

Tuesday, November 27th, 2012
FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE 2012-2013 SENATE

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

Finance- Senator Sinkula excused
Public Relations- All present
Student Activities- All present
COLA- Senator Goodrich excused
Academic Affairs- Senators Hilton and Sundstrom excused
Student Action- All present
CODEEE- All present

--Approval of the Minutes from November 13th, 2012-- Approved

Public Forum (00:001:13)

Quinn Wilcox- Hi everyone, my name is Quinn, and I'm a Sophomore.

Daniel Cmeila- Hi, I'm Dan. We're all representatives from Student Climate Culture, a divestment group on campus promoting values for the University investments, and I'm excited to talk to you all.

Carrie Wilson- Hi, I'm Carrie Wilson. I'm also a part of this group.

Quinn- I'm a representative from this group, we are a 1,000 member group, trying to enable the university to align its investments with its ideals. I'm here to talk to you about the power of culture. Culture is one of the strongest forces in making political change. Vermont has an awesome and diverse culture, UVM has a great culture, it's time that we use this to prevent the destruction of the world's habitats and biodiversity. We are the cusp of a major climatic shift towards instability. It is understood that climate change is the greatest human rights challenge. People currently hold the power to make significant changes. If we don't act now, the cost will be enormous. It will be economically devastating, and will create hundreds of thousands of refugees, and we will experience more devastating weather such as Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. This is just the beginning. We can safely burn 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to keep the global temperature under a 2 degree celsius change. This is a mark of irreversible climate change. Fossil fuel corporations currently have 2,795 gigatons in their reserves that they are banking off already as pumped out of the ground, almost five times the limit. Government and political gridlock are powerful forces, and they perpetuate climate change. If we use culture to fight climate change we can fight these companies. We can send a public message by divesting in fossil fuels. We think that UVM is a perfect champion for this environmental movement. SGA has an enormous power in the University. Even non-binding

resolutions are a great way in indicating the will of the student body and of the current university values. We, as SCC, believe that we are speaking the truth. We hope that you will acknowledge the truth. Three truths in particular. The first, we hope that SGA will pass a resolution to acknowledging that climate change is a human environmental rights issue. We don't have to convince any of you that this is a real problem of our lifetime. The second truth is that we want a resolution stating to support the factors that cause human and environmental rights issues is a violation of our common ground. And lastly, we want you to throw support behind our divestment campaign, and out 1,000+ member group. If we act, we should act soon. It is likely that our success in divesting will serve as a national prototype for the country's colleges and many members of the international social responsible divestment community. Now is our chance.

Daniel Cmeila- I'm going to talk about how unique our position as a university in the national divestment movement, which already exists. So first, a fundamental reworking of investment paradigms, at UVM, can help serve as the prototype. There are over 50 other schools trying to do this, and if we are successful, other universities will look to us. But we're not asking you to vote to fundamentally work national investment paradigms, we're just asking you to acknowledge the truth. The first truth is the resolution that we hope you will pass, is just says that the UVM SGA acknowledges that climate change is a human environmental rights issue. If you're not convinced, I have a couple statistics. One is from a 2012 report by series investment published last month, as this report is published the cost of Australia's epic January floods are being assessed. Beyond the billions of dollars in infrastructure damage, shipping, and agriculture are suffering major losses, and causing economic ripples globally, destructions of whole exports, for example, have caused global coal prices to rise by 25%. Climate change threatens many more such extreme weather events like this 1 in 200 year flood. A lot of this wasn't covered in US publications because at the same time we we're dealing with our 2 in 100 year storm: Irene and Sandy. The next one being a report from Corporation 2020, it's a coalition of different companies that are worried about their financial returns being damaged by the costs of climate change. And it says that oceans have become 30% more acidic since the beginning of the industrial revolution, wow! Another one from Wearepowership.org states that in the US there are 21,000 deaths, 24,000 hospitalizations, and 280,000 severe injuries traceable to the impacts from burning an mining coal each year in the United States. And this last one, coming from Professor Goldberg from of University of Queensland, and he has this thesis about how if we keep on progressing at the current rate toward climate change we are going to mess with the oceans in a major way, which are basically our planet's lungs, and it could impact all of humanity in an extreme way. If you disagree that climate change is a human rights issue, please question us, we'd love to answer your questions. What's the world's response to this climate change? 523 billion dollars in annual subsidies in the fossil fuel industry. We don't think that's right, and we see publicly trying to remove our investment from the equation in an effort to strike back against the forces that be. Wind doesn't kill people, it doesn't flood cities, it doesn't destroy coral reefs, nor does solar. Climate change does, and so do these companies. The second truth that we want you all to acknowledge is that support companies that partake in such destructive activities is in violation of our common ground. The is a huge precedent for this campus. For example, the actions we've taken in relation to solidarity for the people in El Salvador, or the divestment campaign from

Sudan, we've shown that this university is willing to put our money where our interests are. The third truth, SGA to support the efforts of SCC to make a proposal for divestment from fossil fuels through the established path at UVM. This is our plan: So, will you please raise your hand right now if you understand what is proxy voting is? Okay, so, I've got a little bit of explaining to do. Basically what we want to do, is, any account that we have in our endowment that has more than 8% (We're deciding the number at a later time) fossil fuels, we want to divest in them. We want to replace them with other accounts. We also want to take the top 200 most polluting companies, and use all the tools we can to remove them from our endowment. This includes proxy voting which is basically shareholder advocacy. If we have some funds in an account, we're entitled to go to their meetings and make a proposal. But, instead of going to the meeting we can just send a letter. So, what this would entail would be the top 200 companies that are the most polluting, and then tell the firms that we're invested in that we don't want to invest in these companies. Alone, we won't have enough of the share to have them agree with us, but we have this existing nation infrastructure in place that people would be likely to follow our lead, and that would really help get these companies out of the endowment. We think that this is a very realistic way to do this. We think that it's very translatable and that the socially responsible investment community would follow us, they actually told us that they would, I was talking to Bill Page, who is the Senior VP of Essex International Investment, and there is this 22 billion socially responsible investment market that can't act on any of these things, because they're so invested. But, I don't know about you guys, but I don't have any big investments in any of these companies. So, I'm not going to be perceived as bias. There is a way to get better rates growth, because we think that's very important. A lot of firms see what we do at UVM as an opportunity for expansion in the 400 billion dollar college endowment market. We've been reached out to by a bunch of people like, investment managers at Morgan Stanley, Essex International Investment, who want to serve as the replacement accounts for our endowment, because they know if we do it and we do it right, it's going to become a no-brainer for other colleges to follow us. So, they're actually competing with each other. They have so much incentive to make sure that these accounts grow greater than ever before. So, we think they're going to have more incentive to do their job right. Even is the alternatives industry isn't there yet, there are ways in which we can get a better return by moving away from fossil fuels, additionally, we attract investment, national prestige, and a lot of great stuff which Carrie will talk to you all about.

Carrie- Colleges and Universities do hold over 400 billion dollars in their endowments, so, we are not alone in this. This is a really unique position for us right now, in terms of network relations. We've gathered over 1,000 petitions. We're really organized and widespread. Hampshire college and Unity college have already divested, and so there is a pre-mark for which we can be able to divest. We have the responsible endowment coalition that we've been working with, and they have the framework for which our endowment can be invested in things that are socially responsible, and divested from fossil fuels. So, in conclusion, what we do in the next 6 months at UVM will help stage a national movement. We ask to take action now so that we can be at the forefront of this movement. We aren't asking for much, we want a resolution stating that climate change is a human and environmental rights issue. The second, being that we want a resolution stating that SGA supports the fact that investments that go against human or

environmental rights are violation of our common ground. And third, we want you to throw your support behind the divestment campaign that has 1,000 supporters working tirelessly for the desired results. Thank you, and we open for any questions.

Chair Dougherty- What are your sources on the investment managers?

Daniel Cmeila- I talked to Bill Page, the Senior VP for Essex International investment, last Tuesday. He connected me with some other people. Additionally, I was talking to the father of one of my friends who works at Morgan Stanley, and afterwards we got contacted by one of them. You know, it's really simple economics. What are the determinants of demand? Preferences are one of them. If this is going to become a national movement, and it is, companies are going to want to gain a niche in that market. So they're actually competing with each other right now, to have an opportunity to present to our work group. We haven't asked the work group if they want someone from Morgan Stanley to present to them, but I think they might. Especially considering how they have an extra incentive to do well. Thank you for your question.

Chair Dougherty- Do you understand how mutual funds work?

Daniel Cmeila- Yeah, I understand how mutual funds work. Our endowment isn't entirely mutual funds. It's a lot of different diversified funds. But, you know what, a lot of these nitty-gritty questions of economics would be better to ask the people who we've talked to. So, as a student organization, what we're uniquely able to do is, reach out to these people like Bill Page, who could probably answer these questions a lot better than I can. That being said, these investors who are interested, it's something that our endowment has never had before. People haven't been like, "Oh! Let's get part of UVM's endowment!" Well, you know, there hasn't been really anything unique about our endowment, until now. When we're uniquely placed to take the lead.

Chair Dougherty- Do you think that the Board of Trustees is willing to risk our endowment in divesting from these funds, given that that would directly impact the financial aid students receive?

Daniel Cmeila- Well, if I didn't think that, I wouldn't be talking to all of you. I think it can grow, because now we have people who have a greater incentive to do their job well and stand to join into this billion dollar market. I've talked to a couple of trustees who agree with me, and I understand their fiduciary responsibilities. But also, we're working on UVM divestment foundation, which is a pool of our own fundraising for the University. And that account is going to be released to the University once they start divesting. So, not only do I think we can grow our account, but the longer we wait, the more support from the university is being held back. I think that's important that students are attracted to a university that stands by its values.

Chair Dougherty- Given that Black Rock Capital is one of the big funds that we invest in, and given that it returns our highest rate.

Daniel Cmeila- Black Rock All-capital energy fund is different from Black Rock. The Black Rock All-Cap fund over the last four years had a 0.22% growth rate. That's not the entire account. It's separate.

Chair Dougherty- Alright, so, I have all that information, since I'm on the Board of Trustees, so I have seen it.

Daniel Cmeila- You're on the Board of Trustees?

Chair Redell- Point of information: You're not on the Board of Trustees.

Chair Dougherty- I'm a student representative to the Board of Trustees.

Daniel Cmeila- Okay, because I was talking to Kyle and Dennis, and they didn't have that qualm.

Senator Lott- Would the 3 of you, be interested in writing the resolution yourself?

Daniel Cmeila- Well, I told you the exact wording of it. If you want to have a look at the proposal, then you can. It's basically just the truth: Human environmental rights is a human rights issue, that's the resolution right there. Second one: supporting companies that cause human environmental rights issues is something that we don't want to do. Third one just says that we support the efforts of UVM students to work within the system we have for divestment. If no one else asks a question, I just want to say how happy I am to get support from a lot of people here. I know Connor has been really supportive, and Sam, he's such a smart guy. They've both been really supportive of it. So, we're just so appreciative.

Senator Edelman- Do you think that you could bring these experts to come talk to us? I'm not trying to question you, but do you think that you could provide us with some proof?

Daniel Cmeila- Well, it sounds like you are questioning me. We'll even let you enter the e-mail addresses. That's just a hassle. No, I don't think that the investors would be willing to come and present to the SGA. They would probably be willing to present to the socially responsible work group, the mechanism through which proposals are brought to the board. If you guys want to join that you can contact the work-group yourself.

Senator Edelman- First, this isn't a debate, so let's keep it to question and answers. If you would like us to make a resolution coming from this body, why do you feel that these experts would not be willing to come address this body?

Daniel Cmeila- Because we're not asking you to make a reinvestment plan, we're just asking you to acknowledge the truth. Someone is not going to come here from Essex International, or Morgan Stanley and be like, "Yeah, we really hope you acknowledge that climate change is a human rights issue."

Senator Edelman- So, you know the truth. We take this truth and then make resolutions like you want us to based on that?

Daniel Cmeila- Okay, I don't understand what's so hard about this. We're asking you guys to say that climate change is a human rights issue. We can send you our proposal, we're not asking you create a resolution to express the nuance of this plan. Supporting the companies that cause it, is against our principles.

Chair Keyes- It sound like you're asking us to do two things. You'd like us to support your position on climate change, and to support this initiative. My question would be, if you're presenting this initiative, how can we support this without knowing the full picture?

Daniel Cmeila- I'm sorry that I didn't come off as clear enough. If anyone is interested, please contact us at studentclimateculture@gmail.com. We can send you a ton of information to make this decision a ton easier for you. It's basically any account with 8% or more investment in fossil fuels, we want to divest from. We also want to send our proxy vote initiatives to the top 200 companies that are the most polluting. Your support enables us to get our proposal to them, so that they can ask the same questions you do. It's important to be bold now.

Chair Keyes- Could you please send us your information?

Daniel Cmeila- Do you want to contact me at studentclimateculture@gmail.com? I can, I just don't know if I can get all these e-mails. If anyone would like to get involved, we're looking for the type of students here at SGA to become a part of our movement.

Senator Mathews- You said you had a membership of around 1,000. We have 3 people coming in to talk to us, even just coming in with more people.

Carrie- So you want us to have our whole group come in?

Senator Mathews- No, just to have more than 3. Even just having the signed petitions would make our job much easier.

Daniel Cmeila- I showed the Board of Trustees the petition, they all loved it. I feel like you guys think that we're trying to make up numbers, which we're not. We have like, a 600 person e-mail list that we e-mail every week.

Senator Mathews- I think it's disrespectful bringing up me questioning your honesty and integrity. I never said that at all, all I want is a petition with all your students in the club brought to us when we vote on the resolution, so that I can make an informed decision.

Daniel Cmeila- I can do that, and I'm really sorry. All we want is to work with you guys.

Senator Edelman- Understanding what you've told Chair Keyes, that this is very complex and difficult to understand divestment strategy, once again, since we are not financial experts, I'm assuming none of you are as well. Could you, in order for us to pass a resolution, affirming, not the truth part, but affirming your divestment strategy, why don't you want us to talk to an expert?

Daniel Cmeila- I'm a student, I can't go to an expert and ask them to do whatever I want. They want to present to the board because they see it as an opportunity to expand their company. I don't mean to insult you guys, but I don't think that I could offer them that much by talking to you guys. Every time I e-mail this guy it's like I'm treading in water. I don't want to be over zealous in my communication with him. He offered to come talk to the Board, he didn't offer to come talk to the Student Government.

Senator Edelman- You acknowledge that you can't do this without SGA's support, correct?

Daniel Cmeila- Well, I don't think we acknowledged it. We hope the SGA supports us, I think it would be better if the SGA supports us. But, you know, I think that at a certain point, it would be possible to get this initiative moving sheerly on the merit of the plan that we have. Because it's a good plan and their reasonable people.

Senator Edelman- So, if Morgan Stanley is interested in our business, they won't be interested in coming to talk to us.

Daniel Cmeila- They would be willing to come in to talk to the work group that the proposals for the endowment are brought towards. I'm not trying to propose our plan to you guys right now. I understand that you guys might be a little worried because you don't all the facts about this. If there are problems, please come to talk to us. If we don't act now, a lot of the benefits will be lost. At some point, this is going to go through, because the members of SCC are awesome. But, the longer we wait, the worse our climate gets, and the less time we have. I'm sorry that I don't think that I can get these guys to come in and present to you.

Chair Redell- The amount of research you've done is apparent. How many companies would the university stop investing in?

Carrie- There are 200 companies that hold the most fossil fuels right now, so, this is a part of 350.org, gofossilfree.org, this is the same thing that we're working towards here at UVM.

Chair Conlon- I sense your urgency to make this happen. Why do you expect us to move much more quickly than the other committees that will be involved?

Daniel Cmeila- The student body wants to act, and act fast. We can send you all the info, it's a lot of reading. I was hoping that you guys at the next meeting could all say, "yeah, we do support that." I was hoping that we could do that next week. We've been working on this for a really long time. Any account with more than 8% fossil fuels, we divest from. Put out a proxy to the other companies. We'll have a long time to examine and re-examine. We just have a very short time before we have to present to the work group on December 10th, and we were hoping that when we present to them, we could say that the SGA wants us to present to them. So if you believe in fighting climate change, and re-work our investments accordingly, please help us in working towards this cause. Prepare to get an e-mail.

Senator McDonald- I personally don't understand how the endowment works, or any of UVM's investments. I don't know how many fossil fuel companies we invest in. I do think that the Board of Trustees does a good job, and that questioning their abilities is quite outside of the SGA's scope. So, unless you want the support from everyone on SGA, I would suggest coming back and helping us understand. Because I cannot make an informed decision.

Daniel Cmeila- I feel like you're questioning what they're doing, that you need to do research so that they don't make the wrong choice. We can't present to the board. You don't think that we should be questioning the board, but by you saying that you need to be double checking everything that we're doing, you are inferring that they cannot make an informed decision themselves. I didn't think that it was necessary to follow you all on investment information, that the work group and trustees would be doing everything themselves, as it is their job is to answer these questions. We are far from questioning the ability of the board, it seems that you all are questioning the ability. We want to do this right. I didn't realize that you all wanted to be extremely knowledgeable of the process of our cause. So, we presented to you all the principles of our idea, with hopes that you would in support of the principles. By supporting our arguments, you'd be giving us the opportunity to present a proposal. Here's an example for you: A 2012 Mercer study,

reported that climate change will increase investment portfolio risk by 10% over the next 20 years. So, how does that factor into our endowment? We don't have much time to do something about climate change, and we have even less time if we are going to serve as the national prototype for this investment strategy. This is why we are urging you to act fast.

Senator Mathews- I thought that you said that you had given the petition or spoke to the board, but now you said you haven't? Could you just speak to your experiences with the various groups that you've interacted with?

Carrie- In terms of the board, we had a public comment there, sending around room our petition. We have talked with individual members of the socially responsible investment working group, and we've talked to them individually. We will be doing our formal proposal to them in two weeks.

Daniel Cmeila- Claire Burlingham is head of the socially responsible investment work group. The board of trustees has seen our petition. It was also reported in the Burlington Free Press about our petition. The person who we really need to talk to is Richard Cate. It also looks like we haven't talk to you guys enough, though we are more than happy to do so.

Senator Mathews- You had mentioned that you had gone to the board with the petition, but then you said you hadn't been to the board. I was just confused.

Daniel Cmeila- We can't make direct proposals to the board, but we can give them our vision. It's kind of like what we're doing now with you guys. We're trying to go through the route that the university has established. A couple of the trustees that we've be conversating (*conversing*) with, individually.

Senator Gachette- Earlier you had mentioned that Hampshire College and Unity College have already taken these steps. Did those schools see any significant changes their investment portfolios after divesting in those companies?

Daniel Cmeila- Firstly, Hampshire college never had investments with fossil fuels, and they're just pretending to divest. Because like us, they know it is beneficial to be a forerunner in this movement. Unity College did divest. You really need to track yields over a several year period to recognize their trajectories. That endowment was 20 million or something, we are 350 million, so, if we were to divest, we would be the first very recognized, prestigious university. I am confident that the investment community has so much to gain.

Senator Crane- By addressing the SGA, you are basically addressing the student body. What role are students playing in the plan?

Daniel Cmeila- We have meetings every week. We have a core group of people. Dorm- storms, street petitioning, our group has been featured more in the newspaper than any other group on campus. It's great for me to see the interest.

Carrie- We're trying to build the culture around this. This is where we see students coming in. Students need to see that we're divesting for a reason. To quickly touch upon our media presence, in the 7 Days there will be an article coming out in tomorrow's issue regarding divestment. Both at the UVM level, and the Vermont State pension fund.

Chair Pasterkiewicz- I think that we're doing a lot of talking in circles right now, and so I just wanted to synthesize everything, and just make some suggestions for you all. First of all, it is our job to be knowledgeable regarding student issues, and so that's why we're questioning you so much about the details. With that, I recommend that you send every information you have to either me or Speaker Ducharme. If you aren't interested in having this come up as a resolution at our next meeting, you need a Senator to present it, and bring it up tonight under new business. You can present with them. It's not our place to criticize the board. We are here to advocate our students, it's not our job to review internal UVM groups. You are students, and therefore we can advocate for you. You should probably become a SGA recognized club.

Daniel Cmeila- We've talked about becoming SGA recognized, and it's a lot of work, but we're already doing a lot of work. I will e-mail you and everyone with all of that information. We're not trying to question the board. We hope that you guys give us an opportunity to put them in the position to make that decision.

Senator Heffrin- Two part question: One if for clarification, and the follow up is about insurance and accountability. By divesting you mean that we take our money that's in our endowment, from Shell, from Exxon, and we put it over to Morgan Stanley and Essex International, is that correct?

Daniel Cmeila- We don't invest directly into companies, we're invested into Black rock all-capital energy fund, which represents about 2% of all Black Rock's accounts. Their portfolio is 80% fossil fuels. So, we'd remove that account which is also under-performing, and then replace it with one of these many accounts which investors are competing for. We want to do this gradually, over 4-5 years. We think if we do it gradually, then we can do well.

Senator Heffrin- What are these other accounts that we will be investing in? Where is the accountability in that they come in and take over, that they won't do the same thing at Black Rock and invest in fossil fuels?

Daniel Cmeila- The stipulation of them having this account is that they do not invest in these fossil fuels. They don't have any incentive to lie to us.

David Plotkin- I'm here to speak about the resolution opposing a tobacco-free campus, which I helped draft. I grew up in a non-smoking household. Neither of my parents smoked, although my father's mother smoker like a chimney her entire life. Then, this probably directly influenced his negative opinion of cigarettes and cigarette smokers. Until I got into high school, I didn't even know anybody who smoked. But, my Junior year, fell in with a group of kids, all of whom on the surface filled every negative stereotype about smokers that I had been raised to believe. They spent all their money on cigarettes, did poorly in classes, and reeked of nicotine. Although it was the ideal environment for me to pick up smoking, I never did, and still haven't to this day. The biggest influence on me, was opening my eyes to the fact that society is not partitioned into smokers and non-smokers. There are always going to be gray areas between the moral codes of people. A while a simple duality would be convenient for describing the world, it hardly ever tells the whole story. I became involved with the group opposing tobacco-free campus only recently. I heard the initiative and was incensed that the University of Vermont

sought to eliminate smokers' rights, but relaxed when I found out if it passed, it wouldn't take effect for another three years, long after I graduated in 2014. The more I thought about my position as a non-smoker, I realized that I was wrong in my thinking, and what was wrong with the initiative itself. As a non-smoker, a tobacco free campus would not negatively impact me in any way. This initiative fails to address people who lie in the middle. Since high school, and still today, I have plenty of friends who choose to use tobacco products on a daily basis. Wouldn't a tobacco free campus affect them, and in turn, me? We are not so divided a campus. Some of us pleased by the policy. A smoke free campus does not mean a smoke free Burlington. This argument again, says that because I belong in one group, implies that I cannot support the rights of those who smoke. Some of you do not agree with my position. As a member of this University that is watching this develop, it's my responsibility to protect the rights of those going and who will pass through this school after me, and be affected by this policy if implemented. Who's rights am I protecting? I was asked this question many times. As I stated earlier, it makes no sense to split people up into categories of smokers and non-smokers. I began by telling people that I was protecting the rights of students to choose to smoke if they wish. And that choice is the essence of democracy. Someone told me back that compromise, not choice, is the essence of democracy. Well then, the University already has a smoking policy. And we are all aware of the 25 foot rule. To me, this is a phenomenal compromise. A student would be hard pressed to run out of new places to enjoy a cigarette at least 25 feet away from a building. But no one enforces that policy. Since when does spending funds in order to enact a new one make sense instead of cracking down on the current policy. The biggest culprit is on front steps of the library. If the library wants to support their own policy, I would support them. In closing, I would like to point out that I'm aware that the proposed initiative is merely education based, and that there is no ban on tobacco being proposed at the University of Vermont. However, are there any college-aged students who do not know that smoking cigarettes is bad for them? We all learned the dangers of smoking in middle school. And those of us who took up smoking, did it on our own free will. Barbara Johnson's plan for students to control each other is invasive and ineffective, and it is right that already exists. Do we need to waste our tuition dollars to tell people that we already know? I want to protect the students' rights to choose to engage in legal activities. I would like to live in a healthy environment with an enforced 25 foot rule. Finally, I would like to thank all the students who identify as non-smokers, and yet signed my petition anyway. They showed me that they know live doesn't always go your way, and sometimes giving up a little comfort is necessary for a compromise for all. Questions?

Senator Mathews- How many signatures did you get?

David- 376 signatures.

Chair Keyes- If you're aware that this is not a smoking ban, and that this would provide more resources to student, why is this an issue?

David Plotkin- As you probably know, the proposed initiative is going to cost \$45,000 in the first two years alone. And it will be allocated on education purposed? But as I previously mentioned, there is not a single person who uses cigarettes that doesn't know the dangers associated with it. In my opinion, there is not reason to spend university money teaching people these things.

Chair Redell- I don't understand entirely, what you mean the right to choose to smoke? I don't understand where those rights are laid out. I was thinking about earlier, bringing pets into building, and how it brings discomfort to people, potentially, and how people might understand that as an annoyance. And how some people might say that they want to bring their pet wherever they want to take it. I have a hard time understanding the concept how people have a right to choose to smoke.

David Plotkin- A saying that I very strongly identify with: Your rights end where another person's space begins. Those rights are laid out in the US Constitution. Amendment 9: rights not guaranteed in the constitution are guaranteed in amendment 9. We don't have space to guarantee every single right. So, one's that make sense are covered by 9.

Chair Redell- Do you think that the University should have a policy that says pets shouldn't be allowed in building?

David Plotkin- No, no of course not. Because I don't think that pets belong in buildings, and that would distract students in general. If you would like to write up a resolution allowing pets into building, then go ahead. That's not what I'm here to talk about today.

Senator McDonald- US General Surgeon report says that every year 7,000 people die from second hand smoke. It's also estimated that 15,00 children every year have sicknesses and diseases that are a result of secondhand smoking.

David Plotkin- Did you have a question?

Senator Martinez- If you're saying that we shouldn't support this tobacco information program, because people already know smoking is bad for you. People don't want their health compromised by the choices of others. Don't you see this as a compromise?

David Plotkin- I see your point and I understand it, I think that the better compromise would be to properly enforce the existing smoking policy. Instead of putting university funds into a new one, it would be more useful to support the current policy.

Senator Heffrin- I agree, that we're all educated about tobacco. We also learned about American History, and coming here taking higher education, we again take those classes and relearn the same and new information. What's to say that putting down educational reform is counter-intuitive to why we're here. Why don't we perpetuate our knowledge of the dangers of tobacco. It's been a while since I've been in Middle school and I'm sure that more research has been done. I'm confused as to why we aren't trying to further our education.

David Plotkin- I think that the comparison we draw between American History and smoking is wishy-washy, at best. Nothing against what you were saying, but, in terms about the things you can learn about the dangers of smoking and the things you can learn about American History, it's like apples and oranges. So much more about everything you go to learn at college.. No one goes to college to learn about the dangers of smoking, specifically.

Senator Foley- If there are certain people to enforce the current policy on smoking on campus, who do you think they should be?

David Plotkin- Richard Cate is the man responsible. The most effective measure would be to tell Richard Cate, that students don't like the way that he has been enforcing the

policy. I think, can't we all just get along with the current policy so long as it is properly enforced?

Senator Foley- Students are bothered that the enforcement is on paper, however it is not enforced.

David Plotkin- There is more efficient way to make sure enforcement is given. The biggest thing the acknowledgement that the majority of students have an issue with smoking around the library itself.

Senator Gachette- Thanks for bringing the Constitution. We should consider equally, fiscally sound, if we were to say, make nicotine patches and gum more readily available to students, who'd like to quit. Or do you think that that is still over stepping the boundaries.

David Plotkin- I think that it's over-stepping its bounds, to suggest that nicotine patches and gum would be a viable replacement. Many students smoke because they are addicted to smoking. Only a small portion of students at UVM began smoking at UVM. If they get their fix from smoking, and saying 'no,' is not okay. I do believe the the funding of other tobacco replacements would be a better use of the funds than the educational campaign.

Chair ANamee- Based on your research, where do you think the money for this campaign is coming from?

David Plotkin- I assume grants, our tuition. I haven't researched extensively.

Chair ANamee- According to Barb Johnson, the funding hasn't been put together yet, because its a student initiative. Are you familiar with the library premise ban that they are working on?

David Plotkin- No, I am not familiar with this. I would like to know more.

Senator Auchincloss- I was wondering earlier when you were talking with Senator Martinez and the majority of students on campus. But you only 350 signatures. How are you representing the majority with only 350 signatures.

David Plotkin- If you compare the 6,000 sq. ft. of campus that this initiative would affect, versus the 50 sq ft. of campus that people are bothered by, that's the majority that i as talking about.

Senator Ghazey- Earlier you stated that we should go directly to Richard Cate and talk about him enforcing this policy. The current policy states that smoking within 25 feet of buildings is prohibited. So, when you think about it.. Where on campus does that leave you? Very few places, and you did say that we should be enforcing that, which would be through police enforcements, since this is a legal issue, which would require police presence on campus. Would you rather have Richard Cate up-ing the ante of police on campus, or would you rather see an educational campaign?

David Plotkin- You said 25 feet from all campus, this actually leaves a lot of square footage. If it comes down to it, which I argued against in my speech, if it has to come down to two options. I think it would be more effective not to do the educational initiative. Barb Johnson, mentioned that in her ideal world that students would approach students and ask them not to smoke. Students are going to smoke if they want to smoke. I'm standing in a cloud petitioning, in order to represent their interest, to get people to stop smoking willy nilly, I don't think it's as simple as education against policy.

Old Business (01:18:00)

Bill recognizing Linguistics Club -- Bill Passes

Linguistic resources

Language buddies

Socials, Attend Conferences

“Learning about Language” Panels

Promote emerging concepts in linguistic theory

Foster passionate curiosity

Meetings: Waterman 527, Wednesdays at 5pm

Resolution Opposing a Tobacco-Free Campus -- Resolution does not pass

Avoidance of extensive costs

Is there anyone who doesn't know the dangers of smoking?

-How can we say 'no' to furthering our education?-

****Vote to Table Resolution**** - Resolution will not be tabled

****Resolution is called to question**** -- Does not pass

Emergency Business (02:17:30)

None

New Business (02:17:32)

Resolution Recognizing that Climate Change Is a Human and Environmental Rights Issue

Resolution Recognizing International Students Bill of Rights

Resolution Opposing Tobacco Free Campus

Executive Reports (02:18:22)

Speaker Ducharme- I'd like to address the length of public forum. I do not have a time limit for questions, I believe that it is under your power. If you would like to make amendment to my speaking policy. I am interested in your feedback. About speaking policy: 1) Point of information: factual statement of the point at hand. 2) Point of inquiry: question of procedure. 3) Point of clarification: for when you do not understand what the speaker is talking about. Update on constitution committee: waiting on one Chair to decide who from their committee will be on the constitution committee.

Chair Conlon- Speakers in the hallway felt that speakers were bombarded with the same question over and over again. Do you think that the lack of time restraint is affecting the way we are being perceived as a body?

Speaker Ducharme- I think that we control the amount of time that we want to spend during public forum, and if it is of the interest of the body, then we should take as much time as we need.

Chair Pasterkiewicz- Would you consider sending out your power point presentation regarding your rules?

Speaker Ducharme- Yes, I will do that.

President Daley- Thank you very much for the conversation, I know it got very fiery. I do think that it's a group that's huge on campus, and the fact that they've already been to the trustees is very impressive. Best way to work is with everyone involved, I talked with Dan (the sassy one) they're the model of why I'm so involved on this campus. I encourage more and more people to get involved. Tobacco initiative, I think that there are several things that we do need to do, I agree with the neutral position while we collect more student input. Next Friday the executive committee will be meeting with graduate exec senate. I want to remind chairs that your exec evaluations are due. Senator of the Week: Senator Ghazey.

Senator Lott- Please don't use stale statistics, and if you don't know, don't refer to it as a tobacco policy.

Senator Edelman- Based on the minutes, Barbara said that it is not policy.

Senator Mathews- Why doesn't Kevin ever win?

President Daley- I have a policy against awarding SOTW to chairs.

Chair Keyes- You gave me senator of the week when I was Chair.

Vice President Holland- We are having a end of semester holiday that we do every year on Wednesday the last day of class at 3pm. I suggest all of you to attend. It's a good time. We will be inviting some of the other student leaders in the space. We have received all the applications for the AA chair. We are also looking to plan a 70th anniversary recognition, I want to start a group in senate on figuring out what we want to do with that. A lot of great ideas were passed around. Possibly having a dinner with other student leaders, or inviting past SGA members to come back to campus. Two weeks after next semester we will be doing our evening retreat. Speaker Ducharme will be doing a presentation. If you know of any future problems, I'd like to know how many open spots we will have.

Chair Conlon- When is the election committee forming?

VP Holland- It's mostly assembled.

Chair Pasterkiewicz- What is the status of the giveaways?

VP Holland- I was sent a picture of the shirt without any patterns, I was hoping that a student would be willing to work on the project. Status is that there is no status.

Committee Reports (02:34:42)

Finance- We did not have any supplemental requests this week. We did have multiple gas requests.

Public Relations- VSOP finally went out. We can out with a new logo for UVM Voice. Working on other projects. Check out video in today's e-mail as it is relevant to today's conversation.

Student Activities-Thanks for passing linguistics club. None of the clubs up for recognition will be ready by the end of the semester. Clubs coming up for de-recognition for next week.

Wrapping up end of liaison interviews.

COLA- Over Thanksgiving I had a conversation with ZIMRIDE, carpooling website, provide match ups for students. It would be a ride-share network. This would also provide marketing support. Website would also provide an option for commute. Environmental initiative. Still in planning stages, take a lot of group coming together in order to make it happen. Passing around sign up sheets to wrap presents.

Chair Dougherty- How much does the ZIMRIDE account cost?

COLA- Over the 3 years, it would cost approximately 32,000.

Chair Dougherty- Pat said something on FaceBook, about a car-share.

Academic Affairs- Professor Jennifer Dickinson initiative, hybrid course, MWF, two parts in class, one part online. Her suggestion would be to two parts online and one part in class. Black board interface will be changing. Gen. Ed Summer pilot program. CAC Faculty senate- masters of nursing clinical leadership. CAS CAC is tomorrow,

Chair AlNamee- Do you think that the proposal for the Arabic minor will happen again?

Chair Pasterkiewicz-

Senator Cantell- Would the hybrid classes replace a typical class structure. Would I still be able to take English MWF, and have the option for a hybrid?

Chair Pasterkiewicz- Yes, that would still be an option.

Chair Dougherty- You should look to Bentley University's programs.

Chair Pasterkiewicz- The idea is that the prof would be available to discuss issues during the determined class time.

Student Action- Water bottles are in. There are 500 of them. We will be giving them out with CODEEE. We will probably with handing them out on December 5th. Athletics conversation. I am drafting the mural announcement tomorrow.

CODEEE- We will be meeting with Barbara, and see if there have been any developments . I talked to Dan cmeila, and Quinn. Working on helping shape their group. Started working on projects for next semester. Mental health and wellness early march. We have community week, last week of january.

Senator Lott- When and where is the meeting with Barbara Johnson, and can I come?

Chair AlNamee- We haven't set it up.

Senatorial Forum (02:53:14)

Chair Keyes- I wanted to touch on the tobacco-free campus. It sound like .. We want to have a voice, and

Senator Edelman- 1) Point of information from President Daley's report, I did misspeak, I misinterpreted that. I didn't mean to put down any majors, I was trying to make the point that he was making a silly ma.. I've worked with Dan. He is a very eloquent speaker, he was very defensive in his approach. that was the way he was trained. We as a body have a responsibility to hear the voice of the students. We should encourage them to bring us a petition and become a recognized club. I think divestment is an interesting idea.

Senator Macias- How is the order of public forum determined?

Speaker Ducharme- It's ordered according to whoever e-mails me first.

VP Holland- Everyone's been applauding CODEE's efforts. I want to bring attention to Senator Lott's work as well. He should be applauded.

Senatorial Comments and Announcements (02:57:57)

Senator Cantell- Save your blocks, because next wednesday is the giant holiday dinner. Gingerbread men ideas. This is my favorite themed dinner of the year.

Senator Martinez- I will be talking to you guys about UVMx, kinda like ted Talks. Every wednesday at noon in rosa parks room. There will be one for a resume workshop.

Chair Keyes- We have tabling this Friday, every friday throughout the year. If interested, come talk to me.

Final Roll Call (03:00:06)

Finance- Senator Sinkula excused

Public Relations- All present

Student Activities- Senator Kelley excused

COLA- Senator Goodrich excused

Academic Affairs- Senators Sundstrom and Garau excused

Student Action- All present

CODEEE- All present

Motion to Adjourn -- (03:00:27)