

**Meeting Minutes:  
Meeting of the 2008-2009 Student Government Association Senate  
Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Called to Order at: 7:06pm

**ROLL CALL**

- Finance: Chair Issadore excused
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: all present
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: Senator Valenta excused
- Public Relations: Senator Dru-Ellis excused
- Academic Affairs: Senator Robertson excused

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- Minutes PASS.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

- Gary Derr
  - Gary – this is my first time coming to an SGA meeting and I’ve been here for 8 years. I’ve had previous jobs at other institutions and I was an advisor to an SGA before. But here at UVM I am the one that sends you all the e-mails and I work in the President’s office as the Chief of Staff to the President and Provost. I staff and manage their office, manage support staff, budgets, scheduling, and meet with other groups on campus to represent them, including the SGA, Faculty Senate, Graduate Student Senate, etc. I need to know who does what on campus and across the state so I can do my job better.
  - Whitmore – what are some issues in the President’s office that the university faces? What are your concerns or what are you working on?
  - Gary – clearly the financial challenges and how we’ll address those as well as working with groups and budget managers. Most other institutions are going through the same thing because they have a greater dependency on their endowments. Also dealing with the growth we’re seeing while still offering the best academics.
  - Ford-Hutchinson – what effects will the economic crisis have?
  - Gary – we’re trying to minimize the possible effects by increasing revenue and reducing expenditures so hopefully there will be no impact, but you’ll be hearing more about it.
  - Viadero-Lopez – what plan does President Fogel have for the dorm situation?
  - Gary – we’ve had an increased amount of triples as we have seen larger enrollment. It’s not a short term reality to build new dorms but maybe look

to other partnerships and options to add more housing, but borrowing money right now would be difficult given the unattractive interest rates.

- Ford-Hutchinson – can you shed light on the student involvement with building projects on campus?
- Gary – we started a new process last year called the Strategic Master Plan to identify our long range plans and priorities. This building was a request from students because Billings wasn't sufficient. We've also had requests from students for more housing and we're working on that. The parking garage was built because students wanted more parking spaces. There's not a lot of student engagement in the process directly but they ideas come from students. The new Jeffords building is happening because there was a need for better life sciences facilities.
- Ford-Hutchinson – could students be more directly involved in the process?
- Gary – I'd have to get back to you on that.
- Goodman – could you get rid of the rule that you have to live on campus for 2 years to alleviate some of the housing issues?
- Gary – we are looking at policy issues too.
- Wilkinson-Ray – are you expecting a smaller class for 2013? Would there be less forced triples?
- Gary – from enrollment management we expect a 300 student increase which includes opportunities for transfer and graduate students. But there probably will not be less of a chance for forced triples.
- Wong – can you talk about the dean searches and how it'll affect student turnover and efforts to make UVM a more diverse faculty?
- Gary – there are 3 searches happening right now for CALS, Rubenstein, and the School of Business. They're all at the same levels and have students, graduates, alumni, and faculty that serve on the committee. They're at the phase of reviewing applications and then will be conducting interviews and then will narrow it down to a few and bring them to campus. We are definitely looking at keeping the pool as diverse as possible in terms of gender and ethnicities but my hope for students is that it'll expand their experiences.
- Sal Shirell, Director of Physical Plant/ Facilities Operations
  - Sal – I work with over 200 people that work on physical plant and we do everything from maintenance projects, snow plowing, lights, etc. In terms of utilities we have heat plans outside the library and Royal Tyler Theatre and have 5 boilers that provide steam. We have central steam water that provides air conditioning and chilled water. We try to keep buildings clean, maintained, and well lit. We have a diverse crew of trades and talents including electricians, locksmiths, etc. we have new buildings and some that are hundreds of years old which pose a lot of challenges with technology because there are different needs but they're all to make life better and easier for students. I have a son here that is a junior and another that graduated last year. We get over 50,000 requests per year from people

on campus. Contact me with questions and concerns, we're an open department.

- Cafarelli – how do the heaters work in the dorm rooms?
- Sal – if there's a problem, Res Life will try to fix it through a request program they have but if they cannot handle it they'd place an order to us. We spend \$16 million a year on energy utilities and we've done a lot with energy conservation and hold expenses even with new buildings.
- Jones – are buildings temperatures controlled through a central system?
- Sal – every building is different. We have 70,000 control points on campus and 50% are manual. Theoretically the temperature should be at 68 degrees in the winter and 57 degrees in the summer and we could save money by enforcing that. But we'll be working on thermal energy this winter and analyzing that.
- Whitmore – given the current financial situation, is your department being effected in terms of your budget?
- Sal – we've had no budget cuts at this time but in my 9 years here I have had a lot of budget cuts but we've been innovative and although it has been a challenge, I don't see any direct cuts yet.
- Chris Shackett
  - Shackett – there's a new rental database service for students to live off campus on the UVM website. UVM partnered with Off Campus Partners, a new business, and it's being offered at a lot of other universities. It includes complete property information including maps, directions, images, text, links, and e-mail. It also includes a message board to find roommates and furnishing. The service has proven results and UVM is the sole controller of it. The website is up so create an account. It costs you nothing but costs landlords to put stuff up. The only problem is that some landlords don't want to buy into it.
  - Rifken – is there a way to see names or talk to previous tenants?
  - Shackett – not sure but that could maybe happen through the message board, but there is no blog feature.
  - Cafarelli – does it include a list of preferred tenants?
  - Shackett – the website is run by the Office of Student and Community Relations so I can tell them.

#### EMERGENCY BUSINESS

- None

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Sander – Bill Recognizing the Gluten Free Club
- Paquette – Club of the Fortnight: Free to Be
- Abda – Resolution Supporting the New Meal Plan Structure

#### OLD BUSINESS

- None

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Treasurer Porter
  - n/a
- Speaker Frank
  - Frank – thanks for being patient during a long public forum. The constitution committee met and dealt with the next article and will be meeting again to bring forth amendments.
- Vice President Kennedy
  - Kennedy –
    - I hope you received 2 forms for me, one about your personal interests and involvement and another one the website that my sister is currently revamping.
    - I had a productive meeting with the ARC yesterday and talked about the current situation on campus, clarified rules, how we can make it better, what the campus process will be, and I'll have more as we iron out the details. Think of future ideas of how we can work with the ARC on campus, for example having a blood bus so it is off campus or a queer proxy drive so people can go with someone that cannot donate.
    - I met with Keith Williams about the preferred pronouns change and that has a lot of issues so I'll have no details until it's guaranteed because your name appears a lot more on campus than we thought.
    - I'm planning a January retreat and a holiday pot luck so let me know if you want to help with either of those.
- President Taylor
  - Taylor –
    - The technology innovation fund is closed and I don't have all the results yet but wireless was key, and hopefully the VPN we all use will disappear because you'll be remembered by the system.
    - I had a meeting with Res Life to discuss the conflict of interest issue and how to avoid future issues.
    - I'll be requesting funds from Finance for the Naked Bike Ride because there will be between 100-150 volunteers that will have to go through a brief training and as an incentive you'll get a t-shirt and dinner.
    - Election day went well, thanks for Lynette for coordinating the shuttle buses to the polls. The aftermath of it all is that we'd like to get a winning candidate in here and eventually get polling stations at UVM as well as early voting.
    - As Gary Derr mention, myself, Emma, and Ben meet with him and President Fogel, Provost Hughes, Tom Gustavson the VP of Student and Campus Life, and Chris Lucier the VP of Admissions and Enrollment, to talk about some things that come up from students. Some things that came up in our meeting included student employees addressing concerns with their employers.

Faculty and staff can place grievances but students should be handled differently. So there should be some 3<sup>rd</sup> party resource to voice concerns.

- With the textbook situation, some teachers request their own books and they submit their requisitions late so they cannot be bought back and only purchased new. We'll be cracking down on that and an e-mail was sent out to faculty to reduce the costs of textbooks and this is something Provost Hughes did without any request from students.
- IRA and SGA met to discuss having more open communication and IRA has since sent out a retraction to their statement.
- Myself, Ben, Emma, and the President of the Graduate Student Senate interviewed one candidate for the Director of Student Financial Services.
- Once a month President Fogel and his cabinet meet with the SGA, Graduate Student Senate and others as a part of the Presidential Campus Leadership Forum. He wants to start a Student Leadership Forum along the same lines. It would include the SGA, IRA, Panhel, IFC, Class Councils, etc.
- It's not too late to apply for the BOT liaison position.
- Thanks for coming to the hockey game. We got free t-shirts but lost miserably. I have tickets for Friday's game which sold out particularly early, so for weekends with 2 games I can only get tickets for one of them.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance, Chair: Senator Issadore
  - Issadore – no hearings this week, except gas reports.
- Student Activities, Chair: Senator Sander
  - Sander –
    - I'm excited to be the chair of the new Lynx action team.
    - The student activities feedback survey is intended for clubs to give our committee feedback so take it and urge others to take it and we'll share the results when done.
    - The student organizations planning group is being set up to talk with the DC to see how they can better work with groups and how we can help.
    - The UVM Sailing Team was suspended by Pat Brown due to an incident on October 31<sup>st</sup> and involved hazing. CSES is investigating the situation but there isn't much we can do now.
- COLA, Chair: Senator Shackett
  - Shackett –
    - Thanks Lynette!
    - We had our off-campus living workshops last week.

- I serve on the Burlington Police Department Reassessment Advisory Board to represent students and focus on looking at the interactions between students and police officers.
    - City council last night was mad at the inefficiency of the local races and will be creating legislation to fix that.
    - Burlington schools are thinking of revamping and will be on the ballot on Town Meeting Day.
  - Glynne – UVM and the Town of Burlington are rezoning the campus and want to extend the heights of buildings on main campus to 10 stories as well as create apartment style housing by Mann Hall, and increase sidewalk space for pedestrians. I have the proposed rezoning map.
- CODEEE, Chair: Senator Jones
  - Jones –
    - Kae and I are introducing a resolution next week on plastic bags.
    - Jenna sits on the Presidential Sub Committee on Gender Violence and they're drafting a victim's Bill of Rights.
    - We're starting the SGA audit and it'd be most efficient to create an ad hoc committee so each committee has 1 representative so it isn't coming from just CODEEE. So think about who that person will be for next week.
- Student Action, Chair: Senator Abda
  - Abda – I'll e-mail my report but thanks for all your meal plan questions, we've worked hard on it and it's something important that needs to be taken care of.
- Public Relations, Chair: Senator Krodel
  - Krodel –
    - I'll e-mail my report.
    - I met with Emma about a new direction for VSOP and am thinking of doing no numeric data and having it be solely opinion to generate actual student opinion so it's being pushed back.
    - I'll be contributing to Jay's campus wide e-mail with SGA stuff.
    - Last call for fleeces.
  - Barnett – I think with only open ended questions, people are less likely to respond.
  - Krodel – half of the people that took the poll last made comments.
- Academic Affairs, Chair: Senator Taylor
  - S.Taylor – I'll e-mail my report.

## SENATORIAL FORUM

- Glynne – I think people in Jeanne Manse have it worse than Trinity. I am all for local food and businesses but it is getting more expensive every year. If we keep investing in these extra things, even though they are positive, it'll keep increasing tuition and I don't know that I am for that.
- Benay – an e-mail was sent out for elections with a map of wards.
- Shackett – you have to be familiar with your ward but there is a legend.
- Barnett – I have a list of all addresses and their wards.

- Mensah – can someone explain cage free eggs and why we should spend more money for them?
- Wilkinson-Ray – it's an ethical conversation that I can have with you.
- Abda – that concern was brought up by students who made their voices heard. I know there are some students who are more for low price but they aren't the ones we're hearing from. We're hearing from the ones that want local and ethical food products so we've incorporated their needs into the new meal plan. A 2% increase isn't very much per semester because it is going to increase by 6% regardless due to inflation. So students either have to front the \$28 each semester or we'll have to reduce things, so this was the most gradual increase we could come up with.
- Barnett – thanks for helping with Election Day.
- Wilkinson-Ray – I'm not trying to make all food on campus local but it just gives students the option.

#### SENATORIAL COMMENTS

- Frank – all of the people that hold executive positions in the Law and Politics Club are graduating so we're looking for younger people. I was thinking of having a thanksgiving party. Let me know.
- Benay – on Thursday there is a movement called Write Love on Your Arms and it's a 2<sup>nd</sup> annual campaign to help people with addiction, suicide, depression, etc. so please spread the word and show your support, it raises money to help people get help.
- Varsakopoulos – Poker Tournament on Saturday night to benefit the Investment Club to go on a trip to NY. It's for 100 people, with a \$20 buy in and a \$400 1<sup>st</sup> prize.
- Mallea – I consider Senate my family and if someone is going through a hard time, I want to be there to support them. Senator Dru-Ellis is going through a rough family time so I have a card for her if you want to sign it.
- Sander – I visited DaVaughn and he misses you all.
- Mensah – it's Native American Heritage Month and there's a list of things that'll be happening for that. There's an event tomorrow and Thursday so check it out.
- Glynne – today is Veteran's Day, give a round of applause and thank your soldiers. I want to congratulate you Obama supporters on your victory, we definitely needed change. But McCain did have a great concession speech.
- Camden – flu shots are available in the Davis Center tomorrow and next Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Just – Kate Ash sends her love to you all.
- Wong – registration starts next week, so tell any of your friends in ACCESS to meet with an advisor to get priority registration.
- Jones – regardless of what you think, I would encourage you to get involved and as a student you should do your part.
- Viadero-Lopez – I want to denounce the way I was treated on Election Day. My beliefs shouldn't be criticized, nor should minorities be ignored.
- Krodel – a member of this body is a veteran so you should thank him.
- Whitmore – I got a very brief e-mail about a student dying, is there any more information beyond a 2 line e-mail?

- Kennedy – I will be unavailable tomorrow if you're trying to get in touch with me.
- Taylor – I will be in my office tomorrow. The reason you haven't heard more is out of respect for the family. There was also a Marche employee that died that Thursday as well.
- Just – there will be a memorial service next week.
- Mensah – I think this new website Juicy Campus is extremely bias and degrading. There was something said about me on there and I am all for constructive criticism, but tell me to my face. I would be behind any efforts to get rid of it.
- Kennedy – Gary Derr and I talked about removing it and he said if it gets to the point of threats of violence then they could ban it.
- Mallea – I am on the Panhel executive board and we've talked extensively about it. Some chapters have taken action and there have been deaths on other campuses because of it.
- Viadero-Lopez – I think that is sufficient enough evidence to get rid of it, so why don't we just make a resolution.
- Whitmore – I've never been on it but I think people should discredit it entirely. As a governing body to ban it would be an infringement on freedom of speech.
- Ford-Hutchinson – sites like this feed off of people talking about it, so even this is exactly what they want.

#### ROLL CALL

- Finance: all present
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: all present
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: Senator Valenta excused
- Public Relations: Senator Dru-Ellis excused
- Academic Affairs: all present

Adjourned at: 9:28pm