

Tuesday, October 16th, 2012

TENTH MEETING OF THE 2012-2013 SENATE

Roll Call (0:00:00) 7:00pm

Finance- All excused

Public Relations- All present

Student Activities- Senator Abasella excused

COLA- Senator Goodrich excused

Academic Affairs- All present

Student Action- All present

CODEEE- Senator Macias unexcused

--Approval of the Minutes from October 9th, 2012-- Approved

Public Forum

Kesha Ram- We are here just to speak and say hello and will be open to any questions. I served as the student body president from 2007 to 2008. I am on the board of trustees, this is my third term on the legislature, my fourth year. We try to come into SGA at least 2 times a year to answer questions that you as students senators have regarding state legislative. I want to say upfront that I am not here in my capacity of a board member here at the University. We have many different hats that we have to wear, and tonight I can't answer any questions as a board member, but as a state legislature member. I'll talk about things that I've worked on in the past. I serve on the revenue committee for the state, working with how we fund state government. making sure that everyone is paying their share, and those can afford to pay more, do. Working on getting more funding to higher education within Vermont. Worked with the department of labor- trying to establish a program in which students could get work-study off campus, and not have to do them on campus. I have also focused my energy towards human trafficking legislation. Affordable housing- I was a renter when I first started out. My first bill was regarding security deposits: allowing you to cash in your security deposits, if you were owed it by your landlord. We've been working on text book affordability, making sure that institutions are more transparent regarding text book sales. Women's issues are very important to me as well. I invite all of you to come and see what's happening in congress in Vermont. I'd like to work on voter registration modernization.

Chris Pierson- Representative Pierson. It's a pleasure to represent you along with Kesha Ram. I have been in the state legislature for three terms along with Kesha. I'm a progressive, not democratic or republican. In fact, Vermont is the only state with a third party caucus. This neighborhood has been electing a progressive since the 1990's. Students have always played a key role in the elections. I serve as the progressive caucus leader. I'm in a lot of the crucial conversations, standing up for the minority voices. I work very closely with the democrats, and it's my job to ask the difficult questions sometimes. We are the only state with a stated goal that

healthcare is to be a public good. There's a lot going on, and it's a fun job. I founded the climate caucus. When it comes to global warming, we aren't doing anything. My contention is that most of us agree that global warming is real. We don't know what to do. We started this caucus that meets two times a month to discuss issues because we don't know what to do. We got experts coming from around the state giving us ideas on what we should do. It was a great discussion and I look forward to having the conversation again in January. I hope to work on carpool commuter lots, giving incentives to those who participate in green activities. There's a lot of relatively small things we can do to reduce our carbon footprint.

Senator Lott- What are your thoughts on Vermont Yankee?

Kesha Ram- We are a part of the lawsuit. Our focus has been on the reliability of the power plant. Initially, we were on the losing side of that. It is the oldest functioning nuclear power plant in the country. I personally, have a lot of concerns about nuclear waste. We've had leaks and many other emergencies within the plant. It's currently up to the court.

Chris Pierson- I favor shutting the plant down. Over the years it has increased the river temperatures thanks to the dumping on the cooling towers. Costs the plant 20 million towers a year for said cooling towers. I believe in keeping our state eco-friendly, and I don't by any means have to be polite to the large players here in Vermont.

Senator Edelman- UVM has a lot of representation in the State legislature. However, UVM doesn't accept the GI bill. Is there anything that can be done in Montpelier?

Kesha Ram- I think we can do more to represent our veteran students. Diverse groups on campus should include veterans. I have been a big proponent of including this group on campus.

Chris Pierson- I believe that Montpelier would be interested in working with this issue.

Senator Crane- Do you think that the SGA could work with the Climate caucus?

Chris Pierson- It's still very new- organized last February- we could do a lobby day- Montpelier is very accessible. We will be utilizing more social media to talk to Vermonters.

Kesha Ram- We've worked with COLA in the past, and I would like to work with them in the future. It's something that we look forward to

Bob Kiss (Senatorial Candidate)- I served in the same position Chris (Pierson) is in for 6 years 6 years ago, most of you know I was the mayor of Burlington. I am in the current race for 6 seats in the State Senate. I hope you'll cast a vote for kiss on November 6th. I wanted in this campaign effort to touch base with the SGA. The student noise issue. The cost of education is potentially creating a financial burden for a lifetime. Making sure that UVM and Burlington live together in a positive way is a high priority for me. Higher education which is a key to the future.. October 31 is the deadline for voter registration. I've encouraged UVM students to vote locally in Burlington. In 2011, Burlington was the most sustainable small city in America, I'm convinced that the city only benefits if you as students are willing with be a part of it. If I'm a senator, one thing that I will be doing is continue to make connections between Montpelier and UVM. Have efficient government that is effective. If we don't build a government of sustainability. It's important that we create a world in which we can all work efficiently together.

Senator Lott- What are your thoughts on Vermont Yankee?

Bob Kiss- We have a plant that has, from my perspective, served its purpose, and we need to move away from this error and focus on clean-green energy in Vermont.

Aidan Pellegrino- UVM Clean Energy Fund - A student initiative that involves green projects proposed by students around campus. I'm one of the SGA appointed students on the Clean Energy committee. Here's the breakdown of specifics: \$10 of your tuition goes to the fund each semester, totaling \$225,000 per year. Your ideas are needed. The idea of the committee came in 2005 and by 2009 things started moving. Past projects are the Aiken Solar trackers, organic solar cells research. Throughout the past summer several students worked toward carbon neutrality, which is the main goal of the fund. Why I'm here today is to get your ideas, and to spread the word. The committee is created by SGA and so it all stems from you all. If you'd like, you can go to our website, you can vote for proposed and comment on proposals. You can also propose research programs and courses on the website. If you have any questions or ideas I would like to hear them.

Chair Keyes- Could you send us out a like?

Aidan Pellegrino- Yes, definitely.

Senator Lott- Have you ever been paid for your work on the committee.

Aidan Pellegrino- No, it's strictly a volunteer position.

Old Business

None

Emergency Business

None

New Business

Bill allocating funds to crew team

Executive Reports

Speaker Ducharme- I know I was going to be sending out an e-mail regarding the Constitution committee, but did not. I spoke to Pat Brown, and I was informed that this is the only body that can make changes to the committee. I need one person from each committee- these are the only people who can present changes to the constitution. I will send out an e-mail to everyone to get everyone's ideas. If people have any questions, please e-mail me. Chairs would appoint someone from their respective committee.

VP Holland- There are no committee seat requests this week. We still have the three appointments to fill the last seats on senate. Last weekend we had a few scheduling conflicts. I have re-emailed possible candidates, and hopefully they will be in touch. I became a part of the anti-hazing task force- we went down to Tennessee, and UVM has created a group that looks at the hazing policy- looking to better it, specifically. I was approached by a staff member at UVM

to create a Think Care Act video PSA if you or anyone you know would be interested in joining, please e-mail me. I got an invitation for SGA to participate in a kick ball tournament sponsored by Kappa Alpha Theta. I will not be participating due to my injury. Weekend before Thanksgiving break, I will be setting up the mini-retreat. We will have a speaker come in to let the new senators about how we work, etc. At the retreat, Cornell Woodson will be speaking and so we're going to be working with your schedules and work from there. It wouldn't be too long. There are still 4 spots open on senate: 2 on-campus 2 off-campus.

President Daley- This past week I had meetings with college officials. We're a part of the board of trustees and the student trustee selection committee. What would we expect from a student trustee? Please give me feedback. Wednesday of last week, Chair Conlon met with Blanca regarding our relationship financially with the athletics department. I will not be attending my office hours this Friday. Senator of the week this week is Maha. Last year I had talked about getting more students involved with SGA and student issues, VP Holland and I identified numerous issues we wanted to work on, the memo I sent of regarding a prospective cabinet- comprised of focus groups. A way to get more student involved on campus, working on my priorities without taking Senate air time. I'm open to any comments or concerns. That body will not have any bearing over this body's role. I am not concerned by the ratio of appointed to elected student leaders on campus. This body is mostly appointed, and we do great work whether or not we're appointed or not. I like people on my cabinet to be driven enough to apply.

Committee Reports

Finance- Sorry we were late- supplemental ran over. Sorry about last week's bill regarding Cycling team, as I didn't check in with Treasurer Juare, so, I support President Daley's veto of the bill.

Public Relations- PR was pretty slow, pretty normal. We're pushing ahead with UVM voice. We came up with a new form of response with UVM voice- via text message.

Student Activities- Fairly busy week for us. Four clubs that have turned in recognition packets. Alisha will be the representative to Club Sports Council, which meets roughly every week. Senator Heffrin will be helping me out with the process of de-recognition of the clubs we have identified. I met with Cycling Club- the day after our meeting, we spoke with Pat and Blanca regarding fairly serious repercussions (insurance concerns) regarding other clubs based on our decision. So, Leon and I met with Cycling and we made a few decisions: so, nothing is happening this week, but they've agreed to four actions: bring in a speaker to speak to the club about alcohol responsibility, service project for the University, and specific drivers from Cycling club will not be able to sign our vans until the end of the semester or end of the year. We issued censures to 13 clubs who have not complied with the hazing tests or workshops. Police services has decided to not pursue anything criminally. CSES has asked for more information.

COLA- Senator Ahka and Chair Alnamme went on the first neighborhood cleanup. We had to cancel the Sunday one because it was raining. I've been talking to VCO about veterans' day. Public speakers, Monday nov 12, we will have a role call- where we put out flags and we call out every name of every soldier who has lost their life since 9/11. We're working on an online workshop for students before they move off campus. Role call is a national event and must be on that Monday. This is the kickoff to that entire veteran appreciation week. On Friday, Connor and I went to Community Coalition; working towards lowering off-campus noise.

Academic Affairs- This week we were very busy. On faculty senate: General Education committee will be talking to the University of Minnesota, regarding a variety of things, but mostly to do with writing and different aspects of literacy. Curricular Affairs committee discussion on how much a credit out counts on an online course, so, the definition of online credit hours, they have formed a subcommittee to tackle that issue. Federico met with History Chair. After much opposition, he is now broadening the scope to more departments and evaluating Diversity requirements. cultivating a deeper conversation. Senators Wooley and Hilton are working in their respective colleges, looking forward to Senator Hilton meeting with Dean Prelock on November 2nd. Taylor is working with Student Affairs committee and on Faculty Senate, and course evaluations. Student opinions on transfers. Diversity requirement. Working with evaluating.. See recorders. Online course evaluations are stuck in the water.

Student Action- Ezra is working on bus schedules, and bus signs. There will be QR codes on bus signs linked to bus schedules. Julie will be meeting with trashcan man again in two weeks. Christian and Celia are working on water bottle, waiting for okay from finance. Mural voting has ended. I will not be sharing the results. Athletics meeting, Leon's position should be also funded by UVM Athletics, giving us half his pay, we also fund the rock wall. Cantell working with the new Jay Taylor. Hoping by next senate meeting I will announce the results of the vote.

CODEEEE- We had a busy week, meeting with Kate Boslton- talking about Clean Energy fund. Our committee has a proposal for them. They have a tracker on energy use of Aiken center- very cool. they compare energy use of Davis Center as well. if you have any ideas, direct them our way. We have a meeting with Barbara Johnson at 11:30 in Waterman (Executive office) with Senator Crane, myself and Senator Ghazey. Senator Vickroy working on mental health month. Working on finding a speaker. Working towards free yoga classes for students to de-stress. Weather changes and how it affects your mood, still in the working process, so, if you have any ideas please share them. We heard back from Kim regarding the international student survey, they are excited about collaborating with us. Senator Martinez and I will be going to an environmental leadership conference this weekend. We have access to a list of universities who have adopted a smoking free policy, and we will be getting in touch with them to see how they're doing. I might write out an e-mail for senate to explain where the conversation went and how we can move forward as how we see fitting.

Senatorial Forum

Senator Edelman- A few updates- I have a meeting tomorrow with Ann Cressey at the Living Well center to talk about veteran affairs. I had a phone call with General Dubey, creating a position for veterans' affairs at the University. He was disgruntled that UVM doesn't accept the GI bill. Please if you're interested in the role call on veterans' day, please contact me or Chair Redell.

Senator Ghazey- We spoke about having students forming an environmental coalition of paid students to monitor energy use.

Chair Dougherty- Have you thought about motion sensors?

Senator Ghazey- It would be for not just lights, but computers and other appliances that remain idle over night. How much energy do vampire outlets actually soak in? Especially in Residence halls, it is a real problem.

Senator Foley- By controlling so that in a draconian way, there could be a negative connotation.

Senator Lott- I don't understand how the clean-energy police , would they write tickets? I don't how this would pragmatically function

Chair AlNamee- I want the focus to be on the idea, not the wording.

Senator Lott- At first hearing it, I think it sounds like a terrible idea.

Senator Edelman- It's more big brother than draconimy- could the eco-reps hold this position, since we pay them anyway.

Senator MacDonald- I think it would be effective if done correctly.

Senator Ghazey- I don't think you guys understand- it would be a group of students entering facilities to turn off electronics. It could be a subcommittee of the eco-reps.

Senator Sinkula- I think you should be weary before you start paying people to do this.

Senator Ghazey- It would be the clean energy fund paying for this position.

Senator Edelman- Maybe instead we could have a PR campaign to make the population more aware of energy use.

Senator Macias- That's something we talked about during our committee meeting; sending out an e-mail asking for ideas from the student body.

Senatorial Comments and Announcements

Chair AlNamee- So, this is my friend Liz, who is very interested in SGA. I would like to yield the floor to her so she may introduce herself.

Student Liz- I'm currently involved with a number of organizations on campus, and am extremely interested in working on SGA.

Senator Cantell- Tomorrow is another themed dinner (Chesapeake Bay) at Harris Millis.

Senator Mathews- If anyone is interested: I am starting a dodgeball team, Thursdays at 7:15 starting in two weeks.

Senator Macias- Who runs the Harris Millis Facebook page?

Speaker Ducharme- Tomorrow 2-5 there will be a career fair. It's going to be a great event for people who are looking for a part time job, or Summer internship.

Senator Martinez- There will be a blood drive in Patrick gym tomorrow.

Chair AlNamee- I would like to mention that Senator Martinez and Senator Ghazye joined me and Senate Akeh, and they did a great job!

Final Roll Call

Finance- Senator Guerrero unexcused

Public Relations- All present

Student Activities- Senator Abasilla excused

COLA- Senator Goodrich excused

Academic Affairs- All present

Student Action- All present

CODEEE- Senator [Auchincloss](#) excused

Motion to Adjourn -- (08:25:55)