

Date: September 3, 2013

Session Opening: Start time 7:00 pm; start time with recorder (00:15)

ROLL CALL

Finance: Senator Garau excused

PR: Senator Cruickshank unexcused

SAC: All Present

COLA: All Present

AA: All Present

SA: Senator Beckett unexcused

CODEEE: Senator Wilson unexcused

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: April 30th, 2013 Minutes approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

John from Office of Student and Community Relations: Thank you for giving me a couple minutes to speak to you. First, how many of you have heard of our office? *several hands raise* Great, I thought so because we have a long history of working together with SGA. One of our most valued programs, Community Coalition, was actually started by an SGA president 17 years ago, and to this day, despite having a very successful career, he names Community Coalition as the most inspired activity he was ever involved in. There's a lot that can be done together, and if you have ideas, we always welcome people to share them with us, or to participate in Community Coalition. How many of you recognize this bag? Every year, our office, in partnership with SGA, IRA, and other partners, including the City of Burlington, give out 500 welcome bags to students who are living off campus, and we do this by going door to door to all the neighborhoods adjacent to UVM. We have a very comprehensive list of streets that we visit. Basically, you give the bag out with a conversation with the resident, welcoming them to Burlington and welcoming them to being an off campus student in Burlington, if they are. The bags contain information, treats, and giveaways. We have chocolates, and this year we have a very useful oven mitt, which is actually a serious point because a lot of house fires are started by using dishtowels. Along with giving them the bag, we do have a short conversation. A lot of times we do find out about serious health or safety issues that students are dealing with. Someone actually said, 'can you come in and tell me if this is okay?' There was electrical wires hanging down off their ceiling, and it was not okay obviously. In that instance, we were able to call code enforcement and have that rectified. So it's not just giving away a bag, it's really about having a conversation with the students you interact with and making them feel welcome and supported. A lot of students that we talk to feel that once they move off campus that UVM doesn't care about them and that they have no resources available to them, which is not true at all. As a student, whether you live on or off campus, you pay a student fee that covers most of the resources that you have on campus. So that's that piece. The other piece is Have a Heart. This is interactive so you get both a flier and a piece of chocolate. Anyone want to talk about Have a Heart? Anyone do Have a Heart last spring or summer? Have a Heart happens a few times a year, Halloween, the beginning of the year on First Friday, and we

have one more coming up that you can sign up for. Basically, it's just to have people be conscious of how their activities may impact their neighbors, students or not students. It's really to be conscious of walk by noise, which is a really big issue for everyone in Burlington. Again, thank you to Lake Champlain chocolates for their donations.

Chair Redell: So I hope everyone was paying attention to when John was talking about welcome bags because all of senate will be participating in Welcome Bag Giveaway Day and giving out these welcome bags on September 15. I'll pass this bag around and you can take a look at it. I'll talk about this more in my committee report but definitely mark your calendars for September 15.

John: You reminded me of one more thing. If you live off campus now, it's a really great way to meet your neighbors, giving out welcome bags. It takes away the awkward piece of knocking on their door and introducing yourself because you have a purpose. So keep that in mind, it's a great way of meeting your neighbors, which builds community and also, statistically speaking, lowers crime, which is a big deal for everyone.

Question by Senator Matthews: Does OSCR plan on having more classes, somewhere downtown? What do you have planned?

John: Yes, we're hoping to do a financial literacy class in the spring. We're trying to get Student Financial Services to be involved, and they're a little busy right now with the new Student Employment Center. We were hoping to do that in the fall but we're moving it to the spring. We also do stress relief classes around stuff like aroma therapy which we did last year, which was fun. You make stuff and take it with you. You can give it away as gifts if you feel like it. We do a Catamount Class with the Burlington Bike Users Group, so a simple bike repair clinic. We also have coupons there for low cost, safety equipment for bikes. Actually, if anyone has recommendations for a non credit class they'd enjoy us to sponsor, let me know through Jordan or Connor, or just email be directly. So yeah, that's the answer to that.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Motion to suspend rules, seconded. Vote to suspend rules passes. Rules suspended.

President Daley: So as an introduction to Azure Pope-McGraw becoming chair of PR, often what happens over the summer is we have some leadership transitions. Some people decide they have a lot of responsibilities and Chair Pope-McGraw very nicely offered to step in, and I'd like to welcome him to the position, upon his swearing the oath. I'd also like to say thank you very much to Phoebe Fooks, who's now Senator Fooks. She's very graciously decided to stay on with us and help us out, so thank you to both.

Chair Pope-McGraw sworn in by Speaker.

Motion to reinstate the rules, seconded. Vote to reinstate rules passes. Rules reinstated.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Matthews: Resolution in support of the librarians breathing campaign that happened last week.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SPEAKER CONLON: Welcome back everyone, thank you for coming again and staying with the body. I really appreciate it. Thank you for being prompt tonight. Just FYI, if you're addressed by a public forum speaker, you can totally talk to them because they're just trying to interact. Some things I did this summer in my capacity, I was here in Burlington. I did work on the Constitution a little bit, a little bit with President Daley. I talked to Pat a little bit as well. We came up with the idea of having a more concise version that also outlines some of it, so it has been sent to the constitution committee and the executive committee at this point. I will be sending it out to the whole senate, probably tonight or tomorrow. I haven't received any real feedback on it, aside from President Daley, I believe, so feel free to point out any flaws in it. I know it's not perfect, it's just something I wrote in literally half a day. I hope to run that by my Constitution committee and get that working, and hopefully move forward with some of the stuff that Treasurer Barry and Chair Asher have been working on this summer as well. So, hopefully updating our procedures a little bit. I will send the rules of order back out to the list serve once it's updated.

Overview and summary of SGA Rules & Etiquette read by Speaker Conlon.

Question by Chair Redell: Who is going to be time keeping during public forum to make sure that the people speaking don't exceed 15 minutes and the asking questions don't exceed 15 minutes?

Speaker Conlon: Myself

VP BIRMINGHAM: Hello everybody. I hope you enjoyed a good summer, I certainly did. The last couple weeks have been pretty busy for me. I've been doing a lot with the retreat, meeting with administration, learning how to navigate the system better here and that's been really exciting for me. The retreat is this Saturday, September 7 into the 8th. We will be leaving in the vans at the Davis Center around 9:15, so make sure you're there by 9:00. We will have breakfast snacks such as granola bars and fruit juice. We will be getting back from the retreat the following day, Sunday. We will be leaving around noon so we should have you back by 2:00. Tomorrow, we could use some volunteers for activities fest, which will be going on in between the Davis Center and the Library from 10-3. I have this sign up sheet here, if you could write your name and time available, that would be very helpful. I will be there from 10-11:30 and 12:45-1:30, but I have meetings and classes going on so I can't do it all. If anyone has free time tomorrow and could volunteer that'd be extremely helpful. One piece of information Sara asked me to mention to you guys today was that we're trying to get it so that we can have at least one

member of SGA in the galaxy space at all times. We'll probably work on this more in Exec. but we're going to try to get every hour covered so that if a prospective student is coming in, especially incoming first year students who are touring the school, and they want to talk to somebody on SGA, it's really good if we can have someone there that can have a little discourse with them. Sara and Leon and anyone else are helpful, but actually having someone that participates in SGA is helpful for them so they can talk about what we're doing and show a little enthusiasm.

Question by Chair Longyear: Where is the retreat?

VP Birmingham: It's at Smuggler's Notch. We will be providing food. If you have any special food requests, please let us know right now or through email.

Question by Chair Kauffman: What kind of stuff would it be good to bring with us?

VP Birmingham: I would say, maybe if you wanted your own pillow or blanket. If you have any suggestions, some of you have maybe been before. Yield the floor to Chair Redell.

Chair Redell: If the accommodations are the same as they were last year, they are a condo so there are beds, hopefully enough for everyone. Bedding is provided. There are bathrooms and shower accommodations. You'll have to bring your own soap and maybe a towel if you wanted to shower. There's a mini golf and a water slide so if you wanted to do that maybe a swimsuit. Maybe a rain jacket, you might want to check the weather, or a sweatshirt. Things that you want to do on any overnight.

VP Birmingham: All sound like good stuff to me, thank you.

Question by Senator Lott: All in, how much is the retreat costing?

VP Birmingham: I believe, you could check with Josh, but I believe it's in the area of \$1,700.

Treasurer Barry: It's pretty inexpensive.

Senator Lott: In your opinion.

Treasurer Barry: Compared to other options.

Senator Lott: So what? We could go to Belize.

Treasurer Barry: Compared to other local options that would be good for retreats.

Question by Chair Al-Namee: Can you talk about first year elections.

VP Birmingham: We're going to be encouraging people to vote for first year elections at activities fest. First year elections are tomorrow and Thursday. The polls will be opening, I believe at 8. If there are any issues, Sara is going to work them out when she gets in at 9. The polls close, I believe, at 4 pm on Thursday. We are allowing 5 first years on the senate and then we are allowing an appointment process after that. I would encourage everybody on senate to vote. If there are any more logistical questions about first year elections I would encourage you to ask Chair Pope-McGraw, because he is the chair for the elections committee.

Question by Chair Longyear: Are there enough first year senators on the ballot to fill all the spots?

VP Birmingham: Yes, I believe we have 7 and 1 write in.

PRESIDENT DALEY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just want to give you a welcome back to University. I was here all summer. I had a number of meetings with university colleagues, as I had announced at the end of last year. I've been meeting a lot with Chair Asher and Treasury Barry, a lot of interesting cool things are happening on the finance side. Remember we are representatives of students but we also have a governance capacity, so we have to represent students the best way we can, but also make sure that SGA recognized clubs and organizations function properly. My prospective has always been that we're here to serve students in every capacity. This year I'm extremely excited about that. Just from the past week, from talking to some of your chairs and members of executive committee, there are a lot of cool ideas. I had the pleasure of sitting in on Chair Redell's COLA meeting earlier and they had 5 things already planned for just this semester and I'm really excited. Listening to Chair Al-Namee talk about her committee, even though it's a little smaller than what we started in the spring, all the good work we've been doing has carried over into the summer and there's a lot of momentum going into the fall. That doesn't mean, however, that we should just be like cool, this is the stuff we've always done. This year, I'm really going to be pushing for you all, and especially when we have first year senators in, if you hear something you want to do, work on it. There are things we have to do, and I'm very lucky because I have such a strong leadership team and many of you are such good workers and we'll be able to get that done and focus on the things we want to get done.

TREASURER BARRY: Welcome back to Burlington for those who were and were not here. Schools back in session. This summer I worked with Chair Asher, President Daley, Senator Ullman, and a variety of guests. We worked very heavily on financial reforms that we talked about at the end of last year. I'm happy to say we're 80% there being done. The task grew as time passed; we would get a nice chunk done and then have 6 other things that need fixing. Through a lot of hard work we have a really good draft we're tweaking right now. We've run it past Pat and Blanka and a couple other people. We're trying to get some input and put some finishing touches on it before we bring it to you guys. Our goal is that by the beginning of next month we'll have that to senate body so everyone can review it. We have transitioned from an incremental model to a responsibility centered model, which is something that UVM is following as well. They're looking to get a different budget model going forward into fiscal year 2016. Next week we have our Treasury workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday for all clubs, which will signify all clubs now being able to spend some money, and a lot will start getting into full swing.

Question by Chair Redell: Is this new budget model for 2015-2016 or is this something that you're planning on scrapping the budget we approved in the spring and making a new budget for this current school year?

Treasurer Barry: Right now we are in fiscal year 2014. All the financial policies we're doing won't kick in until fiscal year 2015; we're going to start phasing them in. So our new budget model will kick in during this year's budget process, but you won't use those budgets until fiscal year 2015. You won't be scrapping anything that's done already. We'll be making changes going forward into next fiscal year.

Question by Chair Kauffman: Would it be beneficial for senators to come to the treasurers workshop Wednesday if they're not busy?

Treasurer Barry: Most definitely. If any senators are around either Tuesday or Wednesday from 7 to 9, you are more than welcome to stop by. A lot of you sit out at desks and you can see the line we have outside of the finance office. If you can't go we understand. We will be talking about this at the retreat and touching on things you guys should know about the finance office.

Question by Chair Longyear: Do treasurers of clubs or any treasurers know about the new budget or what's going on with that?

Treasurer Barry: They don't. We didn't want to unveil it to any of the new treasurers until the senate has looked at it. We've had Pat and Blanka review it, but we haven't had any current club treasurers looking over the model. We didn't want them to have the eyes on it yet. We wanted to polish out all the kinks. Before we make a final draft we will be having a couple select club treasurers look at it to see if they can find any issues with it, that way we can better the model before we finalize it, but at this time no.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Today we had two supplemental hearings. Tennis needs more tennis balls and is going to a championship in October. The Speech and Hearing Club is going to a speech and hearing event next month in Chicago. 4 of them are going and are going to bring the message from the event back to the club.

Question by Senator Lott: How much were the requests for and how much did you grant?

Chair Asher: The requests are still pending. We don't have allocated amounts yet, but they were close to \$2,000.

Follow up by Senator Lott, granted: Do you think that's a lot of money for tennis balls?

Chair Asher: \$2,000 included tennis balls and transportation and funding for the tournament.

PR: I became chair Friday so I'm still getting everything together. We are scheduled for tabling on Wednesdays, not this Wednesday. We will need people to table for us. I'll send an email out when I know specific time for that.

SAC: We have a bunch of new clubs in communication with us. We're working on the club recognition process, so stay tuned the next couple months, hopefully sooner than that. We're starting to work on the club check in process, checking in with every club during first semester, and ideally during second semester around budget time as well. We've organized club workshops, Monday, September 16 at 7 pm in Grand Maple. If you're available and want to come to club workshops, there's good information pertinent to senators including a segment on leadership in general.

COLA: We had our first committee meeting today. Senator Akkeh will be organizing neighborhood cleanups again, so once we get some dates for those we'll pass around sign up sheets. Senator Akkeh is also in communication with offices downtown. Next month or so we will be filming 1-2 minute videos with the police and fire departments and others about information they would want to tell students moving into their first off campus homes. We're post these tutorials online. We're planning a veterans day event in November. I'll leave the welcome bag on the COLA desk so you can look through it and see what's inside. September 15, all senators are going to be participating in welcome bag giveaway day from 1-3. If you're unable to make that you can send me an email. President Daley and I have been getting emails about neighbors frustrated about late night walk by noise that they suspect is from students as a result of opening weekend. Having all senate participate in welcome bag giveaway is a good way to show that we are invested in bettering the community, and making sure students understand their role in neighborhoods. While giving out welcome bags on Isham Street last year, we learned that students were struggling with the capacity for recycling. The University funded student occupied households on Isham Street to have recycling totes as opposed to small boxes. I'll send out an email to remind you of the date.

Question by Chair Longyear: Do you do any outreach stuff with COTS, the local homeless shelter on Buell Street?

Chair Redell: COLA has not worked with COTS in the past. I inadvertently worked with them while working with the neighborhood revitalization project. Senator Love is part of the Dewey House, so therefore COLA has direct contact with the Dewey House, which has worked with COTS. We will definitely look in to COTS.

AA: As of today, we created a new plan that we are going to send out a 1 page memo of 7-10 grievances of things students want to see, including improving course evaluations, advising, office hours, and possibly keeping account of all that through union contract that's being edited this year. We will finalize that on the retreat and give you more information as it develops. We are going to drop a bomb on the faculty union, senate, president, provost, deans, local media (Pat Brown's idea), and the board of trustees all at once. We'll let it resonate with them and get responses. Senator Ducharme is going to pick up where he left off with advising documents. A big goal for this year is getting credits for clubs, including SGA.

SA: We haven't had a meeting yet because I've been really sick this weekend. There's only 3 of us, hopefully freshman will fill in. Senator Mathews has a contract he's working on about public form. The UVM Sentry app we worked on in the spring is finally up and running. I encourage you guys to check it out and give us feedback. The app is about off campus safety, information, and crime logs. We're working on Sodexo. We have an idea to change the bussing system so it runs by Jeanne Mance. Those students pay tuition like we do and they don't have a bus.

Question by Senator Kayser: Is the app free?

Chair Bowen: Yes

CODEE: Over the summer I worked for orientation and I tabled for SGA. At the beginning of summer, Chair Redell and I went to D.C. We worked with the school and representatives on financial loans. We were heard and they liked us. We've lost 2 people, but we're still going strong. The same things we started last year but looking for new ideas. We'll be working more with ALANA student center, international student affairs, and Rubenstein on new projects. We'll be working closely with Chair Bowen and student action because our committees overlap a lot, and combining will be more efficient.

SENATORIAL FORUM

Chair Redell: I'd like to welcome all the new senators. I would really like to emphasize that we should not be blindly voting for things that we don't know about. Today we passed minutes that may or may not exist, which was really frustrating. We suspended the rules and no one knew why. We need to make informed decisions.

Chair Pope-McGraw: First year elections are happening tomorrow morning through Thursday afternoon and we need an elections committee. Talk to me for 5 minutes after senate.

Senator Lott: I'd like to echo Chair Redell's point. This body's standards for minutes are lower than university's food standards and this is a terrible example for our new minute taker Stephanie. You have no standards for minutes. Read the minutes. If there are no minutes, don't vote to approve the minutes. This is irresponsible and unprofessional.

President Daley: To that point, I would just like to welcome our new minute taker, Stephanie Wright. Steph will hopefully be with us if she doesn't run away really fast.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Lott: Tablecloth still has a stain on it. I have these big Barack Obama kangas from Tanzania. I'm selling them in DC for \$20 each. If you're on Senate, I'll sell them for \$10. I'll bring one next week for first years to see.

Chair Redell: Burlington Art Hop this weekend. Shuttle goes around South End. There's lots of places with cool local artists, a lot of UVM students participate.

Point of information: We're all going to be on retreat

Chair Redell: If you're interested, Friday or Sunday evening, you should go.

Chair Longyear: Question for Senator Lott. How much did you buy these kangas for in Tanzania? Yield the floor.

Senator Lott: My mother runs a non profit organization in Tanzania and she picked up 20 of them and gave them to me for my birthday.

Senator Kayser: Sorority recruitment, September 19-22, all grades welcome. It's never too late. You can sign up online.

Senator Matthews: I'm going to start a Conservative Student Union Group, I'd love to have some people with conservative libertarian values and view points talk to me.

Senator Dolph: I'm in DREAM, which is a mentoring program for kids in section 8 housing in Winooski, a lot of them are refugees. We're recruiting; we really need boys, although girls are welcome too. If anyone's interested, we're having a BBQ at Oakledge on Friday. You can check it out and decide if you like it. It's really fun; we do both one on one stuff and group events. If you're interested let me know.

Senator Sinkula: Quick question; I'm in Kappa Sigma, can I give you my philanthropy chairs email? I think we'd be interested in doing that.

Yield the floor to VP Birmingham

VP Birmingham. I'd like to thank everyone that signed up for activities fest. I know I'm often asking you guys for help, that doesn't go unappreciated by me. Without you guys, I wouldn't be able to do what I do.

FINAL ROLL CALL

Finance: Senator Garau excused

PR: Senator Cruickshank unexcused

SAC: All Present

COLA: All Present

AA: All Present

SA: Senator Beckett unexcused

CODEE: Senator Wilson unexcused

ADJOURNMENT: 7:56 PM, recorder (56:30)