



TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009  
TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF 2008-2009 SENATE

CALL TO ORDER  
START TIME: 7:08

ROLL CALL  
FINANCE: all present  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Jessica McCarthy (excused)  
COLA: Jimmy Candon (excused)  
CODEEE: Brice Jones (excused) Kae Crowley (excused)  
STUDENT ACTION: all present  
PR: Matt Goodman (excused)  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: all present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: approved

PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Robert Corran, Associate VP/Director of Athletics

Thank you I would like to introduce Jeff Sholman who is also here. I am here to present some information that may answer some questions. There was \$1.1 million difference between projected revue and expenses for next years 6.5% reduction. What does that mean for us in the athletic program? \$1.1million equates to 27 scholarships, 22 staff positions based an average salary, or 30% of department operating budget. There 20 sports programs and that is 46% of their budgets. Just looking at student athletic services and administration and that is 85% of their budget. As we looked at these things there were many things we had to rely on to guide the decision. The first was the department's strategic plan; something they have had in place for about 5 years and it is prominent for the development of the program. Also the NCAA and sports sponsorship requirements. We need to give a certain number of scholarships every year to stay in compliance with the rules. Keeping up with Hockey East competitive standers. Similarly, America East has identified standards to accompany those. If we want to compete in cetin sports we need minim standards. And also title 9 regulations. As we began this we met with our entire staff and asked them to help us. We developed a series of guidelines that we would stand by in

making hour decisions. We must maintain a high quality student athletic experience. Exempt campus recreation from any budget cuts. Second was we must support the academic successes of our student athletes. Also we must maintain opportunity for competitive success. We must maximize revenue generating activities and opportunities. We must be strategic on our decision-making. Cuts should be imposed only where they don't impact significantly on competitive quality. This came from the whole staff. First thing we did was to start looking at how we can manage a \$1.1 million cut through broad based cuts so we came up with scenarios that may get us to \$1.1 million. They were not directed at any particular sport at this time, just aspects of the program. The first was getting rid of 5 scholarships, reduce all budgets by 12%, eliminate 5 FTE positions, and 7 assistant coaching positions to part time. Another scenario was eliminating 10 scholarships, reduce all budgets by 8%, eliminate 5 FTE positions, and 5 assistant coaching positions to PT. Another scenario was to eliminate 15 scholarships, eliminate 5 FTE positions, and 8 assistant coaching positions to PT. What is the impact of these cuts? The quality of the student experience, opportunity for competitive success, and overall quality of the athletic program. And how do broad based cuts align with the strategic plan and commitment to excellence. This type of cut would have series effects on many of the programs putting them below acceptable levels and we would be facing a situation where it would take years to rebound. So we looked at more focused cuts. Eliminate 1 program and some other broad cuts. But title 9 could be affected by cutting one program, so we would have to cut one on the boy's side and one on the girl's side to comply with title 9. So the second scenario was eliminating two programs which looks much more plausible. Now we need to look specify at sports and develop a set of criteria to scrutinize programs with. They came up with a list. Some are data driven and some more subjective. The final decision took several week and many meetings. There was no signal piece of information that drove the decision. We believe that the alternative was worse. We decided to eliminate baseball and softball, close two full time positions in the department, and some reductions in the operating budget. Influencing factors included limited history/tradition of competitive success, significant faculty investment required, weather has major impact on program quality, not revenue producing, limited fundraising, limited cost efficiency, and small roster.

Lopez: Is there any way to touch other sports, why not take all spots to bare minim.

The requirement is that we have 18 full scholarships for hockey and we have 18 full scholarships we can't go any lower. It will lead to a fine and then we would have to give them back in a year. It would cost us more money. That's part of it. There was a perception that if everyone just takes a little cut they can deal with it but, the scope where we could apply cuts was much more narrow then the entire program because there are restrictions of where we can make changes. In terms of fundraising right now we raised between 800 and 900 thousand dollars through private gifts. We need \$1.1 million, to resolve that with fundraising in a bad economy we would have to more than double out existing fundraising efforts. We are hopeful we can maintain the fundraising at the current level given the economic states right now. So that was not an option as much as people would like to think we could, it was not realistic. If we did that it would take an extended period of time and at the end of the day there is no guarantee. All we will have done is stretch out a difficult situation, create more anxiety, and made

a final decision when staff and student athletes will have no ability to find a new school or job. It would not be responsible to do that.

Cafarelli: Could you talk about Lake Monsters using the field as their baseball field and where that money goes?

The Lake Monsters have an agreement with the University. Most of what they pay goes towards regular maintenance of the facilities. The amount of money that goes to the athletic program as a result is about \$30 thousand a year as a result. Not money of real consequence. A majority of the facility arrangement is for them to maintain the field for the summer months.

Benay: I know this a difficult decision on your part. Instead of eliminating two entire teams, what about the rest of the athletic program. Did you at all talk to the other 20 teams and say to them where we can cut a little money from everyone. Lots of little things that add up to a lot. You are discrediting the players on all teams by saying you won't be competitive if you don't have as much money.

The number mentioned the scope of sports we can make cuts to be less than you think, which drives up the percentage. If we address this through budget cuts it would be 46% of that portion of the budget. That is a huge percentage and would mean we could not meet regular league commitments much less the conference games. The thought we could find a way looking at budget based cuts and reach \$1.1 million, but the numbers were not there to get to that level.

Mensah: Are the total operations and fundraising levels lower than the other sports in their category, if not, why were the other sports not looked at to be cut?

Generally with baseball and softball the operating budgets are consistent with or higher than other sports mentioned. But we looked at other things too. Many other factors played into it. Cost and fundraising were consistent with the other sports.

Glynn: Could you talk about being at acceptable levels of competitiveness? I did research and I found that 5 out of 20 teams don't even have a 300 winning average. Women's lacrosse has played at 326. In individual seasons they had much success but the same with softball and baseball teams. We have to disagree, how you can go against that and the voice of the students. Not one student I have talked to said this was a good idea. I beg you to change this decision.

We can take numbers and winning percentages and you can manipulate those as you choose. We looked at that in a different light. 7 years versus 5 is a much different picture. 5 years ago we started to invest in those very programs and since that time those teams are on the winning side of the league and they are getting to the point we are playing ranked teams and beating them. Without dwelling on individual compliments this related to the strategic plan put in place. When we look at the overall winning percentage of the teams it has increased dramatically because of the investment we put into them.

Foster: It seems like it all added up to exactly \$1.1 million, where did that number actually come from? What are other schools that are in similar situations to UVM doing? Are they also cutting out entire

programs or are they doing cuts across the board? If all programs are cutting across the board then wouldn't the level of completeness stay the same when compared to the teams they would be playing.

They didn't all quite add up to exactly \$1.1 million. They were not real things; we were just trying to get a sense of what would get us close to \$1.1 million. We manipulated them to get to that point. The \$1.1 million was found through a strait calculation. We were given a 6.5% cut by the university so \$1.1 million is the direct dollar amount. If everyone did the same thing you would be right, but we don't control what other schools do and that is problematic. We are on different budget cycles and different pressure and endowment sizes and so we don't have that opportunity to coordinate with other programs. There will be other programs making cuts in America east but I don't know exactly what they will be doing. Almost every day a college announces cuts, that a regular occurrence.

#### UVM Baseball and Softball Members

I think for us we can understand the economic crisis, but it is also a nation wide issue that should be suffered as a nation and public university. I know that our coach was approached with the information that programs might be cut. We as a program were willing to take cuts up to 40% and said we could still survive. But only a general cut of 12% was asked of everyone. We are willing to take a bigger cut along with I am sure other programs. It's the responsibility to affect everyone. I think that while you are only affecting 43 members of the program realistically it should affect everyone. When referring to revenue only men's hockey and basketball make money. Our significant travel, we wouldn't have gone to Florida if we had known it was going to be cut. All spots travel. Things could change to address the economic toll that we make. We have a great new coach and we hadn't even played one game before the decision came. We are coming off of a 20-year coach, then a 2-year coach. We defiantly feel we got a good opportunity, we would like the opportunity to play no matter the money or cost to us. I think the main issue is that during the process no alumni were contacted and there has been a huge outcry on their behalf. I think even the fact that the programs might be cut people are more willing to give to save a program. That should have been tried. The other issue is the board of trustees didn't know about the decision until it was announced.

It bothers me that recreational activities were not looked at to get cuts. We came to this school with the intention to play and leave our mark. Bill Currier has been here for 20 years and he got a text to show up for the meeting to find out that baseball and softball were being canceled. We have a petition and in 2 weeks we got more than 2000 people to sign it. I know that people have been tiring to make donations and were told that they couldn't make it to a specific team. I know we can gain the support and the money we need. I know it two teams but its 60 students and its every alumni that ever played or supported one of those two teams.

My biggest issue is the fact that we weren't given the chance to fundraise the money. We found out a couple of days before, we are not allowed to fundraise or even try to save our teams. We should have the chance to save our programs.

Ash: We are pleased to see all of you here tonight. We know many of you came here on scholarship. What support as the athletics program given you?

I am not here because of my scholarship. I could have gone and pled in D3 a lot of places. But UVM offered me what I couldn't get anywhere else. I am here because I want to be here, money was not part of the decision that's not why I am here.

I wouldn't be if it was not for softball. I came here to play. I did not know about the university. I love it now and I know I made the best decision to come here but now a lot of us are faced with are we going to transfer. We don't want to leave but we feel like we are forced to because being an athlete has helped me in so many ways. I am much more successful be I am an athlete.

What are people who are going to be seniors next year going to do? Just not play their senior year? This is something that they have been waiting a long time for and now they are just going to do nothing? Even if they wanted to transfer it will be impossible to find a school that will invest in a student to come and play for them for only a year and then graduate.

When you make a decision to play you make that decision for 4 years. As a freshman playing you don't have the same abilities to play as a senior and now some people will never see that chance that they have been waiting for and have earned.

The only help we were offered was an email that gave us a crisis hot line. They were pressed for time because they had to make the press release so they sent a text message that meant we were being cut.

Cafarelli: I think it sucks what you are going through and that students have to pay for administration mistakes and it doesn't think it is fair. I want to ask the baseball team. Softball said they would take a big percent cut. Have you discussed this as a team?

Absolutely, we didn't need to go to Florida if it would save our team. It's not a necessary.

Benay: What are your plans for next year as a result of these cuts? And the transferring, correct me if I am wrong, if a majority of your team transfers doesn't that mean we are loosing money as an overall institution even though we are trying to obtain a bigger upcoming class?

I am junior so I have one more year so looking at other schools is hard because they wouldn't invest money or a spot for me to come play for them for one year but I am paying in more to go to UVM then to go back home in California. So it is already a financial sacrifice to come here and play

I don't know what I will do yet. If I transited I would go home and still not be able to play but finically it's cheaper to go instate. This is a school I have loved until the last couple of weeks and if I don't know if I can be here and not be an athletic student. I am still trying to decide. It's hard to imagine being here and not playing.

LuAnn Rolly, Co-Chair of Gender Based and Sexual Violence task Force

I wanted to get your support on this resolution on sexual violence victim's bill of rights. The gender bias task force has been in around since august 2007. In the past year they focused on policy and faculty and staff out reach. We have submitted 16 recommendations to Fogal. I am here to get your support for

recommendation. Reads bill. We want the bill to be made public. The other part was we wanted it to be stated that a student who has been assaulted has the right to report the assault if they have consumed underage alcohol without penalty. They are afraid to report it if they have been drinking. We have been trying to get this to be stated publicly.

Whitmore: I support this but my question is students coming forward when consuming alcohol. How would you proceed if perhaps both students have conceptual sex at the time, but then the women said now after the fact that she didn't want to. So she claims that it was not conceptual anymore. What would happen if this happened but both had been drinking? Where would the blame be placed?

I can't tell you how it will be handled because they have a protocol. But regarding consent, if you have consumed alcohol that means you can't give consent so that automatically makes it assault. If both have been drinking and begin making out and at some point during that one of the people says no I don't want to then that means they are not consenting. That's why we do lots of education about what means to give consent.

Follow up: The question is if people are under the influence of alcohol it becomes assault on behalf of whom is my question. If both individuals are under the influence I see that it might be pinned on the male.

We want the focus to be on the behavior of the perpetrator. Or we won't get to the deeper issues of why this is happening. Every scenario is different every experience is different and I can tell you I work at the women's center. Our victim's advocates have seen 41 new clients since September of 2008. When people come forward to talk about or report it is not easy and not done lightly. We will ask people to think about their last sexual experience and write it down and then we say would you be willing to share that experience and most say no. So imagine having to tell the police your story talk to a counselor and to have to go to the hospital and tell your story over and over again. It is not something that people just do when they changed their mind about a hookup.

Georgia Kennedy

They asked me to help switch the SGA website into the UVM template. This is a rough draft. We want your input. We tried to keep most of the same links but we condensed them into sub unit items. We have a link for an overview of the SGA and some information. Then next section is announcements I thought it would be nice to use twitter which means that you can update it without using html coding. I can show you right now what that would look like. Once you log in type in this box and you update and then as soon as you refresh the new message will appear. It happens in real time. We added direct links to link and club sports and graduate senate. There is a new section where you can meet your senators. Every senator and their role in the SGA and you can click on their name and you see a picture and some information about them. And you can see their voting record directly. You can search by senator or by resolution name. Also you can email your senators directly from a list. Minutes will also be up but it's not done yet but it will look a lot like the bills and resolutions so you see the name and date the committee the sponsor whether it passed and whether the voting was recorded or not. You can share your concerns, it ticks me off you can fill it out right on the web page.

Walsh: My committee will be doing something and we hope to upload it onto you tube. I was wondering if we should set up an account as SGA senate or if there was a specific place for it on the webpage.

I think the easiest thing to do is set up an account yourself and then embed the video into the webpage.

Just: On the page where you can see voting records of each person. Can you click a link on the page and see the bill right there?

Unfortunately not.

#### EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Corthell: To approve VSI for club of the fortnight. We got a recommendation from Drew that they have been doing a lot so we decide to make them the club. The bill is read.

Vote on VSI of club of the fort night passed

Issadore: Funding to the freestyle ski team national competition. They should be allocating \$4,000 to do it. They had 9 members qualify for the biggest competition of the year. They have been incredibly successful in the past and we want to give them the money to do so again.

Lopez call to question yes

Voted Pass

Almost the same bill but for the snowboard team and for \$5,500 because they have a few more members quality for nationals.

Just: Where are nationals?

Copper Mountain in Colorado.

Funding for 12 but more will qualify

Whitmore: Is that money we have that won't be taken away from anything else.

No it's not, we started with a certain amount of money in our funds but we have reserves for when we need to replenish the fund. The money is there, I am not taking money away from another group. Not funding outside our means.

Wilkinson-Ray: What would we be paying for?

We would give \$900 maximum on the flight. \$100 a night for a hotel room with 4 people per room and 75% of the registration fee and one van rental.

Van Backer: call to question

VOTED passed

Shackett: Resolution against H197 regulating flavored alcoholic beverages. Met with Kesha to discuss this. Read bill. Regulation of sales/taxation for flavored malt beverages. They want to take these alcoholic pops out of stores and place them only in liquor stores only. That means that they are run by a state in Vermont so all the revenue goes to the state. It will take profits away from mom and pop stores.

Taylor: I think that malt beverage is adequate to make sure people fully understand.

I accept and will change the wording.

Just: Why is this bill being brought up? What is the reasoning as to why this is coming up? Is the issue selling to underage kids?

It a moment by a bunch of state legislatress. Started with things like Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Whitmore: Point of information I know in California the issue with it is the labeling the mom and pos stores don't know it contains alcohol so they are selling it to underage kids.

Isadore call to question

VOETED passed

NEW BUSINESS

Foster resolution supporting house 178 and senate 125 for marriage equality in state of Vermont.

Sander: derecognizing Unitarian Universalists

OLD BUSINESS

Club of the Fortnight: Vermont Students for Israel

Thank you, I am Josh Neirman I am the program chair for VSI. We were founded three years ago then we changed the name. We are an organization that has events related to any aspect of Israel political cultural religious all sorts of things to educate people about Israel. We have six events coming up. 2 on Sunday and Monday, we have an environmental movie and then a documentary about Israeli perspective on time. Our 4 other events, one called think green think blue, a campaign we started. We have 3 other events at the end of April. We will be showing a film based off a book also and event on a speaker about Ethiopian Jews in Israel. And on the last day of classes a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

Resolution in Support of the UVM Varsity Baseball and Softball teams

Shackett: Read legislation. We say don't cut these programs. Everyone we talked to says they don't want it. We are worrying about the student experience not budget and that's our job.

Foster: We owe it to our fellow students but regardless of weather or not we are successful in getting this decision revoked they should at bare minim be given the opportunity to raise the money to save there own programs. We owe it to them to show our support for them tonight.

VOTE passed

Resolution in Supporting the Adoption of Victims Bill of rights

Wong: read resolution

Corthell: Friendly amendment to reporting assault to reporting an incident

Wong: friendly amendment accepted

Glynne: I am in full support of this but I have a few questions. Where is this going if it passes?

We would like this to be a specific recommendation when it gets to Dan's desk we would like to have SGA's support. We thought having the backing of SGA would make it much stronger.

Glynne: If this is going to Fogal how will this be enforced?

It's not a policy and not a protocol there is no enforcement. It is to raise awareness to the student body

Benay call to question

VOTE passes

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SPEAKER FRANK:

Voter transparency, we voted and it passed, so I expect 5 reports from each committee head. Committee meeting this Sunday, I want to talk to my committee after the meeting to decide on a time.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR:

I typed up everything I have and I have taken all topics given to me for UVMers guyed to UVM. And what I have here and will email out is all the topics and then the sample information. If there is a topic if you have information on and you want to submit it send it to me.

Glynne: I just wanted to mention the president has three days to veto the first vote we took on the baseball and softball teams.

Cutting one team allows other teams to continue doing what they are already doing. I have a lot of thinking to do.

Ford-Hutchinson: Can we make it more like a Wiki article?

There are certain topics that we don't want to have our name on so no; someone needs to be regulating what is being said.

Lopez: Do you know if there was any communication between the administration and the team and the players. Or was the only communication being told that they were being cut.

There were a whole bunch of people who worked on the decision. The strategic principals were developed by the whole athletic staff. They created standards and stuck to them. But did they include the teams in the decision, no.

Glynne: Point of information. When it was said they only had a cretin hot line, they are also honoring their scholarships and giving them financial help especially the ones who can't go play other places easily they are helping them find a new university to play at.

Shacket: Point of order. As pertaining to the resolution on baseball and softball. If I wanted to can I make a motion to vote to override the veto prematurely??

Yes

VICE-PRESIDENT KENNEDY:

As of April 14<sup>th</sup> my sister will not be associated with the website anymore so we are trying to get the structural stuff done now. Awards for the year. Student government diversity award for any senator. Edward J. Gormley award presented to a senior senator. Service award for any senator. Also passing blank paper to write down superlatives.

Just: Is the speaker also a senator?

Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE- SEN. Benay:

I will email out my report if everyone reads it and responds.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES- SEN. SANDER:

Come to Rasputin's. Tomorrow we are having a bake sale to raise money for the awards banquet.

COLA- SEN. SHACKETT:

In the list serve I sent over spring break I talked about city counsel meeting we attended. It was very interesting talking and the voted on forcing student housing up to 75% on campus. We advocated against that. Thank Glynne who made two great speeches in defense of students. We want a choice as juniors. They did override that and there was an amendment that changed it. We have an understanding to work towards making it 75% but there is no set date that this has to be done by. A

letter from Burlington police department chef told students about the spring and warm weather and the party seen in Burlington. There will be foot patrol happening soon.

CODEEE- SEN. JONES:

Thanks for passing the victims bill of rights. Me, Ash, and Garcia have been working a lot on a presentation we will present next Tuesday.

STUDENT ACTION- SEN. WALSH:

Tomorrow we are going to start filming our public serves announcements. They will be on composting, blue lights, and dorm safety referring to tailgating, how to catch a buss on time, and what its like to run for sga / the election process.

Ash: I was approached by representative Kasha to start working and conducting research on a bill for the house having to do with securing freedom of expression for students and free speech in Vermont schools in the local area. How that would affect the college community and uvm specifically. I am not exactly sure what direction I will take this in. Please let me know if you have anything that can help me with this.

PR- SEN. CORTHELL:

Election debates are Thursday at 8pm John Dewy Hall. And pick up your packets if you want to run for senate.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS- SEN. S.TAYLOR:

This coming Monday night the 23 in the Frank Levace side of the ball we will have three presenters in a lecture series. First to present are form the field of psychology. I will present at 8 on nutrition and cognitive neuroscience, I will have some valid information and good recommendations.

Van Backer: who are the other presenters?

Arnold Coack and Paula Yong. She is a physiologist from the state of Vermont

SENATORIAL FORUM

Mensah: The baseball and softball issue about that I didn't really vote, I obtain because I feel as if them coming here and speaking to us was a whole show. I trust the administration to some point. If they did the best possible thing by just cutting 2 teams which would not hurt the complete nature of any other teams. He told me that for the whole school year the softball team only fundraised \$210 and you think they can fundraise \$1.1 million for next year. I don't think that is possible.

Foster: I wouldn't have brought this up if it wasn't so urgent. The senate and house will be voting on legalizing gay marriage in Vermont. September 1 2009 will be the date of the first gay marriage so it is really about to happen. We need to make sure we have the student voice there to pressure them to vote the right way. If you want cosponsors please let me know.

Glynne: I respectfully disagree with kofi. You speak of the \$210 they fundraised. They have a new coach and when she was hired it was with the intent to rebuild the program. We don't have to take it from the administration. The students want them and it seems we voted in accordance with what the students want.

Frank: Shacket would make a motion of all in favor of the bill if it was overrode by 2/3 then it would be overrode if he vetoed it

Glynne: motion for an override of baseball and softball team

VOTE if Jay decides to veto this bill we override the veto did not pass

Lopez: every one wants this to be passed. As we are supporting the whole student body. We are supporting two teams to be reconsidered to not be cut.

Corthell: point of info he hasn't vetoed on it yet so chill

SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jay Taylor: Nobody thinks that a failing economy is a good idea. And there are decisions that have to be made but we are in a tough situation and if we don't give from this angel we will have to give from another

Cafarelli: boo on getting rid of town meeting day.

ROLL CALL:

FINANCE: Issadore (excused)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Sander (excused) Chevrier (excused) McCarthy (excused)

COLA: Candon (excused)

CODEEEE: Crowley (excused)

STUDENT ACTION: all present

PR: Goodman (excused)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: all present

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ENDS: 9:40