



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2010
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE 2010-2011 SENATE

Call to Order (0:02:43)

Start Time: 7:03pm

Roll Call (0:2.47)

Finance: Senator Juaire, excused
Student Activities: Senator Moise, excused
COLA: All Present
CODEEE: Senator McLemore, excused
Student Action: All Present
Public Relations: All Present
Academic Affairs: Senator Filstein, excused

Approval of the Minutes (0:3.07)

From 11.30.10 - passes

Public Forum (0:3:23)

Asher Lober, Former Senator

Asher: I just wanted to thank everyone. This is my last week and last day to sit on senate. I really enjoyed it I had the expectation that I would just sit around watch over people's shoulders and see what the SGA was doing and my experience was much different than what I initially expected. I probably attribute most of that to the support you guys gave so thank you.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:4.20)

Chair Nelson: Feedback on the boycott and evaluations

Asher: It's kind of playing out in an interesting way. From the administrative side, I kind of think we realized we should explain situation better what we're requesting a little bit better. Student side, I was kind of expecting a similar reaction to what we're receiving which was a lot of skepticism. It's hard to understand the motivations behind it but I think in general it's playing out and it's fine and [inaudible] the administration. That's the way I see it.

Old Business (0:5.51)

Bill Recognizing Lawrence Debate Union as Club of the Month

Chair Monteforte: No clapping? The good-looking Senator Yeager is also coming up because he's awesome. Want to read every other word together?

Chair Monteforte and Senator Yeager: *[reads bill]*.

Chair Monteforte: So it looks like they couldn't come tonight, I think they were busy. They were very happy to be recognized for this. I hope you guys pass it.

Senator Yeager: They just came back from Worlds and there was a winner of the World Debate Team from UVM

Speaker Chevrier: Point of Information: It was a policy tournament so it was a pair of UVM students and they came in first place in Slovenia.

Senator Yeager: In worlds, so pretty impressive.

Chair Monteforte: And Greg's their advisor liaison.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:7.42)

Senator Benner: Chair Monteforte, in the Davis Center in that underground passageway space where there is that one billboard that we generally say is designated to the club of the month, yes? Could there possibly, maybe not for this one specifically, but could we in the future add something about how club of month will have that billboard to do what they want with it or to have us do what they want with it just because it's empty space and I think it reflects poorly on us.

Chair Monteforte: Totally and I accepted that they'll use it. It will be done.

Vote on Bill Recognizing Lawrence Debate Union as Club of the Month - passes

Bill Allocating Funds to UVM Cycling Team

Chair Mallea: I'm going to read the bill like normal and then you guys can ask me questions. *[reads bill]*.

Open the Floor for Question (0:9.56)

Chair Morgan: How much did they ask for?

Chair Mallea: Correct me if I'm wrong, I was unable to make the hearing but it was around 3,500. I can double check, it's on my computer if you want me to. So they originally requested \$3,750.

Chair Morgan: What things did we not pay for?

Senator Tran: Can I look at the thing, do you have the allocation? I'm pretty sure one of them was you had to pay \$200 to ship your bike to Oregon so we made them pay half of that.

Senator Dougherty: Point of Information I think it was \$600 to ship or put the bikes on the plane.

Senator Tran: Yeah it was \$200 each so we made them pay half for that one.

Vote on Bill Allocating Funds for UVM Cycling Team - passes

Emergency Business (0:12.35)

Resolution in Support of Capital Ranking Proposal for the ALANA Student Center

Senator Vitagliano: *[reads bill]*. I know it's a really long one. It pretty much, the proposal that was from the ALANA Student Center I took the long proposal and broke it down paragraph by paragraph and summarized it into resolution form. The reason it's under Emergency Business is if

you didn't all read my email is that there was a deadline yesterday of when these kind of proposal ideas were to be submitted and the committee that's reviewing those they are aware that this resolution is potentially coming from us so it will still be considered.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:17.07)

Senator Alleger: Just to get this straight this is calling for the construction of a new building?

Senator Vitagliano: Not necessarily construction of a new building mostly just moving locations whether that be new building or for example possibly Billings, the old student center. Just moving to a new location that will better meet the needs of the students.

Senator Caster: So is this requesting that the new ALANA Center be put in the campus Master Plan and I guess my question would also be what administrative efforts have put forth towards the ALANA Center that are apparently inadequate based off of this resolution.

President Mensah: Can you repeat the last part of the question?

Senator Caster: I would just be curious as to what administrative efforts have been made that were inadequate or did not satisfy the requirements for the ALANA Center that require both the ALANA Center to propose this project and the SGA to endorse it?

President Mensah: 2 years ago there was a proposal created by the ASC, that stands for ALANA Student Center, that didn't go through or get the level of ranking that it needed to be put through the Master Campus Planning Board to be approved for a new building or location. The reasons to that I'm not sure. I'm confident that the new proposal is adequate enough and outlines the reasons for a new center slash new location and passing of resolution like this in support of that. And you're first part?

Senator Caster: Would this specifically be asking for ALANA Student Center to be incorporated into the Campus Master Plan? When I personally searched for it was not. It's basically requesting that this be incorporated into the Campus Master Plan?

President Mensah: Yes

Chair Morgan: Did you provide with the resolution somewhere we can find the Capital Proposal from the ALANA Student Center?

Senator Vitagliano: It will be attached alongside this resolution. I have it in my email if people want to see it. Essentially this is a summary of the exact proposal. It points out what the new Student Center wants to accomplish, why it feels that it should move to a different location and so on.

Chair Morgan: Seeing how we're supporting this, I forgot to email you and ask you to send this, but would it be a problem, could we pull it up and how long is it? Could we scan it over? I don't want to support something I haven't read.

Senator Vitagliano: Let me see if it's here.

Senator Benner: First thing, I noticed that in the resolution itself, just sort of a question of terminology, you seem to use ALANA students and students of color as synonyms. Is that a regularly accepted term? Ok, second thing is potential friendly amendment to add in a specific location of a new facility or specify that you don't want a new building, maybe, you just want a new location for it because I'm not sure how clear that is in the resolution itself.

President Mensah: The proposal that is being submitted, and I was going to talk a little bit more about it in my report, is a unit proposal. The ALANA Student Center is one of the many different units on campus. I can forward you the email communication that Jane Knodell sent out to the different units asking them if they wanted to submit a new proposal. The reason why this resolution as it stands doesn't include a specific location or asking for a new building is because it's leaving room for different ideas to come with it. Speaking personally from the center they do want a new building. Having conversations with the director of the ALANA Student Center since this summer they want a new building and a new location.

Senator Sadeghi: I'm not sure what this is but can we go back to the resolution? Friendly amendment in the second whereas second line where it says welcoming atmosphere to all people on all walks of like is the second on supposed to be an of? To people of all walks of life?

Senator Vitagliano: I believe it's on, this came from the student vision and I believe it's on.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: Thank you for writing this because I know it's something that has been driving people at the ALANA Student Center crazy for a long time. I was just wondering if there's sort of been a middle ground that has been approached since it's probably unlikely that this will be carried out within the next semester. The other issue that is facing the ALANA Center is horribly dilapidated and overaged computers, equipment, and that sort of thing. I was wondering if there is anything that is being addressed in terms of updating the center as a whole. That's a lot to read.

Senator Vitagliano: Would people like me to read this? It says in it that they're looking for an improvement of the center. They are requesting for a new upgraded location. With that would be up to date computers and stuff like that. This is just the proposal for the actual center not necessarily increasing what is at the student center now. Is that what you're asking?

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: yeah

Chair Adams: What other proposals were submitted? So, what are we asking this to be ranked above?

Senator Vitagliano: This is the proposal coming from the Student Center for them to consider the uprooting of the ALANA Student Center from where it currently is over on Redstone, if people don't know it's over there, to bring it to a more central location where it can be more utilized by students that would be using the center.

President Mensah: I think what Chair Adams is questioning was what other units around campus have already submitted proposals to be ranked for Capital Funding and I'm not sure the answer.

Chair Adams: So I guess one if we mean from central location on campus if we mean Central Campus, can we just say Central Campus if that's what we want? And two, I don't necessarily feel comfortable because I don't know the others proposals submitted saying I want this over those because I don't know what they are.

Senator O'Brien: Friendly Amendment if you go down right after the word boost... to as a boost. And my question is will we not really know what this mean for fees to students for construction of a new building until the plan is submitted?

Senator Vitagliano: Once it's submitted and it's negotiated if it does go into Capital that would either set up a budget that would allocate a certain amount of money to go towards this center. It has to be kind of looked at first before an increase of fees would be possible.

Senator Caster: That was also my general questions. If this were to be approved is this resolution supporting the ALANA Center asking for more Capital for a building or would this result in another form of student fee, which has been unpopular?

Senator Vitagliano: This would be supporting their proposal of moving locations. This would be beneficial to the students that use the center. It would be more centrally located although not necessarily on Central Campus but in a place where it can be accessed by more students in a central location. Right now it's over on Redstone kind of tucked away and I don't know how many people know where it is but it's kind of hidden, a very small building. We support that they want to increase their size and with that would be a better facility for all to use.

Chair Herman: I definitely support this resolution. I don't know what seems to be the exact issue as far as the resolution goes. For any of you who have been to the ALANA Student Center, I don't know if many of you have, but the building infrastructure itself is terrible, it's extremely small and it doesn't suit the amount of students we have the classify as ALANA Students. Within the resolution, it doesn't say anything supporting budgeting or anything like that it's just we support to resolution how it is. It doesn't say anything about the budget it just says we want a more central location for our ALANA Students and a better location for our students. There is no financing, nothing involved in this. I don't understand what the worries are about this as far as this goes as it is.

Senator Mason: Just piggybacking off of that, I really love this resolution but I think that often times we're getting a little sidetracked as Chair Herman said by adding things into it that's not actually on the screen. If you've actually seen ALANA, it's a trailer literally. You can't go in the basement and they've had renovation problems with all kinds of things that are not healthy for the students in general. Just supporting their request. My one question is that for this request do we know if this was the first step asking for that building or have they been asking to be relocated prior to this year and in years before, if we know that information?

Senator Vitagliano: I believe just in general that they've been asking for either a new facility or at least an upgrade of the facility. They have brought to the attention of the administration that there is an issue in giving students access to the center. Like you said the flooding and sewage issue is a health and safety violation and they have expressed that in the past.

Speaker Chevrier: Two things, I wanted to point out that it's kind of SGA's duty to write legislation and then send it to the people to whose job it is to then figure out the logistics of how things work. If this was going to be implemented through an increase in the comprehensive fee that's something that the Board of Trustees would have to agree to and vote on. It's something that we would touch upon much later on. Right now we're just saying there is a need for it and the Student Government Association is supporting that need and I really think that we should pass this. Also, not to repeat but to second what Chair Herman and Senator Mason said, it's a disgusting building and it's insulting. I would go so far as to say that even though I don't know the other areas and the other buildings or organizations that are asking to be moved, that this deserves priority because it's the grossest building on campus that I can think of and it's insulting.

Senator M. White: Just to speak to Chair Herman and Speaker Chevrier, in not mentioning the budget in your resolution, you're supporting a change in facilities, which is going to affect the budget so it is what it is. Is there a way that we can put into the resolution a support of utilizing space that's already on campus like Billings. I know you said that they want to build a new building but the Billings basement is empty.

Senator Vitagliano: With that they aren't just looking into a new building which would probably be what they want but I believe they are willing to work out whatever upgrade that would be most feasible. They are looking into Billings as an option because it is a fairly underutilized building and it does have a lot of empty space. They are looking into more issues than just that and with

possibly moving to Billings that would cut down the budget issue seeing that they wouldn't have to build a brand new building.

Senator M. White: Do we know what's going to happen to ALANA Student Center once they go, if they go?

Senator Vitagliano: I don't know. I'm not sure but at least with a possible health and safety violations now, I don't know if there would ever be a use for it afterwards but that's just, I don't know.

Chair Adams: Friendly amendment to change the word 'new' in the first stanza to 'change of facility' just because new facility I think implies a new building which costs money. I do like the idea but I also think too we can look at other buildings they revamped around campus like Aiken is going to look completely different. If what we want is to improve the existing facilities that's one issue but it's a separate issue to move the location.

President Mensah: It's a completely separate issue. As of now, the ALANA Student Center, as again with conversations with the director, wants a new central location and I know there's been a few comments about specifically putting Central Campus but central location doesn't necessarily mean Central Campus. A central location somewhere that is more accessible to all students not some corner on Redstone Campus. As for the look of the building I really don't think you can add or build to the ALANA Student Center. Again, it's 47 years old, it used to be the center of the Economics Department here at UVM. What they would like is a new facility and a new location. That's what this supports and that is what this resolution is looking to supports as well.

Senator Vitagliano: Pretty much the foundation and the whole infrastructure of the center is crumbling so I believe it is more instead of putting our resources into trying to rebuild that building there is a better way to go about it which is why this proposal is being proposed.

Chair Adams: Kofi previously mentioned that they want a new building and you had mentioned possibly using Billings so if they want a new building where are they thinking they are going to put a new building? I just don't know any central locations.

President Mensah: Point of Information: As of right now these type of discussions are way too preliminary. What they are asking for is to be ranked in a number in the Capital Funding project, which is a committee that is headed along with Richard Cate, along with Jane Knodell in reviewing different units that submit these proposals to get funding for a new location for a new facility. As to where exactly it's going to be I'm not sure yet, neither are they, but somewhere central is what they are looking for and pushing for.

Chair Adams: Is this really Emergency Business or could we pass it in the first week we get back?

President Mensah: The reason why it's Emergency Business is because all of these proposals were due yesterday so yesterday December 6 and they've already begun the review process so that's why it's under Emergency Business.

Chair Herman: I think that from speaking with Beverly Colston, the director of the ALANA Student Center I think they're thinking of new as in actually building a new facility. This is a process in itself. This is the preliminary step in possibly getting a different facility. New doesn't necessarily have to mean they are building a new facility somewhere on campus. That's why change of facility is a good choice of words instead of new. She, Beverly Colston, she is definitely looking at current building that exist on campus that are more closer to the center. New doesn't necessarily mean build ground up like they did for Jeffords or whatever else.

Bennington: I think this is an awesome bill and I fully support it. I think that someone brought up talking about Aiken and the renovation that went on there and I just think it's important to note how long it took to the greening of Aiken to actually happen. If the ALANA Student Center now is in such bad shape it doesn't seem like it can afford to wait that long. What I'm wondering, maybe it's out of scope of this proposal because it has to do with the very specific capital ranking process, but is there opportunity for us to also encourage that funds are reallocated right now to make emergency mandatory improvements to the current center because they're not going to be able to build a new one or upgrade a facility over night and it sounds like it's really a pretty horrible situation and it would be cool if something beyond long term planning was addressed.

Vote to Call to Question – Passes

Vote on Resolution in Support of Capital Ranking Proposal for the ALANA Student Center - passes

New Business (0:40.50)

n/a

Executive Reports (0:40.59)

Speaker Chevrier (0:41.01): Hi friends. So I wanted to thank everyone for amending our Constitution last time, sorry I wasn't here. Jordan and I had very important things to do on the beach in Florida. I also wanted to talk about Constitution Committee. We're going to get the ball rolling the minute that we start back up again. We are going to be tackling the Operation Documents, which is a much bigger task. I think it's important first for the Committees that are attached to some of the documents in our Operational Docs like Student Activities and Finance I think mostly. If you could start looking over things and email possible changes. I know that some Chairs and Senators are already looking into the different things that they want to change so if you could start talking about that and let me know. Chairs I know that we are going to have new people and some people are leaving but if Chairs could please keep up with who their Constitution Committee member is that would be great if I had that by the first meeting so that we could meet the first or second week back in January that would be great. Also, I was talking to President Mensah about this but trying to get legislation from people has officially become harder than pulling teeth. Please give me your legislation by Thursday. It's been the same all year and I email it out Friday but this time I had to email it out Saturday and I was still missing parts of the legislation because people just refused to respond to my pleas to send me the legislation. If you are in a particularly difficult spot where you proposed the legislation but you have to have some type of meeting before you write the legislation please let me know so I'm not desperately trying to contact you while you are avoiding me. Also, please sign your legislation. I think Senator Bennington and Senator Cesario both have legislation downstairs you need to sign. I can't scan it and then upload it and then send it to the group of people that are supposed to receive it until everyone's signed it, so please do that. It's technically supposed to be done within 48 hours. That hasn't happened. That would be great. Other than that Happy holidays. If we got through this quickly we could almost watch Glee together.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:43.27)

Chair Adams: Can't the Operational Documents be opened by anyone at any point?

Speaker Chevrier: Yes but it's something we're going to tackle on a much more specific level because the Operational Document has to work with the constitution and so I could technically propose an amendment that completely went against what the constitution said and that wouldn't be good. It's the Constitution Committee's job to interpret what the Constitution says so all the different Operational Document changes should although not technically have to go through us like it used to, it should be run through us and we're going to be tackling the ones that don't specifically have to do with specific committees.

Vice President Maciewicz (0:44.16): Happy Tuesday everyone, I hope your finals studying is going well. Thanks you to everyone who came to the holiday party, I think it went very well. Remember, save the date for January 29th Billings Spring Retreat. It won't be as intense as the first one for those of you who were there but it will be informative and fun, some good food and good times for all so get excited. We will be doing appointments to fill the three vacant seats we currently have. If membership does not change by this Friday. If no one else must leave Senate by this Friday we will be doing Appointments. I will be working on that over winter break and we will be doing that as soon as we get back. Also remember, Chairs make sure I have an Appointments Committee person. I know there was some interest in switching so I kind of wiped the slate clean. If you want to send the same person back, do so, but if not, maybe switch it up, just let me know. The Lynx process is also something I'm going to be working on over the break and next semester. Our contract with the Lynx is going to be up next year. Investigating if we should move to something else or if we should keep it or how to make it better. I've been kind of falling behind on that so it's going to be a big intense process next semester so get excited if anyone wants to help out with that. Also, I let some people know today but the office has been getting a little messy so if we could help clean the desks and not leave paper around or food, we'll look more professional when we have visitors. With that, that ends my report. I am going to have to leave the meeting early after executive reports are done because I am going to have to clean up downstairs. I wish all of you a happy holiday and safe travels and good luck with your studying.

President Mensah (0:46.04): Happy Tuesday everyone. I have decided to do a PowerPoint this time around. This is the final report to senate for the fall semester. So one of the things I've been working on in the past week is the boycott of course evaluations. As some of you or all of you should know a David has been actively forwarding all of the emails we've been receiving from the administration and Faculty Senate and United Academics to all of you. We have received response from them. The first response we received was from David Shiman who is the President of United Academics. For those of you guys who don't know they are the contractual group that is associated with Faculty Senate. Their response was pretty much no and put the responsibility off from them and said it was something that should be handled by the Faculty Senate. Because of that, we moved on to boycotting the course evaluations as we said and as you all voted on in the resolution on November 9. The initial email that was sent out last week on Thursday morning on December 2 informing students that we had begun a boycott and that they shouldn't fill out the top part of the evaluations but should just fill out the comments part on the bottom of the evaluations went out Thursday morning. In the span of 6 days that email alone had the most opens and reads of any email we have sent this semester. 5,239 students opened that email. That is about half of student population of 10,418 students. A lot of students know about the boycott. A lot of students for the first time in a while are really paying attention to what it is SGA is doing. Unfortunately, some of the initial responses that I received from students were a lot of negative and obnoxious responses, but those responses, in my opinion, were from a lack of understanding. I guess we could have done better in informing students, and I could have done better in my first email, but informing students of exactly what we're trying to accomplish with the course evaluations and some of those comments that received I forwarded off to you all last night so in conversations with other students you can almost use that for a sounding board for answers. It took me a little while to draft all the responses to the students so you can just refer back to that in conversations with other students. There were a few yeas and supportive ones from students and some students actually took a proactive measure in saying yes I support this and yes this is something students should have and why don't we just create our own website. One student actually created their own website, another student was looking into a survey monkey which isn't necessarily going to work because you have to pay for that and if you don't pay for it they only show you a limited amount of responses. As much as that make me happy that students are taking such a proactive stance on these course evaluations, in the long run that's not something that we want. In the long run we want something that is the university standing course evaluations system where students can utilize on the banner system just as when we're going to see hopefully course syllabi in registering for courses. Yesterday's email that I sent out included a statement on the boycott and offered a lot more clarifications, and that email in one day alone has also had more

opens and more reads than any other email. Typically for the last month the emails that I've been sending out only reach around 2,000, 2,100, no more than 2,500 students. Yesterdays so far has reached 3,190. Within the few hours that email was sent out there have been a lot less angry emails so hopefully that clarification are helping students. Fall semester evaluations for senate. They've been up for about a week now, they've been uploaded onto the Lynx website, last week, Wednesday morning. As of now only 10 people have filled out the exec branch evaluations and I checked downstairs with Jess and that's really unacceptable. They've been up for a couple days now including a weekend and the deadline was tonight at 11:45 pm. These evaluations for the executive branch as well as Claire and the evaluations for the chairs are really going to be used for feedback to improve senate next semester. I know over winter break that's one of the thing that David, myself and Liz are going to be working on so we can to some extent bring it back during the spring retreat and show you all the progress that we are making especially in my position that we are going to make over the next semester so these evaluations do need to be filled out. In light of the fact that only about 10 people have filled them out so far, I have extended that deadline so the deadline is now tomorrow at 11:45pm. Hopefully there are 43 responses the next time that I check with the exec branch and then all the chairs, if you are in a committee, you should be filling out committee evaluations for your chairs. Thank you for passing the resolution in support, if you hadn't passed it I would have just gone over it, you have to be prepared. It was something that folks over there at that center have really been engaging in conversations in over long period of time. One thing that I also did and I will also email that out to you all, thankfully Robert and his fantastical grammatical edits made it more snazzier than it could be, so he spent a good portion of his weekend time going over that letter, but I drafted a letter written by me on behalf of the SGA in support of the ALANA Student Center rating proposal and I will be sending those in tomorrow morning to Beverly Colston and Wanda Heading-Grant which reminds me if you are a signatory to the resolution please meet with Claire immediately and get it signed so we can fax scan it and I can email it over as soon as possible. My involvement in this really comes from conversations with the now Chief Director of the Multicultural Affairs and then the Director of the ALANA Student Center over summer about how this organization could help the ALANA Student Center throughout the year. This also speaks to why over the year I've invited the different directors from the different Diversity and Equity Units so you could get a better understanding of what the different groups do on campus. My plans for the winter, I am not going to be doing any SGA work at all. I will be flying to Jamaica December 19 and I am going to be sitting on a beach somewhere working on my tan, learning how to swim, that's what I will be doing. Psych!! Actually what I'll be doing over the winter break is as soon as classes end on the 17th I actually have graduation remarks to give on December 18th for folks such as Asher that are graduating on December 18. I am going to be continuing to follow up with Beverly Colston and Wanda about the raking proposal and where that stands and how the committee is reviewing the other proposals. I'm also going to be reviewing the evaluations that you all should be filling out by tomorrow evening at 11:45pm and compiling them and figuring out how to bring them back to all of you for review. In the emails not surprisingly but it was to be expected that some of the students that responded to me in light of our boycott of course evaluations because we want to make them public have actually been wondering if my position if how I'm doing is going to be made public if anyone evaluates me in my job. I told them actually the Senate as a whole is evaluating the performance of not only myself but of other executive positions on the body so I'm going to be figuring out how to potentially be I know personally for me how to make my evaluations public to the student body as a whole. There's also a few meetings that I have lined up over the break where the Office of Affirmative Action Director Search and the Board of Trustees meetings and a few other things. The other thing is I will also be working on BOT report, which is due on January 12 so any suggestions that you may have are more than welcome. So the senator of the week from last week is Trey Denton from the Public Relations Committee. So a suggestion was made for Trey because Trey is always in the office. He formats my weekly emails with Semir and does the Constant Contact form. He's actively been responding to students on the UVM SGA page in regards to the boycott. They've been keeping a cool head because a lot of the things he's been dealing with on the website have been the most negative and obnoxious remarks from students but they've been keeping cooler heads in some cases. He's also well dressed like 99.9% of the time. Today's Senator of the week is unfortunately not here, but Daniel

Filstein from Academic Affairs Committee. Again, he's another senator that always has a visible presence in office. He's had active participation in the current boycott and had correspondence with the UA and also because of these cool shades. The last thing I wanted to leave you all with is a little holiday message from the executive branch.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:57.39)

Senator Mason: Thank you. I'm upset that you're not going to Jamaica, I was going to ask a question about that. The exec evals thing, right, is on the Lynx or was an email sent out? My mind is scattered, I just need to know.

President Mensah: Yes, I sent out an email Wednesday afternoon to the senate listserv that had each link. As I mentioned in the email the evaluations are going to be under Elections simply because I wanted to make the surveys anonymous because we wanted as much honest responses as possible so that's why it's under Election not surveys or forms, then again you can't even do surveys on the Lynx anymore. If you go to your committee's page and you click on Elections you should see open and then when you go on the SGA Senate page and you click on elections you should see tab there for elections, but I can forward that back out for tonight. Before I entertain any more questions I want to show you this. I think it's hilarious [*plays video*].

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: I was just wondering how could be flying to Jamaica when you don't know how to swim.

President Mensah: I did say that I was going to get lessons if I was going.

Chair Adams: Sorry, I'm still having flashbacks to this weekend. Moving on, since you have to submit the BOT report to senate a week ahead of time is that still holding over break or is it going to be earlier, later?

President Mensah: No, it's still holding over break. The report is due January 12. Right now I am mainly focusing on finals and final papers and stuff but as soon as all of that clears one of my first thing will be drafting the report and then getting it to senate as a whole to go through for edits.

Senator Caster: The Student Government endorsed Eleanor Miller and when you speak to the Board of Trustees is this something you can publically endorse on behalf of the Student Government?

President Mensah: If this is something that the senate feels like should be included in there, why not?

Treasurer Salsgiver (1:01.31): This past week has been really busy, a lot of clubs closing out all their payments, making sure everything is in. We've had 5 Student Professional Development Fund applications over the past two weeks, all of which were from athletic trainers, interestingly enough, which I'm still discussing and thinking about. I had a meeting with the Finance Committee today and we are going to change the structure of the actual budget so it's going to be easier for them to make decisions and clubs are going to have to be more proactively think about their budgets and what they really need. I'm also going to have a meeting with them Friday about how to read a budget detail report so that they can look at what clubs are spending, making sure they are spending money appropriately. Wherever they ask money for in their budget that's what they should be spending if for and they should be spending it within an appropriate time frame. On Friday I'll have a meeting with them and that's about it.

Committee Reports (1:02.34)

Finance (1:02.37)

Chair Mallea: Alright, so Elizabeth covered about half of my report. We are very, very busy trying to get budgets underway and out to club signers so they can have all of break and first week back to fill out their budgets and turn them in. Budgets will be due to the Finance Committee in the SGA office by the 24th of January. The month of February will be used to conduct hearings and the month of March will be used for any type of appeals. Sorry. It was kind of a quiet week as far as supplemental requests go. We had one, Squash come in and request money for their nationals and we gave them a total of \$920 and then the Step Team came in and we gave them \$900 and we're very excited because they used the Diversity Enhancement Fund which has only been used one time this semester. We were very excited about that and that's all that's going on in Finance.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:03.48)

Senator Benner: Can you or anyone else on your committee speak to direction after break of the Executive Stipends Committee?

Chair Mallea: Oh, thank you. That's something I need to touch on. You sit on it, correct? As well as Speaker Chevrier, members of the Finance Committee and Senator Vitagliano. We will be sending out a doodle about what to do and focusing on the budgets however that is something I have been personally slacking on so I will be sure to do that.

Student Activities (1:04.27)

Chair Adams: Hi friends, so we tabled 2 bills. Basically the International Relations Club scheduled a meeting with me that they were supposed to come to before being recognized and then they missed the meeting so they will be recognized after break. Sports Medicine we got an email from Dr. Porter from the Center of Health and Wellbeing so we just kind of want to meet with him so we can have a really specific bill and not sort of a bill that ends up in us having conversations for the next six months but a bill that calls for an action. So that was tabled as well. Update sheets are out to club signers and they're coming back so we should have updated contact information for all of them. With that, in the Constitution, the Student Activities Committee is supposed to hold a mandatory policy workshop in the spring however this has never happened, so I'm just wondering if this is something, we personally feel this should be optional because most club signers remain the same. Just kind of wanted to throw it out to the body to see what you think otherwise we're going to shoot it back to the Constitution Committee to change. Also in the Constitution we are probably going to look at changing the club by laws shortly after break. There are just some inconsistencies and some weird organizational stuff. Hopefully that will just make it easier for clubs to navigate use. Textbook buyback, right now we have 12 clubs signed up and 9 of them will win at least \$100. So if you know a club signer, it's basically a chance to make free money. There's basically up to \$1000 up for grabs and 9 clubs will win at least \$100. The other thing I just wanted to remind people that clubs do not necessarily have to be different in order to be recognized. Just so when you are talking to people who might want to start a new club, even if it is similar to an already existing club, the ideal is for them to join collaborate with that already existing club but they do not have to, they can pursue recognition on their own. So with that they do not have to then justify their existence as to why they are different from any other club, just so you know that going into conversation. Oh, and Darrion is on my committee, Senator Willis. I stole him from Student Action which 2 on Jesse.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:07.16)

Senator Mason: It's cool, you can say chair, I appreciate that. I meant to ask this before. I was going to ask Claire but I'm sure you probably know too. For the amount of clubs coming in, is there any way possible to, I don't want to say force the same clubs to join-ish, you know? Not force them but maybe have a separate name but kind of are like the same club? I don't think it's possible but we have like 80 different signers.

Chair Adams: Right so there are 3 currently recognized a capella groups one coming up for recognition. Cornell has 13, like I said before. Legally, no. Anyone who wants to be recognized on their own can be. The problem is a lot of clubs have felt not welcome or not embraced by SGA because they hold similar roles. If you read *The Cynic*, Zest is quoted as saying 'The true battle is going to be funding because three acapella groups on campus'. The true battle is funding but funding is tight for all clubs, it doesn't really matter how many acapella clubs there are on campus.

Senator Ravech: Do you have to recognize clubs if they come to you? Do you have the option of being like, sorry, we can't?

Chair Adams: Legally we have to recognize clubs if they meet our club requirements.

COLA (1:09.01)

Chair Morgan: I emailed out my report.

CODEEE (1:09.12)

Chair Herman: I did email my report. I did want to thank everyone for coming out to Give it up for Agua event that happened on Saturday. It was a huge success. We actually made 732 dollars that night and one student stuck \$100 in there with a note. From tabling we made \$275 and one person donated \$1,000 on the online website, so the total was \$2667 total. So I wanted to thank you for coming and supporting the event, I saw a few senators that came out so thank you.

Student Action (1:09.57)

Chair Simmons: Hello everyone. Dee, we miss you dearly, I wish you best of luck with Adams. Sorry I've been on my computer all night, I'm doing Naked Bike Ride stuff. Like 250 people emailed me wanting to volunteer and since I'm an idiot and have webmail I couldn't figure out how to respond to all of them in one email. If you know how to do this, don't tell me or I'll kill you because it's almost done now. And thank people for coming and joining Senator Doran and co at Latke Day. I think it's really great that we divide into committees for tackling different things but it's also really good that we can transcend those boundaries and work together when we need to. We are in the midst of crafting a student Bill of Rights. We're grappling with, we're probably not going to have it as a part of the student vision because we think they're two separate things but have two documents allude to each other. So that's something we're going to be working on as well as trying to get that bottled water ban out there. The beverage contract is ever approaching which is very exciting. That's all I have to say, thank you.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:11.26)

Senator Caster: Do you know exactly when the beverage negotiations start, who is going to be sitting at the table, who is going to be a part of the conversation, will there be a student voice? What is the form of those conversations going to look like?

Senator Ravech: I spoke with Pat Brown because I was wondering the same thing. He said that he met with a couple people yesterday because he wants to know 3 things. One Who is in charge? What will be the role of students? and What is the timeline? He said that they are in process of figuring that out and the administration isn't really thinking about that too much yet but they will focus on that starting in late January so it will be done and then we will know more.

Chair Simmons: I also wanted to mention that is part of the reason we were doing some of the work we were doing with researching the Coke contract and other things going on with beverage contracts. Even if we're not invited to the table we have much more of a chance of getting invited to the table and coming across with an educated opinion. That's something that I personally am

going to be working on over break because there's a lot of different information coming from a lot of different places and the committee is working on it for a while and trying to make that more cohesive.

Senator Caster: I guess my problem is just a statement as to how if you guys were coming up with a game plan as to how to present the boycott because speaking with the [inaudible] perspective, the petitions and presenting them in a structured way to the contract negotiations and saying this is stupid.

Chair Simmons: Yeah, that's something we have to talk about as a committee how we want to do that. We talked today in our meeting saying, as VSOP told us and as our tabling and surveys told us before, we are no longer pushing for a complete ban of Coca Cola on campus. From a financial standpoint and a what students want standpoint it makes sense to have some of it. We also think it shouldn't be an exclusive contract anymore. We are thinking about saying we want 25% of all beverages sold on campus to be sourced from Vermont Sweetwater, Cooper's Cave or locally produced or that we want to send out 3 different RFPs, so a request for proposal for someone to supply all the stuff that comes out of the vending machines, the syrups squirty, fountains, a request for fountains, a request for all the bottled stuff and a request for all the [inaudible] stuff so that we can break up the monopoly that is going on now. Where we want to go with the bottled water thing is also an important conversation. It will probably be part of some of the same conversation so making that as coherent as we possibly can.

Public Relations (1:14.57)

Chair Monteforte: Bonjour. If you have not paid me for your fleece please do so preferably by tonight. If you have not got one, please see me, we have a few extra and I will email out my report.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:15.17)

Senator Tran: Do you know where we are donating it to yet?

Chair Monteforte: Not determined yet, I still need to look into it, I'll let you know by tomorrow.

Academic Affairs (1:15.33)

Chair Nelson: Hello everyone. Kofi covered a lot of the things that I was going to say in my report. I'm glad that all the feedback sent to his email has been widely circulated. Some of the things that AA has been talking about this week is making improvements on the information sheets and Senator Ballas did make some of the improvements and they will be circulated this evening for you guys to hand out. Please keep the feedback coming. At this point, personally I think this has been a wild success. Not that we've gotten an affirmation that was what we wanted from the administration but in terms of putting a boycott out and calling upon the students to do something it really fostered a ton of feedback and there was never this much talk about course evaluations before and now we have more than probably half student body engaged in it. If they weren't thinking about course evaluations before, they're thinking about it now even if they think that a boycott wasn't the most appropriate way, whatever. It's I think great. It's exciting. Please keep your head up hearts high about it. I was with a professor yesterday who kind of called me out knowing I was on SGA before I even got the chance to speak so I got the personal brunt of what he was collected for information and it was like 150 person class and it was hard and kind of embarrassing. I'm sure that's happened to some of you other guys if you got some negative feedback and confusion. So I really encourage you to take your stance be strong. This is a very great movement and it's heading in the right direction. Thanks for help tabling last week. Another thing we're working on is getting more information out to the faculty specifically because they've had a lot of concerns especially since it involves their tenure. I need all of you guys to use your words and your communication and your actions to encourage the boycott further this week. Thanks.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:18.22)

Senator Yeager: I was wondering, is there an official ending time for the boycott? Does the boycott end when classes end?

Chair Nelson: If you look at the resolution it says that we'll be doing a boycott until the administration says that they'll publish course evaluations so if next semester that's going to have to be something that gets looked into next semester and reevaluated. Technically the resolution says we will boycott until you tell us they are going to be publishable.

Senator Fitzgerald: Is there going to be any way to know how many people actually didn't fill out their evaluations?

Chair Nelson: From what I've heard, no. Because there's complications in a bunch of things. But on that that note from what Senator Sadeghi sent out, I'd love to figure out how the evaluation data is put together and presented to personnel, which is departments that are dealing with professors before they're tenured.

Speaker Chevrier: I have a question so I guess Monteforte is speaker. Is there any way to tackle the fact that some colleges are trying to supersede SGA and send out their evals online? I know that CEMS is sending them out online so that no student can stand up during class and tell them not to during evaluations which is ironically the same way that the business school works but then the business school publishes them, is there any conversation around that?

Chair Nelson: No, I wasn't aware that College of Engineering and Math Sciences, but no, we haven't had a discussion around that. One professor they just emailed out their syllabi to the whole bunch of people. Senator Yeager sent that. I thought that was really interesting one because the resolution wasn't about syllabi. I'll look into and ask about that.

Senator DeVivo: This one, I don't even know how we could possibly combat this but teachers are at least in the business school, they've been doing this for a while but more teachers are doing this as a result of our bill, they are adding points to students grades, they are literally making it required to do the course evaluation or they take 10 points off their final exam.

Chair Nelson: I've heard that, that's one of the complications. I don't even know the legality behind that.

Speaker Chevrier: Point of Information: Pat Brown has said that it violates the contract between the student and the teacher exemplified through the syllabus which is supposed to be that contract and you should uphold your contracts.

Chair Nelson: There you go, tell your professors that.

Chair Adams: Point of Information: Course evaluations are not supposed to affect your grade, period.

Senator DeVivo: I mean they are doing it, it's not my class personally but it has happened in a class previously before I was on SGA, but it is happening.

Chair Mallea: Specifically in the business school I have a senior level marketing class that they say if you don't fill out the course evaluation you are going to lose 10 points on your exam but if you do fill it out you get 5 extra points on your exam.

Chair Nelson: I think it goes back to the contract thing.

Chair Adams: Point of Information: if you have a complaint about a policy violation you bring it to the chair of the department.

Senator Bennington: Is there, I know Jeff Hughes, he's a professor in Plant Bio and Rubenstein, he sent out an email that was forwarded to all of us asking faculty members to publish their evaluations online and I was talking to him about that and he was thinking that he gets all of his evaluations in paper form and he's going to ask his Dean's office if they can send him that electronically. I'm just wondering with the amount of energy put into this resolution and this boycott if you think it would be feasible for us to try to support something like that which could involve massive amounts of scanning of paper copies but his idea is then have faculty members saying I am going to publish it and for everyone who says they are not it then sends the message of this faculty member doesn't want you to know what people say.

Chair Nelson: Yeah, that was a great piece of feedback that came back from a professor, Jeff Hughes. That would be a process that would come later. First Faculty Senate has to say yes, publish course evaluations.

Senator Mason: In regards to, I don't know someone in the business school, course evaluations are supposed to be anonymous so I'm curious on how they are going to give out points and they're not even supposed to be in the room when you're taking them.

Chair Mallea: Point of information: All business school evaluations are done online.

Senatorial Forum (1:25.33)

Senator M. White: Cool. Here is my public plea for help. I've got 3 things going on in world of senate. The Clean Energy adaptation with former senator stroke all around hottie Josh Benes to opening lines of communication between us and *The Watertower*. I've been kind of saying we should do this all year. They are a legitimate paper, I think they have a good point of view, I think they are much more connected to students. So I have started talking to them and I would love for people to come with me and have sort of a sit down with a senator thing instead. Not instead, as well as. Third, the Bill of Rights. I need your feedback, I need your help.

Chair Adams: Well, Pat's suggestion to people being forced, one it is a policy violation so technically you can get your professor in trouble and it's also sort of an abuse of power as a professor because it really has nothing to do with the material in the course unless you're an education major but not of the education professors do that. Two, If people are feeling pressed they should just give them zeros all the way down and write I gave you zeros because you made me fill this out and I'm boycotting course evals.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: I was trying to draft a bill for this week but ended up without enough data and research to present it in the end. So I figured I'd be obnoxious and throw lots of data at you guys now. Basically, the bill that was intended to be brought up was protesting the fact that the Women's Health Clinic while budget cuts are not directly at fault, has consistently decreased in amount of staff that is available. I personally discovered this when I took a friend of mine in to go get help and she couldn't get an appointment for 2.5 weeks. Which, if you are familiar with the nature of the Women's health center that's really not acceptable. A lot can happen in 2.5 weeks. So, I pretty much just wanted to share with you guys information prior to bringing up the bill in that essentially, the Women's health clinic provides a lot of services and they're trying to do so right now with 2 physicians to 50% of a 13,000 person campus. That doesn't work. You can't serve 6,500 students with 2 physicians and 2 nurses on a good day. That said, I basically, the bill is going to call for the addition of at least one physician's assistant who can write prescriptions to the health clinic. I know now that the room has kind of cleared out a bit that most of you have probably never been in the Women's Health Center but they're really nice women who are really struggling to make ends meet. But, I went in for meeting and they were so overbooked that they couldn't even fit me in for a time to ask questions just about how thinly

stretched they are and what resources they need. I guess next semester you will see it coming but with discussions and revision of the healthcare policy it's definitely something too look out for. I think it's something that is valid to everyone in this room. I am hopefully going to get an email out this week with more data and actual numbers. I just thought you guys should have a heads up as to what's coming up.

Speaker Chevrier: Two things. One I was wondering, we talked a little bit about it at Chair Adams house when we talked about the boycott last week but a lot of the information about the boycott is a lot of text and very long, long emails of Kofi's that aren't broken into paragraphs. A lot of the conversations that I have had with students are them thinking that we're trying to boycott course evaluations for syllabi, them not understanding why we're boycotting course evaluations when we want syllabi, them being confused because they think that we want to boycott everything. I think it's frustrating that the students aren't that informed, we need to take ownership of the fact that while we might think it's super cool to read really long emails or really tiny font, most students would not like to spend a lot of time looking at a really dense block and maybe we should play to the people who we want to get information to and do bullet points like please fill out comment section, don't fill out scantron, or something very clear so that students actually know what we're talking about because I've had a bazillion conversations this week about syllabi and it's frustration. Also, in response to the Women's Center, are you Senator Lederer-Plaskett, are you talking about the Women's Center or the Women's Health Center, because the Women's Health Center has a policy where if it's a not life threatening but a time pending matter if you have women... there is a policy if it is necessary for you to see somebody in short amount of time say ladies have some kind of infection that needs to be adhered to immediately, you can immediately see a doctor. They have a policy that you see them that day as long as you don't call with a minute left. You do have to over the phone when you're making an appointment make it clear that it is a time sensitive issue but they do have a policy and will always see you.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: Sorry for being out of order. Just to clarify. You can just like with any medical situation, if the condom broke you can get the morning after pill but they won't actually be able to see you to give you a full examination. You essentially have to know something is life threateningly wrong. If you know you had sex with a partner who is HIV positive then, yeah, they're going to see you but they're also going to send you to the ER, they're not necessarily going to see you there. There is a lot that can be adjusted within the center and there is a lot of valuable input that we can introduce within the healthcare discussion.

Chair Adams: Sorry to be talking so much but my being apprehensive with the boycott is we're alienating students who maybe don't agree with us and I think we really need to validate that and appreciate that students are giving us feedback, positive and negative, so we probably shouldn't be referring to them as obnoxious. If we want students to care then we need to appreciate them caring and we need to talk to them as equals and not talk down to them.

Senator Caster: I think a lot of students are forgetting the boycott is not the ends, it's the means to an ends which is publishable course evaluations which is sort of what I've tried to reiterate but it seems to get lost within the hubbub of the argument.

Speaker Chevrier: To go off of the we shouldn't call people obnoxious, we're elected student leasers so we represent their views so technically their views should be ours views if we're doing our job. I understand that it's difficult as students that are also being impacted by decisions that are being made here. If there are students who think that the boycott is silly we should be bringing them here and not necessarily deeming them wrong. Also, it doesn't just have to deal with life threatening things, it could be anything from something that is a symptom that you don't know what it is and it's scaring you, they will see you that day.

Senator Ravech: I have a question in general would it be helpful to get faculty feedback. I have a lot of professors that are in support of the boycott. Is there any way we can put that all together because I know that a lot of students don't really see us they see a big group of faculty.

Senator Alleger: There is a monthly meeting of Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate which is sit on so I'm going to be talking with them. I'll let you guys know.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements (1:35.08)

Chair Simmons: Hey everybody. Bike Users Group has changed its meeting time to try to get some more folks to come. We're going to be meeting now in Brennan's at 9:00 on Wednesdays because that coincides with high Brennan's traffic and free food, and also people who don't like to pay for things like bicycles, which is what we're trying to do. So I'd like to just renew the invite to anyone to come out. No experience necessary, no knowledge necessary, no brainpower necessary. We just want you. Come join us at 9. We've got all different kinds of jobs, all different kinds of fun things to do, many of which have nothing to do with bikes, many of which do. Love to have you.

Senator Alleger: If anybody is still looking for interesting mind expanding course to register for next semester I'm TAing the rhetoric of reggae with Alfred Snider who have Wednesday evenings from 4:00-7:00 to learn about reggae music and what it means. Love to see you guys there.

Senator M. White: Just wanted to thank ya'll for support of the V-men event, it went off without a hitch and mainly Burns for coming out. It was sweet, really good discussion of women's rights in general.

Senator Vitagliano: I believe December 12, I'll send an email to confirm the date, but there's Home for the Holidays which is sponsored by the Allen House. It's a time to disembark from UVM with a clear mind. There's a bunch of food. Sodexo is donating 3 large turkeys, we have like 30 volunteers that are giving main side dishes. It's kind of like potluck style but anyone's welcome to attend that. It's from 4 pm to 8pm. It's a long time but there's going to be showing some movies and small discussion group as well as eating food.

Chair Simmons: On a totally other note, I'd like to take just a second to publically thank all the non-chairs on senate. Chairs are doing a great job too but we get paid and something that my chair did last year at the end of the semester was she had us over her house for a very informal hang out sesh where she treated us to pizza and soda pop and I'd love to encourage other chairs to do the same. It's a nice way to give back. I'd also like to thank everyone that's been coming to our meetings. It's been really nice having our meetings in the SGA office because different people from other committees have been joining us, mainly Sadeghi, Benner, Rizvanovic, different folks. That's been really wonderful so thank you for that.

Senator Doran: Vantage Point, the literary magazine at UVM, is having not really a release party but a preview party in the fireplace lounge over yonder tomorrow. There's going to be art and beverages and readings and no one's told me what's in it but I'm in it so it's a shameless plug. I hope to see you there, good stuff. 6:00 tomorrow. It's a good magazine, you should check it out, there are a lot of magazines and they've been doing a pretty good job.

Senator Tran: I had a meeting with Abu this morning, he's the Dean of the Honors College and we were talking about SGA and he said that he was very impressed with the SGA this year and we were very visible and in the past years he was like, well I knew the SGA existed but I didn't really know what they were doing except for if I ran into it in *The Cynic* every once and a while. But this year, he's like, well aware of it somehow and we're doing really well.

Roll Call (1:40.09)

Finance: Senator Juairé, excused
Student Activities: Senator Moise, excused
COLA: All Present
CODEEE: Senator McLemore, excused
Student Action: All Present
Public Relations: All Present
Academic Affairs: Senator Filstein, excused

Adjournment (1:40.27)

End Time: 8:41pm