



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2010  
SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE 2010-2011 SENATE

**Call to Order (0:02.05)**

*Start Time: 7:01pm*

**Roll Call (0:02.12)**

**Finance:** All Excused

**Student Activities:** Senator Yeager, Excused

**COLA:** All Present

**CODEEEE:** All Present

**Student Action:** Senator Doran, excused

**Public Relations:** All Present

**Academic Affairs:** All Present

**Approval of the Minutes (0:02.35)**

**From 11.2.10** - passes

**Public Forum (0:02.47)**

**Alex Nenopoulos, UVMtv President (0:03.03)**

**Alex:** Well, my name is Alex Nenopoulos, for some of you who might not know me. I'm the president of UVMtv. I came here to speak about a project that UVMtv and SGA has been working on. SGA at Brennan's, some of you probably know about that. I think I know that some of you have been a little frustrated with the process and there hasn't really been a lot of progress made and I kind of wanted to talk about it a little bit. I would just like to point out, kind of evaluate the past that, you know, last year when I took over as president of UVMtv I spoke a little bit to some of you, President Kofi and we really talked about merging the student body and SGA and I wanted to help with that process. I thought it would be a little bit easier than it has been. We did start the process and we had roughly 4-6 weeks under our belt of filming at Brennan's. The senators came in talk about some issues. The promotions and getting the word out there was kind of the big issue and also the technicalities of producing videos was another issue and that's something we continue to work on. I've learned that as my UVMtv as an organization is definitely still developing. We are still trying to train people to get people committed to projects and I didn't really recognize that, which is ok. We're still continuing to train people and work on and I would still love to work on this project, SGA at Brennan's. I've been thinking a lot about it and I definitely need to develop a group behind it and that group needs to include UVMtv and also SGA and I'm not really sure how that would work on SGA's part. I know I can propose the idea to my members and we can figure things out. Another thing is that I would like to hear what you all think, not necessarily right now all of you, but some type of survey what do you think is the best way to go about things? What are your ideas from a video standpoint how you would like to engage the student body I would like to help facilitate that and there's a few projects video-wise that we're working on and once those are more developed I would like to propose that you and see what you think. So, that's pretty much it I just wanted to give you a heads up. Right now we're definitely focused on developing a group between UVMtv and SGA to make this happen.

*Open the Floor for Questions (0:6.55)*

**Senator White:** Thanks for stopping in. I just had a couple of have you put any thought into a regular host for the show as opposed to the rotating thing you had going on? The issues that were covered kind of laid out beforehand so you're not walking into a weird 'what do you think about this?' and then having no information for you. And also the audience.

**Alex:** The host is definitely something that we're working on. I think we started out with having a host and Nick and I spoke a little bit and said do you want to have a senator speak to the audience. That kind of worked out. Obviously the audience hasn't always been large so it's hard to evaluate everything. That's what I'm talking about hearing everyone's ideas that would be a good way to go. Having the senators prepared beforehand, that's probably a smart thing to do. Nick has sent me the notes from this meeting so that was a way we prepped. We were feeding off the meetings from the night before. We were throwing around idea of having committees showcased in Brennan's to talk about their issues and really promote that committee in that night so you would go there and talk about issues that concern students. That would be a good way to promote. I think Wednesdays at 3 probably isn't the best time. Did you have a third question?

**Senator White:** Yes, the audience telling people what's happening

**Alex:** We had, I'm still working on that, obviously, we all are. We had an event, the Debonaires premier, which is the new show, the way we promoted, was through facebook, we cross-promoted it. UVM dining services helped a lot because again we are using Brennan's. It was at night. I think that looking at the time and cross promoting and using social media as well as UVM student media which is UVMtv, WRUV and *The Cynic* is another great way to do that.

**Chair Adams:** Thanks for coming in. I was just wondering, you mentioned promotion and other issues. What were the other issues you were running into?

**Alex:** Besides promotions? Our technicalities is an issue. Having our members know what to do and how to shoot video is a challenge. We're definitely good at things going on in the studio. It's pretty controlled and there are not a lot of moving parts, it's a matter of turning things on. Moving something going to shoot something and then transferring it and editing it and putting it on the web is a whole other process. That has just been a very big challenge for us. It's hard for us to take that video and be able to promote it that way.

**Chair Mallea:** Thanks for coming in. I'm just curious from a financial standpoint if this is going to cost the SGA anything for promotions to get SGA out there, and if so is it going to be benefiting UVMtv or is it going to be benefiting some outside source?

**Alex:** Do you mean sponsorship?

**Chair Mallea:** Maybe like an individual production company or something?

**Alex:** No, it's not. We've done everything free of charge. I've personally put in countless hours doing it. So the benefits, I mean, I don't know, I guess the benefits are to work with an organization like this. I think it's a noble thing to try to engage the student body, I enjoy challenges, so try to facilitate that. I've never written down on paper to ask for money. I kind of mentioned it at the end a little bit, but that's not really my intentions. Who benefits would definitely be UVMtv and SGA. SGA is going to benefit because you are engaging the student body and UVMtv benefits because we gain more viewership, which helps us recruit more members and help us stay afloat because we are in financial trouble.

#### **Concerned Students Regarding Coca Cola and the Water Bottle Ban (0:13.04)**

**Marlee:** Hey everybody. So we don't have that much prepared, this is completely spontaneous. We are just here as a small representative group of the larger faction of UVM students who are

hoping to be involved in the dialogue in upcoming semester to see a change to UVM's beverage contract. We've heard some sort of competing messages from SGA throughout this semester and, I mean partly we're here because we have some questions and what sort of position you all as a body are going to be taking about the contract and also about some other issues like bottled water. Just as a side note, I wanted to remind everyone that as a student body we are liable to hold you guys accountable to a few resolutions that have been passed by previous bodies especially one that was past first semester last year regarding an eventual campaign to stop the supply and the sale of bottled water here on campus, that was passed last year. Even if you were not on this body and actually voted on that, it is still something that as a student body you guys are accountable to support. There are already 8 campuses in the U.S. that have passed a full policy about not supplying or selling bottled water on campus. I don't have the exact number but I think that at least half of those schools don't sell any plastic bottled beverages at all. Some of those schools are larger and at least one of them is a public school. It's just kind of a wake up call that as a green university we are falling behind. We don't really have a bunch of facts to throw at everyone right now, we can do that another time. We had a whole poster we made outlining a map of the structure of coke. That's all I have to say.

**Girl 2:** Also, we're working on to get some unity on this issue around campus having a resolution but coming back from winter break we're trying to start getting the word out and somehow getting the students together to pledge to go without coke for 2 weeks and see how that goes for people. During that time tell people why that would be advantageous for other people and the environment and a bunch of different reasons, if you want to help us with that.

**Marlee:** You're a really good resource for reaching out to the student body so whatever you can do.

*Open the Floor for Questions (0:16.51)*

**Chair Simmons:** Thanks for coming in. I enjoyed meeting with you at the beginning of the year talking about the Coke contract. A student that was on my committee with help from other people on the body was kind of working on this initially. We've had a shift in our focus a little bit from Coke bottled water. Did you receive the bottled water ban that we've been sending around?

**Marlee:** The petition? Yes.

**Girl 2:** Yeah, and the poll was really awesome.

**Chair Simmons:** VSOP, cool, yeah. That's definitely something we could use your help on. I think we could work together and try to get that out to as many students as we possibly can and having an influence about people's personal consumption of bottled water and asking them to stop buying and then also having them in that same signature saying to stop providing as well. Getting that out as much as possible in the paper format and the online format is something we could definitely use help with. The coke contract, we definitely have got our work cut out for that on our committee but it's not something we are going to leave behind by any stretch of the imagination. Just for inspired to work on something we can be effective and work on now. We thought our efforts could be best allocated to bottled water for the given moment but coke is something that is going to be coming back for us in the future.

**Senator Sadeghi:** You talked about, thanks for coming in first of all, you talked about holding SGA accountable. What if SGA took a different role in this? What if instead of SGA leading by writing bills and resolutions in support of banning water bottles or banning coke, what if there was more of a grassroots effort from the students? Let's say the students started banning and stopped buying these products and SGA followed up with a resolution would you see that being more fit than SGA write a resolution as usual and then nothing happening with it?

**Marlee:** Yeah, that's a really point and I guess we're here on the front of students who have taken the government approach that the school offers and also are very interested in the mobilization of students approach. Our interest in presenting to you all tonight was more in the interest of ensuring that we're not working against your body as students. We want to understand that there is still this backing of support from the government and everyone here because of this legislation that has been passed. So we're not here asking for an updated resolution, per se, more just to make sure that there are not going to be actions taken against the work we're doing.

**Girl 3:** [inaudible]

**Senator Cesario:** Hey ladies, thank you so much for coming in because obviously collaboration is key. I was just curious your opinion whether you think it's more important for us to focus on betting bottled water off campus within a coke contract or getting rid of coke, if you had to choose between the two for focusing your resources?

**Girl 2:** I think getting coke off campus. We say that we like to take a strong stances on things so I think that we shouldn't be scared to take a strong stance on this issue.

**Marlee:** I guess I would say that I think that the underlying value in any beverage contract is what's most important to me, I can't speak for anybody else but say we have this campaign to get rid of coke and then we find into a new contract with essentially the same provisions, we're still giving out bottled water, still getting our beverage products from a source that is not local and that's still engaged in same type of practices that Coke is. I guess that I would agree with Richard Cate who has openly made his opinion clear that he is against all plastic beverages or beverages that are bottled in plastic in general. I heard that he came to give a presentation, I don't know if he shared that sentiment. He's willing to defend that opinion with the entire student body and challenge students to not just give up bottled water but plastic bottled everything. I've never been involved in contract negotiations before, I don't know what that process looks like. If it were still possible to keep Coke as the provider and get rid of bottled water, for example, I would personally feel better about that than where we're at right now.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** Thank you for coming in. I'd just like to ask if you consider the fact that there are students on this campus who disagree with that sentiment and whether you are willing to find a common ground. I think that by going to those extremes, and I think those are extremes by trying to take one or the other, whether you are willing to reach a compromise, like trying to scale back rather than get rid of it altogether. What is being discussed right now is not necessarily what most students would agree they want. I think that saying those are uninformed to the environmental side is kind of unfair because maybe some do understand the implications on the environmental side and still believe that they want coke to exist on this campus.

**Girl 2:** I think that's why we are trying at least with the resolution thing we came up with the idea that one of our university systems. I think we thought it would be cool to test the idea out. There are going to be a lot of people saying a lot of different things next semester because of contract coming up for renewal and the evaluation and everything. I think that we are just going to try to not give out biased information but just get out information in general and then people can form opinions on that.

**Girl 4:** I think it would be cool just to learn more about Coca Cola as a company and all the practices they are involved with environmentally, socially. Unbiased information about the company as a whole.

**Girl 3:** [inaudible] sure that would be willing to offer their product.

**Marlee:** I also think it's important to know that what we fishing for is not a ban on having bottled water, like you would be fined if you were drinking it. It's just like, as a university everything we are an institution provides is sending a message to the outside world and the students in general.

For example, we don't sell cigarettes, we used to on campus, but as that became a public health hazard, the university does not want to be entangled in the tobacco industry. I'm not saying that we don't have any sympathy for students who for whatever reason, I know that I've heard the issue brought up about people who have immune system, if someone was concerned about the issue of sharing of bacteria for some reason with bottled water refill stations so they felt safer with bottled water. You can go 2 minutes off campus and find bottled water I really don't think it's something our school should be supporting.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** I understand that, but personally I think the argument between bottle water and contract itself are two different conversations. I disagree with notion of taking it off campus altogether, I think that the notion about putting out information saying that students dislike coke is slightly an awfully large assumption to make especially since people tend to know that WalMart is an evil corporation and student still buy most of their dorm furniture there. You ultimately, I think that ultimately it's great to have your perspective but I think that it would be best to find some kind of compromise because taking it off campus altogether does put some students who are living in the dorms who may not have a means of making that two minute trip and it is a matter of health, especially because water fountains without bacteria in it are not necessarily available throughout campus the same way they are in the Davis Center.

**Marlee:** That's all part of our campaign to increase infrastructure to provide people with safe drinking water and it's more convenient. We're not saying that we have the perfect situation in place currently but that takes its underlying values and there are creative solutions that come together to make these values.

**Girl 3:** There are a lot of changes [inaudible] to support infrastructure that [inaudible] saying is coke on campus an then propose no further changes [inaudible].

**Speaker Chevrier:** I want to point out that we still have 8 people on the speaking order. A lot of people look confused.

**Chair Herman:** Thank you for coming in. I spoke with some of you before about this and I'm definitely one of those people who feels like something like this should come from the student body approach. My question would be are you willing to go around and maybe hold workshops for those who don't necessarily know about the environment. Are you going to go to those organizations and those groups to have those workshops to teach them about the environment?

**Girl 2:** We really want to get out unbiased information. Also with that we just want to start a conversation and get people having opinions about this issue, it's something I feel is important is that students are at the table when the coke contract are options that we have to look at beverage options coke owns 80% of that. There is some connection that we should have.

**Senator Moise:** Thank you for coming. I just had a couple questions. I know one of you spoke about other schools that are bigger than UVM that don't have this water bottle ban and I just want to know what replacements are these other schools using and do you actually know the names of the school that are doing this?

**Marlee:** I don't have exact figures of the student body. I know that the first school to ban bottled water was Wash U in St. Louis followed by Seattle University and then one in Tennessee and University of Portland.

**Girl 4:** Colgate University, NYU in New York City

**Marlee:** I think a lot of the schools are larger than UVM and a lot of them do not have the same environmental and social values that UVM tends to have. In place, I haven't gotten the opportunity to look at every case study from every university but one common trait of these bottled water bans is just first of all increasing awareness and education of issues. That's

something we can clearly take care of. Increasing access to tap water. That would just be as simple as increasing the number of water refill stations and water fountains on campus. I worked with the Office of Sustainability so we talk a lot about the options that are out there for having the decision was made to have more fountains that chill and purify water so they would do something like that. Mikayla McDonald who was a senator last year put together a map of all the areas on campus where there is bottled water, so we could even do some kind of GIS tracking thing to figure out areas that need more water fountains compared to where they are already in place. Another important thing is, I forgot Brandeis is another school, they are a lot smaller but they banned it like two years ago. I think all the schools have a program where at the beginning of every school year they give each student a reusable bottle to use through theoretically throughout school. The other idea going around is to have some kind of reusable bottle share. Say you are at the Davis Center and you forget to have your bottled water with you that day that doesn't mean have to go thirsty or buy bottled water, you can check out from the day and it would be completely sanitized and everything. It takes a little bit of creativity and commitment to it. There are things around campus we can put together.

**Senator Moise:** My question now is are you guys saying you want to get rid of water bottles or all plastic bottles in general?

**Marlee:** I mean, it would start with bottled water but ultimately have all bottles

**Girl 2:** I think we're just wanting to bring up issues of the Coca Cola company and see maybe what other students, which directions they want to go in.

**Girl 4:** I think start campaign that is strong and see if we can get all plastic bottles to go and I mean, we are willing to compromise down to the level bottled water.

**Marlee:** I don't think we would ever see this drastic change in how it's worked in other schools is that bottled water campaign was the catalyst for a larger reduction in plastic containers.

**Speaker Chevrier:** We still have 8 people on the speaking order so if we could try and have one person answer and if could try and not ask the same questions over again.

**Senator Ballas:** Thanks for coming. You said that you're shooting the first part is water bottle ban but then move onto all other plastics. If we did get rid of Coke, what exactly would you be suggesting to replace it with? You can just drink water but most people on campus would want more than just water. What else?

**Girl 2:** I think we were going to just try to look into local companies and different local soda options. Or non-sodas.

**Girl 4:** This is if UVM had a juicing room in the Davis Center that would be cool. And then a lot of other companies or small companies focused on social justice.

**Senator Ravech:** Thanks so much for coming in. In terms of local alternatives, I know you are still thinking about it, but we've spoken to and they said they don't have the volume for a university as big as us or for anything as big as we are. The alternatives we looked into that ended up being feasible alternatives ended up being other big companies like Pepsi or Dr. Pepper/7Up. Do you guys have any thoughts on other companies, other bigger kind of bigger conglomerates?

**Marlee:** I brought up I would like to see us cut the dependence on things that are bottled in general. I'm not exactly sure the sentiments of everyone I'm up here with because I feel that if we catch Coca Cola as far as I know it's kind of in line with other companies anyway. If we kept them and we utilized soda machines and soda fountains instead, I think that we could still satisfy everyone's beverage needs and not have so much plastic.

**Girl 3:** Also looking to other smaller providers [inaudible].

**Senator Ravech:** So for places like the marketplace and marché you are proposing fountains instead of the plastic bottles? And in that case what would be the container that people would be taking with them? I know a lot of those places people end up taking food and drinks to go. What are your thoughts on that? For sodas?

**Senator Benes:** Thanks for coming in. I just want to check with all of you. I see it as 2 different battles, a battle against bottled beverages and a battle against Coke. I'm kind of afraid that we are going to try to tackle both of these issues at the same time and end up being unsuccessful because we're kind of spreading ourselves too thin. For each of you say really quickly, which would you rather see us tackle first? Removing bottled beverages and kind of lessening the Coke contract and starting to phase out Coke or would you rather just really focus on the Coke Contract and have bottled local beverages as a result? So I really just want to see what your opinions were, really quick.

**Girl 4:** Personally I would like to see all the present Coke and Water off campus. I mean Dasani is a subset of Coke but I guess whatever seems more plausible.

**Girl 2:** I agree it may seem together from but we were just talking about and share idea what other students think starting to work on a grassroots campaign. I think would prefer to see Coke off campus.

**Girl 3:** the upcoming contract in 2012 I would like [inaudible] I think that we decide in favor of sourcing from local companies force us to stamp that out.

**Marlee:** I don't want to repeat myself again but I guess I am more about the bottled beverages foremost.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** I just wanted to follow up with further question as to those schools that you were listing as successfully taking water bottles off campus. Do you know that Hartford when they took water bottles off campus didn't actually stop funding water bottles they had their SGA stop giving money to fund water bottles. Also, those schools tend to be a lot smaller in size, I think the largest there is about 7,000. NYU is smaller but they also now have Pepsi. I think they are kind of almost one and the same. Something that should be discussed is what are we looking at here in terms of plausible alternatives because I think that something that should be considered is when you take a small local organization or local company and you ask it to supply a school of 13,000 students plus faculty and staff, what does that force that company to do? It applies union pressures, it applies things they didn't before have to deal with. These are all things especially since public universities tend to struggle more with going local than smaller private universities. Private universities do have more alumni funding. We didn't have our endowment money to close the budget gap, so I don't necessarily know if we have the money to fill the gap in getting rid of bottled water and Coke.

**Girl 2:** Thanks for that. I think that maybe because UVM is a special place in being public but we have a big close to a private university because we don't get very much public funding maybe [inaudible].

**Marlee:** I also just really encourage people to change their paradigm about how we have so many bottled items. This whole concept that we're presenting here is not about just not about, it doesn't sound comfortable to everybody but it's kind of the juncture we're in for society and I really believe that UVM is at the cusp of being passed on by so many other universities. I don't care so much, I'm graduating, I don't care that I don't go to the university that's the 4<sup>th</sup> most environmental in the country but I see more other events.

## **Old Business (0:42.55)**

## **Emergency Business (0:43.01)**

## **Bills Supporting the Confirmations of Gavin Caster, Julia McLemore, Suven Cooper, and William Bennington to the Student Government Association (0:43.14)**

**Vice President Maciewicz:** Can I have the people coming up for appointment come up and stand there. Stand right there. Can I have everyone's attention? Ok so we are doing appointments again. After interviews and reviewing the applications on the Lynx, I've decided with the help of the appointments committee to bring these four lovely individuals for appointment. I'm going to read the bill, it is the same for all of them so I'll say all four of their names and just read it once, I think you'll get the picture. [*Reads Bills*]. Before we open up the floor for questions I just want everyone to know that my nomination of them reflects my absolute confidence to do an amazing job and serve on committees that currently have vacancies. Maybe each of you would like to just open with a brief statement introducing yourself, class, year, why you want to join SGA and then we can take some questions.

**Gavin:** I'm Gavin Caster, I major in sociology and economics. I'm currently a sophomore at the University of Vermont and I'm interested in Student Government because I really think that an active student body should be their to display to the administration trends happening in the student body being able to say that this is the certain way we feel and to represent the students on certain issues that are otherwise passed over by the administration. Like saying that water bottles are environmentally very costly and we should try to come up with a policy that changes that. Without that and without the student body representing them a lot of those issues get passed over and we can't be as progressive as we'd like to be.

**Will:** Hi, I'm Will Bennington. I'm a senior Forestry major in the Rubenstein School. Forgive me, my thoughts are scattered I got four 16 week old chickens today and they're really cute, I have that on my mind. I guess I'm here, the past 4 year I've been pretty involved in stuff on campus. I even had the good fortune of having Fogel arrest me 2 years ago. Change things. I've spent 4 years trying to work on those grassroots movements that some of you requested and I found that on this campus they can be really ineffective and I've also thought that the SGA when I first came here was really ineffective and that's why I took it towards the grassroots. I've really come around now and I see that I really put myself and my education at risk at this university to affect change and I've decided I want to try this group in my last semester and a half at this school. I think in the past few years SGA has made some pretty good turns for better and its really impressed me and I would just really like to be a part of the senate if not for more than to just learn how it works and to be involved in some of the discussions that go on here. It's a completely different body than when I came to this school and I'm really impressed.

**Suven:** My name is Suven Cooper and I'm a junior and a bio major. I received an email to apply to senate and I decided to jump on the opportunity because being a South African and growing up in the Apartheid regime we didn't have a voice as colored people. I feel that being a part of a student government association like this is a way to not only represent the faculty but also to represent the student body. So to be a part of this is an honor and to work with you guys in the future.

**Julia:** I'm Julia, I'm also a junior and I'm a psychology major. And the major reason I wanted to get involved in SGA is that in the past couple of years I have been pretty heavily involved on campus but I have run into the problem of good ideas and being passionate about things and it just kind of ends there. So I figured one really good way to have it go further than just a good idea is getting involved in this avenue. If not to have my own good ideas out there but to support other people's and see what's going on.

*Open the Floor for Questions (0:48.53)*



**Chair Mallea:** Thank you for coming in, we really appreciate it. My question is for Gavin. Can you please speak to your experience with IRA and how that can help with your experience on SGA if you are appointed?

**Gavin:** The Inter Residence Association has really been a sort of take off point for me, particularly student advocacy. The mandate for student advocacy for IRA is a little different than that of SGA as the SGA sort of can release resolutions on things like Vermont Yankee and they can declare a statement for the student population whereas the Inter Residence Association, which advocates on issues like what the students want. Like preventing the loss of the late night bus, issues like card swipes on entrances to buildings that may be difficult. In the same sense, it's provided me with a lot of insight in working with the administration. I just had a meeting with Stacey Miller to day on the Public Service Announcements and so it's really opened the avenues in having conversations with the administration in that these issues are not easy. There is not this quick solution of let's get rid of water bottles and let the administration deal with the cost. . So it's sort of having that dialogue and having that conversations on coming up with a model that both we support and is cost effective because the University of Vermont is a corporation and that's the model that they're going to follow. And unless we can provide them with that option and suggestions, we're going to be dead in the water.

**Speaker Chevrierr:** I know some of you personally so I'm aware of some of your leadership experience. If everyone except maybe Gavin who just spoke could touch upon what you're currently involved in and how that can help you do things on senate but also how you're going to manage your time.

**Will:** Time management, that's a good question. I'm pretty efficient with time management at this point, I've been balancing 18 credit semesters for the past 3 years and next semester I have a 15 credits semester so it's almost like a break. In terms of leadership and involvement now, I've actually recently sort of stepped down from a lot of pseudo leadership positions I've had in the past and I'm taking a little bit of a break, but I have been really involved with [inaudible] an international organizations of sorts but I helped start the chapter in Burlington. Basically, every week we salvage food from grocery store and other places, dumpsters and we cook it and we feed it to anyone who wants it for free. This summer we took over the largest meal food shelf in the city on Sunday. It's not a hierarchical organization but I definitely had a leadership role in that for the past 4 years. I was a leader of sorts in students Stand up two years ago although that is also non hierarchical. It's funny how those things work out sometimes. I don't know if I'm answering your question right now or babbling on.

**Suven:** I'm not going stand here and lie to you and say I'm a leader in everything on campus but I can say what I've been involved with and the things I currently am. Students are trying to create a reusable container program at UVM. Thus far, it's sort of worked, we try to have it at the Marché and we're trying to get it into the Davis Center. We've been working with Sodexho about what we can do on campus. Other than the reusable container program I try to stay involved on campus, I'm apply to work at the medical examiners office. I'm necessarily a leader but I'm interested in a lot of things and I'm willing to get involved.

**Julia:** As for me, I've spent the past few semesters being involved in Greek Life here at UVM and specifically next week I'm finished being Vice President of Communications for Pi Beta Phi. I think that that's something that definitely can be very useful to SGA in that Greek Life is some of the most active students on this campus and I think that they are untapped resource in that there are a lot of students that are doing a lot of good and we can reach them a little bit better. As far as time management goes, I also know form experience that when you load an your responsibilities things can get over your head a little bit which is why I'm doing this now that a lot of things I've been doing I'm taking a break from and as far as time management goes I think I have good practice at it and knowing when I can't do it. This will be my main responsibility and my main leadership position.

**Senator Filstein:** What is one thing you would preserve about UVM and what's one thing you would change?

**Julia:** The one thing, and I think someone said something along these lines, that I would want to keep about UVM is that not necessarily from a corporate or financial sort of view, but I do think in some ways we are a public university that presents ourselves in a private university way and I think that's something that I was attracted to. I like that I know a lot of my teachers, I like that I was able to get involved with research with a lot of my teachers. I think that a lot of schools our size you can just very easily get lost. On the flipside of that, something that I would want to stop from happening at UVM is the losing of that legacy. I think that more and more kids are becoming numbers in these classes as opposed to teachers that people can meet and I think that's something that I would like to see class sizes staying small. Obviously with the exception of freshman classes, which are classes that are big across board everywhere and there really shouldn't be 300 kids crammed into Billings with no personal connection to the course material or the professor.

**Suven:** To go on what Julia said, the legacy that I would like to keep at UVM is the student to teacher class ratio, which you get the feel of a small college and large university, which is something that I appreciate. Something I would like to see go would be I don't want to sound too discouraging but the priority registration thing. Instead of students getting priority registration first and everyone else having to wait. That's one thing I'd like to see go.

**Will:** I guess, I have been saying for a while that I like to cut at the root of problems so one thing I would like to see go is Dan Fogel. I'm not impressed with Dan Fogel. One thing I'd like to preserve I guess the word Vermont. I'm not from Vermont but I'd like to preserve Vermont about the University of Vermont that is in Vermont, of Vermont, for Vermont. I guess, I see us less as a unique school and trying more and more to catch up with all the other public universities of a similar size and I think it kind of sucks because Vermont is this really awesome state in the country, the most liberal state that's had a Republican Governor for the last 8 years and this school isn't really characterizing that quirkiness anymore. Asher Lober, he's my roommate, I would like to preserve him.

**Gavin:** One thing that I really like about UVM is the level of participation by the students in things like the Board of Trustees, in things like Student Government, in things like IRA, it seems like we as students really organized around and say the university and the administration will be responsive to the things that we present. They'll be responsive to any changes we have and they should at least acknowledge our voice. One thing I'd like to change is to increase that level of participation and increase the amount of student voice on this issues in all topics because at the end of the day I see that we all pay for it. We all pay the tuition whether it be through scholarships whether it be through loans and we need some sort of collective voice and organization to say that administration needs to be more responsive to what we're saying, and if they're not we can organize and use like the Student Government to enforce that kind of voice and present that voice in an even stronger sense.

**Senator Benes:** Motion to call to question.

**Speaker Chevrier:** There are 2 people left on the speaking order. We will now vote to see if we want to skip those two people and vote now.

**Vote to Call to Question** – passes

**Bill Supporting the Confirmation of Gavin Caster to the Student Government Association** - passes

**Bill Supporting the Confirmation of William Bennington to the Student Government Association** – passes

**Bills Supporting the Confirmations of Suven Cooper to the Student Government Association -**  
passes

**Bills Supporting the Confirmations of Julia McLemore to the Student Government Association -**  
passes

**CC:** If everybody could please come up here. It's also behind you if you want a cheat sheet.  
[Administers oath of office]

**Vice President Maciewicz:** I will now read committee assignments so chairs please raise your hand and make room because I forgot to save extra seats. Gavin Caster you are appointed to Academic Affairs committee. Will and Julia to CODEEE and Suven to COLA.

#### **New Business (1:04.42)**

**Senator Filstein:** Legislation Regarding the Opening of the Constitution

**Chair Mallea:** Bill Allocating funds to Nordic Ski Club

**Senator Benes:** Resolution Concerning Invasive Species at UVM

#### **Executive Reports (1:05.47)**

**Speaker Chevrier (1:05.52):** So, as Senator Filstein pointed out we are going to be opening up to a vote to open the constitution in 2 weeks when we meet again. So this is important because  $\frac{3}{4}$  have to agree to open which is significantly more than the normal simple majority that is needed for almost everything else. We've put a lot of work into it so I hope that you will all vote in favor of opening it. It says right now in the constitution that we have to present the amendments and make them public 2 weeks before voting on them. Right now I'm going to go over the different amendments that we are proposing. This is not a time where we are going to debate it, that's going to happen 2 weeks from now when we actually vote on it. If you do have any questions of course I will be happy to answer any, but right now is time to explain our thoughts behind why we're making these changes so hopefully you will be able to bring this back to your committee and talk about whether this is something that you want, talk to people that are in senate, out of senate, to see since this is the document we all operate off of. I am now going to open this.

**Senator Filstein:** There is an empty seat if we can all move down one, I'd really like to get the new senators at the table. It's not that hard.

**Speaker Chevrier:** So hopefully we can move and listen and read at the same time. The first issue we are going to be amending is something that we have to change. The current constitution contradicts it says in one place that all undergraduates at UVM who are paying the student activities fee are members of the student body and then it says any member of the student body can hold any position on SGA. Later in the same document it says to be an executive, so President, Vice President, Treasurer and I believe it also says to be a senator as a whole, it says you have to be a fully matriculated student, which means that you are taking 12 credits or more. It directly contradicts itself, which means that we have to change it in one way. Hopefully we can have those conversations in next few weeks as to which way we want to change it. One of those is to change it from all undergraduate degree seeking students taking 4 credits at UVM and paying the Student Activities Fee are members of the student body and then taking away the non-degree students may join or we could keep that part and get rid of, if anybody is confused I ask that you ask questions this is just not the time to debate or share thoughts. There are really good arguments on both side so of this. If somebody were to take less credits and take positions on SGA they would have more time to allot the position but that raises the questions about stipends arguably doing more work but they wouldn't be getting paid anymore so we would still be operating under the same financial agreements budget. On the flipside, technically someone taking 4 credits

online in Holland could be president of our SGA. These next ones are the same idea as trying to change it so that we actually have a document that doesn't contradict itself. This one under executive it says 'no member may be elected or appointed for another term to exceed one year after taking office'.

**Vice President Maciewicz:** One of the concerns we thought about in the Constitution Committee is just having people run over and over again. I proposed term limits of one year for executive positions and 4 years for senatorial positions just to make sure people are, so we don't run into problems about people taking one class, could you technically be a senator forever? Do your degree over ten years and run each time. I thought that was one way to prevent it so we have people who are actually here on campus engaging with students for a set period of time. And also, in all of my time on SGA, no one has ever served more than 4 years, it's actually extremely rare and no one on this body who has been here for four years.

**Speaker Chevrier:** The next one this is under the president number ten, shall make known to the senate body the intentions of the president over the summer and goals for the senate for the upcoming year. It's self explanatory, that one. Shall be responsible for submitting to the senate body the written and oral Board of Trustees report at least one week before they are due. This was created so there is no longer any sort of frustration that senators are not given the proper amount of time to properly go through it and make sure it reflects the views of the senate. Vice President the same thing is added that shall make the senate body aware of their intentions and same thing is added under Treasurer. The same things are deleted so they would fit together so we can either choose to get rid of or choose to keep but we would to change one or the other. Alright, under Speaker of the Senate 'reserves the right to make grammatical and dictional edits to newly passed legislation as long as meaning of the legislation is not changed.' So something like this is already kind of place but just make sure, for instance, I sent out a piece of legislation a few weeks ago and Dean Miller responded that she would prefer not to receive any piece of legislation that had spelling errors. I was embarrassed but I was also not the person who wrote it that looked bad. In the future I will look over them and have the authority to change them. This is something that has been debated almost every time that I sat through a meeting when the constitution was debated. Right here it says 'Shall have,' under chair, 'shall have the option of naming a vice chair who will carry out the duties of chair if the chair is unable to do so.' In the past, there have been vice chairs. It was never actually in the constitution, it was just something that happened but a lot of times the vice chair did absolutely nothing and it was kind of pointless some people argued. For instance, in my situation, I had emergency knee surgery when I was chair and my sweet vice chair was able to do things I was obviously not able to do during those weeks. I figured it would be a good way to legitimize the role of vice chair if chairs choose to do, We made it optional by saying that the chair has the option to name a vice chair so chairs are not mandated to choose one. Right now, the way that the veto works is after pass legislation the president of SGA has 72 hours to sign it. Which means that the bill is finalized and has their backing. Veto it which means bill is halted and senate has the opportunity to override the veto with a 2/3 vote which is more significant than a simple majority needed to originally pass, and in the current constitution the President also currently has a third option which is to not pass it and it passes by default without a signature. This was an incredibly heated topic at the end of 2 years ago when President Taylor didn't veto the SGA bill about baseball and he didn't veto it so we didn't get to overturn it, but he didn't sign it which meant that it held a lot less ground and didn't mean as much to the administration and even though it was an overwhelming majority of senators who did vote for the bill it didn't have any real ground and the President refused to talk about it even though it was arguably his duty. So that was a big issue. We decided to strike this from the constitution that the president only has the option to sign it or veto it thus giving senate the opportunity to overturn the veto and force there to be some sort of push behind it. For this I'm going to yield to either or both Senator Alleger and Senator Filstein to explain their changes to Article 12.

**Senator Filstein:** We're going to tag team it.

**Senator Alleger:** So this is about petitions and the ability for anybody in the student body to get together a petition. So the change here is changing what this petition actually does, in the past it would just be brought up in emergency business in front of the senate to talk about it. In this case we're changing it so that the petition would go with some accompanying legislation that allows for an avenue where students with a proper amount of support i.e. signatures on this petition would essentially be able to put some legislation to this body.

**Senator Filstein:** The other mechanism in there is the referendum. We modeled this heavily after California. This would allow for students to get a petition, I'm sorry, for senate to defer a piece of legislation to the student body and would also allow for students to have legislation voted on by the student body and bypass the senate altogether, because 10% of the student body is a lot more powerful than anyone in this room. The chances that these are going to get used are pretty rare but the way it was before was pretty useless. It was a petition to get an issue discussed and you could come in during Public Forum and voice your opinion then going to talk about. We figure if it's in there, this is kind of cool, and maybe someone will use it and we'll be willing to take questions about it in two weeks.

**Speaker Chevrier:** The other amendment would be to add Section b that wasn't actually in it previously there was section A and then 1 and 2 which didn't really make sense, the title didn't agree with what it was saying. Then for Article 14 section B impeachment number 6 says that all members of SGA must be present at an impeachment hearing unless excused by the speaker of senate, we thought that was exceptionally stupid because technically if I cannot find somebody then they couldn't be impeached so we thought the same rule for any normal senate meeting applies and you should be here but if not we can still carry out business if you're not here. Then under Section D Filling Vacancies. The way it currently stands is that if the President and Vice President are both removed then the speaker becomes President and the Treasurer becomes the Vice President. We just thought that was incredibly silly because Treasurer is a massive job and you can't train somebody to do instantly and Treasurer Salsgiver agreed that just sounded very silly. The speaker would remain the person if this were to ever happen but the Vice President would become from a chair that was nominated and chosen by Senate. Instead of having to fill 3 important vacancies we would only have to fill 2. The last but not least Article 8, 13, Section 1 it says that senator motioning to open or amend the operational documents need not be a member of the constitution committee and we thought it was poorly worded because we thought it could technically be interpreted that it can't be a member of the constitution committee and by deleting it, it means that anybody could which I think is important. The way that it stands now is counterintuitive to the way that we run our other business in that anyone bring up things to a member of the body. These are our amendments they're also posted online because the constitution mandates that they have to be published and presented to the body and it's all up, I did it today. That's it for constitutional part of my report. Abstentions, I know I saw a few abstentions and I want to be sure you are following the rule. I just want to give a friendly reminder for what those reasons are. You are technically only allowed to abstain for 2 reasons. One is if you have a conflict of interest and I'm assuming that a lot of people have friends who they didn't see fit to vote for them in, but also if people haven't done their due diligence and they don't know enough about that situation to feel as if they are knowledgeable. Last week there was a bunch of abstentions as well so you're not supposed to do it unless it's for one of those two reasons. Another part is absences, so a few weeks ago I talked to you about my new attendance policy but absolutely no chair has submitted to me that anyone has been absent or unexcused and it's not my job to try sneak in to your committee meetings, you're supposed to be reporting them to me.

**Vice President Maciewicz (1:21.51):** Thanks for confirming all our new senators, welcome to SGA. I'll be setting up an orientation for you all to meet with me, probably after Thanksgiving Break because this week is a little insane for me. If I can clear out some time maybe Friday but we'll try to plan for after break, but welcome. Reminder to save the date for December 7. We'll be having the SGA holiday party and you're all invited. We're also inviting club signers and our office staff and all of the Davis Center employees to come by for food and holiday cheer. There

might even be a chance to get an SGA scarf if you didn't already get one. Also remember to save January 29, that's a Saturday, the second Saturday we get back for the SGA spring retreat. That's just going to be one day, unlike our Fall Retreat, in Billings North Lounge. It will be probably around 6 hours from early afternoon to early evening, food will be provided, it will be a good time. Check out some of the galaxy space changes that we've made thus far, there are a lot more coming including a new bookcase for our SGA library that Senator Lober is getting set up. We'll also be putting up signs and an SGA map that Jess just finished the other day, it's going to look really cool. For those of you who don't yet have a nametag, they are coming next meeting for new senators, the way you get recognized is you go like this and Speaker Chevrier will put you on the speaking order. It just goes in the order of how you put your tag out. You'll also be added to the SGA listserv, so chairs please test it out with your new members to make sure it is working. You also all need to update your office hours if you are on a committee that has new members. We are doing random checks and it looks really bad for me if my own organization is not doing office hours. Don't let me down people. Refer to my PowerPoint that I did last meeting. I put a few links in there for things I've been thinking about. I'll resent it to the new people, but I am looking for feedback, don't want to keep harping on the same things. I'll resend it and you can click on the links and you can give me some feedback on things I have asked for feedback on.

*Open the Floor for Questions (1:24.16)*

**Senator Ballas:** What time is the party?

**Vice President Maciewicz:** It's from 5-7, right before senate.

**Chair Mallea:** Thank you for organizing the holiday party, however, the Finance Committee will not be able to attend. Secondly, I was wondering what the policy was if student clubs wanted to put something on the wall. Technically that's not their space but if it's the wall in their space in the galaxy space are they permitted to do so?

**Vice President Maciewicz:** Just send them my way. I don't see why not, I guess technically I would have to approve that. It would be nice to showcase student effort. The pictures that we just put on the wall recently was a photo contest from our clubs. I've been trying to encourage student artists or project to come in but no one seems interested. If you know of anyone who wants to put up a sculpture or painting or anything, send them my way and we can most likely do it.

**President Mensah (1:25.23):** Good evening senate I'll try to make my report quick because I have a fun surprise for all of you. As I mentioned last week Tuesday that the search for the new Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action is underway. We had our first meeting last week Wednesday. Just in case some of you are wondering about different searches like the Provost search was an internal search, the search for the new director is going to be a national search so we've already been receiving quite a few applicants in the next few months we're going to be bringing them up to the Chief Diversity Officer. In talking about the Board of Trustees, my next report to the Board of Trustees is actually due January 12. That seems really recent after we just finished one for the October meeting but these things really do happen quickly. So it's due by 12 noon on January 12, so that's before we get back from winter break. If anyone would like to have any input preliminary not necessarily input, but if you would like to let me know what and how you would like to structure the letter, the full the February report to the board you should email my by the end of the month. I will look at a calendar and set a more concrete date or let you know the week we get back from Thanksgiving Break. In case anyone was wondering, the Provost interviews have concluded. Both of the candidates that were brought up by the search committee underwent a full day long interview last week beginning Monday with interim Provost Knodell as well as Wednesday with Dean Miller of the College of Arts and Sciences. I actually had a conversation with President Fogel this morning about SGA's stance on the search process and with if we have any idea in mind because some of the different governance boards such as the GSS which is the Graduate Student Senate and the Faculty Senate gave informal recommendation letters to the search committee and we didn't do that by end of last week, Friday. So something

was typed up and I sent it in to Rex Forehand who is the chair of the selection committee as well as Gary Derr, and I will forward that on to the senate listserv later in the evening. Just a quick thing about Public Forum today. Know when to use time and know when to use it well. A lot of things that were mentioned tonight were really great but the conversations could have been a bit more meaningful and more action plans could have actually been set up had there been meeting set up with the students afterward. I saw a few senators leave and go and talk to them afterwards but I hope that time is used to do the follow up work. It's also important for us as a body to realize privilege that we have right now to be able to have these types of conversations and to be knowledgeable about the environmental impact of water bottles and the fact that we're actually in a bubble to be able to do something about it. I was actually speaking to David about it earlier in the office and this is the first time personally for me in 3 weeks that I haven't bought a water bottle. I know that's like almost fantasy because I'm on a campus where I can go to the Davis Center and go to my apartment and refill my water bottle. I know that is going to change Thursday evening when I got back to New York for break and just to keep that in mind for other perspective and where people are coming from they might not be used to know that tap water is as healthy as bottled water or whatever it may be. So continuing those conversations educating people about the importance of finding clean sources of water and the impact that bottled water has on campus. Another thing to point out with the Seattle University that was mentioned, I quickly googled it up, before they passed their water bottle ban, and Seattle University has an undergraduate and graduate size of 7,500 students as small Jesuit university, they actually started doing what some students here requested which was just getting that information out to students and students on their own started to decrease their usage of water bottles. There was about a 50% decrease in the usage of water bottles before there was even an official ban of water bottles on campus, so that can be another way to look at it. Senator of the week this week goes to Senator Asher, Senator Lober from Academic Affairs Committee. Throughout the past few weeks and the past semester on senate, Senator Asher has really been, I always call you Asher, Senator Lover has really been one of those senators actively seeking out administrators on this campus and actively participating and passionate about the issues that we as a senate take on. Going to the Board of Trustees meeting, going to different Committee Meetings, engaging with them and doing follow up and I really feel he deserves the title of Senator of the week this week. I have a gift downstairs. To conclude my report, I am going to open something up. It's a YouTube clip. As some of you may or may not have known, on Sunday Vice President Maciewicz turned 22. So not all of us were able to help him celebrate that wherever you may have been so I decided it would be nice to watch a quick YouTube clip [*plays video*]. Alright, that was that. I got some wonderful cake for David I will be passing it around and cutting it so hopefully everyone likes white cake filled with vanilla mousse.

*Open the Floor for Questions (1:33.09)*

**Senator Vitagliano:** Good evening. President Mensah, I'm just curious on what the content of the letter is that you are sending to Rex Forehand and if it has a recommendation without input from the senate.

**President Mensah:** The letter that I sent out, the content I sent out to Rex Forehand is an endorsement of Dean Miller as the next University Provost. During the process in which we interviewed both of the committees, in essence SGA interviewed the committee, the consensus of the folks that were interviewing the two candidates was in favor of Dean Miller. They felt that she was more down to earth more of an educator and had more student initiatives in mind and didn't want to do things from a top down model as she has seen in the past. So with that information and with a need for there to have been some type of formal letter to come from SGA, I drafted up a letter to Gary Derr and to the Chair of the Provost search committee which I am guessing will be disseminated throughout rest of the members of the search committee. It is a formal endorsement from SGA Provost search committee on behalf of SGA signed by me sent off to them and I will be forwarding that out to you. The basis of the letter is listing different strengths and weaknesses and different notes that were mentioned in the interview process.

**Senator Filstein:** Can you tell us a little bit more about your phone call with the Foge?

**President Mensah:** It was a quick phone call, he's in Texas doing some presidential duties, he's actually at a dinner right now raising funds for the university and he actually chairs a committee of different university presidents. We discussed a couple of other things but the main focus was the Provost search and the lack of an SGA formal letter. GSS and other folks sent out a formal letter by the deadline on Friday at noon formally giving recommendations of strengths and weaknesses of the different candidate. The GSS endorsed a candidate and the candidate that they also endorsed was Dean Miller. There was sort of an expectation of SGA to write a letter but I really didn't get a pull from folks that were a part of the search even though there was an open about a week before as soon as I found out the process of giving a recommendation. During one of our exec meetings we had a discussion about what is the outcome of us interviewing the two candidates. The outcome was we had two options. We could individually recommend people on the Provost's website or to wholly come together and write a letter from the president on behalf of the organization and send it to the search committee.

**Chair Adams:** I'm glad PR has formed a singing group. Not really funny. Moving on, with the BOT report, I think you are kind of in the loop enough to know what we want to discuss and I know for me it's more productive to see what letter you are writing ahead of time and then provide feedback instead of just giving you a list of things you already know are important.

**President Mensah:** Because there is such a longer time period, this is one of the longest time periods I've had to write a Board of Trustees letter, so because of how I'm opening it up is that there is a 2.5 week period where you have the opportunity to let me know what you want me to include in the letter and then I'll type up the letter then get to it back out to the senate body and you can give me feedback and if it looks good it looks good if it needs revisions I can make sure I put them in it.

**Treasurer Salsgiver (1:38.03):** I have 4 points. The first one I worked on this week was we've been starting to send out budget transaction detail reports to clubs so they know exactly how much money they have, I won't bore you with the details of it, I'm just really proud of myself. I think this will be really helpful for clubs to have more of an involvement in their finances. Tomorrow I'm going to meet with VIA to explain the budgeting process to them. They have a lot of other organizations under Volunteers in Action. If any of you are interested in the budgeting process it will be tomorrow in the Williams family room from 8:00-10:30pm. If you are interested please feel free to come. I've been talking to Leon and Pat and some members of the club sports council about the fact that there are a lot of clubs that have really large dues. Men's Hockey is \$600 a year, Women's is \$400 a year, Crew is \$500, massage \$150, sailing is \$300, there are a lot of clubs that it costs a lot of money to participate in them and when you think about SGA's stand on equality and everyone having access and resources it doesn't seem fair that some people would not be able to participate in a club that they are paying for through the student activities fee. I've been talking a lot to Leon and he's really excited about this and Pat too about potentially having an SGA Financial aid program for specific clubs that have dues and it would have to be really stringently assessed and need based, but it's just something that we're starting to have conversations about. We kind of have discussed it in the past few years and it's something that obviously would end up going through you guys but it's just something to start thinking about. The thing I have to talk about is last week I gave you guys a PowerPoint about the budget and that kind of led to the big talk on the Student Activities Fee increase. Right now, we are looking for a fee increase proposal will be \$5 per semester or \$82 per semester. Right now what Finance Committee and I think is best. I'm genuinely worried about budget for next year and so is Blanka and about how I don't think we're going to have the same amount rolling over. We have a lot more clubs and our clubs are a lot more active. I'm afraid that if we don't increase by \$5 that next year whatever we allocate clubs for this year, we're going to have to take money out of their budgets for internal expenses. It's my personal opinion that if we don't do this \$5 increase, clubs are going to be upset next year when we take money away from them. On November 30, the Tuesday when we get back, the Finance Committee is going to propose a bill to raise the student activities fee by a \$5 increase. This really isn't the time for too many questions. If you have



general ideas that's fine, but I encourage you to meet with Senator Mallea or me during our office hours if you have specific questions. If you want me to send out specific information or budgets, feel free to contact me about that.

### **Committee Reports (1:42.08)**

### **Student Activities (1:42.29)**

**Chair Adams:** Hi friends. So, as promised, I have what SAC is proposing for the club point system. So this is kind of like the Student Activities internal tracking plan for clubs, it doesn't need to be brought up as a bill or resolution but we do want senate voice and give some feedback. I'll read through it. Attending the Treasurer's Workshop is worth 4 points. If you attended it or you rescheduled it you get all 4. If you missed it but you made it up you get 2. If you don't attend you get 0. Same thing for policy workshops. Update sheets, because it's a fiscal year, going from last spring to this fall, those are each worth 3. Lynx submissions will be worth 1 or 2 points depending on how late they are. If they are only a week or a couple days late that would be 2 points, if they are a few months late it would probably only be worth one. Responding to liaison emails worth 3. You always respond, you sometimes respond, or you rarely respond, those are the only communications we have with club signers and they aren't responding or reading those emails they are missing information that they need to know. Use of lynx as talked about in *The Cynic*. You get 3 points for having an updated contact description and are using the lynx, 2 if you only have a contact and a description, 1 if you are registered and have the minimal information and 0 if you aren't on the lynx. Constitution has been updated in the last 4 years. This is something we're hoping to put into the by laws. So I'll talk about that a little bit more. That will be worth 5 points. We haven't completely decided if that will be broken down. We're going to do that by keeping track of when their constitution was last updated. Has 8 general members is worth 6 points. That's the minimal requirement of members that SGA has. The meeting the liaison was present clubs have blank members only the Lynx and other factors, so 3 times a week and they might have 6 members and go 3 times a week so do they have more than 8 members. This is sort of allowing space to accommodate those types of issues if the meeting the liaison goes to is during midterms so people don't show up, having that sort of back up. Fundraise \$100 by February 1, this is another SGA requirement, it's worth 5 dollars. We're not sure how that's going to break down across but we're going to have blank amount of fundraised money by February 1. Submitted P.O.s on time and correctly is worth 7. Having them mess up you lose a point, and the same with supplemental requests. So that's something we're going to work with the Finance Committee and we're developing a common errors checklist to provide that feedback to club signers. Basically paper work being late is an issue. Also just paper work not coming in correctly is the other issue. That's kind of that part. I'll let you sort of read through it while I talk, but other things Student Activities is working on. First of all the petition is we actually need members. Having 6 committee members plus myself is already a stretch. There are 7 liaison groups without Julian it's really a stretch. There are 20 clubs who don't have a liaison right now, which is a huge issue. It's a burden on the committee and on myself to make up that work. I know you all are really attached to your committees but it's kind of a disservice to our clubs that we don't have members, so if there is anyone that is interested in switching there are definitely things for you to be doing. I will probably personally harass people into doing it, it's just really important. It worked the first time so I'll see if I can keep going with that. If you were interested in switching committees or helping out I would really appreciate it, we are overtaxed. That is sort of the important stuff. Thank you for your feedback we would really like to focus on this system.

### *Open the Floor for Questions (1:47.22)*

**Senator Vitagliano:** I have a question with this whole points system. One, when will it start to be implemented and two what do the points mean? Say you got a 40/50 what does that mean?

**Chair Adams:** The points system is like designed just to keep track. Ideally what we'd like to do is link club performance with club finance. All of these are things that clubs have to do, but

they're not necessarily sanctionable offenses if they don't happen in and of themselves. Clubs have to attend the Treasurer's Workshop, but if that doesn't happen, 10% budget decrease but its not necessarily something we are going to sanction them over, but if there are a bunch of those things it adds up to reflect poorly on the club. What we have done in the past depends on chair of the committee. When I was just a senator last year, Chair Chevrier did it by having liaison sheets. That was how we kept track of these kinds of things. Giving them a point value recognizes that we think that use of the lynx is less important than having an updated constitution, submitting P.O.s on time is important. What it means to have a 40/50, we don't know what we want to do. We look at where all the clubs fall this year and what is the distribution. How that will affect them financially is up to finance. It's our hope that we'll be able to define percentiles, and curve it. I don't really know where clubs are going to fall, they could all have 49/50 or a good club might be still be missing some of those things.

**Senator Vitagliano:** So this would be implemented in clubs activity this year? And will that be used for finances for the next year or is this right now?

**Chair Adams:** I guess as far as what will happen for this year, the most of them will be effective of what happens this year. Submitting P.O.s on time and submitting supplemental requests on time and correctly, while we do hope that all clubs have been doing that all year we're not going to start counting that for the points system until next semester. They will all be given this information when its approved and finalized.

**Chair Mallea:** Just to speak to that really quickly. Treasurer Salsgiver and SAC and Finance Committee have been doing a really great job this semester about tracking club's performances knowing what they're doing right, knowing what they can improve on. Just kind of a mental note as budget season is coming up, we can keep track of that. However it's really necessary that we start keeping track and a history of club performance and link it to finance. If a club is hardly doing anything and they're not contributing back to the UVM community, how can we justify giving them \$60,000 or what not? Also, I had a question for Chair Adams, is this going to be public information? How transparent are the results going to be for other Senators or other UVM students?

**Chair Adams:** As far as the process, once this is finalized I will email this out to all of the club signers. I have no issue with students having access to the grading itself. As far as making it public to students once the grades of clubs, I haven't really thought about that. I think we can sort of handle it like we handle finances those types of things. I don't think it necessarily needs to be published in a book.

**Speaker Chevrier:** We did something similar to this last year. Our problem was actually implementing it as far as making it have to do with Finance came about because financing and budgeting for next year and allocating funds happens in February but it's nearly impossible to visit every single club before February so the issue that will always stem from this type of point system is that you can't, unless people start going to multiple times per week, can't ever see all the clubs before February, in which case seeing it after budgeting would affect the same clubs differently depending on what you saw than what year they are going to be impacted.

**Chair Adams:** So the only part that the Student Activities Liaison has to go to the meeting to figure out is how many member were present, and that means you stay for an hour it means you sort of step in the room. In that respect, we think it is possible to implement by February 1.

**Senator Mason:** Speaking on behalf of my committee, going to meet these clubs is not really that difficulty, we even talked about on days that you can't physically go you can take somebody else's. By February that's months and I feel as though it's very plausible for a senator to do their due diligence if you are on the committee you are there for a reason.

**Chair Adams:** And also that's why we do need someone to replace Julian, soon, or at least help with some of this tracking, it is a lot. The thing with it being in February is that it does make it difficult to track because we operate on year. So essentially what will have to happen is with update sheets I will have to fill out, never mind. That was the only issue because we don't want to counteractively grade clubs for things like the supplemental and P.O. requests retroactively.

**Senator Tran:** What happens when clubs don't submit supplementals at all? Is it like they get 7/7 or is it like a non-applicable?

**Chair Adams:** So if clubs aren't submitting supplementals it's just a 7/7 placeholder.

#### **COLA (1:54.43):**

**Chair Morgan:** Hey all. Thursday was the Veteran's Day celebration. It was good. I would like to thank everyone who was involved everyone who read a letter, Chair Mallea, Senator Mason, Senator Fitzgerald, Senator Mike White, thanks everyone. I really appreciate that. I think that I had said it would either be COLA's defining hour or our greatest downfall, it kind of fell somewhere in the middle, so I was happy. That done, it clears our plate now. I'm going to send out something over the listserv. I want to collect people's thoughts on invite a legislator day. Dave Potter is coming to follow me December 3 and he and I are going to talk about logistics for inviting. He was going to advertise this to other legislators in Montpelier when session resumes and I wanted to send something over the listserv to get your ideas about what we want to do. Whether we want to have lunch with them and a set meeting time in the morning before everyone goes to class. It's kind of difficult because everyone has different schedules and I would like to gains some of your thoughts because I don't want to make a plan and have no one agree with it. And then, we finally have time to look into priority registration because I know that's something we've been interested in and a lot of people have been interested in so that will be kind of fun. Community Coalition was Friday. For those of you who didn't go it was really productive. The coalition is writing letters to the parents of first and second years students and the parents of second year students are talking about their child's living situation in their junior year whether they are living off campus or staying on campus and they are going to highlight a lot of the themes. I'm sure that people saw in *The Cynic* today there are really low vacancy rates in the City of Burlington and a lot of students are having a hard time finding housing. We're going to talk about a lot of those issues in that letter. And also, Community Coalition is planning the second annual summit, which is January 29, which is the same day as our SGA retreat. No they changed the date? I didn't know we had set that. I'll get back to you on that because last year there was a really good SGA turnout and a really good turnout in general. 60 people students and there were a lot of students there and it was really good to bring students and community members together on the same issue in a forum that was just really, really great. I informed Gail and Alicia of the conflict of the dates and apparently it has been changed. Student Neighborhood Initiative Grant Applications end on Friday. So far no one has applied. Odds are we're going to consult, we being the selection committee, is going to consult we're going to set the deadline back and COLA is going to have to reassess and redo our advertising for that because the grant is a really good opportunity for students and we haven't done our part to get it out there.

#### **CODEEE (1:58.20):**

**Chair Herman:** Alright, I emailed my report out but, I guess I will speak to a few things that are happening tomorrow. The meeting with custodial and the director of operations of the Davis Center is finally happening tomorrow, excuse me Thursday to discuss compost and recycling at UVM and how we can make a better initiative towards bettering compost on campus. That will be happening Thursday, I believe at 2:30. Ok, it's 11:30 now. There is also going to be a meeting regarding the mental health resolution that was passed a couple weeks back. That meeting will be tomorrow with Jon Porter and Thomas Gustafson in Jon Porter's office. I would love feedback for things that you all want addressed at that meeting. Myself, Chair Simmons and Chair Adams, ok not Chair Adams. Myself and Chair Simmons will be at that meeting tomorrow. So if you give me feedback or anything you want discussed at that meeting, please send us an email or talk to us

after. We've been working with Pat he gave us some statisticals for retention to look at. We are comparing the retention and graduations rates of sister schools. Pat gave us a list of 20 schools University of Virginia, UNH, SUNY Binghamton, a host of other schools. 16 out of the 20 have contacted us back thus far with some type of data regarding retention and graduation rates of ALANA students. We are still in the process of compiling and analyzing it. That's about it for now. Also look out for Senator Benes Resolution Regarding Invasive Species On-Campus.

**Student Action (2:00.57):**

**Senator Ravech:** Chair Simmons will be emailing out his report.

**Public Relations (2:01.03):**

**Chair Monteforte:** Hello. I've already emailed out my report. I will just highlight that we are already looking into VSOPs that we're trying to get out by the end of the year. I already have COLA's questions and CODEEEE's question that they forwarded me earlier but if anyone else has any questions surrounding anything please send them to me by tomorrow, Thursday. We really want to push to get another VSOP out, otherwise, read your email.

**Academic Affairs (2:01.32):**

**Senator Filstein:** we are going to email out our report.

**President Mensah:** I just have two quick things to say. The first is to give you a quick update as to the things I mentioned last week in regards to constant contact. Last week was the first time that the email went out so it had to go out in different stages, but Monday's email went out simultaneously, 10,418 received it all at the same time. I just wanted to show you a few different statistics that are relevant to things going around such as the water bottle ban and the Resolution for Publishable Course Evaluations. Just quickly, to show you some stats. 2,654 students have opened up the email, which has gone up from 200 that opened up last week's email. With all the links there are a total 122 unique click throughs. 27 have clicked on Academic Affairs link on the Resolution for Publishable Course Evaluations and 89 people have clicked on the links for the water bottle ban including 6 additional other from Chair Simmons. The second thing that I wanted to mention are fall semester evaluations. I will be presenting them to the senate the week after we get back from fall break. I'm still trying to figure out a way to be as environmentally friendly as possible because for 42 people to do evaluations for myself, Vice President Maciewicz, Treasurer Salsgiver, and Speaker Chevrier as well as the individual committee reports that each of you within your committee is going to give to your chairs, that's going to be a lot of paper. One suggestion was to do it on the lynx but if you do it on the lynx it won't be anonymous. That was one of the suggestions we received. They are anonymous but I'll look more into that with Leon and Amanda and try to get the fall evaluations on the lynx. The third thing is I have more cake if you want another piece but you have to clean up after yourselves or the building manager will get upset.

**Finance (2:04.10):**

**Chair Mallea:** I just have a few agenda items that I want to talk to everyone about before we move in to Senatorial Forum. First off, I just wanted to reiterate what Liz said in her report. She came in to talk to the Finance Committee expressing her concerns about money next year that's going to be available for clubs and that's really important to finance right now because we are starting to move into the budget process for clubs. Having the experience of seeing each club come in for Supplemental funding every week and seeing what they do with the money that they are budgeted a statistic that was thrown out last week is that clubs are on average budgeted 44% of what they originally asked for which is less than 50%. Then if you were to go into their budgets next year if we didn't increase the student activities fee by enough, we would have to take more than half of that money away from them. I really just don't want to see that from a club standpoint and that would be really hard on all of our clubs. I also just want to do quick account

review through the supplemental process. I thought it would be good to know, it's almost the end of the semester where all of the accounts stands for next semester. Our most popular two accounts that have been used this semester are the gas, which provides money for teams to travel to their competitions and conferences and such. That has been pretty utilized this semester. The other is the supplemental fund, which is a general fund where clubs can come in and ask for money for registration or to rent an SGA van to travel somewhere. Some discouraging information that can be evaluated is in previous years the cultural diversity fund has been utilized a lot to bring diverse initiative to the UVM campus in order to educate the UVM students and we have receive one request this entire semester for the Cultural Diversity Fun and we allocated almost fully on that request. We had a discussion about what does this mean, do clubs not know that this fund is available? We really want to provide opportunities for all or our clubs to participate because this is the student activities fee. Senator Lovell, sorry, we moved seats, is going to be sending out an email since he is our financial liaison to all of the cultural group currently recognized by the SGA reminding them that supplemental funding is available to all clubs on campus either this or next semester. In regards to budget season. I know it seems like a long time away from now since it's the middle of November, but we really need to start thinking about what it mean in terms of clubs requesting their budgets for next year. The deadline that budgets are going to be due is January 24, which is the Monday after we get back from the break. They have a full week and weekend once we get back from the holiday break to gather all of their information together to submit club budgets. They will be emailing club signers listserv immediately to let them now they need to start preparing, just to give them a heads up. We decided to extend the budget process to make it easier on all of the clubs and on the Finance Committee. We will be holding during the month of February budget hearings with cubs and during the month of March we will be holding appeals. This is just a general outline about the timeline. If you have any questions or concerns or comments find me afterwards or shoot me an email. This week we only had 2 request for supplemental and one through a national request. It was a pretty slow week.

*Open the Floor for Questions (2:08.42)*

**Senator Mason:** On the lines of increasing the fee, just because I know I'm one of those people who is totally like, ugh money is scarce, and not only just in paying tuition but scarce in the world, economically just some things are just not possible. I just wanted to know some of the similar options that were being proposed. I know specifically we get budgeted money to go on our retreat. We don't pay for food but get food. If it's possible to cut back on our own spending instead of making clubs or our students pay more money and take that into consideration in the balances. I would be all for that instead of increasing student fees and try to work out some other option and then maybe students could see well SGA is not all full of crap. They are sacrificing other things as well. For the diversity fund, I specifically heard about that fund last year from Hannah because I went in and talked to her about specific reasons for the Treasurer's Workshop. I personally spoke to my own treasurer about it because we weren't aware of that fund and I believe that she along with other treasurers told me that it wasn't mentioned in the workshop and that could be a possible reason why we didn't get any requests for it.

**Chair Mallea:** First off I'm going to respond to a couple questions and then I am going to yield the floor to Treasurer Salsgiver. I think it's a great idea. I noticed that last week during Treasurer Salsgiver and my presentation about the financial policies and where the numbers are this year and what we're expecting for next semester and kind of what the overall supplemental process looks like, I noticed that we didn't have a whole lot of questions. If any questions arise, if you have questions, please feel free to contact us. This is exactly the kind of feedback we need. I'll yield the floor to Treasurer Salsgiver in a minute to talk more about that. Just to touch on the Cultural Diversity Fund not being mentioned at the Treasurer's workshop, I attended a couple of those workshops and it clearly defines the supplemental process and this fund has been actively used in the past. When I sat on the Finance Committee two years ago, it was our most active fund that was utilized. Every single week clubs would come in saying we want to program an event that is going to focus on this and diversify the UVM community. It's just really disappointing to

me that this fund isn't being properly utilized. This is why we are trying to take action and try to reach out to the clubs saying 'hi, this money is here for you to use.'

**Treasurer Salsgiver:** So you brought up a really good point about the retreat and about other parts of the budget having money that could potentially be moved to clubs, and I definitely encourage all of you to look at the budget and I can send it out to you and you can look for places maybe money should be moved away from, maybe SGA should have to fundraise for their retreat. There are costs to run SGA. It costs a certain amount to lease a printer, to pay for wages for Blanka, Leon, and Jess. There are some things that we can't cut. And I don't think we can cut about \$200,000 worth of money from the internal fund which is potentially what the shortfall will be if we don't increase the Student Activities Fee. I definitely encourage you to look through there and see where we can cut costs, for sure. The Diversity Fund was definitely included at the workshop and it's accessible on the SGA resources page.

**Senator Ballas:** Just a question, you said that the cultural fund is being underutilized and then you said that Senator Lovell is emailing all the cultural clubs to remind them about the cultural fund. Isn't the cultural fund available to all SGA clubs?

**Chair Mallea:** Ok, that's a very valid point. Thank you for your that, that's great feedback. We will send out an email to all of the clubs telling them that the cultural fund is available for use. Do you have any other questions?

### **Senatorial Forum (2:13.23)**

**Senator Lovell:** the stipend committee had a great meeting this Friday. We started to hash out what we thought we needed to do. We decided that the initial focus should be on the system for the chairs and we'd put off the issue of the summer until later in the year just because have 6 months until the summer starts but the current school year is still going on. We set a tentative thought on getting a basic requirement on what chairs need to be doing each week including office hours, attending exec, and these such things. We also wanted it to be more detailed because it varies widely from committee to committee obviously, like Finance has to do supplementals so that would be obviously be a requirement for Finance. I don't know anything at all about Student Activities, what their requirements are, so if I could get one of you to join us that would be awesome. Similarly for everyone who isn't PR or CODEEE. In addition to that we are hoping to establish a system in which chairs must submit a report about what they did each week which would detail the things that aren't the basic essentials. In doing so they could get feedback from their committee as to whether or not their committee felt they had essentially qualified for their stipend for that week. We realize that it may be difficult for some members of certain committees, but we currently believe that may be the best system of checks and balances. We're going to further look into that and thinking about pursuing that as a basic method for chair stipends.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** So I would like to preface this with I had a meeting with the Women's Center so I am speaking right now on behalf of them because they could not make it to public forum because they had some programming that they couldn't get out of. But, I'm a little sorry some people aren't here who I believe are involved with the situation but ultimately, I was unaware before I saw it come into my email box from ALANA that the 'cheaper way to tap that' petition is going around. The Women's Center is devastated. They are really, really angry and I don't blame them. It's really oppressive on every basic level, the phrase 'tap that' brings up sex. I'm going to say that no one had this phrase come to their mind without sex coming up.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Point of Clarification: What is tap that?

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** It's the petition for the UVM Water Bottle ban that is going around. It has been up on facebook, it's been up in emails. I've gotten it from about 6 or 7 different listervs and I believe they are rightfully pissed. When you hear 'tap that' related to sex it's usually about men saying that about women or women saying it about women, but it's never said about

men. It's an objectifying phrase, it's a dehumanizing phrase and it's really inappropriate. I understand that it was a marketing ploy, but ultimately, I think it's horribly inappropriate. If sex sells, no one is necessarily happy about that fact, so why are we endorsing that? Something that the women's center asked me to bring up is that there were instances in Greek Life that there were inappropriately named events referencing sex, referencing drug use, and they were squashed within a matter of 24 hours because UVM student life doesn't tolerate that kind of activity and we're supposed to be student leaders on campus. If we are supposed to be leaders, why are we promoting a phrase like this? Whether it has nothing to do with the water bottle ban itself, why are we promoting a phrase like that that blatantly is a microcosm of rape culture? It's encouraging a phrase that dehumanizes women and it's 50% of our campus. I think that the people, I don't know specifically who, I'm not going to call out names, but whoever is responsible for bringing that name up for the petition, I don't feel comfortable with my name being associated with SGA if SGA's name is on that petition. I would really like to meet with whoever's idea that was and whoever is responsible for it being promoted that way, because I'm offended, a major resource on campus has been offended and I'm pretty sure LGBTQ services is not thrilled about it either. If you have any interest in continuing the discussion, please talk to me after because they are pissed and so am I.

**Chair Adams:** Hi friends. So on a completely unrelated note, a couple of things I forgot. I referenced briefly SAC opening up the op doc. Basically changes I want to propose is you have to update your constitutions every 4 years that means once every academic career, essentially, unless you are Senator Lober. You will be looking at your club's constitution. The other change is sort of a new club process defining what clubs need to do after recognition so signing the club signers booklet, attending the Treasurer's workshop stuff and policy workshops and registering on the lynx, so all of those type of things, just formalizing that process a bit. For the constitutional amendments, I think it's somewhat inconsistent that we require all clubs to be open to all students paying the student fee yet one of our restrictions of who can serve on the body to only undergraduates pursuing career pathways, I forgot the specific phrase, and also limiting terms I think that's sort of an inconsistency that we need to revise. We were all thoroughly pissed when Chi Alpha wanted to restrict their membership based on identity, but being an undergraduate student is sort of our identity and everybody paying the student fee technically should be able to be involved in any SGA organization. Things to think about.

**Senator Benes:** Tomorrow at 4:30 in the galaxy space is going to be the Collaborative Campus Conference Brainstorm where we are going to get together some ideas about how we can get everyone on campus who is interested in changing the campus in some way whether it be clubs or just students in general to come together and see where they want to see the university go and improve the student vision. If you are at all interested please come to the galaxy space tomorrow at 4:30 and really hammer out how that event will be held. Also, I crafted on invasives a resolution, I'll send it out to you. If any of you have any questions about it, please send it back to me. Also, the clean energy fund. There has been a lot of talk lately about greenifying the fund, kind of incorporating the green landscaping with invasives and composting and the funds. Clean energy fund committee is kind of resilient towards that. I don't know how the body feels towards this because each one of us contributes \$20 a year to this fund. It's coming from student money and you want to see it go towards a certain direction, I think we should state our voice and if we do think it should be broadened a bit more rather than just concentrating on renewable energy. If any of you have any interesting ideas of your own let me know. It's something that I might put on VSOP to see exactly how students view that. Nick, I might send you an email. If any of you have any brainstorming, I'm on committee and I'd love to hear your feedback.

**Senator Ravech:** Addressing Senator Lederer-Plaskett's comments, everyone knows that petition was created by Student Action so to not address this would probably be a mistake. When we were discussing the petition, controversy over whether 'tap that' was appropriate or not did come up. We didn't realize it would be that controversial, I had no idea personally that there was a backlash and realizing that this is not ok. We would love to meet with you to discuss this further. Maybe

changing the name, I'm not sure we're open to suggestions, or having a talk. I know our committee meeting is tomorrow evening at 5:30, if you want to come, and we'll talk about it.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I just wanted to say a few things. One, Public Forum, I just want to remind you again is to ask questions. It's not to prove your point or tell how you feel. It's about to ask questions so you have a better idea about what ideas they are presenting. We were nicer than we normally are there is still room for improvement. Also, I feel the need to say it, I know, I love our clubs, they deserve more money, but, if we're going to take it to the Board of Trustees that we want to raise our fee, we are going to have to accept it when they say that we're stupid because last year we stopped other really important things from happening on campus because we said absolutely no to fees. We are completely contradicting ourselves and I think that will potentially shed negative light on this organization because apparently we only like things that are going to benefit ourselves.

**Senator Mason:** So I missed my opportunity last week to voice this opinion, I read the minutes though, and through everything that was said. Great meeting guys, I thought it was very productive. On another note, I agree with Senator Lederer-Plaskett on the 'tap that' situation as well. My main concern was that I read that we said in exec that people didn't agree with that TV that's in SGA. That's a beautiful piece of equipment that in my opinion was a waste of money. I don't care if it came from students or god himself brought it down or anybody else, I still feel it was a waste of money and in exec people voted against it as well as a majority of the body. I voted against it and to not listen to those things, I would rather you not even take my opinion if you don't even care about it. Why sit in this body and give opinions on things that you do not care if you get. If we are here for a specific reason, you should take those opinions into consideration. I would have rather not heard about anything and someone to just pop in and say 'hey, we bought a TV' that's what it is, at least stand up and do it that way than waste our time debating on it week after week to still do it anyway. I think it was a pointless waste of time and I think it reflected poorly on this body in that respect.

**Chair Adams:** I'm sorry, I have to do it again, talking about things on a completely different note, I am like out in outer space today. Welcome to all the new appointees. And the other thing was I wanted to mention cultural clubs, the diversity fund is particularly relevant because it coincides with the mission of all of our cultural clubs on campus, so sending an additional email from a liaison that they know better than myself and Chair Mallea is a good idea even though all clubs do know about it through the Treasurer's workshop.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** Addressing the same petition on a completely different note, something I address in a couple classes today as well as with other members of campus organizations who are not on senate is that this petition is going around, but there is a modification that people believe would be much more appropriate. Because this implies a ban on water bottles, people tend to assume that a campus-wide ban on everyone versus a petition that isolates or is aimed towards a certain number of people, I would like to propose a petition or a pledge encouraging people to have responsible water bottle use versus to cease water bottle use at all. I think the goal here is to not blanketly tell people what they can and cannot do but to encourage people to think before they purchase. I think that's largely the point with what they are doing with the Bring Your Own day or the Buy Nothing day, is that they are encouraging people to think before engaging in purchasing consumer goods. I think that something we could probably benefit from as a campus would be to have a pledge where students the ability to think about and make a conscious decision before they purchase things on campus be it food, be it plastic water bottles, be it anything else, because I think there is something to be said there beyond what's being said.

**Senator Vitagliano:** I want to make a comment that despite how people feel about this whole TV issue, it is a said and done issue. The TV has been purchased so lashing out at the PR committee or whoever made the decision for the TV week after week is totally inappropriate and doesn't need to be done.



**Vice President Maciewicz:** I just want to address briefly the TV and the money for the retreat only because as operations manager of the Davis Center I ultimately authorized putting the TV and I also plan the SGA retreat. I do respect all of your feedback but I would appreciate if you would direct those comments towards me now that the TV is actually there. PR submitted a request that was approved by the Finance Committee so nothing was done illegitimately. Therefore, the ultimate responsibility of the office space falls to me. If you do have concerns about the TV, please direct them at me. What I really want to say fundamentally is that we can definitely take all those concerns into consideration. We spend \$3,000 on the SGA retreat, of which \$500 is spent on food. I believe we spent \$300 on the TV. If we really don't want to have food at the SGA retreat I won't put in the budget request for the Vice President next year. And if we don't buy a TV in the future, that will save us \$300. But keep in mind, we are facing a \$200,000 budget shortfall, work-study has been cut, and it's not like I'm advocating for a fee increase. I have stood against many in the past, but if we're going to be so hypercritical or spending practices by my office or others, we do need to focus on legitimate ways to balance the budget. If I strip \$500 for the retreat, that still puts us at a 199,500-dollar potential shortfall. It's appreciated but we're kind of acting like federal politicians saying don't fly the President to Kenya for vacation because it costs \$2 Million when our budget is like \$3 Trillion. We can do these things and every penny counts but I just don't appreciate the dramatics of hyper escalating the TV or the food at the retreat into that's going to solve our budget problem. We are facing 100,000s of thousands of dollar shortages. I don't want to raise the fee any more than you do but we do need to be realistic not be dramatic about the whole situation. I do appreciate all your feedback. Everything you say to me about the way I'm doing my job I think about a lot, each and every day, so keep it coming.

**Chair Mallea:** So, I'm not going to make a lot of comments on this but I'm just kind of hoping to make some comments about how to move forward. It's very well known that every week I stand up here and I have a really amazing committee and I really value their opinions. We communicate well, we make decisions well, and I knew applying to be chair of this committee that I would have to be our voice during Senatorial Forum and during Committee Reports and I was fine with that. What I'm not fine with is constantly feeling like I'm being personally attacked for a decision that either the committee made or Treasurer Salsgiver made, and it's really not a healthy environment, I'm sorry I'm getting upset. I just hate constantly feeling that I am being attacked every single week that I stand up here because a lot of the time it's not my decision, it's the committee's decision, it's Treasurer Salsgiver's decision, it's the Finance Office's decision. Chairs are really easy targets and I think that if we can move forward in communicating better. If you have concerns or questions just ask them but in a nice way please but don't take the mentality of attacking people because it makes me not want to be on this body anymore.

**Senator Lober:** So I've been pretty busy and am going to be pretty busy over the next few weeks and I just want to suggest that people direct their energy and their anger over the purchasing of the TV towards opening up the operational documents and putting something in that would allow SGA as a whole to regulate committee spending.

**Senator Bennington:** Thanks for allowing me to sit on this body. That's cool. Also, I'm not sure if this is the appropriate place to do this, but the concerns about banning bottled water from campus versus asking people to take a pledge. In this country it's illegal to manufacture toys that are targeted to infants with lead in them. It's against the law to sell paint with lead in it. We don't give people the choice to choose whether they want things with lead in it. We don't ask them to pledge that they're not going to use it because we know that it's dangerous. While drinking bottled water isn't dangerous per se, except that a lot of municipal drinking water supplies under go a lot more rigorous testing than the Hershey bottling plant. Also, important note, the state of Vermont, Green Mountain National Forest produces standard quality testing water every that national water is tested against. I guess water coming from Lake Champlain is a little bit different. I just think it's important to get past this dichotomy of choice versus banning and needing to allow people to choose for themselves. Oil is running out and plastic is made out of oil and oil is really good for some things like lubricating machinery and powering vehicles like

ambulances and fire trucks, but it's not so good for keeping water that's shipped from far away. There is a reason we have government so we can have voices and there's a reason we have interest groups like VSTEP so they can get together the facts and be the strongest voice. I don't see students coming in here today saying 'we need bottled water!' I do see students coming in to say we don't need bottled water.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I wanted to clarify for the last time I'll bring it up. My frustrations with the TV are not necessarily about Finance but about the fact that our voice wasn't heard. So while I agree with the sentiments that maybe we should look into those sorts of things, I don't think that it's a closed matter because I feel the need to reopen it to make sure that 8 hours of my life are not wasted in the future that my voice will not end up being heard about anyway.

**Chair Adams:** Sort of a follow up Chair Mallea's comments with understanding sort of the unique positions of SAC and Finance, more so Finance because they tangibly give people money, but you guys have the unique position of seeing our work first hand in that you can look through what Mallea gives away money in her committee and make those judgments. But I also think in terms of being attacked and feeling defensive, Chair Mallea and myself are for club leaders sort of the anger management outlet, so we do receive some not so nice emails from club signers and it's definitely kind of tough and then to have to defend actions to this body sort of adds in that sense. We really do have reasons why we act the way we do as does every member of the Finance Committee.

**Senator Ravech:** Addressing Senator Bennington and the water bottle pledge. It's not so much of a pledge not to use bottled water but it's also so that when we have meetings with the Coke Contract starting in January, I believe, we have at least 10% of the student body to show to the faculty that we don't need bottled water in the contract because students don't want it. It's not just pledging that you won't use bottled water but to for us to use as evidence when talking to faculty and the committee who will be renewing the contract.

**Senator Burns:** Going off what Senator Ravech said, we eventually do want to get bottled water off campus, but before do anything we need to have students make this pledge because we do need to have support and some numbers behind it, because if we didn't start with this pledge, we wouldn't be doing our job doing this with students and we are all publically elected by the students.

### **Senatorial Comments/Announcements (2:37.51)**

**Speaker Chevrier:** Point of Information: I want to point out for our new senators that while Senatorial Forum is a time to discuss matters that pertain to SGA Senatorial Comments/Announcements is a time to say things don't necessarily pertain to SGA, like wanting to tell about when a club that you are in meets.

**Senator Cesario:** Good evening everyone. So, to give a little Happy Thanksgiving, I'm presuming everyone celebrates it because it's a pretty awesome holiday. I figured we could begin by wetting the palate by feasting your eyes on this. Naked Chair Simmons, Chair Nelson, Senator White, Senator Alleger, how could I forget? I'm replacing Jesse tonight with BUG plug by saying that they are in the Prudent Student, it's right here, I have a pile of them and I think you should all buy one to support one of your fellow senators greatest efforts in creating a club. I am going to be here when the meeting adjourns and you should come to me give me \$10 and I will give you one of these. If you are going to buy a prudent student it should be from BUG.

**Senator Mason:** I'm sorry I felt it was appropriate not to put this on Senatorial Forum because it was pertaining to my club and I would just like to thank Speaker Chevrier for back the Step Team last meeting. I just thought it was inappropriate to put on Senatorial Forum.

**Chair Adams:** Hi friends, so I serve on the international advisory council and they're working to start up this group called the Cultural Cats through the learning coop. What it is is peer mentoring for international students. A lot of them feel disconnected, they don't necessarily understand references made in class by professors. It's just giving them an outlet to a) practice speaking in English and b) pick up on references and slang. I will be bringing you guys more information on that but it's my hope and the international education office. I hope that a lot of you will choose to be involved.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I just want to say what up to 3 dynasties of WDW Presidents who are now sitting on this body.

**Senator Vitagliano:** Just an announcement to the senate that LGBTQA center is launching an ad campaign through PR to have a successful holiday with families that the members of the center may not be out to certain people in their family and how best to socially interact with them to have the best holiday possible.

**Senator Ballas:** Does anyone know when the Aiken Center is going to be done with their construction?

**Senator Benes:** Point of Information: It should be done in late October 2011.

#### **Roll Call (2:41.22)**

**Finance:** All Present

**Student Activities:** Senator Yeager, excused

**COLA:** All Present

**CODEEEE:** All Present

**Student Action:** Senator Doran, unexcused, Senator White and Chair Simmons, excused

**Public Relations:** All Present

**Academic Affairs:** Senator Alleger, Chair Nelson, excused

#### **Adjournment**

*End Time: 9:41pm*