

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

Called to Order at 7:06pm

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Senator Varsakopoulos excused
- Student Activities: Senator Cafarelli excused
- COLA: Senator Barnett and Van Backer excused
- CODEEE: Senator Crowley excused
- Student Action: Senators Walsh, Valenta, and Viadero-Lopez excused
- Public Relations: Chair Krodel excused
- Academic Affairs: Senator Myers excused

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes PASS.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Julia Michel – Party Smart
 - Michel – I just wanted to give you all a first look at the Party Smart website. On the opening page is a message from COLA and the SGA. On the side there are links to a number of pages including Alcohol: The Basics which has definitions and other cool links, including BAC, drinking and driving, drinks and calories, and risks. There is also a checklist for a successful party, for both party goers and throwers. Other pages include Getting Help, Timeline of a Smart Party, Be the Perfect Party Guest, Pre the Pre-game, Alternatives, Building a Burlington Community, The Law: UVM and Off-Campus Ordinances, and lastly a blog.
 - Mensah – what are you doing to get students aware of the website?
 - Michel – it isn't up yet. But for promotion I was thinking of t-shirts and hope that you'll all talk about it to get the word out there.
 - Jones – with administrators and other resources, have you gotten any feedback from them?
 - Michel – it's always been something they've wanted to say but couldn't legally, so we as a student organization can say it. But we're having meetings all next week with lawyers and what not to figure all that out.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

- Paquette – Bill Recognizing UVM Rescue as Club of the Fortnight
 - Paquette – for its dedication to the betterment of the University and its exemplary service, given the amount of tragedy this semester and their ability to handle it professionally, the SGA recognizes UVM Rescue as Club of the Fortnight.
 - PASSES.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sanders – Bill Recognizing Fly Fishing

OLD BUSINESS

- S. Taylor – Resolution on Priority Registration
 - S. Taylor – A significant percentage of students have priority registration in which they can register for courses before the rest of the student body. Thus, seniors cannot get the classes they are required to take for graduation, and the university has already passed a Finish in Four Act. The university should redefine the priority registration and evaluate the necessity and appropriateness of current programs that have it and instead seek alternative methods to assist those with registration needs.
 - Robertson – they could still register a day early, so for example first years would register with sophomores, but not before the entire student body.
 - Issadore – as an Advo Cat we need to set our schedule around giving tours and only getting one extra day wouldn't allow them to do that and that would hurt the school as well as the student who could no longer participate in the organization.
 - Viadero-Lopez – people should be done with their core requirements by the end of sophomore year anyways.
 - Jones – a lot of the concern regarding courses for majors and minors are more for distribution requirements? And do you have a list of those that get priority registration?
 - Robertson – Keith Williams is still trying to get that to me, but the list includes ACCESS, Honors College, Athletics, Advo Cats, and Vermont Scholars. And it is for both distribution and for major and minor courses.
 - S. Taylor – the way many majors work, being able to register before your class standing is still an advantage, but registering before everyone makes it hard for seniors.
 - Wong – for students involved with ACCESS and TRIO it wouldn't help just by giving them another day so I don't think it's fitting to just give an extra day.
 - Whitmore – keep in mind that you're here to represent the students of UVM and only 1 in 5 students get priority registration, so put your own personal circumstances aside and try to accommodate for the most students. I understand scheduling conflicts but people do a lot of things that interfere with classes, like jobs to pay for college, but they don't get priority registration. So who is to say that your schedule or activity is more important than anyone else?
 - Benay – I think the idea is really important but I don't support this resolution as is because I think some of the organizations need it, maybe not all do, but just pushing it a day ahead is not solving the problem.
 - Weiland – I'm not in the Honors College but it is important that we do it for them because they make our school better and more enticing. So having priority registration for that may make our school more attractive. The same thing goes for Advo Cats.

- Mensah – I'm trying to keep impartial because I get priority registration but there seems to be the issue of first years taking spots from seniors. Besides gym courses I don't see the issue because as a senior you'll probably be taking upper level courses that a first year cannot even take. Are you trying to blanket all groups to say they all register a day ahead or will come still register first?
- S. Taylor – there are distribution requirements that seniors wait to take or couldn't get into so it does occur in situations like that. You're all focusing on the one day aspect but we are also hoping to faze some groups out.
- Mensah – do you think there's a need to alleviate the problems caused to seniors?
- S. Taylor – that's definitely an issue and other clubs have come to me to try and get them to have priority registration but we want to take it the opposite direction. Ideally, once everything is resolved, priority registration should be to attract high quality students while still meeting their needs.
- Michel – this comes from a really good place and I wonder if it makes sense to go a step further and see why those students get priority registration, if it's for attractiveness to the group or scheduling. The Dean of the Honors College said they get priority registration because many of the students double major and minor on top of Honors College requirements. What if you did an audit to see why some were receiving it?
- Wilkinson-Ray – Freshman shouldn't be competing with seniors so they should be okay registering a day ahead of their peers who are trying to register for the same classes. What about those who aren't in the Honors College but have a double major or minor?
- Viadero-Lopez – what made you bring up this resolution?
- Whitmore – core requirements are lower level courses you do your first two years but distribution requirements are filled between your first and senior years.
- Sanders – this semester I couldn't take a seminar I needed for my major that was already filled because of priority registration.
- Shackett – physical education isn't a requirement anymore so we don't need to waste our time on that.
- Corthell – someone's going to get screwed either way. We cannot evaluate who is more important and we should think about the bigger majority and remember you'll still have the advantage of an extra day.
- Wong – some students stay here and struggle and priority registration is what keeps them here. So yeah it is great that we are representing a majority but what about those students?
- Candon – I get it as an Advo Cat and I don't think I need it because if I don't get the class I want I can get it next time.
- Rifken – I'm in the Honors College and I get it and I don't think I need to have it, so I agree it needs to be examined a little more and even with an extra day I could still register before other people.

- Ford-Hutchinson – you can make the case that many groups should get priority registration for different reasons.
- Just – isn't it technically a conflict of interest for anyone who gets priority registration to vote on this?
- Kennedy – technically it is a conflict of interest for all students because if you have it you want to keep it and if you don't have it then you want to get rid of it.
- Robertson – I've been working a lot with Keith Williams and he's been dealing with the issue for a while and the number continues to grow every year.
- S. Taylor – the next step would be to take this to the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate.
- Robertson – we're just recommending the one day thing so you don't get to register before the whole student body but we aren't targeting specific groups that get it. The amount is just so big that we need to fix it. The new structure of class times should also alleviate some scheduling problems with priority registration.
- Issadore – I don't think what you're trying to accomplish will be done through this bill and the issue needs to be examined further, but I don't think it can be a blanket statement for all organizations that get it. I know you've done a lot of work so far but you could look at it more.
- Jones – I just wanted to highlight that I agree the issue needs to be addressed but the bill I disagree with because it eliminates priority registration because some can register earlier due to credits anyways.
- Whitmore – keep in mind this is a step we can take and the best thing we could come up with and you still get to register before 25% of the student body. It's a very elitist policy that come get privileges and it isn't consistent with our commitment to social equality and justice because it puts some ahead of others. What about those struggling to pay for school and have to work extra, what do we do for that group of people?
- S. Taylor – I hope to be able to go forward with this and go to the administration and we'd be willing to strike the paragraphs saying we do the one day ahead thing but perhaps recommend it be further looked at.
- Just – motion for voter transparency. PASSES.
- PASSES.
- Viadero-Lopez – Bicycle Audit Tabled

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Treasurer Porter
 - n/a
- Speaker Frank
 - Frank – Jackie will be leaving us next semester so let me know if you know of anyone interested in taking minutes. The constitution committee will not be meeting again until next semester. There is a Mayors debate on February 17th so that meeting will be cancelled.

- Jones – how did the conflict of interest thing end of working out on the last resolution?
- Frank – a lot of what we vote on has conflicts of interest because we're all so involved. The constitution says you cannot vote if you're involved in the organization but priority registration isn't an organization so I decided you all could vote.
- President Taylor
 - Taylor – the Board of Trustees met on Friday and the state pulled back another \$3 Million and possibly another \$2 million in January and possibly another \$5 million pulled from appropriations for next year. We have new t-shirts for the UNH game. Here is an example I wanted to show you of what a formalized resolution looks like for those of you who haven't seen one. Please join the lynx if you haven't yet by going to uvm.edu/clubs and if you're new you have to sign up. There is an SGA Senate page and committee pages and an exec page. Click on the organization you want and then click join. There are forms uploaded there including the mid-year reflection/review to evaluate our exec performance and how you felt about your role. Please fill that out by the Sunday night after finals. For the exec committee, there is another form for you, the questions are less general and there aren't questions about your committee chair. Please log on and do it, it is mostly text box, but I'd appreciate it. Emma and I have been working with the IRA exec board to expand the readership program beyond the residential halls and it asks what you think about that and we'd like your feedback. I know everyone is busy but the Naked Bike Ride is on Thursday but please be safe. I will know more about the budget as it continues and will keep you posted.
 - Just – is the lynx survey online anonymous?
 - Taylor – it'll tell me who has submitted them but it won't show who said what so in that sense it is anonymous.
 - Just – do we get t-shirts?
 - Taylor – if you go to the game all students get a t-shirt. I have tickets for SGA but can only hold tickets for one game per weekend. And the budget figures are in addition to the \$22 million shortfall President Fogel has already announced.
 - Jones – have you come across any dialogue about not having a reading day this year?
 - Taylor – thanksgiving break used to only be 3 days long and SGA was a part of changing that to having the whole week off by eliminating a reading day.
- Vice President Kennedy
 - Kennedy – thanks for indulging me in this change of seating exercise because you've all gotten comfortable in your spots. I'm banning laptops from meeting because I don't think you're using them for SGA related purposes. If you're reading a resolution it's on the screen and we have a computer in here. Farewell to Lauren Abda and Julia Michel, I'll be sending out appointment applications as well as an application for the

Chair of Student Action to the Senate at large. If you want to switch committees before we do appointments, please let me know.

- Issadore – the finance chair was allowed to have a laptop because it's SGA business and I have a job and that hinders my ability to do it because the finance chair has to keep record on their laptop.
- Kennedy – you're paid to be the chair of a committee but you need to be fully present at senate meetings as a senator.
- Issadore – no other committee chair is required to have 4 hours of budget hearings every week on top of senate meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance, Chair: Senator Issadore
 - Issadore – Cycling Club will be going to nationals so we funded them \$710. We'll be meeting with Ben soon to gear up for budget season. I attended the Budget, Finance, and Investment meeting over the Board of Trustees weekend and President Fogel gave a big speech about why we shouldn't be cutting funding for anything, and they talked about their investment situation.
- Student Activities, Chair: Senator Sander
 - Sander – The ALANA breakfast is this Friday. We met with the Chi Alpha club and the Scuba Diving club to start the recognition process. We're looking at clubs for derecognition that are inactive. We're continuing to struggle to get people to use the lynx, we not have over 2,000 users but are working on developing the lynx usability.
 - Ellis – can you touch upon what the Cynic talked about today on the Sailing Team?
 - Sander – right now it's down at City hall, we cannot do anything until we get the official results of that, then my committee will being an investigation and CSES will also conduct an investigation that will focus more on the individuals. We suspended their activities to prevent further incidents and derecognition until we further investigate.
- COLA, Chair: Senator Shackett
 - Shackett – thanks Julia for all your hard work on senate. We saw Party Smart tonight and there will be one more round of updates then next semester I will learn how to update it myself, and then we need to introduce it to the community so I'll bring to the city council and community coalition to show them the website. The tenants fair went awesome, thanks Jimmy. The off-campus living workshop happened, thanks to the senators that were panelists. The mayor debate will be fun and all student-run and the media will be present too. The holiday cookie swap at the office of student and community relations is tomorrow night, please come. I made an elections report on how the presidential election went for future COLA chairs. The community coalition met last Friday from 2-4pm and the community expressed that it doesn't like the Naked Bike Ride and weren't happy that the SGA gave money to it and thought

how much it costs was ridiculous. Lastly, I have a Burlington Police Department meeting tomorrow.

- CODEEE, Chair: Senator Jones
 - Jones – good luck Julia and Lauren. The voter transparency act will be brought up again. The last environmental forum of the semester is this Thursday at 2pm in the Chittenden Bank room. The victim's bill of rights was tabled because we want Lou-Ann to come in and talk about why the presidential committee wants the policy to be recognized. Is there any way the finance committee could bring something else to the party and we all bring our own utensils?
- Student Action, Chair: Senator Abda
 - Abda – Thursday is the naked bike ride and we held 2 training sessions for 140 volunteers who will all be meeting at 10:30 that night for coffee, tea, pizza, and they all get a t-shirt. Remember that we're trying to make the event positive and not dangerous or unsafe. I was on the dining services advisory committee and need a replacement so let me know if you know any interested. I also sit on the CALS dean search committee which just ended their external search, but started their internal search, so I also need a replacement for that, so let me know. I have to sell these Jay Peak raffle tickets so let me know if you want any. This is my last meeting and I want to reflect on my time here, SGA has caused me to light a fire on myself because I'm not confrontational and I cannot believe how much I've learned about the school since I transferred here.
- Public Relations, Chair: Senator Krodel
 - Corthell – mark your calendars, Sunday, February 1st is the pancake breakfast for IRA and SGA and Bob, Katie, and I have worked hard to get this started. Ryan will e-mail out his report. Look forward to fan fest next semester.
- Academic Affairs, Chair: Senator Taylor
 - The academic excellence lecture series is happening next semester because people are too busy now to attend. Thanks for passing our resolution.
 - Robertson – there was a lot of discussion about priority registration and this was just to get something started.

SENATORIAL FORUM

- Rifken – the DC advisory committee has a rental space downstairs and we're looking at 2 options, being UVM TV and a haircutting place.
- Wong – I support Vice President Kennedy's e-mail after last week's meeting and I was really disappointed we didn't have senatorial forum just because we wanted to get out a little earlier and it's not appropriate to use a motion to silence people.
- Glynne – silencing senatorial forum was awful. I want to respond to Emma's e-mail because I used my victimization last year to further my personal agenda although I am still against voter transparency. I want to end the discussion of what happened last year. She's right, there are other situations in which people are silenced and they are less publicized. I was elected as speaker for my sophomore

year and an ARC bill was brought forth and tabled for 6 weeks. I wanted impartial debate which was on my platform as speaker. I got on the phone and contacted news stations, papers, and she pointed out that I was rolling my eyes but that happens all the time, but it does show my impartial opinion. I was talking to the people beside me because I didn't know what to do. Also, I moved the ARC because exec wanted me to. She also accused me of manipulating the speaking order but I was going by what I saw and heard, but the meeting was loud. Next, the actual voting. We had 2 hours of debate then amendments and they voted and I asked them to raise their hands 2 times and the tally was 15-15 and constitutionally I had to place my vote. I voted it down because the resolution had a lot of amendments and it lost its point, but I didn't vote with a personal agenda. I apologize if I hurt any people in this room.

- Wilkinson-Ray – I went to coffee with Fogel today and no other senators did and there was a lot talked about and it makes me question what student outreach we do.
- Mensah – for voter transparency, could you type p our names in excel and we could invest in clickers which would speed up the process.
- Frank – we have an excel file but you all moved today which made the process longer. We've talked about clickers but they're expensive.
- Michel – since I'm going away I want to apologize because I was in the bathroom during the ARC vote after having been there for the debate.
- Just – thanks for explaining that Mike because I was in the audience last year but now I see some of your side too.
- Jones – we want to bring back the voter transparency act so please voice any of the concerns you have on that.
- Just – with any new resolutions and bills can we have more time to look them over and talk to our constituents before voting?
- Frank – I'm asking anyone sponsoring a resolution or bill to e-mail it to the list-serve because I don't need to see it until after.
- Just – can we deem that we see it 48 hours prior to voting on it?
- Frank – I'll play around with that but it used to be 24 hours.
- Issadore – I agree with voter transparency but I don't think it needs to happen on everything and instead should be passed by 7 senators.
- Mensah – I agree with Senator Issadore and last week I heard a lot of people saying their votes would be swayed a certain way if there was voter transparency but that shouldn't be the case.
- Dru Ellis – the time issue was brought up a lot so I'm suggesting that the chair record how their committee voted and submit that.
- Candon – I don't like it because it doesn't say the reason for why people voted the way they did and as is it'll pass on important bills and resolutions.
- Mensah – I like the idea of chairs keeping track but that may take longer.
- Sander – senators should have space to justify their votes, and if they're concerned about the backlash then they should consider why they're here in the first place.
- Viadero-Lopez – I believe if we put the results online people will only focus on the negative.

- Glynne – I think the problem is that it's mandated because I'd be for it if it weren't mandatory.
- Ford-Hutchinson – we have a system for this and if it's mandatory then there will be a lot of repetition.
- Jones – by just having a motion, I think students may ask why they don't get to see how we vote on everything.

SENATORIAL COMMENTS

- Frank – please give me suggestions for public forum next semester and go to the naked bike ride.
- Dru Ellis – it's free latka day tomorrow and Hanukah dinner on Thursday.
- Benay – the hit paws concert on Saturday is free and Sunday the catamount choir has a concert in Waterbury.
- Mallea – I'm on the socially responsible investments work group and we have a meeting tomorrow at 2, and there will be a presentation on divesting from Kimberly Clark and it's open to the public so please come.
- Sander – after the cookie swap go to Southwick hall for the student performance concert at 7:30 and the ALANA breakfast on Friday.
- Shackett – before the cookie swap go to the Burlington Police Department for coffee and donuts.
- Mensah – good luck with finals and have a good break. The best movie ever comes out today, the dark knight.
- Robertson – campus master planning meeting next Friday.
- Just – sex talk with Sue Johansen on January 16th so get tickets.
- Wong – enjoy your break and feel free to come to the pacific north-west.
- Glynne – happy holidays and good luck with exams.
- Dru Ellis – good luck Lauren and Julia.
- Taylor – who reads the minutes? Please look at them, they're accounts of what you're saying and I think that's important. Tom will be the interim chair of Student Action.
- Sander – thanks Jackie for her diligent service.
- Mensah – we have a technology innovation fund meeting coming up, so give us any feedback.

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Senator Varsakopoulos excused
- Student Activities: Senator Cafarelli excused
- COLA: Senator Barnett and Van Backer excused
- CODEEE: Senator Crowley excused
- Student Action: Senators Walsh and Valenta excused
- Public Relations: Chair Krodell and Senator Corthell excused
- Academic Affairs: Senators Myers and Whitmore excused

Adjourned at 9:30pm