

SGA Senatorial Meeting: Tuesday January 19, 2015 at 7pm

- Attendance
 - Finance: Senator Doerr absent
 - CODEE: Senator Foster and Senator Crespo absent
 - Student Action: Senator Howley absent
 - COLA: Senator Woodward absent
 - Club Affairs: All present
 - Academic Affairs: All present
 - Public Relations: Senator Vukosavljevic absent
- Public Forum
 - Interim Dean Falls- College of Arts and Sciences
 - 3 Goals: Student Success, Faculty Success, and Dealing with issues of diversity and inclusion
 - Chose to focus on student success
 - Gotten faculty together to improve academic experience
 - Take advantage of brilliant scholars we have, with overlapping scholarships, and create programs that center around those
 - Making departmental structures more successful
 - Dean Falls wants to create programs around excellence
 - Questions/Comments
 - Can you tell us what's happening with reading days? Are there any plans on returning them to the syllabus? (Senator Butler)
 - That's up to the faculty senate, but Dean Falls would be happy to advocate for students
 - Faculty senate and Deans Office didn't talk to each other; there was a miscommunication
 - For humanities majors, it's hard to get internships. Is that on your radar? (Chair Cares)
 - Yes it is.
 - A lot of students are reluctant to take an internship that is not in their area of interests or studies.
 - We need students to understand that being involved with internships is more important than finding one that relates to your career goals
 - What are your thoughts on enlightening students about Majors vs. Degrees (Chair Brandt)
 - We need to educate students that their major isn't preparing them for a job in that field.
 - You are getting a degree in a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science, not a History or Psychology
 - As a student in the Grossman School of Business and College of Arts and Sciences, I noticed there was not a lot of communication from the College of Arts and Sciences, in comparison to the Grossman School of Business. (Senator Scott)
 - Historically, a lot of information about careers and internships has been through departments, not the college as a whole.
 - I appreciate the comment, and I believe there is more we can do
 - Is there a way to fill the gap between shadowing and internships? (Senator Wu)
 - I'd love to hear suggestions

- We've been asking, "How do we involve alumni?" This could be one way
 - We have an accessible alumni network; we could use them for students to ask questions.
 - Could TAP classes be used to improve communication between the College and students? (VP Davis)
 - The program hasn't structurally changed in 20 years
 - TAP started off as teacher advising, then writing was added, then more things were added. There are too many goals for the one course, so teachers are losing their control to connect
 - Thinking about ways to enhance the first year experience as a whole, not just one semester. This may involve getting rid of the TAP program.
 - Sometimes the advisor doesn't advise well. Is there anything that we can do to fix it? (Senator McDermott)
 - We think Peer Advising is *really* going to help
 - We want to get faculty to really think about the advising process
 - The new "First Year Experience" that we're thinking about will also help the advising problem
- Old Business
 - No one scheduled
 - No comments
- Emergency Business
 - No one scheduled
 - No comments
- New Business
 - No one scheduled
 - No comments
- Executive Reports
 - Speaker Andrews
 - Socks for the give-away should be here by next week
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
 - VP Davis
 - February 7th is the Spring Retreat
 - Safe Ride Update will be next week
 - There are 4 confirmed vacancies and 3 potential vacancies for senate
 - Comments/Questions
 - Where is the spring retreat (Chair Ryan)
 - On campus because of budget
 - President Maulucci
 - More Deans of Colleges to come later in the weeks for public forum
 - Reading Days
 - Met with Co-chairs of Student Affairs Committee and the President and Vice President of Faculty Senate
 - We need to stop being in opposition and start thinking of solutions
 - Senator Patel will head the task force for Reading Days

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- Virginia trip
 - Great ideas passed were passed between students
 - Talked about peer advising *and* faculty advising
 - Looking at the idea of getting rid of declaring majors as a first year
- UVM 2020 Vision
 - Leaders should be checking in with their groups so that writings can be submitting before Spring Break
- Will be meeting with President Sullivan and the Provost
 - If you want me to mention anything, let me know
- Comments/Questions
 - None
- Treasurer DeGama
 - 50% of clubs are about halfway done their fundraising
 - 34% of those clubs are three-quarter of the way done their fundraising
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
- Committee Reports
 - Finance (Chair Langham)
 - Workshops for club-signers are coming up
 - Getting ready for budget season
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
 - CODEE (Chair Letendre)
 - ALANA Center is officially moving to L/L in the fall
 - Investment Subcommittee tabled coal divestment
 - UVM 2020: All the groups Chair Letendre is heading will be reaching out to their constituents in the next few weeks
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
 - COLA (Chair Francis)
 - Working with President Maulucci, VP Davis, the Student Government of Vermont State College System, and the Director of Federal State Relations to organize a gubernatorial forum at UVM
 - FYI: Presidential Primary is March. In Vermont, you can register to vote online.
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
 - Academic Affairs (Chair Brandt)
 - Trip to Virginia
 - Peer Advising is a new system, not new idea
 - Putting together a job description for Peer Advisors
 - As a committee we are working on online course syllabi and the Undecided Student Forum
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
 - Student Action (Chair Cares)
 - Joke: What kind of bagel can fly? A plain bagel.
 - Mental Health committee
 - Mental health week is the third week in February

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- Getting comedians finalized
 - Dining
 - Want to focus on fixing points; getting more points on the plan because what students have isn't enough
 - Transportation
 - Getting more buses on-campus
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
- Club Affairs (Chair Brown)
 - Still have 5 frozen accounts for clubs
 - Meeting with the frozen clubs, people who want to start clubs, and advisors for clubs.
 - Committee is working on ideas for projects this semester
 - Want to do something special for faculty advisors
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
- Public Relations (Chair Ryan)
 - What is SGA? Campaign
 - Working on that in the next few weeks
 - Working on Sports Information email
 - Waiting to hear back from teams to make an email
 - Comments/Questions
 - None
- Senatorial Forum
 - Senator Patel
 - Please get a hold of me if you have any ideas or proposals for Reading Days
- Comments/Announcements
 - President Maulucci
 - If you want to be on the SGA broomball team, please contact him
 - Chair Brown
 - Created an SGA Relay team for Relay for Life. If you want to join, let her know
 - Senator Patel
 - Protest for Reading Days is at 1pm in the Davis Center, if you want to join