

**Meeting Minutes:
Meeting of the 2008-2009 Student Government Association Senate
Tuesday, October 28th 2008**

Called to Order at: 7:09pm

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Senator Varsakopoulos excused
- Student Activities: all present
- COLA: Senator Van Backer, Senator Shackett excused
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: Senator V Lopez excused, Dru Ellis excused
- Public Relations: all present
- Academic Affairs: Senator Robertson excused, Senator Myers excused

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes PASS.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Alicia Taylor, Office of Student and Community Relations
 - Taylor – this is a 2 year program and we're here because of SGA passing legislation for more support and services to off-campus students. We value that partnership and we're here not to ask for support on programs. We have our Halloween Have A Heart and will be focusing on personal safety, how to be safe, and being concise of the impact you have after Halloween. So we'll be doing a neighborhood clean-up on Sunday from noon until 2. Sign up if you're interested. We also have the off campus living workshops for students to ask questions to student panelists, police officers, code enforcement office representatives, city councilors, and tenants. Participants get a preferred tenants card for attending. We also have out Student-Neighbor liaison program in which students get to know their neighbors, hear issues, and work on community development programs, and this program is funded through a grant.
- Erica Spiegel, Physical Plant's Composting/ Recycling Program
 - Spiegel – we only recycle about 36% of our waste. That sounds good but other schools do much more. We do waste sorts and we're doing one this Thursday for the Davis Center so please come between 11am and 2pm. We've had a challenge with composting over the last year. The interval compost will likely close in 18 months so we're working with the Solid Waste Department on a solution because without that program we cannot compost. We've sent test loads to another facility but they say our waste is too contaminated, so we are asking students to help. We're working with the Eco-Reps who staff the waste receptacles to guide people. Dining Services already purchases expensive utensils and that drives up the cost for you all. I brought stickers for you all to take promoting using your own

water bottles. We're working on the policy of it and trying to ban bottled water. If anyone wants to take this issue on with us, let me know, because catering on campus using all bottled water, but students from VSAP have already been working on this. There is also a possible ban in Burlington on plastic bags.

- Mensah – have you worked with facilities on campus to give discounts to those that use their own bags?
- Spiegel – we could start with the bookstore because they force you to take bags but I don't know how many other locations on campus use bags. But I do know most conventional grocery stores do give customers a discount for using their own bags.
- Wilkinson-Ray – have you thought of a spot on campus to compost?
- Spiegel – at the state level there has been a big debate over permitting issues so we are discussing it with the university farm and horticulture center.
- Weiland – what schools have more than us?
- Spiegel – Harvard claims 50%, University of Maryland claims 46%, and both are in urban areas, but it's hard to measure and there are certainly more that do less.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

- Krodel – Club of the Fortnight
 - Alianza Latina for an exemplary event!
- Sander – Appointment of new Senators
 - Claire Chevrier – I'm a sophomore, grew up in South Florida and vowed to go to college far away and I liked the idea of being a part of a campus that cares and an organization that affects the entire campus.
 - Jessica McCarthy – I'm a junior, Biology major, grew up in Vermont. I want to be on SGA to be more involved and know what's going on.
 - Glynne – what makes you a good candidate?
 - Jessica – I want this and would do a good job. I talked to Chair Sander about what I'd be doing and I'm excited just thinking about it.
 - Claire – I served as the Vice President for Community Development for the first-year Class Council and I did a lot with that and everything they do is to benefit and unify the entire class and is more specific so I want to do something more broad. I was the chief fundraiser my junior year in high school and raised over \$30K for Hurricane Katrina relief which was more than any other high school in the state of Florida. I think people work well when they're happy so I'd like to be on the Student Activities committee to provide students with a positive environment.
 - Mensah – have you heard of any issues from students that have been brought up or are pertinent to the student body?
 - Jessica – the article I read in the cynic today and that UVM raises tuition 6-8% every year so I'd want to figure out why that is and seeing where that money goes. Since moving off campus I've been concerned about safety because on campus there is the blue light system and stuff.

- Claire – at the beginning of the year I would have said Cook Commons being open on weekends but that has since changed. Now I'd say changing the meal plan because people are upset with it.
- Whitmore – one goal if appointed that you hope to accomplish?
- Claire – I feel that people would come to me and I could voice their concerns because people have come to me already so I think I could voice them in a way that something could be done about it.
- Jessica – being approachable and listening to everyone.
- Cafferelli – can you touch upon your current commitments?
- Jessica – I'm a student ambassador, Tri Beta Secretary which is a Biology Honors Society, and I work part time.
- Claire – I am on class council still but not on executive board, on the peer judicial board, president of my hall council, and I do broomball.
- Glynne – what type of student leader are you?
- Jessica – approachable one that gets things done.
- Claire – I believe in the power of smiling and am a leader that'll always with do things with a smile because other people will do better. If you are into it and excited and enthusiastic, you'll inspire others.
- Krodel – what's your favorite color?
- Jessica – turquoise.
- Claire – purple.
- OATH OF OFFICE for Claire and Jessica.4ed

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Frank – Constitutional Amendments (see amendments)
 - Frank – the Constitution Committee met and worked on the first 2 articles so we'll start by looking at article 1, sections 1 and 2.
 - Whitmore – why SGA changed to student body?
 - Frank – because all of the student body is SGA so that is how we will refer to it.
 - Issadore – why is the student activities fee changed to SGA fee?
 - Frank – Pat Brown brought that up to me and that is what the fee is actually called now, it just wasn't changed in the constitution.
 - PASSES
 - Frank – article 2, sections 1 and 2
 - S.Taylor – why strike K?
 - Frank – some do and some don't and since there is no contract we cannot hold them responsible for their obligations.
 - Ford-Hutchinson – then why don't we change K to constitutional obligations?
 - Frank – sure.
 - PASSES
 - Frank – article 2, section 3

- Glynne – change contractual to constitutional.
 - Rifken – who defines if they're fulfilling their constitutional obligations?
 - Frank – that can really only be enforced through bi-laws but we never did that, but the jobs have become more defined but there is currently no process, and we're not done with the constitution so we can do that later when we come to bi-laws.
 - PASSES
 - Frank – article 2, section 4
 - Ford-Hutchinson – add pending fulfillment of constitutional obligations.
 - Glynne – change deem unable to complete their duties to not doing good.
 - Just – can we add a document to the position if there is a stipend involved?
 - Frank – not in this section but we should put some type of protocol in the constitution but this is specific to the speaker so it wouldn't go in this section but maybe in another article or in the bi-laws.
 - Issadore – resign their duties isn't grammatically correct, nor is it correct to say his or her, so change it to resign the duties of the speaker.
 - PASSES
 - Frank – article 2, section 5
 - Glynne – why change from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$?
 - Frank – Pat Brown actually brought this up to me and it is the only time in the constitution that takes $\frac{3}{4}$ to remove a chair and everything else including amending the constitution takes $\frac{2}{3}$ so just for the sake of consistency.
 - PASSES
 - Frank – article 2, section 6
 - Wong – why strike Ic?
 - Frank – because it turns out it wasn't just the VP's responsibility to fulfill appointments, it was the responsibility of the entire executive board, but we changed it to make it a responsibility of the VP now.
 - PASSES
- Michel – Resolution to bring the Burlington Free Press back to campus
 - Michel – IRA discontinued the BFP as a part of the USA Today Readership Program which is available in 5 residential halls. The BFP is a balanced, local, compelling newspaper with local, state, national and international news coverage. They offer a 50% student discount directly to the university, making it cheaper than 2 of the other 3 papers in the program. We do call on the cooperation of IRA and the Honors College. We also want the Readership Program to include the Davis Center and more res halls.
 - Just – I believe it'd only be cheaper than 1 out of 3 of the papers.

- Michel – The Boston Globe is 20 cents, USA Today is 32 cents, The New York Times is 42 cents, and the BFP is 37 cents so yeah I guess you're right.
- Whitmore – those 3 newspapers are the highest in the country, so is the motivation to bring back local news?
- Michel – exactly.
- Candon – we're missing a lot of big stories and ones that are important to the university community that are covered in the BFP and not in the others.
- Just – can we say just to include additional places on campus and not just those 2 specific places?
- Michel – sure.
- Ford-Hutchinson – I would strike eventual to say further resolved.
- Michel – accepted.
- PASSES
- Michel – Freedom of Information Act
 - Michel – there is currently no central database about student leadership positions and their compensations but there is a resource for faculty and staff and really all the information is public. It would hold more accountability and decrease skepticism and ambiguity and increase transparency. It would include the current position holder, their contact information, and outline their responsibilities. Prominent leadership positions are those that students receive money for. This website would target the SGA exec board, top people from the Cynic, WRUV, UVM TV, IRA, RAs, and I'm still collecting information about who receives what but the information is already public and accessible.
 - Mensah – are you saying there is no medium to find out how they're being compensated?
 - Michel – there's a difference between RA, and Advocat, and the SGA President for example, due to how you get the position. The SGA President for example probably doesn't do the job for the stipend while other positions are marketed as being paid.
 - Mensah – will you decided which leadership positions are prominent and which are not because I think there are ways to find this information out if you wanted to know.
 - Michel – yes, there are ways to find out. This database is important to identify who holds these positions and I don't think we should identify those who hold work study jobs for example.
 - Krodel – can we change the title to Disclosure of Student Compensation Act and add pending student refusal to post e-mail address?
 - Michel – I can change the title but I don't accept your friendly amendment because their e-mail addresses are available on the directory anyways.
 - Ford-Hutchinson – who would be responsible for doing the grunt work and keeping this updated?
 - Michel – I would.
 - Sander – who determines what is prominent?

- Michel – if people would like to determine what is prominent or not we can.
- Sander – what criteria would you use to consider if it's prominent?
- Michel – some leadership positions don't need to be disclosed under this act.
- Issadore – so who would maintain this list?
- Michel – the responsibilities and stipends don't change much, just the just of the people so our committee has agreed to take that on.
- Just – I think it's subjective to say that's why people go for certain positions and it shouldn't just be prominent but should include all positions and their compensation.
- Tofferri – there are 130 RA's so to have them all on there when the information is the same doesn't make sense.
- Weiland – what's the benefit of passing this? Was there any interest expressed by students?
- Michel – it occurred to me when I overheard a discussion of what our chairs make when people have no idea what they do. As well as a lot of other organizations.
- Weiland – would this be a way for students to get paid for jobs that they currently don't?
- Michel – it isn't intended but it would allow for change.
- Candon – President of UVM Rescue and the Manager of WRUV for example receive no compensation so we could use this to help them.
- Jones – I think prominent was used not to imply certain positions are more important on campus.
- Valenta – if people are interested they could always change it.
- Michel – it wouldn't be a big deal to make changes.
- Mensah – there seems to be an agenda behind it because people can look and find out what does and doesn't get paid. It's easy to find out the compensation and responsibilities. What you're trying to consolidate is already available on campus.
- Michel – I have nothing to gain, I've just heard a lot of concerns and it is precisely the point to consolidate what is already available and have it written down somewhere.
- PASSES

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Treasurer Porter
 - n/a
- Speaker Frank
 - Frank –
 - Thanks for making it through Constitutional Amendments.
 - For the bills and resolutions passed last week I need signatures as well as a list of who needs to see them.

- I'll be e-mailing the minutes over the list-serve for now on so you don't have to search for them.
 - President Taylor
 - Taylor –
 - I'm sending a campus wide e-mail asking students to behave over Halloween and I'll pass that around for you to read it and it'll also include a picture from a little girl from Meet Your Neighbor Day.
 - I'm passing out hockey tickets and at this game we'll have t-shirts.
 - Apply for the BOT Liaison Committee if you have at least 2 years left. Applications are available in the SGA office and on the lynx, including a list of 3 mandatory information sessions in the Chittenden Bank Room starting November 6th @ 6pm.
 - I want to put together a permanent and standing committee for the lynx so that we can represent different parts that we use the lynx for so I am finishing drafting that policy.
 - The student success and satisfaction sub-committee of the Strategic Enrollment Council is concerned with the student experience at UVM, looking especially at the first-year experience. We also talked about international and immigrant students as being identified as particularly at risk for not being able to graduate on time because they don't get the support they need. We're also looking at peer student programs, so juniors would have a first-year buddy.
 - When course evaluations come up, it could save colleges 2% of work time if it is done online as it saves paper work.
 - The Technology Innovation Fund met, which Kofi is now on, and the survey was being sent out today.
 - SGA is the sole governing body and shouldn't tell other organizations what to do. Res Life and SGA need to work out the conflicts of interest that exist. Pat Brown and I will be resolving current and future conflicts.
 - Vice President Kennedy
 - Kennedy –
 - We finally have a full senate, so no more appointments.
 - I am working on the strategic plan on diversity and I'm looking for ideas so let me know.
 - Next time we do the constitutional amendments we'll figure out how to do it better.
 - I met with the President of the Faculty Senate about a joint resolution that we could draft legislation together for.
 - Jay had the idea of passing around a list about what you're apart of outside SGA and what other interests you have.
 - I'm not okay with Juicy Campus during senate. I'm close to saying no laptops during meetings but I understand sometime you use them for SGA related work.
 - I still need 2 more people for the TPS Board of Appeals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance, Chair: Senator Issadore
 - Issadore – email report.
- Student Activities, Chair: Senator Sander
 - Sander – email report.
- COLA, Chair: Senator Shackett
 - Michel – Chris is at the Police Department meeting but wanted me to remind you to sign up for the off-campus living workshops, voter registration is over tomorrow, VSOP is ready to go, please email me more Party Smart pictures, we're stuffing envelopes to go out for the Tenants Fair, and be safe on Halloween and come to Have A Heart this Thursday in the dining halls at 7.
 - Barnett – we need more van drivers for voting day, so I'll pass a sheet around and let me know if you can help out.
- CODEEE, Chair: Senator Jones
 - Jones –
 - I hope you all listened to Erica Spiegel and I want to re-emphasize some of her points.
 - The rally on Friday was awesome.
 - Dave is going to be following up on our voter transparency initiative.
 - I'll email the rest of my report.
- Student Action, Chair: Senator Abda
 - Ford-Hutchinson –
 - Rick is happy to be working on SADD.
 - Naked Bike Ride meeting is tomorrow.
 - Lauren is interested in taking up the water resources on campus issue.
 - We're drafting the meal plan resolution and have finished a rough draft and Annie Stevens will be in to speak next week.
- Public Relations, Chair: Senator Krodel
 - Krodel – email report.
- Academic Affairs, Chair: Senator Taylor
 - S.Taylor – I'll email my report but our committee will be hosting a fall version of the academic excellence lecture series to hear presentations on sustaining high levels of academic performance during exam periods.

SENATORIAL FORUM

- VanBacker – it started snowing today.
- Candon – I want to address comments made last week. My intent wasn't to judge that the increase in the exec board compensation of IRA was not just, but that it should be questioned. Statements made during my meeting made me feel threatened and my character was questioned by people in res life. As a senator and an RA I want to make my feelings clear. I'd like to explain the grey areas and clear up any rumors.

- Barnett – the election is next week, I'm Kesha's campaign manager and would love more volunteers. The last day to register is tomorrow at 4:30.
- Sander – I want to applaud Julia for bringing forth good legislation that is often controversial, but important.
- Glynne – I'm dressed as John McCain tonight, not President Bush. Why I chose Sarah as my running mate was because she's good looking, is a gun totting Alaskan member of the NRA, may appear to not be intelligent, but look past her flaws and vote me in as your next president.
- Just – on the resolution passed tonight, the idea is great but I feel it shouldn't be a piece of legislation because we aren't asking UVM to take it on. It makes me sad that we just wanted to vote on it to get it over with and it's too bad we're not willing to discuss and put the time into legislation.
- Wong – next step applications are due Friday and the TIC conference is on Saturday November 8th.
- Jones – this isn't an attack but there were comments made last week about highlighting the positives of SGA. And in the constitution it says that PR should search for and convey the positives and negative information. So we shouldn't be coming to you with those things.

SENATORIAL COMMENTS

- Frank – no meeting next week but come to my house tonight and I want to briefly meet with the constitution committee afterwards.
- Benay – Friday night come to my concert in Ira Allen chapel for catamount singers at 7:30 and it's free.
- Mensah – this Friday there's an ALANA party from 6-9 at the ALANA student center followed by a collaboration with UPB for a Halloween Party and costume contest in the Davis Center. The Vagina Monologues have had information sessions and are holding auditions in the Women's Center. Please fill out the technology innovation survey. If you were planning on seeing the Dark Knight on Saturday, it won't be there. Vote Obama!
- Garcia – Rick has the best costume. We're having one more trip to NH to try and get people to vote and thank god we're about to have a new president.
- Shackett – have a heart on Thursday from 5-7, be there.
- Glynne – last football game this Saturday, and I'm excited to go to the hockey game.
- VanBacker – last year I was on the TPS committee so ask me about it if you're interested.
- Candon – ASB applications are due on November 7th in the VIA office.
- Just – awesome minutes.
- Ford-Hutchinson – thanks for making brownies.
- Walsh – we'd love your help in NH.
- Wilkinson-Ray – there is a Vermont Independence Convention in Montpelier on Friday, November 7th in the state house on Vermont secession.
- Krodel – I invite you all to Rapture 2008 at the Phi Delta Theta house on Friday, it's a substance free event but dress up.
- Corthell – sweet minutes Jackie.

- Goodman – for the thing at Phi Delta Theta, bring a can in support.
- Taylor – I need my letter back and let me know if you want extra hockey tickets and please vote.

ROLL CALL

- Finance: Senator Varsakopolous excused
- Student Activities: Senator Chevrier excused
- COLA: all present
- CODEEE: all present
- Student Action: Chair Abda excused, Senator V Lopez excused, Senator Dru Ellis excused
- Public Relations: all present
- Academic Affairs: Senator Robertson excused, Senator Myers excused

Adjourned at: 9:26pm