

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## Roll Call

Finance- all excused

Student Activities- Senate Chaouch excused

COLA- all present

Academic Affairs-Senator Campbell excused

CODEEE-Senator Talbot unexcused. Senator Yuan excused

Student action-Senator Kasnetz and Senator Zhao excused

Finance-all present

## Public Forum (01:58:46)

Speaker announces Claire

Claire hi friends. I have missed all of you. That's a lie I have missed some of you. I have been actively searching for any old reason to come up here and speak with you. This is not any old reason. I wanted to come here and share with you my experiences as they are related to the bill that senator Lederer-Plaskett has put up for and is under old business tonight. So I am going to give a lot of random background so bear with me, so that you just understand where I'm coming from and so you understand where other students are coming from as well. So my name is Claire. For those who don't know me I graduated in May of last year. And as many of you and maybe none of you have experienced, I did not always know exactly what I wanted to do when I grew up. And the past few years I've been talking pretty significantly about educational leadership, and policy at the secondary education level. And so, because of that I have been applying to lots of graduate programs that would aid me and my ability to do that. And also because I personally believe that a lot of the systemic issues in our country are result of the fact that people who are writing policy or are legislating do not have practical legislation of what they are legislating or creating policy surrounding. So I am also applying to the kind of hyper competitive fellowships that would allow me to be in a classroom next year. Which brings me to what I am really frustrated and Senator Lederer-Plaskett's bill. It turns out that I am at an enormous disadvantage within all of my applications for all the fellowship programs because I did not major in a math or a science or the political sciences, psychology major with an English minor, which makes me ineligible to teach math or science. But it turns out that I am also ineligible to teach in most states English as well because I graduated with an English minor so I only have 18 credits of English instead of 24, which is what's needed in most states. And so then I realized that I passed both of my AP exams, AP literature and composition and AP language and composition. But that they were never counted because I went to the University of Vermont and I had received 3's on both of them. So I just went through the appealing process and told them. So I wanted to come here today and to tell you what I learned throughout the appealing process and about why their rules are the way that they are. And why UVM is one of the only major public colleges in the country that refuses to accept most 3's and even some 4's. So when I was asking for my English credits, which the only thing that them giving me my English credits

would do is make me more likely to teach English in a low-income neighborhood. I technically got my degree at UVM, so it would not make me pay any less money to the university of Vermont. I successfully passed all my English classes so it's not measured of whether or not fit to participate in conversations. It would just make it more likely for me to work in a low-income neighborhood and they said "no." But they told me that the reason that they said "no" is because they found out that students who got 3's on their AP exams were not able to do as good of a work as students who, not they didn't say students who got 4's, but students who took the introductory level courses that getting AP credits would have made them not have to take, does that make sense? All right, and that really frustrated me. This idea that if you get a 3 then the University of Vermont doesn't think that you are fit to contribute to your classes later which is what they sent in an email that I would be happy to share with you. And I think that that's really frustrating because I talked with a lot of professors, who completely disagree with that, and when I was trying to figure out other possible reasons why the university of Vermont would not allow students coming with credit to get the credit that they deserve, a lot of professors and people I have spoken to have pointed to the idea that it's money related, because if you come in with 6 credits, that 6 credits is potentially less money that you would pay for at the University of Vermont. And I think that that's really frustrating. And I think that it also goes against a lot of the missions at the University of Vermont that they do not take those credits because it doesn't take into consideration the reasons why students might not have been able to get 4's. For instance I went to school in South Florida, and I missed 2 months of my school in my junior year because we got hit by 3 hurricanes and Jeff Bush, waste of magic wand, said that none of us had to make anything up, so with the 3 that I received in AP language and composition, I was one of 5 people in my graduating class, and there were 500 of us who passed their AP exams that year. So my 3 was equivalent to somebody's 5, but that doesn't really matter. And UVM would not accept it. So those are just some of my frustration, and I think that it is really silly that UVM doesn't accept it. And that's just why I'm personally frustrated. But more specifically as to why I think it's important to pass this legislation is because, even though Robert Benner might tell you that it is absolutely preposterous grade is to get a 3, when you could obviously have more to receive a 4, I think that it's really silly. I don't think that it takes into consideration the same sorts of things that people take into consideration in a college setting. Like does that person have to work full-time? Is that possibly why they are not achieving those grades? Because a 3 is a passing grade if you look on Collegeboard. Students have been told that 3's are accepted in college. Students have been told that 3's are accepted into colleges when they're making the difficult decision to pay \$86 to test, which is what it costs to purchase an AP exam, regardless of whether you fail it or pass it. And so if you are told that 3 is what you get for it, and you come to the University of Vermont and it turns out not to be true, I think that that is really frustrating, especially since it goes against the bar that the Collegeboard has said. Additionally the University of Vermont is really strange in the way that it accepts grades and it doesn't. And so the University for California at Berkeley which is ranked as the #1 public university accepts all 3's. More comparable to the University of Vermont like the University of Wisconsin,

which has the same type of forward thinking, and eco-friendliness, but is much bigger and is more highly ranked also accepts all 3's. So it's very silly that this oasis in Vermont that cares so much about everything, is not. And additionally, sir Gavin Caster, I think that the idea of not voting for this because the state should not interact with schools anymore kind of goes against your job as a senator because I think that you should combine your ideals as to whether or not the state should interact over what this legislation could further benefit the students that you are trying to represent. But I think that a lot of students would benefit from this and I'd be happy to answer any questions. So I'm rambling, I'm exhausted. (14:30)

Chair Caster: so I think that addressing that argument was fruitful and that UVM may be at a financial gain or at a financial loss. I guess I have to refute the idea that this is a question of ideals, and my question is that do you believe that mandated legislation is the only route and the only means by to which the end that you see is necessary to be accomplished. And do you believe that a house bill is the only way to which this massive problem could be corrected?

Claire: Obviously not. And I am absolutely not suggesting that it is. But I was suggesting, I read the minutes to try and see what people were saying about this, so what I was trying to suggest and respond to what I heard you say last week was just that if you vote "no" for this even, you just said that it is a massively important issue, I think that that's more intense than what I would use to describe. My goal point in saying what I did, and pointing you out, was just to make note of that if you are personally against the idea of the state intervening with a university, then that isn't necessarily, and you're voting as a result of that, your own personal idea. And that's not necessarily doing what I, in my opinion, of being a good senator is because you would be taking into consideration your own ideals over whether or not this legislation has the possibility to positively benefit students in the future, and I think that it does.

Gavin Caster: do you believe that legislation like this and the advance placement tests more generally hands over academic curriculum to the advanced placement program instead of letting professors decide their own curriculum? Because this seems to effectively say to professors that their curriculum is comparable to a standardized curriculum that their advanced placement program sets up. And that well you say that UVM, the argument can be presented that UVM doesn't take advance placement credit because they would come at a financial loss, what do you feel like the AP board has to gain out of this? Do you believe that the AP board themselves have a very concerned interest to seeing something like this passed? And do you believe that that is that also a factor? Is that what the AP board wishes themselves to see programs like this to be implemented because they further gain control of the academic curriculum?

Claire: Well it's not the AP board; it's the Collegeboard, which is a non-profit. So the same idea of financial incentives does not apply here, even though I think that Collegeboard is evil. There's no one person that's personally benefitting the same way that the university is benefitting from funding and refunding classes that you've already successfully passed in high school. But to answer your questions about specifically whether or not I think that AP classes across the AP classes across the country are taking away from college professors, academic classes, I would say "no."

I think that AP exams are a wonderful way to get students prepared for college. And also for people who don't necessarily think that college is an option to be able to take the class in high school, that's called a college class understand that's more reasonable and I think that college class great program. The only thing terrible about it is that it is \$86 to take the exam. But I think that the whole point is that there is no, and correct me if I am wrong because I might be, but I am under the belief that there is no AP class that will give you a 200 level credit, or even I don't even think that it goes higher than 50. I think that the highest you can get is a 011-history class for passing AP government or something similar to that. The thing that is displacing is that intro classes that are purposely used for reading. So if you pass your AP psychology class, you don't have to take psychology 001 with Rudeger and 249 other students. And I think that that's important. I think that that's better for students to be able to come in with those credits and be instantly be able to real college, not reading classes, because you've already put in the work in high school, but you're able to instantly challenge it.

Chair Benner: My first question is stated "the university of Vermont is one of the only major public colleges that does not accept 3's" do you have data on yours on this?

Clair: On me, no. If you go to the Collegeboard website, you can type in any university, public and private universities, and (inaudible word) do funky things with these. Like Harvard, if you come in with what should be 6 credits, it will give you something like a 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a credit, or something sketchy like that. But as far as public universities are concerned, you can type in university names on the Collegeboard through their AP website, and they will tell you what the rule is. And I did that for the top 10 ranked public schools and UVM is not marked one of the 10. And most of them do accept, so all of the UC schools, all of the Florida schools, Wisconsin which I think is #10, and most of the schools that are ranked where we are, and I think we are ranked 36 out of public schools, so that doesn't even take into consideration private schools, the ones around us generally. And if they don't accept them generally, they're not as sporadic as ours where you can get a credit for a 3 in AP statistics, but not in every English. It's very strange.

Chair Benner: how do, because I was trying to figure this out, precisely college board figures out, is able to equate a 5 to an A to a college course. What system do they use to figure that out?

Clair: So on the Collegeboard website they have some sort of, because each, I guess you have to specify taking AP classes, but for each AP classes you take, there are certain percentage that students get right. So based on that score is how a student's grades are decided. So a 3 is a C-B. A 4 is a B-A. And the way they use words to describe it is A is definitely appropriate and ready for college credit. 4 is satisfactory, 3 is passing. 2 is potentially passing, or something like that. So it does open up the path for schools to accept 2's which most don't. So I don't know if that answers your question.

Old Business (01:42:53)

Resolution in Support of Vermont House Bill 134

- There was question whether passing a 3 on an AP exam as a college credit has a same level of education standard as someone who chose an introductory level class in college. Are you walking away with the same experience? Does a 3 adequately prepare students to take college level classes? There was discussion about credits and distribution requirements of the university in relevance to the acceptance of AP credits. Questions of why some AP credits are accepted and why others are not, and what the criteria of an acceptance were, as opposed to those courses that refused the AP credits were brought up.

Bill Passes!

New Business (00:56:40)

Bill Allocating funds (inaudible)

No Emergency Business (00:56:30)

Executive Reports (00:56:20)

Speaker Osef- had a wonderful Constitution Committee meeting. This year they are being very thorough. They are going to have it done by the end of March or April.

- He is going to email constitution committee, because they are going to work on a comprehensive follow up process for the legislation.
- He is working on The Green Caps tomorrow.
- There were questions about the Green Caps group and the route that they are going to be operating on. Senators and Speaker Osef clarifies.

Treasurer's Report: Gave the finance committee a budgeting quiz, and he worked on it with Pat Brown. He advises senators to ask club signers for any suggestions for making the process simpler.

- He was going to give SGA a presentation, but he's going to hold that till next meeting.
- He talks about budgeting for club signers and how the applications are due the 27<sup>th</sup> of January.
- Chair Caster expresses that the main difficulty lies in explaining the basis of the budget to people who do not understand the financial requirements regarding that particular club. He recommends having someone who understands the technical aspects of club signers to direct and assist signers rather than someone who is unfamiliar to the necessities of that club to make budgetary decisions.
- Treasurer Juaire explains that clubs do have the opportunity to ask for more money, but he agrees that that is an area that needs improvement
- Chair Caster asks how Treasurer Juaire plans to set up a better relationship with the clubs and organizations to have someone who can speak on their behalf as to why their budget is set up the way it is.
- Treasurer Juaire explains the past failures and how the finance committee has been "hands-off" in matters dealing with club signers, but he expresses to Chair Caster and to the rest of the SGA that, that will not happen this year,

regardless of if the finance committee has more hours to work on those forms and with club signers.

- Senator Etter asks if he would email the PowerPoint presentation.
- Treasurer Juaire replies saying that is in the SGA website
- Chair Rifken asks if finance committee keep notes from what is allocated before
- Treasure: There are ways to trek club signers' historical funds and spending.

Vice President Vitagliano –

- Delayed in finding finalists for the new office coordinator position, but that will hopefully be resolved by the end of the week.
- Scarfs are all set now
- Cups have come in—everyone in senate will be getting one.
- The new computers for office space will come in either this week or next week.
- Funding questions for snowboard teams' computers. There was an agreement that the snowboard team would pay for half and the SGA would cover the other half.
- Senate Banquet is on April 10 5-7pm
- Administration Banquet will be on March 27th
- Holiday party was a success
- He still has 1 off-campus and 1 on-campus position for senate
- January 24<sup>th</sup> is the first official senate meeting after the winter break.
- Retreat on January 17<sup>th</sup> → budget presentation.
- Question #1: To have the office-coordinator position will be filled after 3-4 weeks,
- Senator Nenopoulous asks about the security measures that are being taken to prevent further robbery of school property.
- Vice president Vitagliano defines that after 4:30pm the SGA office door will be closed and only allowed access through I.D swipe. There will be computer locks installed. Also, he is going to speak with the Davis Center operations and having cameras installed in the outside hallway of the SGA office. He advises Senate to not leave doors propped open, because he gets a text message every time that happens. He expresses that he is dedicated to keep the office safe.

President Golfarini—

- He met with Olma Ortega; she is the undergraduate to talk about the state and the university's relationship.
- There will not be an exec meeting on Thursday.
- He's going BOT report by Christmas Eve
- He asks the execs to have work submitted to President Golfarini by Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>
- South African students are going to be at UVM or the first 2 weeks when we get back.
- Senator of the Week: Senator Mansfield
- It was Pat Brown's birthday.

- He was really appreciative of the people who came to help out at the game
- He encourages people to be a UVM Advocat.
- He wishes everyone good luck and Happy Holidays!
- Question #1: Student safety is his main concern
- Budgets are going out next week

### Committee Reports (00:27:36)

Finance: Had supplemental

Student Activities—talks about clubs and update sheets

COLA—free pizza at the Pearl House sponsored by the ResLife

- Haley has been working on affordability and access forum of higher education with Bernie Sanders, Patrick Leahey, and Peter Welch. They cannot tell Haley anything but dates.
- Had a community coalition meeting—tired of dealing with issues cyclical, that COLA is trying to find ways to keep momentum up, and addressing these issues so the coalition doesn't tire out.
- She sent out an email about priority registration

COLA is planning their trip to Montpelier

Chair Benner: what are you doing in Montpelier?

Rifken: COLA is meeting with state officials, and talk with the governor. She points out that COLA has done trips to Montpelier.

Academic Affairs—faculty will be voting on publishable course evaluation

- Next Monday, faculty senate will be voting on the online evaluation system. He encourages people to come to 4-5:30 at waterman memorial lounge
- Senator Mansfield and Senator Daley have been working on their own initiatives
- Senator Campbell is working on facilitating a relationship with faculty senate, more so than they have already
  - Senator Pasterkiewicz is working on academic calendar
- Academic credit for club-signers is being worked on. They are trying to streamline it, make it a bit more efficient, make it a bit more public, and initiate their own program, so that something efficient can be suggested.

CODEEE—met with Jess Kraus.

- He's going to meet with Dave Nester, to getting the library open for longer hours.
- Women's Center is interested about getting on the list on senate getting the presidential emails
- They're going to continue working with Veterans.
- EcoReps, the committee will be talking about future Naked Bike Ride events

Student Action—is emailing their report

Finance—is emailing their report

### Senatorial Forum (00:14:40)

Senator Lederer-Plaskett had an idea to eliminate the word “debate” from conversations between clubs and instead hold a mandatory monthly forum in Brenan’s, a sponsored event by Senate, where each club will get an opportunity to hold one forum. Each club would talk to students and give students an opportunity to speak back to them. She points out that it would give Public Relations committee something “cool” to publicize. She is looking help for this event from SGA members.

Speaker Osef reminds chairs, to make sure you get committee members involved in their roll calls.

Chair Burns: The L/L mural committee is going to emailing the link, and is going to post it on the SGA website.

Senator Chaouch announces that there are four open spots on senate starting next semester. 3 for off-campus positions and 1 for on-campus

- Midterm elections are going to be held either the 25<sup>th</sup> or the 26<sup>th</sup>, and she will be handing out packets on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- She going to be working on Election Committee duties during winter break.

#### Senatorial Comments Announcements (00:09:01)

- Kyle Devivo—February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Kappa Sigma in support of the Fisher house Foundation will be sleeping out.
- Vermont Debate is the seventh greatest debate club in the world
- Chair Rifken: ZEST is performing at at 7:30am is singing at IRA Allen. She advises people to donate socks.
- Senator Lederer-Plaskett: There are currently 9 people in the relay for life team including herself, so please sign up. This is a really good time to ask for donations.
- Alex Nenopoulous: season finale to watch at UVMtv.
- Senator Keenan advises people to relax for finals week.
- Senator Pasterkiewicz: Fashion award goes to Senator Mathews
- Senator Ferreira: RSVP is due today for “Home for the Holidays” party sponsored by the LGBTQA.
- Vice President Vitagliano declares that head liaison positions are remaining the same. Also discloses the senior present.
- Chair Goodnow: wishes everyone a happy holidays and good luck on their exams
- Chair Rifken: if anyone needs a ride on the 17<sup>th</sup> to NY, contact her.
- Senator Lederer-Plakett: 9/11 donations are going well. Winter clothing drive, so she wants SGA to help and to donate.
- Chair Caster: is looking to sublet for 2 months next semester

Roll Call (00:00:55)

Finance- Al present

Student Activities--Senator Allston unexcused



COLA- Senator Wilich excused  
Academic Affairs –Senator Daley and Senator Campbell excused  
CODEE—Senator Talbot unexcused and Senator Yuan excused  
Student Action—Senator Kaznetz and Senator Zhao excused  
Public Relations: All present

(7pm-9:05pm)