

Date: October 8, 2013

Session Opening: Start time 7:00 pm; start time with recorder (00:23)

ROLL CALL

Finance: Senator Garua excused.

PR: Senator Fooks excused, Senator Cruickshank unexcused.

SAC: Senator Dolph unexcused, Senator Loo excused

COLA: All Present

AA: Senator Ducharme excused.

SA: Senator Falks excused.

CODEE: Senator Cares excused.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: October 1, 2013 Minutes approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

HOLLY WILKINSON: I am the Assistant Director of the Career Center. The grand opening of the Career and Experience Hub was this afternoon. We had great media coverage with all the local television stations. This felt like a good time to come and update you on what has been going on in the past year and where we are at now so that you can spread that knowledge to the student body. Statistically, UVM students have been slower in preparation for careers, as compared to national surveys. UVM took that to heart. In this job market right now, you need to be prepared. There was a study group that happened 2 years ago, and that turned into the president's initiative on the career success action plan. We've been working hard over the summer to fulfill some of the initiatives connected with that plan. We have hired new staff to work with employer relations and internships, and we're bringing on an international career counselor next month. Our focus is leadership and civic engagement on campus and tying that to career preparation. A lot of times students are really involved, like you all, but don't know what that means for their life after college. We are in college to get a degree in order to work in the world, and part of the Career and Experience Hub is to bring those pieces together. Come to the Hub anytime. It's important to think about and plan for your careers each year, rather than when you're ready to graduate. The Catamount Job Link has both internships and part time jobs. Building experience and careers are linked. I studied abroad twice when I was at UVM, and when I graduated I didn't think of studying abroad as a career experience. I started doing informational interviews. My first job was in the Study Abroad Office, as I networked with that office and had been involved. It was a great job because it was 10 months. I really like to travel and teach. My other summer job was leading tours to Paris on French food and wine. It was a great combination of my interests. I think the more that we're engaged, the more active and happy and lively we are. The Career and Experience Hub, based on SGA feedback, is open 10-6 Monday-Thursday and 10-3 Friday. We had over 200 students come into the center the first week. The success is largely due to SGA. Sometimes you may wonder if how you're spending your Tuesday nights is doing any good, and yes it is. The Hub is 8 departments. The

initiative is campus-wide with deans and directors and faculty. This is a huge shift at UVM, and you're a part of it. Thank you for all of your support.

BIANCA: I'm a career peer mentor, so I partner with the career center and then I work in the Hub. One of the best parts about the Hub is that it's in a central location and students can drop in daily to get help and seek resources. It's very conducive to a student lifestyle. We have a couple pamphlets we're going to hand out to you, with information on resumes, internships, LinkedIn. With 8 partners, there are always people in the Hub that you can network with. You guys are a big part of the marketing aspect of this space.

HOLLY WILKINSON: We have this campaign we're doing called "I got career experience." We would love it if any of you would get your picture taken with your career experience written on a white board. We've had people talk about summer jobs, internships, serving on SGA, etc. It's an invitation to get your face and voice on this campaign. It's on Flipper and we're using it as a rolling image board on the website. If any of you have ever had a job you didn't like, we learn from that.

Question by Chair Longyear: Where, if at all, do you see academic advising having a place in this?

Holly Wilkinson: One of the pieces on this plan is that academic advisors are encouraged to learn and to have conversations with advisees about their future goals. We're really partnering well with advisors on that end. I wouldn't say that you're going to get academic advice. I would still encourage you to go to your student services person in the Dean's office. The last thing you want to do when you're going towards your degree is to get to senior year and not have your credits line up towards graduation. We really want to avoid that. With UVM and a CatsReport, you're pretty well supported around knowing what you have to do to graduate. The thing we are lacking in is what we do need to do to get career experience, and that's what the Hub is for. We will never take the role of an academic advisor, but we will be looking at how the academics and experiential learning outside the classroom come together.

Question by Senator Lott: So you have replaced Career Services?

Holly Wilkinson: We got renamed. No one can do your career for you. It's not a service; you have to do your career for you. We've changed Career Services to the Career Center. We're still the Career Center located in L&L. We've partnered with the hub to make it easy for students to stop by. Our drop in hours that we use to run at the Career Center are now at the hub every afternoon. Our career peer mentors are now at the hub helping it stay open for those hours. Longer appointments and interviews still happen at the Career Center. We're trying to make it easy for students to come into the hub, ask some questions, and walk away with three steps that they are going to take. In a class, you get a syllabus, and you can get a sense of the steps you need to take. In a career, no one is handing you your life plan. You have to create it, and we want to make it easier for you to pull those pieces together with our partners in the hub.

Question by Senator Madowitz: When is too soon to start career planning?

Holly Wilkinson: It's never too soon. It's career and life planning. You're here, and you're an SGA senator, so you're already started. This is leadership experience, and employers want leadership experience. Thinking about your next leadership experience, how you're engaging in your work at SGA, taking on new initiatives, and exploring your interests are all good steps. When I was 18, I had a little sister through Big Sister/Big Brother. That became a huge community for me, and if I needed anything, I had a second family downtown to help me. It's not just about a job and a job search; it's about all the steps you're taking. Having a resume, or getting a summer job are all good steps. My first time leading a trip to Paris I met an old woman. We stayed friends until she died. When she was 97, she told me that she decided what she wanted to do with her life. That's awesome. She's my mentor, and when I'm 97, I want to be deciding what I want to do with my life rather than waiting for my life to be over.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill recognizing Young Americans for Liberty

Members of Young Americans for Liberty: Currently, there are college democrats and college socialists groups on campus. We're looking to add another group to represent the remainder of political views on campus. We reached out to Young Americans for Liberty, and they helped us found a chapter here at UVM. We have had 2 meetings so far, and a third meeting tomorrow. We've already had a speaker from the Leadership Institute come. We've set up tabling and have recruited over 20 members so far. We have a lot of partnership organizations so far. At the end of October, we're going to a leadership conference in Manchester, NH. That's 2 days of leadership training and activism. We're going to be putting on workshops teaching individuals about our values and how they can get involved on campus. We're hoping to host debates with other colleges, such as Bates. Typically, Young Americans for Liberty host mock events. We're looking for SGA recognition to host events, have access to tabling, and for funding to bring in candidates to talk. We're at the professional step, and we need to get SGA recognition to move from professional to official status.

Bill read by Chair Kauffman.

Question by Chair Redell: Senator Matthews, as an SGA senator, what is your view on club recognition? How do you feel club recognition impacts SGA and the budget of SGA, and do you think that club recognition is a positive or negative thing?

Senator Matthews: It is positive. We are a new club, so yes we need funding to start out. I don't see us being a begging club or a club that has a ridiculously high budget. We will be fundraising a lot.

Question by Chair Longyear: How do you all feel about the government shut down?

Senator Matthews: I don't think this has anything to do with club recognition, so I don't feel the need to answer that.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Longyear: How do the rest of you feel?

Chair Bowen: I feel that my own personal, political views have no affect over this.

Question by Chair Al-Namee: How long have you been working on this now?
Senator Matthews: Since the beginning of September.

Senator Riley: Do you have any plans for fundraising?

Senator Matthews: We've already partnered with national political organizations. They provide us with resources, money, or material that we can then raise funds with. We just got a free shipment of 50 books that we're going to sell.

Question by Chair Redell: How do you see the future of the club after your president graduates in December?

Chair Bowen: Senator Matthews is helping to get us started because he has an internship in Montpelier so he has connections.

Senator Matthews: I plan on having elections in November, so the president will be president for 1.5 months before I leave.

Vote on bill. Bill passes.

Bill Allocating Funds to Shooting Sports Club

Chair Asher: The finance committee met with the shooting sports club last week. They want 15 of their members to go to the East Coast Collegiate Championships at George Mason. They need \$2,450, as recommended by the finance committee.

Bill read by Chair Asher.

Question by Senator Matthews: Where are the East Coast Collegiate Championships?

Leslie from Shooting Sports Club: Fairfax, Virginia

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Matthews: What is the \$2,450 going to be covering?

Leslie: For 3 hotel rooms, 5 people in each room, we need roughly \$1,000. That price is increasing daily. The remainder is for entry fees. Entry fees are \$2,400, so we're paying the remaining cost for entry fees by fundraising.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Matthews: What's the means of transportation?

Leslie: We're taking our personal cars.

Question by Senator Lott: What kind of dues do your members pay and what kind of fundraising do you do?

Leslie: \$50/semester/member. We sell shirts on and off campus. We just held a pistol match for local Vermonters, which raised almost \$1,700. We're going to host another match in the spring. We also provide lessons for people.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: Are any of the students going on the trip paying money themselves?

Leslie: They all pay club dues. At practice, we pay for all of our rounds. This is a really expensive shoot, but we really want to go to represent UVM.

Follow up requested. Follow up denied.

Question by Senator Matthews: Which fund is this coming out of?

Chair Asher: Supplemental.

Question by Senator Kayser: You did say that they have to pay for entry fees into the competition?

Leslie: We pay \$50 to be on the team. We have to pay for all of our rounds at practice. The entry fees at this shoot, I'm hoping to get covered.

Question by Chair Redell: How do you expect to place at this championship? Have you placed in the past?

Leslie: We had one person come in 3rd last year for male shooters. I was the only girl and I placed 10th of 25 shooters. This is a really competitive shoot, including the Navy, West Point, Yale, and the Military Academy. I'm expecting to be in the top third.

Question by Senator Matthews: If anyone is wondering, they are asking us to cover about \$60/member for entry fees.

Motion to call bill to question, seconded. Vote to call bill to question, passes.

Vote on bill. Bill passes.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SPEAKER CONLON: If you haven't already heard from your chairs or Chair Al-Namee, we are trying to keep the October 22 meeting very short. I will be telling public forum requests that I would prefer to move them to a different date. Chair Al-Namee has requested that we start about 7:30 for the diversity training. As you all know, I've been working on the constitution and the operational documents. I will be sending out the constitution to all of you tonight. I will start working on the operational documents later this week.

Question by Senator Matthews: Is my amendment being put into the constitution?

Speaker Conlon: Your amendment is for the operational documents, specifically the financial documents which are being handled by Treasurer Barry. I'm sure they're under consideration. You can check in with Treasurer Barry about that.

PRESIDENT DALEY: In the past week I had meetings with university colleagues and others. In additions to my duties with this body, I'll have further such meetings later this week. I have a number of things I want to send out to you, which I will. I do want to recognize two senators of the weeks, both chairs. I originally did not want to give this award to chairs, because I wanted to encourage senators to do as much work as possible. I do recognize that chairs are the leaders of this body, and they set an example. Chair Al-Namee for her extensive work on the senate social justice session and on the executive

retreat next Saturday. Her dedication to this body is one of the most I have ever seen in my 2.5 years and I very much appreciate it. Chair Asher for his exceptional job on the finance committee. I know many committees have been struggling with people leaving or not being able to attend senate. The finance committee affects arguably the most people, and he's done a great job.

Question by Chair Redell: Can you talk about your white papers?

President Daley: As I mentioned several weeks ago, I decided that there are a number of conversations about things that senate often talks about but never concludes. When I'm asked about it in meetings, as the chief representative of students and of SGA, I have to interpret the body's decision. White papers are now an official encapsulation of the conversations that have been had, an overview of the situation, the arguments for or against, and my concluding opinion on the matter. Those go through my cabinet and general counsel. They are submitted to the executive committee before they're distributed to the appropriate officials whom I deem appropriate.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Redell: Are you concerned about how these white papers, having not been passed through or voted on through the senate and yet are still official statements on behalf of the senate, might positively or negatively impact the work that chairs and committees are doing?

President Daley: When I distribute them, which I have yet to do because I just finished the first one last night, I will be distributing them so that I can gather comments and feedback and then edit them. I don't believe so. I believe it is this body's responsibility to make a statement on a conversation or an important matter, and if it doesn't, it falls on me as the leader to interpret the conversations that have been had. I will provide ample opportunities for feedback and I welcome it.

Question by Senator Matthews: I would feel much more comfortable that if there was an issue you wanted a statement on, you brought it to us, or if someone put your white paper up as a bill so we can vote on it. It is going to be seen as an official statement. I'm concerned about how biases can be present, including yours.

President Daley: Thank you.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

FINANCE: Thank you for passing the bill and thank you Leslie for coming in to defend the bill. We had three meetings this week. The numbers I tell you are the requested amounts, not the allocated amounts. If you have questions about allocation, you can ask me after the meeting. UVMTV requested \$2,300 to send two people to the National College Media Convention in New Orleans. They think it will be great for their organization to have that experience. SHORE requested \$100 for supplies to clean up the community. Badminton requested \$430 for new birdies for the year.

Question by Senator Lott: As a member of UVMTV for 4 years, I can tell you right now that you probably shouldn't allocate \$2,300 to send 2 people to the conference in New

Orleans. Two years ago, the president said that it was a bust. Some members didn't participate much, and those that did didn't learn that much. Last year, similar things happened. Given all this, what are you thinking about doing?

Chair Asher: We just met with them one hour ago. Our committee hasn't had time to talk it over. We'll take your comments into consideration.

Question by Chair Longyear: How many birdies can one buy with \$430?

Chair Asher: 15 dozen

Question by Chair Redell: Is Senator Ullman still a part of your committee?

Chair Asher: She announced her resignation last night.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Redell: How do you feel about the number of people on your committee, and the attendance of your committee?

Chair Asher: We're looking forward to appointments to my committee. We have high attendance in the supplement fundings, which is important.

PR: We're working on getting more recognition of SGA as a whole. I'm talking to President Daley about getting access to the myuvm portal to see if we can get something for SGA on there. We're going to table and give away candy bars for Facebook likes. We're contemplating working with VP Birmingham to give out physical goods that have the SGA and UVM Voice logos on them in return for liking us on Facebook and Twitter. We're actively working on Veteran's Day stuff for COLA. I'll pass around a tabling sign up for tomorrow 12-3, it counts as office hours, and we'll be discussing Blirpit alternatives.

Question by Chair Longyear: How many hours of PR work would you say you've done on your committee in the last two days?

Chair Pope-McGraw: I've put in two hours of PR work today. I can't speak for my committee. They all have office hours.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Longyear: Would it have been possible for you or someone on your committee to spend 20 minutes sending an email out to students yesterday or today?

Chair Pope-McGraw: Yes

Chair Redell: Can you talk about your committee's attendance?

Chair Pope-McGraw: Attendance has been rough, but it is under the speaker's purview. Yield floor to Speaker Conlon.

Speaker Conlon: This is the sixth meeting of the semester, so as of tonight, if you've skipped half the meetings, you'll be a topic for conversation under my rules of order. We've had one of those, there's one I haven't followed up on, and there might be one other one that I have to follow up with after this evening.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Redell: Can you talk about your attendance policy? I know that there are people not showing up regularly and then people waiting eagerly to be appointed. I don't know if a conversation will suffice. Yield floor to Speaker Conlon.

Speaker Conlon: My rules of order are always up for discussion. I'm opening up the floor for conversation now and seeing where that goes. I'm dealing with every case on a one on one basis, and seeing what the circumstances for missing meetings. Most of the work that gets done in senate is not right here; a lot of the work is done during the week. I'm going to work with the chairs, and if a chair thinks that a member is a valuable member of their committee, who am I to remove them from this body. Yield floor back.

Question by Senator Kayser: Do you know how many Facebook likes the SGA page has?
Chair Pope-McGraw: 731. On that note, there are SGA senators that haven't liked the page. If you're on senate, please like it.

Chair Al-Namee: Have you considered changing the tabling hours since you and none of your senators can make it?

Chair Pope-McGraw: Unfortunately, these tabling hours were scheduled back in February. There's such a high demand for tabling that it is hard to find time to table that works. I feel bad asking everyone else for their time tabling. I'm grabbing any tabling time that works for me so I know that I can be there the whole time. I just booked one in a few weeks that I can make it to.

Question by Chair Longyear: As I understand, it is under your purview as chair, to be putting forward to the student body any needs or activity of the body, and you've asked numerous times to have chairs and other members tell you what they need sent to the student body. To what degree do you agree that appointment opportunities to various committees around campus fall under PR?

Chair Pope-McGraw: If you want to talk about that issue separately, that's fine. I don't think that this is a conversation to be had right now.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Longyear: It's simply the question of what is the duty of PR?

Chair Pope-McGraw: It's in the constitution.

SA: We are doing really well with club check-ins this week. If you see anyone in the office looking for someone from SA, guide people towards us. Thank you for recognizing Young Americans for Liberty.

COLA: COLA is the only committee that has had perfect attendance all semester. President Daley and I went to the Ward 6 neighborhood planning assembly Thursday evening. We sat in a panel in the front of the room, consisting of individuals from UVM, Champlain, and code enforcement. The issue that I identified as relating most to UVM is the concern of walk-by noise when students come back from the bars Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We're continuing to plan Veteran's Day by recruiting volunteers to set out flags the morning of Veteran's Day. Senator Riley and Senator Lott are working on a video to show at our Veteran's Day reception. We opened up registration for our Halloween neighborhood clean up event November 2. Our monthly meeting with OSCR is going to be at 12 Colchester Avenue at 3. Yield floor to Senator Akkeh.

Senator Akkeh: Thank you to everyone who has participated in weekly neighborhood cleanups. A few senators are signing up for cleanups and then not showing up. I send out

reminder emails at the end of each week and I usually don't get responses. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let me know because we are really working hard to increase participation from other groups as well as senate.

Question by Senator Lott: Senator Akkeh, calling the day of may help.

Senator Martinez: Is it possible to show up without signing up?

Chair Redell: Absolutely. If you don't sign up, you're more than welcome to meet us in the Galaxy Space at 11 AM on Sundays. In the future, we may meet at Brueggers or somewhere we can get breakfast first and then go.

AA: My committee has been researching diversity requirements, advising, course descriptions, and textbook affordability this week in preparation for a meeting with the administrators, deans and my committee. We are looking at what other schools are doing, what we've already done at UVM, and how we can change. I went to faculty senate and was mildly disappointed with President Sullivan's endorsement of the memo. He just acknowledged its existence.

Question by Senator Lott: How have you been soliciting student opinion on these issues?

Chair Longyear: As elected members of the body, we have been given the honor to have student opinion on our side. We can certainly start, possibly with the help of PR, to get surveys out there.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: How can you be sure that you know what is right for students?

Chair Longyear: I can make a fairly educated guess. Everyone stands to benefit from having lengthier course descriptions and having cheaper textbooks available. These are common things that students should have. I have heard no negative opinions on it.

Follow up requested. Follow up denied.

Question by Chair Al-Namee: What are you exactly doing with your work on the diversity requirement?

Chair Longyear: Senator Hickey has come up with a lot of really good research that I would be happy to send you. Our main goal is restructuring what is seen as the diversity requirements and what meets these requirements. Personally, I think 'race and relations' is a bit too specific for diversity. The second goal is restructuring how one might get credit for diversity. Apparently, if you have had some type of diversity experience it is possible to use that to get credit. I don't think that should take the place of a class.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Al-Namee: Aside from your personal experience, have you taken a look at the 9 competencies of descriptions of D1 and D2 requirements and how that came about?

Chair Longyear: I briefly looked at that. I don't remember the specifics of that.

Senator Matthews: Can you speak more of what happened at faculty senate?

Chair Longyear: The faculty asked no questions of President Sullivan, and also did not recognize the memo. President Sullivan just said it exists.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Matthews: What's the next step?

Chair Longyear: He's talked about having a meeting with myself, President Daley, the rest of my committee, the deans, and relative administrators to figure out where we stand on the issues outlined in the memo. I haven't heard from him since he mentioned that. I'm following up with him on that. Scheduling all those people at one place in one time is really hard.

Follow up requested. Follow up denied.

Question by Chair Bowen: Besides the resolution, what else has been going on in AA?

Chair Longyear: We're trying to make progress with the memo. A lot of these issues pertain to faculty senate and have been talked about many times. We're trying to find new ways to work with them.

Question by Senator Lott: I'm concerned that you think you know what the students want, yet you disagree with students who use diversity experience to get credit. Are you telling the university officials that you're meeting with that the students don't want this? Yield floor to President Daley.

President Daley: This body is a representative body, not a delegatory body. Students elect the senate and the executive committee to interpret and to use their best judgment while representing students on campus, and I believe that's what Chair Longyear and AA does every day. Yield floor back.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: Are you telling the university officials that you are meeting with that this is what the students want?

Chair Longyear: I have not talked to any administrators specifically about this elimination. I just found out about this 1.5 hours ago.

Follow up requested. Follow up denied.

Senator Matthews: What kind of compromises have you been working on to get out of this shutdown?

Chair Longyear: I have a meeting with Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs this week where I plan on addressing multiple issues. I joined the CAS Dean's Strategic Action Planning committee to address some of these issues within CAS. We are currently working on finding representatives for the curricular affairs committees around campus so that students can have input, but finding representatives is difficult.

Question by Senator Lott: When you will talk with university officials in the future, will you tell them that the students don't want this way to get around the diversity classes?

Chair Longyear: I believe my next steps in this specific issue will be to talk to CODEE, see who they've talked to and where to go. The point on the memo is that there is a broken system. Maybe the system isn't broken, but I think it deserves some attention.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Senator Lott: Do you think the student body, in general, likes having diversity classes?

Chair Longyear: I've heard mixed reviews. I've heard a lot of people complain about them saying that they aren't getting actual diversity training and that their professors are

unqualified to be teaching any diversity to them. I've also heard the opposite that people seem to enjoy them. Yield floor to Senator Hickey.

Senator Hickey: The research I've done so far is to understand what the diversity requirements are that we've had in place and compare them to other universities. Specifically, I've looked at UCLA's policies and what they're doing. I'd be more than happy to email this research to anyone.

Question by Senator Jonathan Cares: Is getting structured feedback from student surveys or tabling something that you're going to think about?

Chair Longyear: Most of these issues, if not all of them, came from UVM Voice and tabling last spring. My results are coming from the student body at some point. I'm uncertain as to the degree of change from last spring to this fall. Yield floor to President Daley.

President Daley: Each one of those issues were initiatives of the SGA in years past. I know for a fact that each of those issues have had student input from survey data.

Point of Information: As a senator, you have a representative position but you also have a more legislative position as well.

SA: Senator Cares has been working on the continuation of a holiday shuttle to the airport, most notably for Thanksgiving. Senator Cares and I have a meeting with the transportation manager to talk about Transloc and some other bussing issues. Senator Matthews is still working on the 1 in 4 program, and he's also going to be working on an initiative to encourage voter registration on campus. Senator Madowitz is still working on providing transportation to concerts, festivals, away games, etc. She has a poll that we are looking to send out to you to get feedback. Senator Falks is working on reserving space on the 4th floor of DC during finals week so these rooms can be turned into study rooms to cut down crowding in the library. Senator McNally is still working on renovating the basketball court behind CBW and he's also maintaining involvement in the VT Fair Food Campaign with Sodexo, which is ongoing. Please download the free UVM Sentry app and give me feedback. Police Services has been asking me for feedback on that. I had a good meeting with PR committee today about utilizing VSOP (VT student opinion poll). We can send one out each month. UVM hires a company to conduct these things and they can gather issue specific information. We recently acquired the RA Listserv, which can be another method of working with students. I had a meeting with the athletic director this morning about student involvement in sporting events and getting more student tickets to hockey games. We're still following up with the water bottle refill stations in dorms.

Question by Chair Redell: When you ask everyone to download the smart phone app, do you assume that everyone on the body has a smart phone?

Chair Bowen: Anyone that can download it, should.

Follow up requested. Follow up granted.

Chair Redell: Are you aware that assuming that everyone on the senate body has a smartphone may not be sensitive to differentiating socio-economic statuses on this body?

Chair Bowen: It's a safety app and I think it is beneficial for everyone.

Question by Chair Pope-McGraw: Is sentry on IOS and Android?

Chair Bowen: Yes.

CODEE: Thank you for showing up to the social justice training. Our guests were very excited and enthusiastic about it. As a reminder, the workshop will be on October 22. We'll have a short senate meeting from 7-7:30. We'll start the social justice training at 7:30. As soon as we process your surveys, we'll know how long the training will take, and I will get you the specific time of it. This morning I had a meeting with Andy Stevens and Beth Goldstein in regards to many racial incidents that have been happening on campus. There's a lot of violence and disservice to the whole campus climate. Andy Stevens wanted to look at what each of our organizations has been doing. I did report back with the planned training. I think we need to do a better outreach to students to let them know that there are resources to be utilized on campus and campus awareness in general. We are started to plan equity week, which will be happening in February. We are planning on collaborating with IRA, Student Life, and many other organizations around campus. We're trying to work with the Women's Center for safety on campus. There have been a lot of sexual assaults on the streets leading downtown and back up to campus. We're trying to have a conversation about the resources we should provide people.

Question by Senator Matthews: Where do you hear about these incidents from?

Chair Al-Namee: I heard of these this morning in the meeting with Beth Goldstein and Andy Stevens from different constituents across campus.

SENATORIAL FORUM

Chair Longyear: Reads PR committee constitutional duties. How do you feel about your constitutional duty to reach out to students about appointments? Yield floor to Chair Pope-McGraw:

Chair Pope-McGraw: No comment

Speaker Conlon: I'm disappointed tonight with the attacking nature during committee reports. Just about every single one of my colleagues has been attacked every time they take the floor, no matter how miniscule the issue is. It's really not reassuring for people that work hard to get torn apart for it. Some of these conversations are better had in a smaller, intimate setting, and are probably more constructive in a smaller, intimate setting. You're not breaking any rules besides not being nice to each other. During my first year, there were times that people would directly attack each other regularly. I think that our meetings have been much more constructive since. Please question what you're saying and the motivation behind it and if there is a better way to get your point across.

Senator Kayser: Both Speaker Conlon and President Daley talked about respect when listening to speakers. I think that should also apply to the questions you ask. You can see people visibly getting uncomfortable.

Chair Pope-McGraw: Could anyone cover tabling 12:45 – 1:30? I might have to cancel tabling this time period and grab whatever time periods work for our committee. I appreciate the people who do sign up.

Motion for an informal poll answering, “do you think it is necessary for SGA to have mandatory social justice and diversity training?”

Motion seconded.

Vote on motion, passes.

Vote to have informal poll does not pass.

Chair Kauffman: Thank you Senator Akkeh for helping SAC this week with club check-ins.

Chair Al-Namee: Most of my information about diversity training I have gotten from the committee chaired by Brian Reed. They’ve been working on this since last spring semester. Right now, we’re done processing the feedback they received from faculty teaching the diversity courses. They’re also looking at the feedback from students and they’re compiling this. This is an issue they’re actually working on, and I’m very impressed and optimistic about their progress. I encourage you to wait for the committee’s actions and then act from there based on what they ask us to do. If you weren’t part of those student forums, that’s sad because that’s where they got their feedback from. If you have questions, contact me or Brian Reed.

Senator Matthews: If I remember correctly, we voted to remove any biases from the constitution. Why was my vote not counted, along with Senator Bowen’s? Yield floor to Speaker Conlon.

Speaker Conlon: There is no more conflict of interest clause. It is your own decision to abstain or not.

Chair Bowen: I would like to reiterate Speaker Conlon’s point. The personal attacks that are going on make us look extremely unprofessional. Those conversations would be much better had in the office or other personal setting. I’ve never had anyone approach me in the office, yet every time I stand up, there’s some sort of comment or feedback that seems pretty personalized. Yield floor to President Daley.

President Daley: I will reiterate the disappointment. However, this afternoon, I was able to host the SGA president from Castleton College. He sat in for the majority of this meeting. I will forward his email address to you all. He was very much impressed with our body and the work that was done already this semester, despite the decorum problems this evening and this semester. Yield floor back.

Chair Redell: Any backlash against Chair Al-Namee is so disrespectful for the work she has put forth for this workshop. People who are fighting against it are probably the people who need it the most.

Motion for an informal poll answering, “do you want mandatory diversity and social justice training for SGA?”

Motion seconded.

Vote on motion, passes.

Motion to take poll by secret ballot, seconded.

Vote on motion, does not pass.

Vote on informal poll, majority vote they want mandatory diversity and social justice training.

Chair Al-Namee: This morning, I did attend that meeting and I was attacked by 9 people. I was asked what SGA was doing about the instances happening on campus and what we're you doing as leaders. You should ask yourself what you're doing as a leader in this body. People are walking into our offices and feeling disrespected, alienated, and looked down upon. I'm not talking about minority students. I'm talking about every student that walks into our office. People are telling me things that they've heard from SGA senators in the office. Please evaluate your actions and what you're trying to do. This is just a resource that I'm offering to you to utilize. I'm not constitutionally obligated in any way to provide this training for you. I felt that this would complete our character, our leadership, and make us more respected. If you don't want to take that opportunity to have more respect, that's up to you. You don't have to show up, but that's not only going to reflect on you, but on everyone in this body. I did say that I was organizing this training. People are going to look for the outcomes of this, and the first person people are going to come back to is me. Evaluate your action and your leadership role, if those don't align maybe you shouldn't be on SGA.

Senator Matthews: Why are we having this training during SGA time?

Chair Al-Namee: The only reason that this is organized during SGA is because it was left out of the mandatory retreat at the beginning of the year. Yield floor to Speaker Conlon

Speaker Conlon: We are still holding a meeting. We are going to try to make the meeting shorter. I think this is going to do us some good.

Chair Al-Namee: From my many visits to the ALANA Student Center, the conversations I have heard about SGA is disgusting. The hard work you are all doing is not being valued.

Senator Matthews: I think it is actually good that we're attacking other people. We're finally holding each other accountable as an organization. Yield floor to Speaker Conlon.

Speaker Conlon: It's not the fact that we're questioning each other, or demanding a lot from each other, it's the tone of the questions. You can see that people are mad in their eyes. Ask your questions without a true bias, and I would have never commented on it.

Senator Lott: I'm not upset at the way you answered the poll question. What troubles me is that you were so afraid to hear the opinions of your fellow senators; you didn't want to give your fellow representatives a chance to vote.

Senator Matthews: We need to treat ourselves with respect.

Chair Al-Namee: I would like you to think about how the people of color on this body are feeling right now with the opinions that you are voicing out loud.

Senator Kayser: When it comes to the motion, I wanted to hear other people's opinions. I didn't think it needed to be secret. I am very proud of Chair Al-Namee for putting this together, so I wasn't for the secret aspect, but I was for letting my opinion be known.

Senator Madowitz: I would've been very discouraged watching this meeting. It's extremely disrespectful to go back and forth like this.

Senator Jonathan Cares: I was alarmed at the harshness of the questions. The representative of the shooting club looked very uncomfortable.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Kayser: Sign up for flag football at tabling tomorrow.

ROLL CALL

Finance: Senator Garau excused.

PR: Senator Cruickshank unexcused, Fooks excused.

SAC: Senator Renaud, Hershey, Loo excused.

COLA: All Present

AA: Senator Ducharme excused.

SA: Senator Falks excused.

CODEE: Senator Cares excused.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:59 PM, recorder (1:59:44)