

**Meeting Minutes:
Meeting of the 2008-2009 Student Government Association Senate
Tuesday, October 7, 2008**

Called to Order at: 7:12pm

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Senator Cafarelli excused
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: Senators Barnett, Van Backer, Shackett excused
- CODEEEE: Senator Just excused
- Student Action: all present
- Public Relations: all present
- Academic Affairs: Senator Robertson excused

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes PASS.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Frank – tonight we have with us 3 candidates running for the Governor of Vermont.
- Anthony Polina, Democratic Party – I have a sense as to who I am. I am the founder and for a while was the director of Rural Vermont which advocates for farmers. I was an executive director for VPER, and became a policy advisor, working on issues of healthcare, environmental health issues, among other things. I was a senior policy advisor for Senator Bernie Sanders and advised him on issues of agriculture, free trade, GATT, etc. I have done a lot of work in Vermont as an organizer to make sure that others have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. I've worked with farmers on taxes to prevent them from going into crisis because they feel no one in Montpelier listens to them. As an organizer, I've made sure people do their part. I want to move away from a governor that tells us what we can't do and instead be the one to solve problems and discuss what we can do. First, I want to declare our independence from industrialized food products. Second, I want Vermont owned and controlled energy.
- Sam Young, Independent Party – I work as a justice of the peace in Glover and appointed to the selectmen committee in Glover. I am a UVM graduate and was a member of the Lawrence Debate Union. I work as a web developer and I want to look at what media has done and see what online networks can do for the political system. Vermont has the lowest voter turnout for 18-29 year olds and I want to change that and create a movement to connect people. Currently the needs of common people aren't being served. I decided to start my campaign for governor while I was at a Google conference because it doesn't take money to get attention and although the democratic and republican candidates have raised half a million, my name comes up first when you enter Vermont governor into Google. I want to connect people across party lines. I am the partner in a company that manages 60 websites for local and national businesses as a web developer. It's nice that you're

open to an independent candidate. \$3 million was cut for grants to students which were approved by both the democratic and republican candidates.

- Peter Diamondstone, Liberty Union Party – I am one of the founders of the Liberty Union of Vermont Party which started as an anti-war party and has escalated through the years. War is a tool of policy of capitalism which can't oppress violence without oppressing people. Our colors are white for the proposed use of violence, black for anarchism and the belief that people can lead their own lives, green because no one is as concerned about the environment as we are, and red/ bright pink because we allow and encourage private enterprise

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

- Appoint Amanda Wong to Senate
 - Wong – I am a junior in the Rubenstein School, I'm on the executive board of the Asian American Student Union, on the Next Step and TIC planning committees, and I have a passion for social justice and equality and want all students to be heard because not all feel they are.
 - Mallea – I find it hard to commit time to Senate because I am so busy like you, so how much would you give to Senate?
 - Wong – I've thought about it a lot and I'd move a lot of those things aside for Senate.
 - Glynne – what's one thing you'd like to bring change to?
 - Wong – representation in Senate so that all voices are heard, since lots of students feel marginalized.
 - Sander – what do you mean on your application by there being cultural boundaries?
 - Wong – the AASU encountered it with SGA when it came to funding, because a lot of opportunities presented aren't well accomplished.
 - Ford-Hutchinson – what issues would you bring forth to Senate?
 - Wong – one would be dealing with how students of color and members of the LGBTQ community are heard, seen, and treated on campus. Your job is to represent students and we make them feel a part of the community but that doesn't happen, so I would work on diversity issues.
 - Dru Ellis – could you touch on some of the groups you're referring to that don't feel included?
 - Wong – they're not comfortable being pointed to.
 - Dru Ellis – I can understand that but if appointed would you bring forth and represent those groups?
 - Wong – in no way do I want to cater to a certain population of students but me telling you what issues are important is different.
 - Varsakopolous – do you have ideas of how to get rid of the cultural barrier in this group?
 - Wong – there isn't a simple answer and it's a long process to figure why we're not doing that already.
 - PASSES

NEW BUSINESS

- S.Taylor – Resolution Supporting Online Course Evaluations and Resolution for more Comprehensive Course Information

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Treasurer Porter
 - Blanka and I started a new system for the allocations process where I look at allocations before they're made and the first allocation is coming from the student professional development fund that I will send to you and you can send me feedback.
- Speaker Frank
 - Welcome Senator Amanda Wong.
 - Constitution committee is meeting on Sunday, let's meet briefly after this.
 - VLopez – can others join the constitution committee too?
 - Yes.
- President Taylor
 - I have samples of t-shirts to give out at the hockey games so put your comments on them
- Vice President Miller
 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance, Chair: Senator Issadore
 - n/a
- Student Activities, Chair: Senator Sander
 - n/a
- COLA, Chair: Senator Shackett
 - I am meeting with Clearance Davis to talk about state relations and anyone can come so give me opinions
 - Community coalition Friday from 2-4pm
 - Jay and I have our quarterly meeting with Burlington Electric
 - I went to City Council meeting last night
 - I attended the Ward I neighborhood planning assembly
 - I was asked to find someone on campus to help with the design process of a new Frisbee court by the end of the week, working with Burlington Parks and Recreation
 - I was asked by the Chief of Police to serve on the Vermont Police Department advisory council, so I'll be the UVM voice for that
 - Michel – the alcohol and other drugs sub-committee of the President Committee on Social Change needs another student representative
 - Robertson – a lot of other schools have registered voting places right on campus, has there been any discussion of that?

- You need a justice of the peace present to run one and it's a great idea but there has been no discussion and it's not feasible within the next few weeks
- CODEEE, Chair: Senator Kennedy
 - Welcome Amanda
 - Working with IRA on gender blend housing
 - Implementing a safe walk/ ride home program
 - The ARC published a memorandum and there has been a lot of activity on campus and literature distributed
 - We're possibly writing a bill co-sponsored by the faculty senate on a preferred name and pronoun initiative
- Student Action, Chair: Senator Abda
 - Dru Ellis – we're working with CODEEE and COLA to bring a SADD program to campus along with providing rides
 - Wilkinson-Ray – the meal plan looks good, our next focus is on the late night option
 - We had a meeting with TPS on their bus routes and they're starting a campaign to focus on numbers and leave on the 3's because it'll be easier for people to remember and will hopefully make it easier
 - We have a new copy of the blue light map so we know where to focus
 - Congratulations to Ana on the homecoming parade
 - Ford-Hutchinson – the chemistry department is underfunded, so we're researching that
- Public Relations, Chair: Senator Krodel
 - Another round of applause for Ana and the homecoming parade
 - We're changing the display cases for October, let me know if you have any ideas
 - We have a table in the Fireplace Lounge at the Open House on October 12th
 - We'll be doing a press release of what occurred during executive session tonight, it'll just be a brief statement
- Academic Affairs, Chair: Senator Taylor
 - We have 2 resolutions next week and you'll have sufficient information before they're voted on
 - With the online course evaluations, we're just supporting a process that is already in place
 - The other resolution deals with when registering for classes we should know information like textbooks, the flow of material, etc.

SENATORIAL FORUM

- Glynne – based on what Senator Wong said during her presentation, how can we represent a community or body of students if we don't know about them?
- Goodman – can I have a clarification on how to share a point of information?
- Frank – I am requesting that you don't interrupt the person speaking, just stand and I'll recognize you rather than putting you on the speaking order.

- S.Taylor – in terms of me serving as the interim Vice President, by the constitute on it's the chair of the Academic Affairs committee that serves as the interim VP but it's not my intention to take over the position. But I will do my best to assist and make sure I fulfill my functions to the best of my ability.
- Taylor – no appointments next week, but shortly.
- Corthell – can we send you suggestions?
- Taylor – yes.

SENATORIAL COMMENTS

- Frank – pick up after yourself and the constitution committee, please meet after.
- Glynne – UVM football won, as did the Red Sox win.
- Benay – the Babysitter mingler is on Saturday.
- Mensah – last weekend the BSU held a Soul Food Social which about 2-300 people came to. As an RA in UHeights South, I have to put on complex wide programs
- Robertson – I met with Annie Stevens about the naked bike ride and they Campus Master Planning Advisory Committee they talked about another athletic facility and a new Center for Health and Wellbeing
- Sander – this Thursday at 7pm in Lafayette, the Council for Unity will be shwing a movie on the LGBTQA community in Nazi Germany
- Corthell – bike-a-thon on Thursday at 1 for ALS research
- Kennedy – this is national coming out week so Wednesday at noon outside the atrium will be giving out free t-shirts
- Wong – the shirts are red and say the power of visibility. Also, next step social justice retreat applications are out and due at the end of the month
- Taylor – UVM hockey won its first game and I'll send suggestions to athletics because no one liked the designs. Also, e-mail me if you have any questions about what's going on.
- Dru Ellis – thanks for helping with the parade!
- Goodman – bracelets are available for \$1 and all proceeds go to ALS research

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Senator Issadore excused
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: all present
- CODEEEE: Senator Just excused
- Student Action: all present
- Public Relations: all present
- Academic Affairs: all present

Adjourned at: 9:54pm