



TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF 2009-2010 SENATE

CALL TO ORDER
START TIME: 7:08

ROLL CALL
FINANCE: All present
STUDENT ACTIVITIES: All present
COLA: All Present
CODEEE: All Present
STUDENT ACTION: Church
PR: Buswell Excused
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Burns

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Not present

PUBLIC FORUM

Tim Ash

I wanted to come by in particular because things in Montpelier may not have much to do with you right now but it will if you chose to stay here in the future. The state of Vermont has a 150 million dollar deficit. The budget has been cut by 25% in the past two years. One response is to cut money from VSAC, yet students were not aware. Another response was to cut back on training funds. The money promised by the governor to the universities is not going to come to the schools because there is no money. The thinking is that the primary thing we can do to help all of you is to give money to high tech startup company, will these companies be good, but how many of you want to go into high tech startup companies? There is not a lot of young representation in the state. Vermont wants to cut job opportunities in schools for teachers. The way to turn the tide is to have young people here stand up and say you know we see the future as “_____” I am really concerned about the lack of young people to show up and say you know

there is a future for us here not just people around the age 80. Please feel free to contact me I am going to leave my e-mail here.

Glynne – How realistic is it for the state of Vermont to increase taxes?

Taxes are a tool for government to get funding. We are facing the tough times and the governor has said ‘we need to cut taxes, cut taxes’ so they cut income tax across the board but cut the under income tax on stocks and bonds. New taxes are off the table. New systems are cutting retirement for teachers because of the deficient. I think that’s wrong. Another thing is people with high incomes like a million dollars received massive tax breaks.

Cafarelli – I am leaving after I graduate because there are not many jobs straight out of college here. What is going to be done to work with this deficit and create jobs so those college graduates have a reason to stay in Vermont.

A lot of the top people in government are not that concerned about you. The problem is that the older people sit around wondering why and they justify it by saying there is no money here for start up websites. There is a program for start up companies that want to expand their workforce. My worry is not whether the job will be here but where you will live once you are employed. They are cutting back on home ownership programs. One thing I have been involved in, is the state-to-plate program that works on working to help mostly young people that want to start food, agricultural businesses. Thursday there is a job forum from 930-12. I know it’s hard with student schedules but I would encourage you to come and

Michel- There is unevenness between k-12 education funding and higher education. How much is that cut due to less of a need for k-12 teachers is that money getting redirected to higher education?

It depends sometimes a teacher leaves and it’s not a great loss but a lot of those teachers are needed. There are 300 school boards in the state. What the governor is saying that the school boards can’t say no they just keep adding and adding staff. This is not quite true if you look at school populations the teachers tend to say relatively the same the issue is that there are larger classes of kids one yr than less children the next. Public schools receive as much money as the community is willing to give

Wilkinson- Ray- I was wondering if you could enlighten me by how the government can go around the school board?

Local school boards create a budget and the state supplements the income. Teacher’s retirement is paid by states tax payers the state general fund is asked to pay more money for retirement this year. This year the governor has said they are not going to supplement the cost and it’s had a huge impact on the community

Church- where can we get some more coverage on what’s happening at the state government

The best way is to go to the legislature website I will e-mail it to someone; the website has the committees and who is covering in to speak that day and who they work for. Its different it's not a public forum. If you talk to Clarence Davis about things you want to speak about in a committee he can help make that happen

Jones- I have a question about VSAC. Is congress looking into getting rid of funding agencies and going into direct funding?

The issue is VSAC cutting funds and being unable to give the money they promised. I don't think the future of VSAC is at risk but rather how much funding they get.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

No emergency business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SPEAKER ELLIS:

Stuff about the constitution is going to come up but not until elections are over.

PRESIDENT JONES:

This semester is quicker. Know what you want to do and get it done. We were suppose to end last semester before break but this committee feels they need to continue if they handed it off they felt it would have fallen out of support. But I will give a more formal report soon.

About VSAC if that is happening it is student funds and we should look into it.

The board of trustees is coming next weekend. I gave a report over break. I will send you an e-mail about those details.

The budget report is happening.

Elections, promote it.

Naked bike ride follow up. The event went well with safety issue and crowd. There is still a like lighting issue. The issue is continued as far as ownership. No group owns it or could sell t-shirts about it. What if SGA were to own it. If anyone had any ideas please let me know? We had looked into getting clubs more out there, as security and there by lessening the need to hire Green Mountain Security, but that idea was criticized because of lack of experience.

Haiti. There is still a question about Haiti. I think that is a conversation to have about if we were to look at doing something.

VICE-PRESIDENT ASH:

I want to take a moment to talk about what Tim Ash just said. One piece of literature, "The Future of Vermont Report" by the Council for the Future of Vermont was very helpful. It is in our office.

Reminder; the spring retreat is February 7. You will be home in time for the Super Bowl. If there are conflicts please let me know.

Technology innovation fund meeting today. This is a fund created by a students' Technology Fee, which is similar to the clean energy fund. The budget is 2.8 million dollars for that fund so there's a lot going on. Things discussed are updated wireless in the Davis Center as well as Marsh 235 and Angell.

I also serve on the Presidential Commission for the Status of Women. We are going to be giving out a campus climate survey to learn more about the status of women as well as students. If you want to be involved this survey please let me know.

Rifken: what happened at the faculty senate meeting?

They discussed a schedule for the next five academic years. There is a full week of thanksgiving and town meeting day is off and that is also when spring break will occur. There is no fall break. This will all be on the academic calendar

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE- SEN. CAFARELLI:

We changed the due date budgets are due January 29. Budgets are due the 29 of February any late submissions results in a ten percent cut. Anything over _____ will be taken care of the week

Chevrier

STUDENT ACTIVITIES- SEN. CHEVRIER:

Activities week is Feb 8-11. There looked like there was a lot of activity going on we are looking into making it more crazy and fun. Clubs will be receiving that e-mail at the end of the week. It

will be on a first come first serve basis but we want to have as many clubs there as possible. There is going to be a _____ workshop at _____ but it's going to really be a session for clubs having difficulty fundraising.

I did a lot of work with _____ to try and get money online for clubs. Now there will be somewhere online you can give money to clubs. This will be done through the office of alumni relations.

COLA- SEN. GLYNNE:

Resolution supporting the Green Mountain Awards was given. I was unable to give the award personally.

I sent out an email about Common Grounds Summit. Its January 30, it is an opportunity for students to come and interact with local leaders, Office of Student and Community Relations is hosting and all RSVPs should be down through them.

I have two new committee members.

Community Coalition meeting is Friday.

City council meets Monday at 7. The item is about the development about work.

Senator Candon is going to finish up _____ we will present it at the end of the semester

The reason I asked the question about taxes is because of word I am hearing that cutting taxes is the option.

For the COTS fundraiser, we ran into two main issues. When I looked at it with Chair Rifken it looked like there were no big events that night but there are multi cultural events. The bigger issue was our partner was unable to supplement the cost and the tickets would have costs 20 dollars per plate. So I contacted COTS and said we could not do it.

When Senator Ash said to contact Clarence, it was easier to just call the representatives themselves and tell the office of community and federal relations are going.

Cafarelli- I was wondering if you still plan on going to Washington, DC. ?

We have tentative plans to go down there, that's something we have to work out with the executive. The main issue is funding. There is an opportunity to meet with one of our representatives here in Burlington.

Altendorfer- I was wondering if you were aware of the higher education caucus, so they are going to be meeting and looking into what issues there are to have with higher education.

CODEEE- SEN. MACIEWICZ

Today I had a meeting with **Lu Mulvaney-Stanak**. She did at all fall retreat but she's going to come into our spring retreat about how to lead with positive attitude, and multicultural perspective and inclusion. If you have anything you want to do let me know.

We are working on the sustainability

We are meeting with tom Gustafson in meeting about the water bottle ban

You can also expect a resolution about recycling. We

STUDENT ACTION- SEN. WILKINSON-RAY:

The first thing we are looking at student charges. I don't know if students know they pay a 500 dollar Davis center fee.

We had a naked bike ride meeting; I don't know how people want to go about talking about funding for it, but now is really the time to look at funding if we want to make any changes.

?

PR- SEN. RIFKEN:

Josh is going to set up a little presentation about the student opinions poll over break so I led the floor to Benes.

Here are the results of the 216 responses

Presentation

Cafarelli- point of clarification when you do the tai squared test you receive a value between zero and one

Benes – I wanted to keep it simple for the presentation so I converted to a percent.

Frye- I am concerned because when you look at somewhat and not well informed there is a large portion of UVM students.

Wilkinson-Ray – considering that class sizes get smaller as you move on how did that affect the results

Benes- when Richard Cate came in and talked to us he discussed

That is something that I can put in the analysis when you talk about errors that could have been made

Vivas- shouldn't diversity include Latinos too as well as persons with color.

Benes- Yes

Hannaford- Point of clarification I think that most people at least around here would include Latinos with persons of color.

Sadeghi- I think just from talking to people that most people want the best teachers and don't care about ethnicity.

Cafarelli - I still think that 99.8% is wrong; I don't understand how you got your numbers.

Benes – I didn't add the yes and the maybe. It is that accurate for the yes alone.

Cafarelli – I don't think that this statistical significance makes sense. I would have rather seen just the pie graph and not the statistical significance

Benes- I think that it makes sense for the environmental question but I think I will remove it from question 7.

Wilkinson Ray- I think it's good that you did it but can we not discuss what is statistical significant now.

Benes- I am going to meet with Allen Howard and discuss how to analysis with just the colleges and see if there is any significance in the changing academic advisors question.

Benes- During forum I would love to hear what you guys think about this poll. Thanks

Hannaford- think that you cannot you cannot make the relevance clear I agree with Chair Cafarelli that you can no extrapolate because it's a single sample.

Benes- if anyone wants to meet after senate mtg. I yield the floor back to chair Rifken

We are exploring sending a pool directly in e-mails

We have tabling every Tuesday. I didn't realize it until tonight so there was no tabling today.

I am talking to the cynic and the Water Tower to meet all of us.

Cafarelli- is there any way we can put a hold on accounts till VSOP is filled out?

I haven't explored that option

Ash point of clarification- I asked and we can't it's against school policy

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS- SEN. BURNS

Chair Burns apologize for being late. There will be a report next week

SENATORIAL FORUM

Ellis – I urge us to

Glynn- Haiti, terrible tragedy and we have to do something for Haiti. I sent an email to Gary Derr and he said to look at the initiatives and there is a Prof from CALS directly affected. I think that we could go in different directions than what is being done right now. I want to talk about Partners in Health because we know that the funds go directly to Haiti. Chevrier, Jones and I had a meeting we want to A) not step on any toes, B) make sure money gets used for the right purpose. At my high school during Hurricane Katrina we actually collected materials and send them directly, we can also do this here. I tend to set on a month long fundraising campaign; we can solution donations from the community. I yield the floor to Pres Jones

Jones- Dani Cumi e-mailed me to see if we want to participate in a candle light vigil Thursday but I need a yes if you all can attend. One idea was that thrown out was a dance but I was just wondering if people would wonder why they were dancing in a crisis

Chevrier- I think that we have to create fun fundraiser because this will help get people to raise money quickly. I know I talked to clubs about donating money and like the gymnastics club allowed us to donate gym time.

Cafarelli- I think it's important to combine with other efforts going on, On- Campus and reach out to clubs, Reslife and Student Life. This isn't an issue that is going to go away soon.

Jones-We do have the power to be that unifying organization, I think this is something we can do but this is something that we have to discuss now. I like the idea of doing a semester thing and just continue to send money.

Rifken- BSU is doing a fundraiser now and that could be a cool opportunity to team up with clubs we don't usually interact with

Maciewicz- I think that it's important to do things now but I want to put an emphasis on getting money rather than thing because there is not a lot of infrastructure within the governments which makes it difficult to send supplies to the right places.

Kerschner - I want to support sending money and not supplies

Greenwald- I want to see this resolved now rather than later and I think that you all e-mails. I think that we can do a walk for Haiti and involve clubs and organizations.

Vivas-Maybe some organizations want to help a certain group of professional because not one of them is necessary to not try too hard to unify the groups because it might push them away.

Alexhander- I think maybe we should have an informal meeting about this because things can get lost in meetings and plan well rather than acting too quickly and re support Greenwald's idea.

Wilkinson Ray- sometime I wonder why donating money has to be coupled with an activity. Maybe we can go and bring a bin to each of our classes, give a speech about what happened in Haiti and collect money.

Chevrier- Point of information- Hillel is trying to get a dollar from every member.

Glynne - I just want to talk about the academic calendar and getting the town meeting day off is important and a huge

Ellis- I respectfully disagree with Vivas because we are all working towards a common goal. I think an overnight walk might conflict with what the Red Cross does.

Church- I think that if there are ten thousand was to donate we can all go to over well. Can we front money now and dedicate ourselves to collecting at least that much this semester?

Cafarelli- Unfortunately no

Glynne I respectfully disagree because as long as Blanca approves I can use my COLA budget

Cafarelli-Committees can use their own budgets, but those are supposed to be for work the committee does not for donations. Also we cannot do that because we don't have an SGA budget we have committee budgets.

Chevrier- point of information there is also a rule that Students Activities funds have to go directly to the students. For example clubs can buy brownie mixes for a bake sale for a cause but they cannot donate money directly from their budget.

Michel- how would SGA do something if we weren't budgeting funds?

Cafarelli- I yield the floor to Jones

Jones- There is the discretionary budget and chairs can use the budgets to do things.

Doran- I don't think we need to get all the clubs the more the merrier I think it's an idea to get to collaborate.

Rifken- yield the floor to Ash

Ash- in the next few weeks SGA is going to be all over the place; perhaps this is the way to advertise through the variety to use our already created net work

Chevrier- Are people confused about doing this now or rather continue this at their house of Friday. Does anyone have any suggestions?

Monteforte- can you send all fo you to send an e-mail to all clubs saying donate a money like a dollar a person?

Chevrier- I think we can do that if someone wants to lead it to

Rifken- We need a person to be in Charge.

Vivas- yields to Jones

Jones- I think that at the very least we could collect and tally the numbers so that at the end of the year we can discuss the best

Church- From Boswell, there are 11 open seats and 8 election pacts sound out, Corum there are two thirds of current members not potential members. He has put together a packet and timeline that I will pass around. "get hot and saucy and e-mail yo clubs"

Chevrier I just want to thank you for the work on the VSOP committee pools no one has ever tried to make it more statistically relevant.

Maciewicz informal poll who wants to come on Friday at 5 pm,

Ellis split between yes maybes and no's

Kerschner- "?"

Hannaford- The presidential commission on "?" it is interesting to see how schizophrenic the institution is but that they aren't this big bad but are actual people. One thing I will be working on is seeing how the faculty retention rate on the faculty. There is also some discussion about what language we use to discuss the diversity within the university

SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Waldovogel- if anyone wants to apply for orientation it is due Friday

Chevrier I talked a lot about the neighborhood task force to the clubs let me know if anyone wants to join

Candon- tomorrow is senator Morgan's birthday!

ROLL CALL:

FINANCE: All present

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: All present

COLA: All Present

CODEEE: McDonald excused

STUDENT ACTION: All present

PR: Buswell excuse

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Chair Burns and Senator Henley Excused

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ENDS: 9:15