



TUESDAY, JANUARY 27th 2009
NINETEENTH MEETING OF 2008-2009 SENATE

Call to Order
Start time: 7:07

Roll Call
McDonald excused
Paquette excused
Robertson excused
Approval of the Minutes
Approved

Public Forum

Al Turgeon- Pandemic Planning

Dr. Porter and Al Turgeon

Turgeon: John and I are co-chair at the emergence to develop a pandemic response at the university. Currently we are completing a draft for academic research and health and safety component to this plan. We have put this draft in front of our senior administrator for review. As far as answering questions there have been a few student inquiries. It is important to say the pandemic event is not realized at all and it won't be in front of us any time soon.

John: Any questions about the pandemic flu?

Jones: They projected in 10 years that the flu would reach the east coast is that a true projection?

John: A pandemic is a worldwide wide thing. Historically it's been influenzas that have been causing this. The issue is that we are kind of due for pandemic and it has been about 4 year since we've seen a pandemic infection. So it's very possible we could have an influenza virus that would be with the avian flu. It has a high mortality rate in birds. Because it is an influenza virus it could be avian. That is why we planning what to do ahead of time.

Turgeon: Historical review; they generally occur in cycles of three week each lasting form 8 weeks to a year. We've taken all of those historical reviews and disposed a scenario which the institution can plan against. One student said that we will evacuate campus and that is just a scenario. We need to develop a scenario and it gives us the 12 to 14 to month period that we think a pandemic would last. From research to health and safety to facilities.

Glynne: Conversation with CDC in Atlanta are you monitoring situation in China?

Turgeon: yes we are very aware of that and we getting periodic up-to-date emails. We are working with other agency and talking to the CDC. What steps to take on an intermediate level if we are heading for a real pandemic.

Corthell: Why would you inform RA if this was a possible issue?

Turgeon: I don't know of the specifics. We held open forums and we are trying to get a reasonable level of information to faculty and students so you can give us reasonable questions. I think res life desk is trying to be proactive on the issue.

John: I'm aware from I've heard from students was very alarming. May have sounded like something was about Feb. 3rd. That wasn't the message we would have chosen.

Turgeon: I think one of the versions of the scenario slide had a specific date and that was not a good idea because that can be taken as a literal date of when the pandemic would hit and that was not the case. Everything purely hypothetical and scenario driven.

Mensah: We were given training about the pandemic and the RA may have slipped info to their resident. They were just given the scenario about what would happen if someone had the flu then the school would be closed. Some students got the info wrong and that's why there was confusion.

Goodman: What is the rate of survival?

Turgeon: If this is a serious pandemic 40% of the population will become ill over the three waves. There using historical data they know as a basis to predict what would happen (CDC). But we don't know for sure. There is a better way to predict the outcomes now. We need to plan for at 40% but don't know the outcome.

John: if you see the info overseas you will see a higher mortality rate.

Whitmore: thank you for coming, I've heard a lot about scenarios is this bird flu a legitimate threat this semester spring 2009, I've had a lot of students freaking out.

Turgeon: It's not

John: The levels that have been noted worldwide have been lull. There is nothing at risk.

Hutch: I think we are well prepared for bird flu. What sort of plans do you have for the university? I know on a global scale there isn't much we can't do but at the university there is.

Turgeon: Nothing has been approved this is just a proposed draft concept. We wouldn't have to have 40% of you ill on campus because it would overwhelm the medical center. We would temporarily suspend classes and send students home. On the research activities would be able to be sustained. Not without some investment upfront and it would take a while to go in that direction. The core to responding to the pandemic is really each one of us. If you look at the history it overwhelms the medical system. When someone gets hurt they go to the doctor and if we do the same thing for the influenza will overwhelm. The first response should be ours and we should be able to treat the basic symptoms of the virus. One of the things we are working is to teach faculty students family to treating these systems which would be very helpful for a global pandemic.

John: It's important to know little things like sneezing into elbows instead hands. Just getting into the habit of minimizing the spreading of the virus.

Riff- DO you know if the hospital has had research on the vaccines?

John: there have been vaccines that have been developed and that research continues

Turgeon: they don't believe they can have vaccines developed spread until 6 months into the pandemic. (Fletcher treating severe cases)

Weiland- What has to happen for the scenario to begin?

Turg: First it has to go from birds to human and then human to human on a large scale on a global level. Right now we've had bird infects and birds going to human and it's been in very small clusters.

Weiland- so for this scenario to happen it could happen outside of the United States.

Turgeon: yes, but multiple numbers of clusters of 500 to 1000 and it's beginning to migrate go from town to town that is something we want to monitor. Nothing like that has happened yet.

Candon: I just wanted to provide another perspective to Mensah. There all started at RA training and people started to freak out. I'm sure you guys both know how many people freaked. Next time this discussion is done during RA training it would be done more cautiously

Turgeon: that has already been discussed to make every effort to know be alarming when talk in the future. If you happen to go to the pandemic website I removed the scenario not to alarm everybody.

Chev- Is there a new projection for this pandemic because February in 4 days?

Turgeon: we can't put a date on this. It could stay in its current form for the next year there is no way to predict this. Fogel asked for us to develop a plan to handle the situation. Have the plan approved by all administration. There are some things we could do that wouldn't cost too much money that would get us prepared like stock piling gloves. We would then go into sustainment phase and how do we keep our minimal ready level if nothing changes. Then if the threat is imminent we would put together a crisis team and they would put together a plan and execute the plan as if the pandemic was there.

John: And again we see nothing on the horizon for change of this semester.

Emergency Business

Appointments

Edward Foster

Foster: for those of you that don't know my name is Eddy Foster I'm a junior here. I was a member of this body all last year and then a member this year. I work for Barack in PA. I previously worked on COLA. Some of the things I'm interested in getting into was the party smart website, which was original started by myself and some others. One thing I would like to do is get the website updated and working. Another thing I'm interested is the financial system and working on that. Potential merger of UVM and the rest of Vermont education. We should have involvement with it and another thing I'm interested in.

Glynne: Edwards it's a pleasure to see you again. Could you please go into detail about other things you did on senate

Fost: One bill I encouraged was the DC voting act was the right to vote for congressmen in DC. It's looking like in this term that such legislation will pass. Some of the other things that I worked on were community coalition with COLA including the lighting audit.

Garcia: thank for you coming you mention during your speech that you work for Obama and his major thing was change if you could change one thing about yourself and why?

Fost: I would lose 50 pounds.

Backer- did you quit smoking

Foster- yes I'm making progress and I'm down to about 2 a day

Glynne: do you regret anything you've said to this body in the past 3 years.

Foster: not that I recall.

Enter executive session 7:42

Exit executive session 7:57

Business of Executive Session: Eddy Foster appointed

Speaker administers oath to Foster.

New Business

Lopez: Resolution of use for prepaid cell phone

Krodel: Club of the Fortnight- Asian American Student Union

Old Business

Executive Reports

Speaker Frank

Mandy: Contact sheet list, I think it's important that we have your info so we can contact you. Please circulate that around. We need to meet after senate to set up another date because I have a debate.

The other thing is attendance policy and I'm prepared to listen to your opinions about it and adjust this policy. I thought the SGA retreat went very well and I want to thank Emma for putting it on.

Just: The attendance policy should be voted from the senate

Mandy: There isn't anything about the constitution about the attendance policy and I think its important part of SGA. I think it's important that everyone in SGA show, and I think it's important that we have something concrete.

Jones: Is this being enforced from the past couple of meetings or now?

Mandy: if you look at form is that it won't start until next week where committees will take attendance. I expect that committees start doing that next week.

President Taylor

Taylor: First thing is that I would like to acknowledge our new chair of action Emily Walsh. I'm about to send around to a proposed revision to the UVM academic calendar. This would add another reading day to the UVM schedule. This will be difficult due to other schedule events. Daniel Fogel has put out a call to put together a group about how we could have dynamic change of the university and to unite all colleges under one dean. This would reduce redundancy in some areas. I've nominated chair Taylor to serve on this committee. I would like to acknowledge the new minute taker.

Hutch: So you meant next fall?

Taylor: this would be proposed next fall. One of the problems for doing this for next fall is the publication dates.

Hutch: are they adding 3 days at the end or beginning

Taylor: not sure

Steel Taylor: it would be at the beginning

Taylor: I've gotten a lot of complaints about this. It's problematic for people because of people abusing it from partying rather than properly using the reading day properly

Lopez: Is this merge process going to happen soon?

Taylor: Fogel said it was about time to change the university in a positive sense. He's putting together this group to do this and merging all the colleges into one. March 15th for recommendation

Lopez: Vermont becoming part of the state system

Taylor: that has nothing to do with college merger

Chev: Are there any ideas of how many job losses there would be?

Taylor: again its super preliminary and I don't know. Instead of each dean office it would be a massive dean office.

Vice President Kennedy

Kennedy: I will say that the list serv would be a great place to send out comments that are going on this week. Thank you all for your patience for the retreat and I hope you all got something out of it. I sent out an anonymous survey and I appreciate your feedback and will help people who plan future receive. I finally very pleased to have a full senate.

Committee Reports

Finance

Issadore: We are actually starting to hit the beginning of national season. So a lot of clubs are requesting money for their clubs such as gymnastic and freestyle. It's starting to get busier because of winter oriented clubs. If anyone is a club signer that due date is Feb 6. Give the floor to Alex.

Mallea: the finance committee met last night and we wanted to brainstorm ideas of how SGA could raise funds. Since valentines' day is coming out is to bake cookies and give out carnations as a fundraiser.

Benay: We are going try to move the time so more people could come. Clubs being green SGA UVM grocery bag that we would sell to try and be green.

Student activities

Sander: We moved the club from suspension to be active.

4 individuals in the criminal charges are not allowed to participate

Everyone is required to sign a hazing form

For every event they want to do they have to seek our approval for.

I've approved three events.

The SGA ALANA summit is coming Feb winter activities are coming if you know anyone who is involved to e-mail to sign up for a meeting. We are planning for the SGA banquet and we are planing for 300 people If you want to be involved that would great. Senator Cafarelli is helping plan for the spring fling and if you want to involve for that let me know. Two clubs are up for derecognition, Muslim Student Association, Elvish language Scuba club is up for recognition.

Finance- Chair Issadore

Student Activities- Chair Sander

COLA- Chair Shackett

Cola:

Shackett: welcome back Eddy. Silver maple ballroom, and we set up 200 seats. Wright got the fire fighter unions to go with him and once you get them you get the Burlington police. Community coalition invites people to go to something on Friday. We are looking into inviting city councilors to come to the meetings. I have something cool I picked up from city all Burlington currently has a ton of commissions and its' great way to get involved with the community. I want to get on the electric lightning commission (great resume builder). We are going to be doing a lighting audit and take care of faulty lights to see if anything has been done in the last year.

Backer: The meter point we got out is that if you go down to the state hall if you go down that you preference what you are speaking on and that you're not speaking on behalf of UVM. If you guys are interested in coming down the state house let us know.

Candon: we are looking on setting up a trip down to Vermont Yankee. It's a big topic we'll talk about it throughout the rest of the semester.

Shackett Just to finish up people are not educated about the Vermont Yankee issue. Please feel free to come. Start a debate about the pros and cons about Vermont Yankees so that way we can become educator.

Jones: Do you need to be register voter to be on the commission and do they meet somewhere?

Shackett: yes you have to be a register voter. It depends on what commissions. If it's the fire commission then it's the fire department.

CODEEE:

Jones: After Jenna left she was the one in contact with Lou. Kay is working with a local group food group. As far as my report is I'm going to e-mail out the rest of my report because I'm all over the place today.

Student action:

Walsh: I want to thank Senator Hutchinson he spent a lot of time. What to do for the additional students coming into UVM. Possibly turning McCauley hall into a residential area. We are going to be setting up

another task force for the naked bike ride. Your ideas are totally welcomed for that. Student workers bill of rights and what work study is. Student profiting from the university. Next week we'll do cell phone resolution. Lighting audit this Friday worked on by cola. Something was mentioned for the Red Cross representing this person.

Sander: congrats welcome

Corthell: as we've been saying the first IRA pancake feast is going to be somewhere. We are going to set up a tent but you don't have to be there till 1030 or 11. We are going to make delicious pancakes. IS there anyone here who can't eat pancakes because we can get a substitute. If you do have thing about pancake e-mail me. I'll see you Sunday and it's not mandatory. It's on Sunday Feb 1st at 10:30 or 11. My feelings will be hurt if you are not there.

Jones: was ALANA the last club to go the award.

Wong: are you still doing that club fort night

Krodel: it still works as it always did the only reason I did it today was because Kelsey couldn't be here.

Benay: is the breakfast IRA SGA exclusive

Cordell: yes

CODEEE- Chair Jones

Student Action- Chair Abda

Public Relations- Chair Krodel

Academic Affairs- Chair Taylor

S Taylor: to dissolve the physical requirement to be dissolved. It's a pretty full agenda for the meeting and it will not be clear if that topic will be gotten around to or not. If you are there as a student you may be called on to speak on that matter. It could be heated which would be entertaining. Our committee will be researching and preparing recommendations and the first should be what should be the standard elements that should be present on a syllabus. Senator Whitmore and Myers are working on a report on the standard for students and ethics about how professor can be clearer about plagiarism on assignments big and small. The proposed changes to the schedule that affects all of us. The meeting that is taking place on Thursday and I wanted to get feedback from you guys. Do you want a fall break, a Monday off in October? Would be willing to relinquish a reading day on the second week of exams HW at you've had a final exam and what percentage was a cumulative final exam.

Walsh: They already have summer activities planned out. Maybe it needs another year and it would be pushed to another year forward.

Wong: I was wondering if you're looking into the half reading day half exam day.

S. Taylor: yes I have an exam on that Thursday and now there are 6 days of exams. We need to start asking tough questions. If we can't have a reading day between end of class and exams and that there are time conflicts that those classes won't have a final exam.

Senatorial Forum

Corthell: we started doing election stuff and I scheduled the debates which will be in the 16th of March. Vice president in CC hall. Dewy center will be the presidential election. I rewrote the election rules because they were outdated. I didn't change them that much except that you can't talk about the election in the SGA office because that is stupid. If anyone wants to help me that would be great.

Wong: are you aware the 16th is the day right after spring break.

Corthell: We have to have the elections the week after that. I don't want to do it on Friday because nobody will show up. Had to do it then because of scheduling conflicts.

Jones: are we voting on online.

Corthell: yes

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Jones: the first thing I wanted to bring up should we start voting outside of executive session? I think we should be voting outside of executive session and debating inside the executive session.

Benay: I have two things to report on really quick I'm going to be the relay for life this year. We are pledge to a 1000 dollars and I realized that other people are part of other clubs. Plan on being on the SGA team. I'm also working with COLA and Alicia from the office and community relations and we are

organizing another babysitting in the community and more at student outreach. We want to get as many students involved.

Glynne: what ever happened to elixir?

Varsakopoulos: we are trying to get something going this spring. We don't have a huge account. Stay tuned I'll try to incorporate that later on.

Mensah: I don't know if everyone remembers the emails Jay sent out about the new university shin dig thing. I will be hopefully be recording a senate meeting next Tuesday. You will be up on the university website somewhere.

Wong: does everyone know how Fogel does coffee to talk to people. Perhaps we can do something like that where we can sit down with students to talk with them or if PR could do that.

Ray: I have a question for PR and I think the coffee SGA would be good idea. Who pays for pancakes? We don't fund food for clubs.

Corthell: SGA and IRA

Benay: we don't fund supplemental for food but we have a discretionary fund as a rule we don't fund for food but we have exceptions. We actually do budget a certain amount for food. That actually is a part of our budget.

Senatorial comments

Taylor- I hope you all saw an e-mail to remove to the cynic from the list serv. This was to spark activity over the list serv. The listserv that it was being used improperly. People were using personal e-mail. I removed them through my g-mail account filter. You have a profound ability to voice about issues that the students have elected you for. We will continue to send them our minutes and agenda. Discussion would be listserv that would be just for the senate. Discussion that would only happen online. You have responsibility to everyone at UVM.

Benay: Wednesday is covel making.

Mensah: if you nobody is doing anything the tomorrow morning there will be a movie showing the grand maple ballroom.

Jones: does the discussion happen there.

Mallea: the discussions will happen there

Jones: do you know what student is leading that?

Wong: I'm in the vagina monologues and the tickets are on sale now. We should all go as a senate and tickets are on sale at the atrium. You can also buy pussy pops. If you don't want to go but want to help out we are looking for people to help out for babysitting for the same evening.

Foster: thank you everyone for appointing me and I looking forward to working with everyone.

Roll Call Adjournment

Crowley excused

Paquette excused

Robertson excused

Meeting ends at 8:58