption dropped 9.5% which will only bring the cost of energy down for a little while. Our economy was designed to run on cheap energy isn't doing well running on expensive energy. We could reduce consumption of oil without having a depression. You're all hoping for a job but your future looks bleak if we don't take action. I'm blowing the whistle on high energy prices and creating clean energy jobs. Peter Welch is a good man but he doesn't have a plan to jumpstart the energy revolution and no ability to set ambitious and doable goals. What we need now is to have officials that know something.
  - Glynne – What qualifies you to represent the state of Vermont?
  - Trudell – my passion, my mouth, my brain, my knowledge, and my plan.

- Herman – the constitution says I can and I have a concern as a US citizen so as my civic duties I should get involved. I also have interests besides ending the war and have a passion to make real change.
- Vanbacker – can you outline a healthcare or higher education plan?
- Trudell – a single payer system could lower healthcare costs 5-12% because it would eliminate administrative costs. Also, therapeutic message is an alternative to expensive pharmaceuticals so we need to broaden the subject beyond insurance. We're paying over \$6,000 a year but we also need to increase the quality of healthcare, improve delivery to rural areas, called mobile units.
- Herman – eliminate overhead of profit because we pay a lot but don't get a lot. Insurance companies make money through co-pays and other things. But the number one cost of bankruptcy is healthcare. We need preventative medicine so we can catch things early. Also, education should come with vouchers because when you educate people, they can be more competitive in the workforce.
- Symington, candidate for Vermont state Governor –
  - I came to Vermont as a kid to ski and I came to New England for college and went to Williams. Then I moved here 20 years ago because my husband joined the senior management team of Ben & Jerry's. I was an Environmental Studies major in college and got interested in food, agriculture, and energy. I went to business school at Cornell. I stepped out of my non-profit organization career to focus on my kids and my community. We struggled as a community to pay for schools so I ran for public office and served in the legislature for 12 years. Every other year politicians ask themselves if it is worth it, and I say yes. I've run in 6 election cycles, 2 in the majority, 2 in the minority, and 2 as speaker. My focus has been on how Vermonters could all have healthcare, a sustainable energy future, and continue to build our economy. During my time as governor I have been resistant against Governor Jim Douglas. I'm running for governor to challenge him because he's not moving the state forward. We could work harder as a state to connect young Vermonters with employers because 9 out of 10 jobs that are growing the fastest are low wage. The gap between the lower and upper class is one of the biggest. We need to rethink opportunities to create good jobs, save money to heat homes, and push to improve telecommunications infrastructure in the state as a rural economy. Not to have that access is a major barrier to economic development in a rural state. Our roads, bridges, rail, and transportation is also limited. These are some of the issues I want to tackle and I look for change in a new president that will tackle national priorities. Vermont has led in healthcare but we need a partner in Washington.
  - Vanbacker – UVM ranks 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 for higher education funding and the Vermont legislature appropriates \$88 million but states with smaller populations are appropriated \$289 million, what would you do to change that?

- Symington – We’ve put more into higher education and it has been a struggle. But we look at UVM, VSAC, and the state colleges as a package. We were on track during better economic times to move forward but we haven’t been able to give that 6-8% annual increase. We’ve put more into it than the Governor has. I would like to have a bridge of opportunity for Vermont students that don’t have the guidance or a path to go to college by having pilot schools to lead the way by having harder curriculum and the ability to earn college credit and earn tuition and fees. The higher education conservation trust fund takes state dollars to leverage private dollars so we could invest \$1 state dollar and make it worth \$3 toward higher education.
- Cafarelli – what makes you the better of the 3 candidates?
- Symington – I am the right mix of ideas and priorities, as opposed to Douglas. Right now we’re stuck in neutral. He comes to the legislature with economic development stimulus focused on tax credits, gimmicks, and compromising Act 250. I need to know the payoff of an investment. We’re better of focusing on work force development and knowing what our energy future is. Relative to Polina, I don’t question his values and I respect what he is doing but it is important to come with a track record of change. I’ve already done that as well as appoint people from different parties too so we have a leadership team that represents everyone.
- Michel – politicians have this ill conceived notion of what their constituents want, so what is your best judgment on our issue and what’s your stance?
- Symington – I’m not going to assume, I’m going to ask. I have some sense of what they want because of talking to my own son. He interned with NRG to do marketing research and he wants to see a job that is going somewhere. We’re making big decisions in the next few years, particularly with Vermont Yankee power plant creating hazardous waste that we’ll be responsible for cleaning up.
- Trudell – what are your specific goals for energy?
- Symington – to use base power and renewable resources in our state. We could get 25% of wind power and the trade-off is worth it.
- Trudell – what about solar power?
- Symington – I answered the last question in terms of electric, not heating. We could use bio mass and invest in research. It could be solar or insulation so we could pay for it over time to remove the biggest barrier. Put new ideas and creativity on the table, it doesn’t require state dollars. We don’t have the money but we need to use it so we can pay for it while the people save money.
- Dakota Ruben, Editor in Chief of the Vermont Cynic –
  - Ruben – the cynic has come up a lot for you so I wanted to come in and explain. We are a student run newspaper in a learning process and we want to learn how to cover government because it is important. Over the last few weeks we’ve heard different things about our coverage. News is anything not opinion based so it shouldn’t include the writer’s opinions.

We do have opinion pieces including the op-eds and reviews. The editorials are unsigned and in the opinion section representing what the cynic thinks on an issue.

- Cafarelli – do you think the past few releases have made SGA appealing?
- Ruben – I think any news is good news and you should want to get your word out, especially being on the front page and it is appealing because it makes people want to get involved.
- Cafarelli – what about words getting twisted or dropped?
- Ruben – as far as news stories go, I vouch that they're accurate and I've heard people say names shouldn't be brought up but if someone goes on the record saying something, it's our job to get their opinion.
- CortHELL – as editor, is it your job to put forth good quality articles or flashy articles?
- Ruben – good quality.
- Vanbacker – what's the difference between words being put together and getting a point across because senators have said they've been misconstrued?
- Ruben – if it is in quotes, that's what was said. Maybe it was taken out of context because we cannot include entire interviews.
- Vanbacker – do you include the context of the quotes?
- Ruben – the goal of news stories is that with every news story, you know where it came from and our goal is to have every paragraph attributed to a source. Quotes are the story, as are documents.
- Abda – I think it's important that you're here to make us more transparent, but I want to specifically ask about the staff editorial, I felt the things this body has accomplished were over looked. We've answered a lot of student's concerns so I would recommend that you cover positive things because we are trying to do good and maybe you could learn by covering good news?
- Ruben – it's only bad news because that is all we ever hear about. When you do something good, tell us about it. There's a story this week on the course evaluations and I'm coming here as a member of the student body as a club leader because I care about what is going on. We're always open to hearing things so tell us.
- Michel – can you clarify between off and on the records?
- Ruben – as far as on and off the record, when I'm talking to SGA people it is always off the record, but with our reporters, I preach to keep conversations on the record always. Off the record isn't just about there being no quotes, it's almost like it didn't happen. I personally stress for no off the record conversations.
- Mensah – do you have any personal qualms? What would you like to see us do? And please, don't feel like you have to sugar coat it.
- Ruben – the biggest thing isn't in this room, it's the apathy in our student body and because so few students care, there is not enough involvement.
- Dru Ellis – what if we brought you good news?

- Ruben – we have a strict policy about not publishing articles about what you're involved with so instead you could share information with one of our reporters so it would be a public forum because as a newspaper we like to stay unbiased. I won't promise anything gets published because we are a student club and we get a lot of stories and ideas.
- Robertson – do you get copies of the bills and resolutions we pass?
- Ruben – no but I see them over the list serve before they're passed.
- Wong – I was curious as to the efforts the cynic is going through to get both sides of the story?
- Ruben – it's something we've focused on. We've covered both sides and given people the opportunity to respond if something is said about them and they may refuse to respond but we do make the effort.

#### EMERGENCY BUSINESS

- RULES SUSPENDED
- Kennedy – senators have the opportunity to send their preferences for committees and I made the decision to remove one person from action and activities, so Senator Tofferi will be moving to CODEEEE, and Senator Dru Ellis will be moving to PR, but she is sick and will be leaving so I wanted to announce it so she can go.
  - Dru Ellis – I needed to switch because a lot of skills were being unused.
- RULES REINSTATED
- Issadore – Bill Allocating Funds to UVM TV
  - Issadore – we recommend allocating \$6,000 for a 4 channel broadcast server and I asked them to come in and explain since it's a lot of money. We've known about this need since they haven't been able to fully operate as a club for a while.
  - Greg, President of UVM TV – we would be able to broadcast 4 channels and currently have enough money for 1 but would like to broadcast 24/7 over 4 channels. It's expensive equipment but it would last and it's a good capital investment.
  - Mensah – when would this start if we allocated the funds?
  - Greg – a sales representative from Massachusetts would be coming up next week.
  - Mensah – what programs would you run on the channels?
  - Greg – the first channel would be for movies as we have a contract with Swift Motion Pictures to play Hollywood movies with a certain fee. The other channels would include our own programming, another for other coverage including sports, and another would be a student channel for student produced content and films.
  - Cafarelli – will the allocation affect your desire to relocate?
  - Greg – it would actually help us in our long term goal to get in the Davis Center as we want to set up a potential broadcast center downstairs.
  - Abda – anyway to get UVM TV off campus?
  - Greg – only by subscribing to our podcast on itunes as we only have a contract for on campus, but we want to get a channel with Burlington

telecom we just have to create a portfolio. We've also met with the Burlington Free Press to get our news in the paper.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Krodel – Club of the Fortnight

## OLD BUSINESS

- Sander – Bill Recognizing the Biochemistry Society
  - This club would work to promote and further education in the field through various opportunities and professional experiences and we have members of the BCS with us tonight.
  - John, BCS – right now we have 30 students and have had 3 general meetings as well as 2 executive board meetings. We meet every 2 weeks to promote sciences on campus and provide resources.
  - Paige, BCS – we are a resource to connect upper and lower classmen in different fields to provide trips and education beyond course work. We also want to link the major with careers available after graduation so we'd bring in speakers. Field trips would include going to pharmaceutical companies. And with our connections we could bring in guest speakers.
  - Shannon, BCS – in terms of fundraising we are doing a project with the Senior Class Council and we're also volunteering at a local school science fair.
  - John, BCS – we're also selling lab apparel as a fundraiser as well as touring the hospital to see what goes on there.
  - Glynne – what is your breakdown of demographics between upper and lower classmen and will it affect the longevity of your club?
  - John, BCS – the majority is underclassmen. The executive board is all seniors and juniors but we've coupled ourselves with lowerclassmen. We also have English and other majors, so it isn't all just biochemistry.
  - Vanbacker – could I come to you for help or is it more activity based?
  - John, BCS – both. Students have to find labs to work in so there has been academic support for classes.
  - Ford Hutchinson – since chemistry and biochemistry overlap, would you be willing to work with the chemistry club because they want to put on an event on grant writing, and you could share resources.
  - John, BCS – yeah, we'd love to.
  - PASSES
- Michel – Resolution to bring Burlington Free Press (BFP) back to campus
  - Michel – IRA discontinued distributing BFP which is balanced with community, state, and national news. BFP would provide a 50% discount. IRA and Residential Life have a responsibility to dissatisfied students and work with the Honors College, COLA, Student Life, and administration to bring it back and have the readership program include this. It's not an attack on IRA and there has been a lot of time spent on this legislation. We're concerned BFP is not a part of the newspaper package we get in the residential halls and now we just get the Boston Globe, New York Times,

and USA Today. The resolution doesn't ask them to fund it, just that we want it brought back on campus. The Honors College has a PR problem and also has a huge discretionary fund so I am meeting with the dean tomorrow to move this forward.

- Mensah – I wouldn't just say COLA, I would say all of SGA.
- Michel – sure, I'd love to have everyone from all committees included if that is okay with everyone.
- Viadero Lopez – why was the BFP taken out of the package?
- Michel – the USA Today readership program is a bundle package and IRA pays a fee to get that package on campus. This program gets student rates from these newspapers. This year the BFP couldn't give the same student rate to the program but said they'd give it to us at the student rate directly.
- Just – this is a matter that has to do with IRA and it is not the place of the SGA on how they should spend their funds. SGA could say we want more newspapers but this is telling IRA what to do. It shouldn't be the voice of the SGA to tell other groups what to do. IRA is funded elsewhere, not from SGA.
- Michel – we're not calling on IRA to spend funds in any way and it would actually be easier to get funds elsewhere, it is just asking for cooperation from IRA. In the past 5 years IRA has provided the newspapers and we need their cooperation, so that's what this is calling for because students are not happy they cannot receive the BFP for free anymore. It's not trying to tell IRA what to do but about the student's unhappiness.
- Corthell – our job is to provide for clubs, not infringe their rights.
- Sander – I understand every student is a member of the SGA because they pay a comprehensive fee so it puts it within SGA jurisdiction. But I do think the language can be tricky so I would suggest striking the section calling on IRA and say on the appropriate offices.
- Michel – IRA is the organization in charge of newspapers on campus so we need IRA's help to do this.
- Issadore – I find that we're putting words into another organization's mouth and that is not good for this body to be doing so we should have this bill be directly from SGA and not calling on IRA.
- Benay – there is clearly some discrepancy, so how could we write a resolution from SGA without mentioning IRA or bringing anyone else into it.
- Mensah – it is not a responsibility of IRA to provide the newspapers, it is just something we took on.
- Krodel – motion to table resolution to next week.
- TABLED.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Treasurer Porter
  - n/a
- Speaker Frank
  - Constitutional amendments are happening next week, so look over them.

- Anyone that passed legislation tonight, e-mail it to me with who you'd like it to be sent to.
- All committees please e-mail reports.
- President Taylor
  - n/a
- Vice President Kennedy
  - Thanks for your patience with committee shuffling.
  - I've starting diving into campus wide appointments as well as senatorial appointments which will happen next week for the 2 open spots we have on Student Activities. I'll forward applications to your chairs and solicit responses. They'll come to exec for an interview and then come to senate to be approved, no ranking them this time.
  - My number 1 priority right now is working groups for the strategic plan meeting with high level faculty and administration. I need 2 people because meetings start this week.
  - I'm excited about keeping the connection between SGA and non-SGA representatives to stay in touch and disperse information to people that will want to talk about it.
  - I also need people for the technology innovation fund.
  - Just – are the appointments for on or off campus?
  - One on and one off.
  - Jones – when will there be applications for chair of CODEEEE?
  - I will have them out tonight.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- n/a

## SENATORIAL FORUM

- Wong – I would like to see senators apply for the Next Step Social Justice Retreat, it's my 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the planning committee.
- Krodel – I will be sending my report out but I think a conversation needs to happen between SGA and IRA.
- Goodman – did we decide on saying nay after people speak?
- Frank – in my rules you can say it at any time.
- Benay – Thursday we have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meet your neighbor day and we need more student representatives. It is from 11-12 and there will be a light lunch on Colchester Ave. then a parade through the Davis Center from 12-1. And there will be t-shirts.
- Michel – party smart is almost done but it is bare and text heavy so I'm asking for pictures. Also I appreciate those who spoke on my behalf last week but no one spoke up for Kofi when something positive can always be said. So in the future let's make an effort to support each other so no senator has to stand alone.
- S.Taylor – the Res Life gender blind living is open ended and is just making a recommendation, so there is no need for us to hammer out all the details. Some of the questions asked were irrelevant and not an effective use of our time.

- Barnett – we met with Clearance Davis and when we go to the State House we'll discuss what they plan to do for students and we want to set a path to talk about that, but won't be looking at it until after elections.
- Shackett – Jimmy asked for people's landlords and everyone said not to use theirs so I guess there are no good ones, but we still do have 2 off campus living workshops and we need 4 off campus people to be on our panel.
- Jones – Dakota said he doesn't ever see the good things we're doing, so shouldn't PR be getting that good stuff out to the public? And in terms of voter transparency, we should track how people in this body have voted in the past.
- Krodel – I have nothing against doing that, but I need people to send it to me.
- Jones – you're here in the meeting, you know what is going on.
- Cafarelli – buy a wrestling t-shirt, the finance committee didn't give us enough money.
- Glynne – Senator Camden contacted the BFP and I will read the e-mail he sent me saying that IRA chose to discontinue it.
- Just – I have an e-mail from the program saying that the BFP raised their prices and the program requested numerous times for them to give the student rate but they wouldn't give that to the readership program.
- Michel – I only care that the BFP comes back to campus, we don't need any of this.
- Glynne – a member of SGA on my committee did some investigation and research and he's also an RA so there is a conflict of interest but he was silenced through black mail. He was told that if he brought a resolution to life that he'd be fired.
- Vanbacker – last year we had a discussion on letters of support as a part of our constitution because I think at times though would be more effective.
- Sander – Vasilis and I met with UVM athletics hoping to gain access for club sports but the athletic department is at capacity but with our size and activity we should have way more than we do. They've asked for senator's support to increase storage space and to light and add fields.
- Mensah – an anti-racism summit is happening in Vermont with 4 workshops for everyone, the website has more information and it's free.
- Varsakopolous – there is no reason to be so worked up Senator Just. You've acted unprofessional in this meeting and if someone wants to bring something to the table, it is worth being discussed. Also, Kofi can you be more assertive in your opinions and not have introductions to your statements.
- Tofferi – I know the IRA thing is misunderstood and I'm also and RA and RA Camden approached the staff about IRA and I think it's important to have all the information correct.
- Krodel – I didn't mean to sound rude but e-mail me the background on stories and initiatives.
- Robertson – I'm on the Campus Master Planning Advisory Committee and they will be making turf fields and doubling the capacity of Patrick gym. If you want to work with me on a resolution that'd be great.
- Abda – I had a lot of ticks me off about IRA and I hope I can meet with people involved in that after the meeting to give students the right answers.

#### SENATORIAL COMMENTS

- Frank – please cleanup. Also, next Tuesday I am having a Halloween party at my house after Senate and I encourage you to dress up.
- Sander – congratulate senators Garcia and Just on being initiated into Delta Tau Delta.
- Glynne – Matt Castle had an excellent performance with the Pats.
- Jones – Friday at noon, students against war is going to Waterman to protest divesting in war profiteering.
- Robertson – congrats to Delta Tau Delta for being on campus.

#### ROLL CALL

- Finance: Mallea excused
- Student Activities: Burnes excused
- COLA: Camden excused
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: Wilkinson Ray excused
- Public Relations: Dru Ellis, Paquette, Corthell, Goodman excused
- Academic Affairs: all present

Adjourned at: 9:42pm