

**Date: September 10, 2013**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Finance: Chair Asher excused, Senator Garau unexcused

PR: Senators Fooks, Cruickshank, Maslow excused

SAC: Chair Kauffman and Senator Dolph excused

COLA: All Present

AA: Senator Galloway-Kane excused

SA: Senator Fisher unexcused

CODEE: All Present

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Minutes approved.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

KEITH SMITH (Student Outreach Coordinator and Senior Staff Counselor at CAPS):  
Thank you for having me. I wanted to give you a brief update of the response to the resolution that was cast last year about the formation of a Men's Center and hiring a full time Men's Educator. The Dean of Students charged the gender-based and sexual violence committee to review the recommendation and come up with some suggestions and ideas. We met throughout the summer talking about this issue. The committee decided it was not the appropriate place to come up with a business plan. We did come up with a proposal that I made based on several funds that we were told were available. I wrote an additional proposal about bringing a program to UVM called the Men's Program – it's also the Men's and Women's Program and is also known as 1 in 4. It's a peer education program, run by men, that works with other men, around issues of sexual assault and rape. I am currently recruiting to get this organization up and running. I have a training October 26-27. I'm looking for your support by getting the word out. Christian just showed me that you were all sort of alert in the fact that this is something being promoted and pushed by the Dean, which is great. There seems to be a lot of momentum going on right now. We had an anonymous donor pledge some money to get this up and running, which was really great and unexpected. I'm passing a flier around now so you can take a look at it. As you can see, it's an all male, sexual assault peer education group that educates men about how to support survivors of sexual assault and rape. It's a great program; it's research based. I invited the creator of the program to come do the training. It's a two day training October 26-27. It's a 15 hour very extensive training. It will create a great foundation for men to start doing this work in the community. I encourage you to think about joining this program, if you're interested or know some men that may be interested. It's a great opportunity and a strategic way to address gender violence. Contact me at [Keith.smith@uvm.edu](mailto:Keith.smith@uvm.edu) for more information.

Question by Chair Redell: Is 1 in 4 a program open to individuals who identify as female?

Keith Smith: There is two versions of the program. Initially, 1 in 4 was an all men's program for men. Men and women have done the program. It's a little more complex, but it's possible. I am addressing this program to be an all men's program.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Redell: Can women participate in the training or is it only open to men?

Keith Smith: At this point, it's for men.

Woman in Audience: Is it open to all UVM affiliates or just students?

Keith Smith: When you say affiliates, what do you mean exactly?

Woman in Audience: Faculty, staff

Point of procedure: One of us has to yield the floor to you

Yield the floor to woman in audience.

Keith Smith: It's primarily for students. One point I didn't remember to add is that the dean asked me to form an advisory committee to support me and make sure that students voices are involved, so that's another opportunity to be involved.

Question by Chair Longyear: Can women and/or students be on the advisory committee?

Keith Smith: Yes, I am open to anyone being on the advisory committee.

SENATOR JONATHAN LOTT: I will pass around the resolution that is being voted on tonight. Allow me to preface my speech with a few words. It is not in my natural character to have me speaking against Senator Matthews resolution tonight, and I hope that you will not vote based on your feelings towards me as a speaker in person from the merits of this resolution of which there are for. I ask that you vote not on character, but on facts, and I ask that you vote against Senator Matthew's resolution. It is not this body's obligation or job to make campus policy. It is not the senate's obligation to enforce policy. It is not this body's obligation to pass resolutions thanking every single organization or individual that upholds campus rules, and it is not our business duty or moral imperative to pass a formal document thanking the library staff for spray chalking a building, hanging up blue fliers, and telling people where they should smoke. If you disagree, I suggest that you propose a resolution tonight thanking parking services for maintaining the roads, why not one thanking LivingWell for promoting safe sex, or one thanking Vantage Point for simulating the arts on campus, or maybe a resolution thanking Sodexo for...you know what, scratch that. The bottom line is that the library staff is getting paid for their time tabling. You want to thank the library, send them an email, drop them a phone call, visit them in person. But don't pass a resolution implicating the entire student body and thanking paid employees for doing something that not everyone supports. It's true, believe it or not. Not everyone supports the library's initiatives. There is no proven student support behind this resolution. There's not a single signature from a student, SGA involved or not, supporting this measure, not even a signature from a staff member. How can you, in good faith, represent the students of UVM when not a single one has proven support for this resolution tonight? This resolution is clearly a smoke screen for the tobacco free campus initiative on the horizon. A gentle, slippery slope lies ahead of us. I have no doubt that, if passed this resolution will be used as a piece of evidence proving that the SGA, and by implication the entire student body, supports eliminating the smoking areas on campus. And there's no proof, here or otherwise, to

suggest that this is what the students want. If Senator Matthews disagrees with this claim, I invite him to allow a friendly amendment to this resolution, saying that this resolution is in no way affiliated with the smoke-free campus initiative, and that, by passing it, it lends 0 student support to that initiative. First, the university targets library smoking, then it will expand, and expand, and expand, and spread through the entire campus. My last argument is that the library is going beyond UVM policy, and that by passing this resolution, you would vote to break UVM's existing smoking policy. Senator Matthews cites the policy in the resolution stating that smoking is prohibited in areas more than 25 feet away from building entrances. Using chalk and measuring tape, I measured the distance between the all night study door, and the main double doors, and the distance at which the library placed its blue smoke free zone. I took some pictures that I'll show you now. I measured from 3 points, and then I measured 25 away from the building. The three distances I found that you saw were 65, 66, and 70 feet from the doors. That's almost three times the UVM policy. I don't mind adding some gentle enforcement to this zone, although anyone can politely ask someone to smoke somewhere else, without spending \$5,000 to do so. By voting in favor of Christian's resolution, you support breaking UVM policy, and you support limiting the areas you can smoke in. Smoking on the library steps, during stressful finals week, is almost a memorable UVM tradition. But they don't want you there, even when you're 25 feet, a safe and respectable distance away. They don't want you following UVM policy; they want you following their policy. Let me sum up my points one more time. It is not our business to thank every organization or group that takes health concerns into their own hands, or we'd be overloaded with meaningless petty work. It is not the library's business, or jurisdiction, to dictate, when it's far beyond UVM's policy, where students should smoke. It's not the libraries business to try to regulate the decision students make regarding their health. We're all adults, and we're all mature. I ask that you please vote against Senator Matthews resolution tonight.

Question by Senator Martinez: Is it 25 feet from the building itself?

Senator Jonathan Lott: 25 feet from building entrances, open windows, and air intakes. Senator Mathews only cited the entrances in his resolution, so I only thought to measure from there.

Question by Senator Sinkula: Has there been an instance, so far, where this has been broken? Where someone has smoked in the blue and received any warning?

Senator Jonathan Lott: There have been requests that people move.

Question by Senator Beckett: I have an answer to that – I've seen someone forcefully removed.

Speaker Conlon: It has to be a question.

Yield the floor to library employee.

Library Employee: I just want to point out that there's been no forceful movement from the library. We're not equipped to do that.

VP JACK BIRMINGHAM: On September 7, the night that most of SGA spent at Smuggler's Notch resort, myself and another senator walked off the grounds and had three drinks at a bar. This was not a premeditated action. It was an act of lamentable judgment in response to anxiety I felt from searching for a senator we thought was missing. Please do not interpret this explanation as a justification for my actions. I am only sharing this with you because I believe some of you might understand, and hopefully you will eventually forgive me. Although I am of legal age, this behavior did not reflect the parameter I set for the retreat in an email I sent out to all of you. This action was hypocritical, and a poor representation of the leadership qualities I aspire to. For this, I apologize. While I have disappointed the entire senate and the student body, and myself as well, I hope that my action does not entirely discredit the goals we established during the day on Saturday. While I acknowledge that my actions were deplorable, I still view myself as a leader of both the student body and of the senate, and I hope that you all do as well. I have many goals for this coming year, and I expect to get a lot accomplished. You can all expect me to spend many hours working to achieve these goals. Additionally, while I am student advocate and must be held to a higher standard, I am human and I made a poor decision. I would like to thank all the members of senate who adhered to the parameters that I had set for the retreat. You were better representations of what student leaders should be that night than I was. Once again, I apologize for my conduct that evening, and I can assure you that moving forward I will exercise better self-control and judgment to better represent the student body and SGA.

Question by Senator Lott: Who were the other individuals that you went to get a drink with?

VP Birmingham: That individual can identify his/herself.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: So there was just one?

VP Birmingham: Just one.

Question by Chair Longyear: What do you plan to do to undo the damage that you think you incurred?

VP Birmingham: There's no way to undo anything, but I think the best way to do it is to just work as hard as I can moving forward and continue with my pace of keeping my office hours and staying late quite often, and doing my best to advocate students interest.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Longyear: So you think you should not do anything outside of your regular job description to make this right?

VP Birmingham: I'm going to leave that to the constitutional committee which will be censuring me.

Question by Senator Matthews: When a beer bottle was found at the cycling club, members got kicked off. This actually brought risk to the whole UVM SGA. Do you think that your action will had an impact on that or will have any future impact?

VP Birmingham: Regarding the cycling club?

Senator Matthews: Yes. When one beer bottle was found at the cycling club, members were kicked off and we could have lost all our insurance for every single SGA club. We

have someone admitting to drinking, so I'm just wondering if you know of any repercussions that are going to happen?

VP Birmingham: I was not part of senate at the time, but I believe in the situation you're talking about, the issue we saw there was that there was an open beer bottle in a vehicle, which is completely illegal. I am 21 and I was not doing anything illegal, nor was it a violation of university policy.

Question by Senator Lott: How were you discovered? Who found out?

VP Birmingham: I'm not exactly 100% sure, but when I was confronted with the issue, I immediately admitted to the allegation.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: Who confronted you?

VP Birmingham: The executive committee.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: Who was the person of the executive committee to speak first to you?

VP Birmingham: I do not recall.

Follow up requested. Last follow up granted.

Senator Lott: If this member of the executive committee would like to come forward, would you please email me, or tell me.

Point of information: It was brought to the attention of the executive branch, which we then dealt with in the appropriate manner, due to the obligations that are outlined to us by the SGA constitution.

Question by Senator Dolph: Has a situation like this ever happened in the past, and if so, what was the precedent for dealing with it?

Floor yielded to Speaker Conlon.

Speaker Conlon: I met with Pat Brown for over a half hour this morning, discussing similar situations that had happened with both clubs and our own organization. It hasn't happened in a very recent time under this constitution that has actually been brought up. There had been a few censures that were drinking on a university-sponsored event.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Dolph: So no extreme measures such as removal have been suggested in the past?

Speaker Conlon: That is correct.

Question by Chair Longyear: This question is directed at Senator Lott as a follow up to his question.

Point of procedure: You can't do that on public forum.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

New senators sworn in by Speaker.

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

SENATOR MATTHEWS: RESOLUTION THANKING THE LIBRARY STAFF FOR THEIR SMOKING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

“Whereas, smoking is only permitted ‘in areas more than 25 feet away from building entrances.’ Whereas, from August 26<sup>th</sup>-August 30<sup>th</sup>. Be it resolved, that the UVM SGA thanks the Library Staff for their efforts in promoting non-smoking efforts outside of the library entrance.”

I thought that someone is doing something good and we should thank them for it. Jon had a couple good points. Why should we thank anyone? You thank people because you think they did a good thing. I’m not going to argue that point Jon; I’m thanking them because I think that they did a good thing. I think now is the most acceptable time to thank someone on SGA. Jon brought up an argument about slippery slopes. Jon’s whole argument was a slippery slope, saying that if we passed this, that something else would happen. That is the definition of a slippery slope. Nothing in this bill says that we support anything. I specifically left out any mention of smoke-free campus initiative, because those are two completely different things. I’m purely thanking the library for taking their time. All they’re doing is enforcing the UVM stated policy. Senator Lott mentioned that he made measurements of 66, 70 feet. The library staff were all 25 feet. The blue signs were within 25 feet. I think that’s a dull argument, no one was on the grass talking about that. I want to thank Senator Sinkula for pointing out the fact that no one has ever actually enforced this policy. All the library staff did, Senator Lott, was yes, they did their job. It shouldn’t be their job to enforce this policy; police services should actually be doing it. In fact, the library staff was going above and beyond their duty and we should thank them for it.

Senator Lott: Motion to amend the amendment at the bottom: “Be it further resolved, that the UVM SGA acknowledges that this resolution in no way supports the smoke-free campus initiative.”

Point of Information: It’s the tobacco-free campus initiative, not the smoke-free campus initiative.

Senator Matthews: Senator Lott, I’m going to deny that because this has nothing at all to do with the tobacco-free campus initiative, and I don’t want this to get entangled at all.

Question by Chair Bowen: Can you explain the difference between an awareness campaign and a UVM smoke-free policy?

Senator Matthews: An awareness campaign is telling people ‘here’s the policy, we hope that you’ll listen to us’. The policy is saying ‘you cannot do this’. Clearly, the UVM policy does not work from the fact that everyone smokes within 25 feet of every single door on this whole campus. All the library staff is doing is saying please don’t do that, please follow the policy.

Senator Beckett: I understand what you’re saying about a slippery slope. I think tobacco all falls under one blanket as a drug in our society that we have a choice to use. I really liked Lott’s amendment that he proposed and I think we should reconsider that. I think we should consider stating that this is a SGA thing where we’re just thanking people. We don’t know what the student population wants so we shouldn’t pretend like we do. I don’t know how this is going to be looked at in the future.

Point of Procedure: The resolution is just a statement on behalf of the student body, there is nothing binding.

Point of Clarification: Is it on behalf of the student body or on behalf of SGA?

Point of Information: As SGA, we do have a component to our body that is the student voice, so both.

Senator Matthews: Again, I'm going to say no to that. I do not want this connected at all. This is a thank you, that's it. If you think we should support or go against any campus free initiative, bring up a resolution or bill, I'd love to see someone do that, rather than just guessing what this is going to be used for.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Beckett: The people that I talked to wouldn't thank the library staff. I think you should consider what the people around you want, and I don't think there's that much support behind this. It depends who you're around, and that's fine, but I think you should think that through before you vote.

Senator Matthews: That's perfect. I hope that everyone talked to people. The only reason I did this was because I looked in the comment box and saw 75+ comments from people saying 'this is awesome, this is a great idea.' That's 75 people that I have support from. How many people did you ask?

Yield the floor to Senator Beckett.

Senator Beckett: I don't have a specific number, at least 10. I remember seeing people outside the library asked to move that were upset. People thought the blue paint outside the Bailey Howe library was rather aggressive and wasn't a very friendly welcome back to school.

Senator Matthews: There's actually no change in the policy, the policy has always been 25 feet. People just choose not to follow it. The library staff is just trying to inform people of the policy. It's not very welcoming that we have 10-15 people always smoking outside the library. It's so hazy you can't even read.

Question by Senator Lott: Why pass a formal thank you implicating the entire 10,000+ student body when simply talking to them is sufficient? Why can't you just express your own personal opinion? Why do you have to say that the whole student body wants to thank you?

Senator Matthews: Because I have 75 people saying that they should be thanked, and that it was a good idea, and I completely agree with that. I hope that you talked to constituents and that they said yes or no, I hope that everyone did. I hope that your vote right now isn't based on personal opinion, but that you actually talked to people. That's our job as senators, to talk to people.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: Why would the library then, in your own opinion, or if you talked to them and found out, why go beyond 25 feet? Why not make the markers fair and consistent with UVM policy? Why go 40+ feet away to designate a smoke free zone?

Senator Matthews: I can't speak for their actions or what they did. All I can say is that where they were saying, they were enforcing 25 feet.

Follow up requested. Follow up denied.

Motion to call the resolution to question, seconded. Resolution called to question. Vote to pass resolution. Resolution passes.

## **EMERGENCY BUSINESS**

Speaker Conlon: On behalf of the executive committee, I am introducing a motion to censure VP Birmingham and Senator Ben Hershey. A censure process has to be sponsored by one senator; it was sponsored by our entire executive committee. Speaker Conlon reads letters submitting a motion to censure VP Birmingham and Senator Hershey. Letters have been signed by Speaker Conlon and the entire executive committee.

Point of Inquiry: What are we supposed to do with the motion now?

Point of Procedure: The motion must be sponsored by one senator; it was sponsored by myself (Speaker Conlon). It then goes to the constitutional committee. We come back next week with a finding. If we find that the allegations hold true, then we take a vote. The censures take place if majority of senate votes for them.

Point of Inquiry: If they admitted to their wrongdoings, is the investigation over?

Point of Information: I (VP Birmingham) admitted to my violation.

Point of Procedure: The investigation is technically still ongoing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Longyear: Resolution in support of a memo outlining students expectations of faculty and administration.

Senator Lott: Resolution thanking parking services for maintaining the roads. Resolution thanking LivingWell for promoting safe sex. Resolution thanking Vantage Point for stimulating the arts on campus.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

**SPEAKER CONLON:** I would like to apologize for not being at the retreat. For those of you who are unaware, I was at the UPB retreat, which I was facilitating and which I planned this summer. I did skip the UPB retreat last year to come on the SGA retreat, so I felt it was an even trade off. I do apologize again and thank everyone that went and hopefully you all had a wonderful time. Review rules of order. I will send them out to listserv. Direct questions to chairs if you have them. In regards to the preceding's that just happened, the executive branch was made known of a said trip off of the site to a bar. At that point, it was my obligation to investigate that. Names slowly came out and we then asked one of the people involved who admitted to it. I've met with President Daley and Treasurer Barry for upwards of 2 hours yesterday. I spent the morning meeting with our advisor Pat Brown, with President Daley and Treasurer Barry as well. I then met with the executive committee at 5:30 to discuss my actions, which I had proposed to them. There was a number of avenues we could take, but after reviewing our constitution and university policy, I felt this was the fairest approach. This is a decision I reached with



some guidance, and supported by the executive committee. The procedure for a censure is that you write a censure and then it goes to the constitution committee. We come back with a finding. If the allegations hold true, then we vote on whether the censure will take place. A censure is the first of three strikes. The third strike results in impeachment.

Question by Senator Dolph: Which form of the constitution will we be using to judge this?

Speaker Conlon: The current constitution, not the draft.

Question by Senator Lott: If VP Birmingham is censured, could that result in his termination from SGA and who would take his place?

Speaker Conlon: It's one of three strikes, the third strike leading to impeachment. As per our constitution, if there was a removal from office, I would temporarily assume those duties, and then President Daley would make a nomination for a new VP. It would have to be approved by our senate.

Question by Senator Kayser: Were they both drinking, and one of them drove?

Speaker Conlon: We're not citing anything involving an SGA vehicle at this time.

Question by Chair Al-Namee: What are the consequences of censuring?

Speaker Conlon: There are no binding consequences other than a written formal condemnation of the actions by the senate. It's just one of three strikes. If you are trying to impose a consequence, the options would be through impeachment, which is anyone's right as a senator if you put it into writing, or the constitutional committee holds everyone's executive stipends under their purview.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Al-Namee: It's basically us saying that we don't like this?

Speaker Conlon: Yes.

VP BIRMINGHAM: I want to thank everyone for giving me their attention earlier. While I accept responsibility for my deplorable actions, SGA is first and foremost a student advocacy organization. That being said, I will be focusing on the student advocacy side of my report and for the remainder of my term. There are several on campus committees that require student representation and I am the person in charge of filling these committees. These are the Socially Responsible Investment Group, Real Food Working Group, Davis Center Advisory Group (needs 3 students), Faculty Senate Sub Committee on Education, Research, and Technology, Endship Committee (focuses on high risk drinking, chaired by Andy Stevens who was at the retreat), and First Year Experience Board (looking for a first year student, chaired by Andy Stevens). We are looking for a woman with an aptitude for business or finance that would be interested in a position of the Board of Trustees position on the budget, finance, and investment committee. We had someone appointed for that position and she stepped down. If you or anybody else is interested please contact me. I will also send out an email with more information about the committees and date/time of meetings. There are five positions to be filled on senate, if you know anyone that might be interested, talk to them and have them fill out the form on The Lynx. They can go through the appointment process. It's the SGA Senate tab on

The Lynx and fill out the Appointments form. We would like one senator or executive in office at all times. It's a poor reflection on SGA when no one is there when visiting students come by. Committee chairs please get a list of office hours for the next meeting. We will work on any time slots that need to be filled later. We need to update our contact sheet so please provide your name, phone number, email address, and committee on this sheet I'm handing out. Put your name on this sheet as you would like it printed on your placard.

Question by Chair Longyear: Why does the Board of Trustees need a woman?

VP Birmingham: We don't need a woman but that's an underrepresented group, especially in the area of budget, finance, and investment, and I think that it would do the Board justice to have a woman's touch.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Longyear: You think, or the school thinks, or the Board of Trustees thinks, who thinks that?

VP Birmingham: I certainly think that and I can only speak for myself.

Chair Redell: Can you please define a woman's touch?

VP Birmingham: Unfortunately, my mother is not here but I believe that she'd be better to speak to that than myself.

Question by Longyear: I thought you said you can only speak for yourself, not your mother?

VP Birmingham: I just said, I can't, I don't have my mother here unfortunately.

Question by Chair Redell: Would you please give your best definition of a woman's touch?

VP Birmingham: I was going to say kind and gentle but I'm not feeling that right now. Follow up requested. Follow up denied.

Question by Senator Sinkula: Despite the woman's touch comment, I like finance and investment, so if you need somebody.

Yield floor to President Daley.

President Daley: Reviewing the members of the Board of Trustees, I originally suggested that we look at underrepresented populations on campus. All of our other members on the Board of Trustees are straight white males. Our campus is 65% female undergraduates, so I thought it'd be good to direct the search for a woman, but that does not exclude a male.

Yield floor back.

Question by Senator Matthews: Let's hope you don't discriminate men because that actually is blatant sexual discrimination. If you think you have a problem, you should be going to underrepresented communities and encouraging them to apply. Problems in the application vs. selection are completely different. Saying that only woman can apply is sexual discrimination.

Question by Chair Longyear: If underrepresentation is the problem, what about any kind of racial or religious diversity?

Yield floor to President Daley.

President Daley: Diversity should be defined in its broadest and most inclusive form.

Yield floor back.

Yield floor to VP Birmingham

VP Birmingham: If you know any under represented minority that is interested in budget, finance, or investment and is interested in a position on the Board of Trustees, please let me know.

PRESIDENT DALEY: Today, I had meetings with university colleagues and others, in addition to my duties with this body. I'll have further meetings later this week. Welcome to all the first year senators. I hope you had fun at the retreat. I'm sure you'll be quickly welcomed by our group. You do excellent work with your committee, so definitely get to know your committee. Introduce yourself to everyone on senate as much as you can. Treasurer Barry and myself are mostly in the office, we try to keep our doors open. I want to hear about your ideas about UVM and SGA in general. Treasurer Barry, Chair Asher, and Chair Kauffman are heading up the Treasurer's workshop. 2 club signers from each club are authorized to access funds or interact with the SGA. That is taking place across the hall in Grand Maple Ballroom tonight and tomorrow night. I encourage you all to go. It's extremely interesting and beneficial to our work and you can become financially literate as to what the SGA does for clubs. We talked at the retreat about being open and helpful senators. When you're in the Galaxy space, be helpful to club signers. The executive committee met before this body tonight. We discussed a number of issues including the censure and incentive based budgeting. The university is looking to change its budget model to have a more incentive based approach. It's sometimes called responsibility-centered management. Our job as representatives is to represent and advocate students, as well as educate students. When we talk about the budget at UVM, we're really talking about your money and students' money. So the more we're involved in this process and IBB, the better. Treasurer Barry will be the representative on that committee, and he'll provide regular updates on that committee during senate and through regular email. The executive committee also talked about the budget gap the university experienced this past fiscal year. That problem will persist in the future if we don't fix something. Efficiencies will be looked at in the university. As that happens all too often, students, faculty, staff are more reactive. I would like us to be more proactive. As we start looking at possible cuts in discretionary funding, one of our largest responsibilities is to see what the most important things are for students, and protect those interests. This will be a senate wide and campus wide process, including many representative committees on campus. Tomorrow morning, I will be meeting with Honorary Degree Advisory Committee that I sit on. We review applications or nominations for people that will be speaking at commencement 2015, and also those who will be getting honorary degrees. I will talk about some of the nominees and the process if someone would like to nominate somebody in the university community to receive an honorary degree at either the December or May commencement. I also have the President's Advisory Committee tomorrow, where we'll also be talking about IBB. I'm

now about to fill the last seat on the Board of Trustees selection committee. It's a committee that a number of student leaders on campus hold because of their positions or because they're interested. I sent out an email last week; we're searching for another off campus senator from this body to be on that group. It's a group of 9 people. Chair Redell loves it because it's so much fun. We search for the next student trustee. The Board of Trustees has two full voting members as students. Every year, we appoint a new student to have a two year term. This is the first week that I'll be giving out my Senator of the Week award. It's a small token of gratitude from me, congratulating or thanking a senator who goes above and beyond. Chairs and members of the executive committee are ineligible because I want to encourage younger and more productive senate work. For his work at the retreat and for the resolution he brought up tonight, Senator Matthews is granted the first Senator of the Week award.

Question by Senator Lott: You mentioned there was a budget gap, do you know how much it was?

President Daley: Between \$5 and \$10 million.

Pat Brown: For fiscal year 2014, it was close to \$10 million.

Senator Ducharme: Does that gap extend to the next year?

President Daley: Tuition revenue covers a large portion of our grant. There are other different forms of revenue that the university gets to cover its budget. The university has a pretty sizeable rainy day gap that we were able to close that gap with. That is not something we can or should do in the future so they're looking for a way to fix it that's systemic.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

FINANCE: Given by Chair Ullman. We approved two gas supplemental requests for crew.

Question by Senator Lott: How much were the gas supplementals?

Chair Ullman: I don't know but Chair Asher knows.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: Does anyone on the finance committee know?

Point of Information: Chair Asher usually handles the gas supplementals.

PR: We have tabling this Wednesday 12-3. This time, unfortunately does not work for anyone on PR. If anyone is available, could you sign up on this paper I'm passing around. PR has traditionally, to my knowledge, focused mostly on Student Action. I'd like to expand the focus of PR to all committees. If you have something you want PR to publish on the Facebook, Twitter, or any contact forms please let me know. I want people to see what we're doing in SGA. Staff Appreciation Week is coming up. We're going to attempt to film a video of students around campus talking about staff that has positively influenced their time at UVM. We are also considering getting a box that people can submit notes in that say how staff has helped them. UVM Voice is a way to submit a

comment, concern, or complaint about stuff on campus. You can text it or email it. Chair Bowen may be able to talk a bit more about that. If you have something, send it to UVM Voice. We're going to push that on tabling. There are posters in the DC for it, and tell your friends about it.

Question by Chair Bowen: In the past, the PR chair hasn't been very involved in tabling. Is that something that you're going to be personally doing yourself this year?

Chair Pope-McGraw: I know that's been an issue in the past. The 12-3 timeframe that we have right now is right in the middle of my five class stretch on MWF, so I'm unable to be there. I'm going to try to find a time that works better for our committee and for myself.

Yield floor to VP Birmingham.

VP Birmingham: I'm planning to be doing issue specific tabling sessions 10-2 on Thursdays. Depending on the censure, we'll see when those will start. I am aware that Chair Pope-McGraw does not have classes TR, so he will be certainly most helpful in coordinating those with me.

SAC: Given by Senator Renaud. We're starting off a great year. We have our workshop coming up at the end of September. We're going to start the check in process for our current clubs and we are in the process of recognizing some more.

COLA: I had so much fun at the retreat this weekend meeting all the new people. I know that ten individuals from this body signed up for Welcome Bags. I brought a sample Welcome Bag to bring out a couple highlights. The point of the welcome bags is giving them resources in case they encounter problems in the community. Please register on the link I sent to everyone. If you're unable to make it, please email me. Community Coalition is on Friday from 3-4:30 in OSCR on Colchester Ave. If you're interested in attending, I'd encourage you to come. Burlington police officers, UVM police officers, students, neighbors, city counselors, and anyone in the Burlington area can come to the meetings; they're a lot of fun. I invite you all to sign up for Ride Along programs with the Burlington police. Contact me and I can direct you to how to sign up. It's a really interesting experience. Senator Akkeh is going to start planning neighborhood clean ups. They'll be starting probably the weekend after welcome bags. Try to block out time to do at least one clean up.

Question by Chair Al-Namee: Can you resend the email so the new senators can get it? How can you get hooked up with police ride alongs?

Chair Redell: Sure; email me and I will assure you get linked up to the people you need to talk to.

AA: Next week, you guys are going to be voting on a resolution to support a memo of 9-10 things that students need from their faculty. The resolution will be going out to everyone. Cynic has agreed to publish it. Everyone's going to know and we're going to wait for responses. I have the CAS Curricular Affairs Faculty Senate Committee meeting tomorrow.

SA: UVM Voice is something we're going to push this year. It's the SGA general feedback. If it's something that your committee could work on, I'll spread it around to the chairs. Besides public forum, it's our biggest input of student general feedback. Senator Matthews has a meeting next Tuesday with the LivingWell health advisory board. I had a meeting with Brianna Young, the director of student advocacy and IRA last week. IRA and herself are very excited about the prospect of bussing by Jeanne Mance. Hopefully, President Daley and I will be meeting with the president of IRA and Brianna again. Wednesday, I'm meeting with Officer Kuerver, the new police services liaison. She might come in and do a presentation to talk about safety, and hopefully bridge the gap between students and police services. On September 20, I'm going to have a meeting with Pamela Gardner and Holly Wilkinson about the job fair. If anybody wants to give me feedback, that'd be great, drop me an email.

Question by Senator Lott: Here's my feedback on the Jeanne Mance bussing, don't do it.

CODEE: We have a couple of projects that are happening this semester. Each one of the senators on CODEE will be working on the projects assigned at the retreat. I will be working on the diversity training for D1 and D2 professors. I will be meeting with Andy Stevens to get the project started. We're doing a project on emotional and physical safety on campus that will hopefully start soon. We are also meeting with the office of International Affairs on Friday. Senator Martinez will be going to that meeting to discuss what has changed, and to get direct interaction with exchange students and international students to change something. We'll also be meeting with Pat Brown to talk about greenwashing. We also will be setting up a meeting with Bev Holstein from the ALANA student center. I do this every year. I also will be getting in touch with Barbara Johnson about the tobacco initiative that she started last year to see where her focus group is going and if she changed anything.

## **SENATORIAL FORUM**

Chair Redell: I want to comment on the remark that VP Birmingham made earlier concerning a woman's touch. VP Birmingham decided not to include diversity training during our retreat, which is unfortunate. Stereotypes that people should act a certain way as a result of their identity is extraordinarily damaging because if an individual falls outside of that stereotype, they are hypercriticized. If woman should be gentle, as VP Birmingham defined a woman's touch, what happens when a woman is not gentle? Do we have a place for assertive and direct women on this body? Where is the place for strong women on this body? What is a woman's touch? I don't accept it.

Senator Martinez: Do we have an appointment committee and will there be one soon?  
Yield floor to VP Birmingham.

VP Birmingham: I will be sending an email about that tomorrow morning. I would like to apologize for the comment about a woman's touch. I had no idea that was an offensive term. I've heard several woman use that term before. I have been educated and I will certainly not use that term again.

Chair Pope-McGraw: Thanks for signing up for tabling. It does count as office hours for you.

Speaker Conlon: If you are on the constitution committee that was formed last year, please see me for 2 minutes after meeting.

Senator Matthews: In response to Senator Lott's multiple thank you notes, I just hope that you're taking this serious, and it's not just a joke retribution which I'm pretty sure it is. If it is serious, I hope that we all will thank more people.

Senator Martinez: Is this a nation wide staff appreciation week? Who is included in staff?  
Yield floor to President Daley.

President Daley: Staff Appreciation week is a young tradition. It's just on this campus. This week is national Housekeeper's Week. Students interact most with faculty, and the work of staff often goes unnoticed and unappreciated. It's a week to give encouragement to give students to thank staff for their work. It's not a nation wide event.  
Yield floor back.

Senator Martinez: Is this limited to staff or includes faculty?

Yield floor to President Daley

President Daley: It's just staff for this week. UVM does have a problem segregating employees by what they do. Although, they do have separate responsibilities, I believe everyone should be appreciated. Staff has been underappreciated in the past.  
Yield floor back.

Senator Lott: Yes, Senator Matthews, it was a joke retribution. If you are serious about promoting a resolution for LivingWell promoting safe sex, I will propose that. The other two are write out.

Senator Beckett: Chair Redell, I was confused with your statement about woman's touch. VP Birmingham may have misused the term 'a woman's touch' but I don't understand why we're arguing over words when he's looking out for your representation. It seems like he has your best interests at heart.

Yield floor to Chair Redell.

Chair Redell: Defining a woman's touch as 'I don't know, maybe gentle' is called a positive stereotype. Another example of a positive stereotype is 'all Asian people like math.' This is just another example, but if an Asian person doesn't like math, how does that come into their identity? What happens if a woman isn't gentle, what happens with their identity? When women are directly assertive does that make them less women?

Chair Longyear: Be conscious of your language, identities matter.

Senator Beckett: Sorry, I don't understand anything about diversity. I'm a white male.

Chair Longyear: Could somebody head up diversity training for SGA? Everyone should be involved.

Chair Al-Namee: I will be looking for a person to facilitate diversity training for SGA. My job as chair of diversity is to make sure we're doing that right. I have a minimal training so I can help you on the spot, but I am looking for someone to facilitate that. As a person of color, I had a lot of problems last year, still having a lot of problems. I have someone to talk to and I want all of you to have someone available.

Question by new CODEE Senator: Is there a staff appreciation day meal or breakfast in place?

Yield floor to Pat Brown.

Pat Brown: A lunch on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

New CODEE Senator: Is there volunteering allowed?

If there is a group who wanted to do that, I think there's a couple individuals on staff council that coordinate that so you can contact them.

## **COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Longyear: SGA party at my house on Friday, 122 Buell. Not university sponsored.

Chair Al-Namee: I would like to go apple picking with SGA. Write on my desk when you're available and if you have a car.

Senator Lott: The blood drive is tomorrow, September 11. It'd be nice, if you're eligible, to give blood. I brought in these tapestries that I'm selling for \$10 on senate.

Senator Kayser: Saturday, there's a walk put on by the Winterbaum family for the anniversary of their daughter's death. About 7 years ago, she was assaulted and murdered downtown. There's a Facebook page if you're interested. Sorority recruitment is next week.

Senator Matthews: Conservative Student Union first meeting on Thursday. 6 PM in SGA Galaxy space. There may or may not be pizza.

Chair Longyear: Question for Senator Lott. What do the red and green nations mean on the tapestries?

Yield the floor to Senator Lott.

Senator Lott: No idea

Speaker Conlon: Utilizing the word, SGA party may not be in our best interest. You may want to use the word gathering in the future.

Chair Pope-McGraw: It's been brought to my attention that people have been saying they're speaking for all of SGA. You can speak as an SGA senator, and I encourage you to do that, but you can't speak for all of SGA. Keep that in mind when you're tabling.

## **FINAL ROLL CALL**



Finance: Chair Asher excused  
PR: Senators Fooks, Cruickshank, Maslow excused  
SAC: Chair Kauffman excused  
COLA: All Present  
AA: Senator Galloway-Kane excused  
SA: Senator Fisher unexcused  
CODEE: All Present

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:41 PM, recorder (1:41:00)