



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009  
TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF 2008-2009 SENATE**

**CALL TO ORDER  
START TIME: 7:08**

**ROLL CALL**

FINANCE: Claire Howard (excused)  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present  
COLA: all present  
CODEEE: all present  
STUDENT ACTION: Alexander Paul Viadero Lopez (excused)  
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Ryan Krodel (excused)  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Jeff Whitmore (excused)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Kit Wiebe- Student on Research Project

Kesha Ram- State Representative

Right now we are halfway through the session on the legislature, but this session will be approximately 16 weeks. She wants to let you know what she has been up to and brought legislation having to do with higher education. She is on the general, housing, and military affairs committee. They deal with many things such snowboarding, to public nudity, affordability of housing, and military affairs. They are the only body that deals with military affairs. They had a hearing on the deployment to Afghanistan of 1800 soldiers. This is the most we have sent out since WWII. Her committee is supportive of military families and of the service guard men and women. They also take care of veterans.

She is the only member of the house or senate who is currently renting, and that is an important perspective to have. She is working with Vermont legal aid that would give firmer legal grounding for security deposits for tenants. It will help secure your right to cash the check you are given when given back your security deposit and then go back and try to get more money from your deposit if you don't

agree with them withholding the money that they did. It allows you to cash the undisputed portion of the security deposit and still be able to go to court for the rest of the money. This would be a cost neutral way to keep money in the pocket of Vermonters and used that money to meet their basic needs.

She is also working to get perchlorethylene out of dry cleaning products. It causes cancer and maybe even death for the workers and the people around and the dry cleaning facilities and it goes in and stays in the soil for years. This passed in California 6 years ago and now she is trying to get it passed in Vermont.

Recent legislation worked with higher education. Dave talked about moral obligation and putting moral backing from higher legislation from the state. This would lower student interest rates. She checked in on the bill it passed out of ways and means and is now in the finance committee. Genet White introduced legislation about student freedom. It was targeted for K -12 but it hasn't been considered for college level, but she is working towards considering that.

Newest budget adjustment would ease scholarship opportunities for National Guard members once they have completed their service. It would allow them to ensure that if they were part of the air National guard vs. the army National Guard that they would get the same rights and privileges which was not the case before and it makes it easier for them to take advantage of higher education.

Voted out the sex offenders bill. It calls for stricter regulations on how we manage sexual abuse towards children and the prevention of it. They have some prevention measures in for k-12. It is hard because for those young children it's usually someone in the home and so a lot of legislation is geared towards the things they can control.

Voted out the budget adjustment. \$40 million were cut out of their budget

Just received a proposal from Vermont State employees legislation to change pay structure during economic crisis instead of firing more people.

They are paying close attention in the state house to UVM and if people wanted to ask her questions they may. There is a lot of transition in this time period. Now is when the student groups are ramping up their campaign efforts so it can be hard. Creating that continuity given the frustration that a lot of students are feeling, it's a tough time for students. Anything you can do to get the word out to students to attend the trustees meetings is great. Keep your eye on the concerns of the students.

Michael Glynn

Question about the 18 hundred guard troops. Are people in state legislature going to block that or not?

There is a publicized movement to ensure that when called to service it's with congressional approval unlike the war in Iraq. So there is a more public effort to withdraw them because of the lack of approval. The same thing might be happening with Afghanistan.

Tom Ford-Hutchinson are there going to be more cuts to UVM funding?

Not at the moment. The governor has proposed to increase and keep it. It will not be increased but no moves to cut it any further the original 5%.

Bob Just Marriage equality bill, where is it at within legislature and how is it being received?

Fist concern is the economic situation. There are over 59 sponsors on the house side of the bill which is pretty favorable, good support. House side is looking for senate side to pick it up first. It hasn't crossed over yet, but it could come over the day after town counsel meeting day. When they get it they want to move it quickly

Time Ashe- State Senator

Emma Mulvaney-Stanek- City Councilor Candidate

He is a candidate for ward 2. This includes some student housing off campus. She wants to add some fresh young energy to the counsel. Someone who can relate to students. She has a background in community, organizing works for the national education association for Vermont. She worked downtown at the peace and justice center for livable wages campaign. She understands the struggle for middle class families finding a job that pays enough. The key issues are affordability, livable wage jobs and also satiability for the city. Burlington is going to change but she wants to do it in stainable ways that are environmentally sound. She is originally from Vermont. March 3 is the big day, go vote.

Michael Glynn If elected do you have a plan that will create sustainable jobs in Burlington?

As a labor organizer she knows it takes building blocks to build good jobs. She wants to do things to try and keep, support, and retain companies so they can find the space to thrive here in Burlington.

Tom Ford-Hutchinson What's your method for sustainability and what's a livable wage?

Government calculated the livable over 3 years. Employers that provide extra stuff allows you to adjust livable wage. Adding tuition remission and calling that livable wages is not realistic, UVM can do more then that.

Kofi Mensah What plans do you have to keep young people in Vermont?

She came back because she had a job. Making sure that Vermonters that want to come back have jobs that young people would want to have. The jobs that need to be creative about the knowledge and interest young people have. Building an infrastructure that can make sure that you can live in any part of the state and still stay connected. Such as Burlington Telecom and make sure that that is accessible to everyone.

Sharon Bushor- City Councilor Candidate

She is seeking reelection represents ward 1. She has been on city counsel sin 1987. She wants to continue because he feels like she has the drive and can bring forward good ideas that have value and she is just not ready to walk away. The city has a strong relationship with UVM but not the student body. There used to be a loose committee of the city that was made up of students and a city counselor but it kind of languished because of little leadership and not being well organized. Community coalition has a lot of value and she has worked hard to support moving off campus workshops and survival manual for

living in the. As the youngest members of the community some will stay and here is a opportunity to tap into your ideas and energy and that's what she is about. Providing opportunities for well paying jobs to keep you in the community. She wants to ensure that our neighborhoods are ones that people want to live in and are multi generational. Centennial woods and UVM's open space are very important to keep.

Michael Glynnne if reaeleceat what are the big issues you want to take on?

For the community she is focused on the economy and who we are as Burlington. And we are the largest city in Vermont but not a city. She wants the benefit of being a city but not to grow out and to help define ourselves. She wants to expand downtown with more commercial businesses and to grow up. But you want to keep it people sized. How do you grow and to allow that urban feeling without destroying what people value and to keep jobs here in Burlington. As businesses get larger they don't have the space or parking and want to move out of Burlington, we want to retain those businesses.

Tyler Van Backer What's your opinion on the mayors proposed housing for UVM?

Requiring UVM to house more students on campus. They want to know who and where they can develop and grow and have more classroom space. She supported that proposal. But in order to allow that UVM needs to do something for the community. Housing just cost so much and there isn't enough. So UVM needs to offer an create more housing. She supports UVM creating more on campuses housing such as Redstone apartments. Not just dorms that people don't want to live in but housing that attracts people. You shouldn't have to choose housing off campuses to get the freedom you want.

James Moore- VPIRG

VPIRG has been around as long as Vermont Yankee. They started on UVM campus and other colleges in the state where students wanted there voice herd in the state house. They are the largest environmental and consumer protection agency in the state. They have a bottoms up approach and go door to door. They deal with energy issues, healthcare, democracy, and consumer protection. They are the clean energy advocate and they wanted to talk about our energy future. Three things: first is about a renewable energy, second is Vermont Yankee, and the question of decommission. What kind of energy future do you want? By 2015 what energy future could we have? Suppose renewable energy is being built in Vermont because of the economic befits and jobs that come of that. Renewable energy is more than half of Vermont's generation based in Vermont for the future. 20% would be wind and that would take about 10 wind farms. Vermont based biomass, can't be larger then it is because they want to focus on sustainable forestry and not just cutting it all down. Hydroelectric is basically all already built, just incremental growth but not much beyond that because we don't have more place to put in dames. Vermont methane could be larger. Vermont could get 15% of its electricity form methane. Small renewable generation, solar energy, small scale wind is envisioned as a small slice of the pie because the technology is a little father out in the future to being reasonably priced.

Vermont Yankee. Some people are concerned about the facility. It is very old. Legislature last year looked at the reliability. The report says that compared the rest of the nuclear power plants in the country it stacks up pretty low on the chart. Their equipments reliability score stacked up to sister

plants and it stacks up at the bottom of the pile. And looking at Entergy, they own a fleet of nuclear power plants how does it stack up to their other plants. And again it's at the bottom. Just because they are running the plant a lot does not mean that the plant is in good physical shape. They look at issues that are precursors of problems to come. They are not worried about a catastrophic accident, what he is worried about is what happens to the Vermont economy if the facility has an accident that shuts down 91 on a holiday weekend when no tourist can come into the state. Even a minor accident can have a devastating impact on the Vermont economy. When it comes to the plant being old and falling apart, the leak they are experiencing, they can't seem to stop it. That leak has radiation in it. No radiation exposure from artificial sources are good for your health. It is steam coming out of the water pipe. This has been going on for a long time so the drops per minute add up. The facility has problems and it's not getting any younger.

Decommissioning the Yankee facility. They thought that in 2002 they had enough to decommission it. They thought there was extra money. Entergy gave Vermont a low electricity price, but at the time it was not low, it was at market rates. They included a low market adjuster. Entergy had a press release in 2002 that said they will assume all financial risks in operating and decommissioning cost. The next statement said that they should share the upside and downside of extra and lack of money with the state. Entergy is not liable for decommissioning cost that cost actually goes to ENVY which they set up when they bought the facility. ENVY makes money from selling power and then giving the money to Entergy. They used to say we will take on the risk but now they say that ENVY has all the risk. When the facility closes if there is not enough money, ENVY isn't making money anymore. There is no additional money to put into the fund. Who gets stuck with the cost? The fact is that the federal regulators would allow it to sit there for 60 years. Our federal government and Vermonters want a different energy future and we are heading in that direction. Yankee is one of the major things that is in the way because if power is locked up in long term contracts they won't buy power from renewable energy sources.

Tyler Wilkinson-Ray when it comes time to decommission, what do you do with the waste and how long before it becomes harmless?

They stop counting after a certain point how much it costs to deal with the waste long before the waste becomes safe. There are three kinds of low-level and one kind is very toxic. It takes hundreds and thousands of years for some of them to become harmless. But some decompose very quickly but that means that they release a lot of radiation very quickly. There are over 1 million pounds of nuclear waste at Yankee. Vermont has more nuclear waste per person than any other state.

Josh Nierman How many green jobs would be created by the first hand out handed out? With wind how do you deal with NIMBY with not putting it in my back yard?

The numbers of jobs are not available now but the studies show that the renewable energy is more job intensive than the other older forms of energy. So the net gain would be positive. The \$2 billion figure was probably an inflated number and it didn't consider the economic stimulus of building the replacement facilities. Vermont Yankee has a tax rate written into Vermont law where they pay on a

kilowatt per hour basis 1/3 of what we require a wind farm to pay. If we replace it with renewable sources that would have to pay more we would see an increase in state tax revenue.

Kofi Mensah What is your current take on the time it would take for Vermont Yankee to decommission? If it shut down how long would it take the renewable energy sources to come into effect?

You need to look at the bigger energy picture and not just look at Vermont. Vermont is part of the New England electricity grid. There is excess power in that grid and other grids that are surrounding such as in Canada and New York. So Vermont Yankee is about 2% of the New England grid. So there are tones of other power sources out there now. Our utilities would just use different power. The time line is can we do this by 2015? They think it should have never been built. We have to pay for all of this nuclear waist and there is a lot of risk that we the tax payers have to pay for if there is a problem. The federal government said they would take there waist which means tax payers pay for that too. We think that in 2012 it should end.

Bryce Jones Will Vermonters see an increases in energy cost if they are decommissioned?

They will see an increase in energy cost but whether it's Yankee or a different direction. The existing contracts are over in 2012 and so they have to renegotiate the new cost. Using renewables is on par with market prices today. Vermont has a bit lower then the New England average and it will be closer to that in 2012.

Rick Valenta Do you have any statistics about the history of nuclear power in the US and the history of renewable about how many fatalities and illnesses were due to each?

I don't have the statistics right now. Last 2 weeks and today there was a doctor from Germany who talked about health implications related to nuclear energy. And they saw that they had increased cancer across the board.

Jay Thayer- Vice President of Operations for Entergy

Entergy is based in New Orleans and bought Yankee electric. He ran Vermont Yankee form 2002-6 and then went to Washington to advance nuclear power in the USA. He was asked to come back to Vermont to advance Yankee. 53% of the states electricity is generated in state. 1/3 of state electrics it done by Yankee, and the rest by other renewable sources and gas and oil. Some is imported form out of state. Vermonters are concerned about the cost of electricity and were it is coming from, but the climate change discussion has come into focus. Carbon emissions are a major concern so they measured the total carbon emissions form different sources of energy and coal is the worst, solar photovoltaic is the second highest and the energy out is not very great compared to input in. Natural gas is next. Then wind then biomass, forester waist combustion. Then nuclear power which is about same as hydropower. Why is nuclear so low? Because the energy produce is far greater on a kilowatt bases then any other source. The energy coming out of the plant is huge compared to the amount needed to construct the plant. Lower cost electricity from them has been here, but runs out in 2012. What about safety of the

nuclear plant? They want it to run for 20 more years. From a safety perspective it is safe for the next 20 years. The legislation passed said that they want to know if it is reliable and they reviewed it and they found that it was very reliable and probably could be reliable for another 20 years.

Eddy Foster There has been lots of bad press lately, why are we seeing articles about this particular plant but not about other plants?

There was a cooling tower which provides cooling to the water and there was a failure in it and that shouldn't have happened, but they fixed it. The public interest in Yankee is because Vermonters want to know about what's going on in their state. They talk about it all, good and bad. Yankee wants to be transparent with the local news and newspapers. If we didn't tell everyone then someone would hear about it and then they would ask why didn't you tell us about that. So they started talking about it. They have a weekly e-news letter that goes out so that everyone knows exactly what goes on.

Josh Nierman Our generation doesn't remember Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. What's your response to how that will not happen here?

That happened in 1978 on Three Mile Island and that ended the life of that power plant. They took that as a serious event and energy groups banded together and took it up a notch about their understanding of technology and training so that these things don't happen again. Haven't had an event since 1978. We are on the verge of a change in the electricity business and these next technologies are probably 10-15 years away to the transition to the commercial level. Yankee is the bridge to the what's next technology.

Tyler Wilkinson-Ray A bill might be being put in place to require Yankee to put aside money for its decommission. Should you guys decommission what would happen?

The bill is concerned about the emissions. You have to put away money in a trust fund so that at the end they can decommission the power plant. \$650 million and then \$220 million more and then \$40 million more to return it to a green field. They had about \$440 million and now it's about \$360 million and they can't touch it. The economic downturn affects these large trust funds and they don't have the money right now. When they bought the plant Entergy took on the responsibility to do it so the company has the license so they are totally responsible for the total cost. They will make up the difference by interest in a normal market, but they won't be enough so they can wait for ten or 20 years or longer to decommission. They don't have the means to do it in 2012 because they don't have the money because they kept their prices low. One alternative is to keep the plant running and then they will have enough money to decommission it.

Emily Walsh What would extending 20 years do to the upkeep of the facilities, are there major improvements needed?

Every 18 months the plant is shut down and they take apart and replace a lot of components and tune it up. They replace things before they run out. What you see today is a lot of new components and technology upgrades. They spent millions replacing equipment. They have a 20-year plan on what they would have to spend to keep up the plant.

Josh Nierman What about Chernobyl? How would they prevent that from happening again?

There was a major problem with the reactor in Chernobyl. There was a sheet metal building around the reactor and the building released everything into the environment. Those reactors have all been shut down. The reactors are contained in a building that would prevent that from happening again.

Mikayla McDonald How much radioactive waste is produced during one year of operation?

There are two types of waste. Low level radioactive waste, which is like trash and gets shipped off to Utah and they take most of that waste from all over the US. The fuel itself is all still there and takes up an area that is about half the size of this room and it's a pool where the fuel is kept underwater. Some get transferred into dry containers.

Tom Ford-Hutchinson The plant is very old. How does it compare to new facilities?

They measure reliability and capability by how much is it on line vs. could have been online. Yankee ran 93% of the time. It was in the top 20. In the US the average is 89% so they are above that. The age has to do with maintenance plans that are in place. They don't let problems from one facility happen again in another facility

Tyler Van Backer How is Yankee working with local community?

There are 17 towns in the emergency-planning zone. And they work with written plans and set up communication systems that would mobilize in the event of a problem. It is the same system that would be used for a natural disaster so the infrastructure is in place. Quarterly drills are done with the emergency operations center to practice. There is a state organization and they control the state police if they are needed. Since 9/11 they have been making many upgrades to plan for an evacuation of a 10 mile area.

Kate Ash Modifications being made. What's the expected cost of surviving for 20 more years of energy output?

Yankee is a merchant plant so they sell to other utilities. They do that with a longer term contract. They can guarantee a price that will beat other types of energy available outside of Vermont Yankee. They are very competitive with other forms of electricity.

Michael Glynn How many jobs would be lost if Yankee was to be shut down and what would the economic impact be?

650 employers and contractors of all different types of jobs and professions. The economic impact on the region would be \$2 billion in the 20 year period with the plant.

## **EMERGENCY BUSINESS**

Kevin Issadore Finance bill. Bill allocated funds to vantage points. The SGA put is allocation of \$3000 along with the recondition of the finance committee. Vantage point is student and faculty submissions.. So they asked for a faculty only edition and it would show support for the professors.

Requesting \$3000 so we need to vote a faculty only edition of there magazine. \$7000 in donations were received. Shows support for the facility. Available for alumni and programming for a tap class maybe  
VOTE pass

Seth Corthell Sanctioning for Brice Jones. Petitions were due at noon and his was late. In the rules you need to be in by noon so violation of the rules. The sanction would be 3 days without campaign. Jones made a statement that he accepts any punishment that is given to him because he recognizes that he broke the rules.

Vote to not sanction anyone VOTE did not pass they will sanction someone

All in favorer of holding Brice responsible VOTE pass Brice is responsible

In favorer of sanction of 3 days of lack of campaign VOTE did not pass

Second vote for a three day sanction VOTE pass

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Seth Corthell Club wrestling for the club of the fort night

Sanctioning UVM's sailing teem

Bryce Jones resolution supporting adoption of the victim's bill of rights

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Open Government Act

Macdonald a democratically elected body and have the right to vote whereas the SGA senate is modeled in principal and should operate in a similarly transparent matter. And the student body has no data to see who votes on what and that would provide that information to inform voters during SGA elections. More documentation of how each senator votes. Votes would be recorded with names an voting decisions. The results of all votes would available on SGA website to all who want to see it.

Brice Jones We did want to write the exact procedure but it will be that votes are recorded and we have attendance sheets so it's a chairs responsibility to record how there committee members vote.

Jimmy Candon I was opposed to transparency but willing to make a compromise if you add an amendment where 20 years down the road how you voted won't be held against you. So if you add a

clause that a senator will be able to opt out of the transparency at the beginning of their term. It could say next to your name that you opted out. Do you accept the friendly amendment?

Mikayla McDonald  
No

Seth Corthell Comprising. Friendly amendment that when you graduate or resign your votes comes down.

Amendment accepted

VOTE bill passed

#### Constitutional Amendments

Motion to table but problem of informing the public. If we don't have it tonight we have to give 2 weeks notice. 27 amendments up for discussion

No motion to table

Jay we are going to vote to accept all grammar and formatting changes and if that passes then we will go on from there

VOTE approve grammatical changes Passes

Article 7 section 1A VOTE passes

Section 3

Sander section 3 category A can you add advisor letter and membership roster

VOTE pass

Section 4 VOTE pass

Section 5 VOTE pass

Section 7 VOTE pass

Section 9 pass

Article 9 Section 1 VOTE pass

Article 10 Section 2

Ash table this amendment seconded

Tabling amendments to article 10 VOTE pass

Article 11 VOTE pass

Article 12 VOTE pass

Article 13 VOTE pass

Article 6 Section 2

Foster amendment to take out “no loner than 2” just say last for 2 days accepted

VOTE pass

Revote on the last wave of amendments VOTE pass

Steele table to stop the meeting here VOTE no pass

### **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

SPEAKER FRANK: have a meeting next week on town counsel meeting day

PRESIDENT TAYLOR: budget forum 4pm Ira Allen on Thursday

Mayoral debate was great

Budget cuts, ask me questions

Provost step down is returning to the geology department. Trying to find an internal one for now then a later a larger search

VP for development and Alumni relationships step down

VP for research step down

CALS dean search an Rubenstein and Business school and education be done by end of semester and nursing dean

Town meeting day next Tuesday having meeting and mayoral elections and other stuff putting out a meeting about it

VICE-PRESIDENT KENNEDY:

Tomorrow night at 4pm in Jon dewy speaking on a women power and politics panel

During public forum today there was a lot of in and out and that make it longer and is distracting so try not to be in and out

Email if you have questions about the appointment process

2 vacancies on activities and one on finance

Still accepting applications for appointments up until Friday morning

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

FINANCE- SEN. ISSADORE: bake sail march 20th

STUDENT ACTIVITIES- SEN. SANDER:

Next Monday driving vans down town so people can vote

Putting on bake sales to fundraise for awards banquet

Sailing team's sanctions if you have questions email

COLA- SEN. SHACKETT:

Early voting vans sponsored by college Dems

Tim Ash wants to know days of the week that work for them to go to the state house email

CODEEE- SEN. JONES:

A quartet of faculty musicians are putting on a lecture and a demo, jazz

STUDENT ACTION- SEN. WALSH: email

PR- SEN. CORTHELL:

VSOP 301 won

Event at spring fest to raise money for relay

Need panelists for elections

You tube style debates

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS- SEN. S.TAYLOR:

## **SENATORIAL FORUM:**

Megan Benay Be wary of how we spend our time

Michael Glynn to Kennedy, please don't pick a senior for the open slot because of senioritis

Kate Ash Its necessary that everyone tries to attend the forum

## **SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bob Just Monday IRA is putting on bingo with great prizes 7:30 in the maple ballroom

Megan Benay Saturday 10:30 third semiannual babysitting forum

Friday 7:30 grand maple ball room is the BSU fashion show

Jay Next Friday is the night when UNH game is happening and SGA's yellow shirt giveaway is happening so please attend.

**ROLL CALL**

FINANCE: all present

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Jessica McCarthy (excused)

COLA: all present

CODEEE: all present

STUDENT ACTION: Alexander Paul Viadero Lopez (excused)

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Matt Goodman (excused)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: all present

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MEETING ENDS: 11:00**