



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009
ELEVENTH MEETING OF 2009-2010 SENATE

CALL TO ORDER
START TIME: 7:07

ROLL CALL
FINANCE: Chair Cafarelli (excused)
STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present
COLA: Senator Halloran (excused)
CODEEE: all present
STUDENT ACTION: all present
PR: Senator Monteforte (excused)
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: all present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Minutes from October 6th Approved

PUBLIC FORUM

Kesha Ram, State Representative

I am a state legislature representative in the House. I represent the University, the hill section, and the old north end. I started at UVM in 2004 was the SGA president in 07-08. I was president of SFPGJ. I was captain of the eco reps program. And a whole host of other things. I am on the committee of general, housing, and military affairs. It looks like we might be sending 2/3 of our national guard to Afghanistan. My committee focuses on family readiness, helping children cope, and helping families take care of there basic needs. The major thing I worked on this year was green job opportunities. Tied in with that we worked on alternative energy this year, encouraging and incentivizing alternative energy sources. We ended our session in June with a special budget session. We had two successful veto overrides this year: same sex marriage and the state budget. There have been 135 vetoes in state history and only 8 successful veto overrides. We have a very tough session coming up. It will affect your lives in many ways. We left all state funding for UVM intact and added some on with the American recovery reinvestment act.

We are a citizen's legislature which means we serve half the year. We make very little money and are expected to make our income by other means. I work at Women Helping Battered Women when I am not in session. This power point about the budget was put together by the Joint fiscal office. A lot of states including Vermont have revenue forecasts that are under spending levels. We try and balance our budget every year and we are one of the few states that does that. The reason we have less revenue is there is less income in the state. Housing prices have gone way up before but now they have gone down, which is good for some people but it means a lot less revenue in the state. Construction spending is way down in the state and in the US. The only area where employment has grown is in health care. We are seeing less revenue and money to allocate to various things. We are seeing an increase in the need for services and the need to spend money as a government. We have seen an increase in \$2 million in homelessness and shelter in the states. As the economy hits those least well off they are turning to the government and we have to reallocate money to fulfill that need. Last session we faced about a \$2 million overall deficit which was covered for the most part by the American recovery money. We have seen a loss of state employees and really important services. We lost about 5% of our state work force, and I am not happy about that. One major issue for the up coming session is going to be unemployment insurance.

We are expecting a 6.5% shortfall in FY 2001, 11.6% in FY2012, and 9.2% in FY 2013. We are at the bone in terms of cuts in the state. And all of those shortfalls will probably get worse. The prediction through 2014 is pretty positive. We are seeing the recession bottom out and then recovery. We are expecting more cuts in health care, transportation, and all sorts of things. Pension systems and the VT State Hospital are big political issues. It's really important to us not to harm the most venerable populations in the state. We want to share the sacrifice with all Vermonters. Our real budget as they would say is about \$4.6 billion. With a majority of our money coming from federal funds. We are 49th in the country for state higher education funding. We have a really tough session ahead of us. We are doing a lot better than most other states. We are not in the red; we can potentially balance our budget still. We will probably come out of this still an intact state. We are taking on unemployment insurance and VT Yankee. I have been asked to be more upfront and share my thoughts about how I would vote on VT Yankee. I would say it's not even clear if its going to be voted on next year, but at this time I can't envision a scenario when I would vote to relicense VT Yankee. It's a much divided issue right now. I think it makes more sense than not to move towards an alternative form of energy for the state.

Chair Glynne: Do you know what November 11th is and what are you doing that day? I would hope that you know its veterans day. I want to invite you to our SGA celebration of Veterans Day. What is the state doing for veterans' especially in this time of need?

State Rep. Ram: One of my personal issues is benefits for those coming back from service who want to attend an institute of higher education. We raised the scholarship level for members of the Air National Guard. We put millions more dollars, \$5 million into taking care of veterans and their family increasing benefits and setting up a 24 hour hotline. We took a trip down to the VT veterans' home and we gave them money to put a geo-thermal heating system in the nursing home. We have \$5 million to do alternative energy research through the National Guard. This is the largest alternative energy research fund in New England. We have raised extra money for the children of veterans and solders to attend a

camp they put together for them. 3% of the State National Guard funding comes for the state, the rest from the federal government. It's very strictly regulated funding. I will invite the rest of my committee to the SGA celebration.

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: The thing you passed out says VT Yankee Decommissioning Fund where VT Yankee will have to come up with additional funds for decommissioning, how does that bill work?

State Rep. Ram: In some ways it was working to say to VT Yankee that if they want to be relicensed they have to get it at some reasonable standard. It requires them to put away the amount of money it would take to decommissioned by 2084. They were supposed to have the money but with the amount of lawyers and money they have to take the state to court and keep fighting it it will be tough for us to get them to show us the money. That was put in place to hold them accountable in 2012. They are trying to spin off there corporation so they will have no liability for the money.

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: Is the burden going to fall on the VT residence if they don't get the money from VT Yankee?

State Rep. Ram: Yes.

Senator Church: There are some folks that believe that we are seeing the beginning of the end to growth. What is your opinion on that and do you see in the legislature are they evaluating ideas if that turns out to be the correct scenario?

State Rep. Ram: I think it is inaccurate that there is a dichotomy between growth and our natural resources. We saw a lot of growth in our e business, electronic health records, and alternative things. VT may be able to lead the way towards alternatives to growth rather than closed loop growth.

Chair Maciewicz: Is the state taking any steps to cut money internally?

State Rep. Ram: The legislative session will be 3 weeks shorter this year which saves the state a lot of money. Which is about a 10% pay cut. The judiciaries saw a lot of cuts as well. They are talking bout additional loses to the state attorney's office, but I am worried about that.

Senator Henley: Have you looked at anything surrounding affordable housing for refuge families and what you are doing about refuge settlement funding?

State Rep. Ram: I have an incredible relationship with a lot of members of the refuge community. I have been really open to a number of issues they have including voting rights locally. They don't have a political voice and I think it would be beneficial if we had local voting right for non citizens. Section 8 is how their housing would be funded which is the same as any people living in poverty. We have ensued that there is a delivery system for section 8. The governor wanted to cut \$6 million but my committee worked hard to safeguard a lot of that money with federal funds.

Senator Vivas: What will the legislature concede an appropriate substitute for nuclear energy?

State Rep. Ram: We have a lot of our state energy providers aside from Yankee stepping up. And we would increase the amount of energy we get from hydro Quebec and go to New England or the needs we have.

Chair Glynne: There are a lot of cuts being made. Will you and the democrats go for a tax increase when money runs out? Would you support a tax increase to make up the lost?

State Rep. Ram: A lot of people are talking about not only an increase in taxes but to make cuts as well. We are trying not to raise the tax burden too much but we want it to be shared between more Vermonters.

Senator Michel: Are you going to run for governor?

State Rep. Ram: No, I like my job.

Senator Church: What is happening with a gas tax?

State Rep. Ram: We had a 5 cent gas tax increase this year. At the same time we called for more fuel efficient vehicles and the gas tax is quite ineffective. The revenues are up and down. And if we want to encourage alternative modes of transportation it's hard to justify a tax on gas. There is a proposal to tax cars based on weight or when they come up for registration. It has also come up to create a computer chip that would tax you for every mile you drove in the state. Our rail system is really far behind in VT but we are trying to work on it.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Resolution Supporting Pure Democracy

Chair Glynne: Read resolution. As the chair of COLA I don't think that it is right that the students are deprived the opportunity to participate in the only form of pure democracy in the United States. Vermont is very unique; we should continue this very good form of democracy. I ask that if you do plan on voting now abstain.

Senator Whitmore: I am with you but do you think someone who is against this would say that we only have about 35% of students at UVM who are in state students and how many of those do go to their home towns and participate in a town meeting?

Chair Glynne: It's the duty of the majority to protect the minority's ability to express their opinions. Denying that right is wrong. Even if it's only 2 or 3% I believe the student body as a whole would agree they deserve the opportunity to participate in that.

Senator McDonald: Friendly amendment a grammatical correction

Senator Hannaford: Friendly amendment take that out of the third be it resolved

Chair Chevrier: Friendly amendment switch 2009 to 2010

Senator Frye: Are we protesting this years lack of town meeting day as well?

Chair Glynne: I want to speak on that but I plan on motioning for executive session during my committee report for that issue. This should have been brought up last year for this year but it wasn't. There is no point in me saying to over turn something that is already in the works. This is preemptive for following years.

Senator Frye: What conversations have you been having on this?

Chair Glynne: From what I have herd student government as a whole has not been able to voice an opinion on this issue.

Vice President Ash: The vote against town meeting day for this year was voted down 26 to 11 so it was overwhelmingly against it, but I think part of it had to do with it being so close proximity to spring brake.

Chair Rifken: I know one of the reason they don't have it is because of carnegie standard which says you need 139 days of school. If this goes though are you supporting not following the carnegie standard?

Chair Glynne: I guess as my personal position is that it is not our job to set the policy. It is a day Vermonters have used historically to voice there opinions. I would say they could come up with another day even if they have to start school a day early. I am supporting this day to come back. I think it's so important to the framework of Vermont democratic politics. If I imagine having a meeting with faculty senate, it is not my reasonability to find another day it my job to question their reasoning.

Senator Church: Maybe someone could tell me. I don't believe that America was founded on the foundation of pure democracy but on representative democracy.

Chair Glynne: They used to have town meetings where every white man was given the opportunity to speak and that was one of the first sign of democracy in America. It is a practice that they did a lot in Charlestown but it kind of went away. An indirect system took flight ,but Vermont has been one of the few to resist change.

Senator Vivas: We shouldn't have to ask for every year. I don't think it should be limited.

Chair Glynne: I wanted to direct it towards this academic calendar because that's what we have to deal with. This is the only structured concrete thing they have.

Chair Burns: Friendly amendment to change all the periods to commas at the end of your clauses.

Senator Church: grammatical friendly amendment. The third waras is awkward

Senator Buswell: friendly amendment to add another clause be it further resolved that the SGA supports the faculty senate in maintaining the observance of town meeting day in years to come.

Chair Glynne: I would like to add to that and president and board of trustees.

VOTE passes

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Rifkin: amendment for operational documents considering rules and regulations

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Recognizing Slow Food of UVM

Chevrier: read bill. We only bring up clubs that have gone through long recognition packet and we feel they will add to a university atmosphere

Aaron: slow food was found in 1989 in Italy. It means good clean and fair food. taste, environmental aspects, and fair are referring to social aspects related to food production. It represents all aspects of the food system. It works with producers- chefs co producers- consumers. At UVM we need this kind of group to serve as a place for people to come and promote education to help turn us into co producers as consumers and getting what we want and need from our food system. There are many existing food groups on campus. They all have different areas of expertise and things they focus on. But there is an area that is not being recognized and its mostly working with the education of the students and keeping them involved in our own food system. There is a focus on student awareness, serves as a point of communication between the student body and Sedexoh chefs, and a source of education to help spread food cultural awareness among the student body. Plans we have are pot lucks, contra dances, and tasting events, film screenings, lectures, meetings with other food groups. Encourage idea sharing. In terms of funding we won't be receiving funding our first year but I for see the need of funding in the future, not significant but maybe transportation cost. Until then we plan on having bake sales and those sort of things. In terms of UVM suitability initiative, slow food fits into that structure of suitability. Food is a major factor in climate change. So increasing the student body's awareness of the effects of food on climate change. And keep an emphasis on flexibility and be open to all students from any department. We also want to serve as a connection to the international movement of slow food, it is a larger movement.

Senator Baron: Other than supporting the general mission of slow food were there any regional campaigns going on right now with slow food?

Aaron: Other than the national day of action this Saturday. I am not sure if there are any other events taking place. But on an international level there is a convention in Italy once every 2 years and that is something we would be interested in sending a representative to.

Chair Rifkin: what makes you different from other clubs? Have you worked with other clubs yet?

Aaron: We focus on the areas that have to do with education and communication. We have met with a few groups. With SGA meal plan task force and people from campus kitchens and feel good.

Senator Buswell: included within the suppliers were elements such as soil and water and microbial communities that really make our food possible? Do you have any goals to help students learn about the food system from beginning to end?

Aaron: The aspect of slow food that has to do with that would be the clean aspect with environmental impact of food production. We wouldn't touch on the biological nature and the organisms in the soil, but our job would include educating on negative effect of food production.

VOTE passed

Bill Derecognizing Men Advocating Change

Chair Chevrier: read bill.

VOTE passed

SENATORIAL FORUM

Chair Glynne: I am going to motion for executive session and its to discuss internal issues and to get some feed back.

Senator Church: I support Chair Glynne's bill in theory but in practice I felt that the few who do participate in it can obtain an excused absence.

Senator Frye: I loved Kasha Rams presentation but I was questioning her because she kept saying the democratic party as if she was speaking for them and not just for herself.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

SPEAKER ELLIS:

Tabled resolutions. I would ask that those tabled resolutions are looked at and let us know if they are being brought up and give us a progress report on where those are or take it off the table if no longer pertinent. Suggestions for public form guests. If anyone has any suggestions please let me know. If its a political guest please talk to chair Glynne first. Please fill out the doodle I sent you. I printed every one out a copy of the rules of order. I don't now when our USB's will become so I took the liberty of getting everyone a copy so you can bring them to meetings if you are questioning what is going on. If anyone has any questions I am more than wiling to talk about it. I have scrap paper here and I want everyone to submit your thoughts about meeting so far, about me as your speaker, and how you feel meeting are going. They are anonymous I don't want your names on this. I want you to look at how meetings have been running, me as your speaker, and senate in general. Also putt in a grade report if you feel comfortable. I really want everyone to do this so I can take them into account for meetings to come.

Chair Chevrier: did you put the rules of order on the flash drive? if so why did we get a paper copy?

I don't know when we will get the flash drives. I really want people to have them with them, I feel a hard copy is beneficial. Although Chairs are allowed to have a computer this is something you can have at a meeting with out a commuter.

Senator Benes: you said we would have a meting about how to write legislation, is that going happen and if so when?

I can do that whenever, if you want to meet by your self or I can offer a side meeting. I will look at my calendar and propose some dates and get feedback at next meeting.

VICE-PRESIDENT ASH:

I am planning an updated short version of the retreat for the newly appointed senators and I encourage all other senators to attend. We will also go over things you identify that you still need help with on the last retreat. I have your USB's. They contain about 50 documents. Be sure to look at it. Its all organized under one folder. So when new things come in they will be sent through an email as an attachment and you are expected to put them on the USB. We have three newly appointed senators to presidential committees. I have been working close with the VT center for world development. So if you are interested in attending the meetings look at the board of trustees website or I could help you figure it out. Yield the floor to Xavier

Xavier: I am a first year grad student at the college of education for higher education. I am form NY. Nice to meet you all.

This Sunday evening a meeting will take place with the individuals who were part of the interview process. Let me know if you have any feedback. Halloween is next week and with that is a SGA tradition for all senators to dress up so it might be fun if people are interested in dressing up, it is highly encouraged.

PRESIDENT JONES:

I left out a pitch about 350.org's intentional day of action they will be taking an aerial photo of bodies at 2 this Saturday outside o the Davis center. I will send out the info for you. Then they are going to city hall at 3. They want as many students as possible to participate in this if the picture comes out well it might go up in time square in NYC. Board of trustees meeting starts on Thursday. But Friday in the morning at 8 is when it really starts. After that there are 2 main standing committees. I will be at the EPER one because I was invited. All of the information is on the website if you are interested. My experience in the past is they haven't been completely on schedule. Also watch how the student trustees votes and we are going to try and see if they will come and give us an update on why they voted which way on the controversial ones. There is a general education meeting this Thursday at 7:30am. Senator McDonald came last time. Any student can come and listen. It's at the preliminary stage. Once we get past this week I am going to go forward with those student leadership forums. I want to get one in soon and we are due. Kasha, there were some issues I wanted to ask her. I want to know more about the state budes, how responsible they are with there finances. We were at a press conference and we herd that they are trying to extend young adults to be cover under parents insured until 27. In Vermont its 25.

Chair Burns: I herd that you are going to dressing up for your report to the board, would you be willing to have a photo op when you are dressed up?

Sure

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE- CHAIR CAFARELLI:

Chair Venman: we are trying to allocate with a chisel rather than a hammer. Something that's coming up is the sailing club needs new sails and this is a big purchase.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES- CHAIR CHEVRIER:

A lot of work we were going to be doing are going to get postponed till I can walk. Student prudent calendar is doing there filming so they will be out soon. The liaison program is going wonderfully. We have 2 clubs that should be coming up for recognition, quidich and the Celtic cats. But risk management have yet to get back to either of them. Rick management has been making us jump through a bunch of hoops. So they take their time because there is no check on them.

COLA- CHAIR GLYNNE:

Executive session 9:11-9:29

Senator Candon: last Wednesday we marked down areas that needed more light and we are doing it again tomorrow night at 6:45 we are meeting on the first floor of the Davis center and we are going to make a couple different routes.

Have a heart is next Thursday. The Halloween community clean up is from 11-1 November 1st.

CODEEE- CHAIR MACIEWICZ:

I find Student action's dress tonight amusing but I want everyone to remember that this weekend is the transcending identity conference. It's a student run conference. I am going and I hope some other senators consider going. This weekend Saturday from 7-8 we are having a joint academic meeting with CODEEE. Anyone that wants to come is welcome to come. Also the clean energy fund proposal is open so if you know someone who is doing something cool with clean energy we have money to give out. We will meet starting in November to review proposals. Next Tuesday at 9am I have a meeting with the ALANA student center. If anyone is available to come they are welcome. H1N1 flu shots are available in the next coming week and there is enough for everyone.

STUDENT ACTION- CHAIR WILKINSON-RAY:

The reason I am cross dressing was to lighten the mood after the intense meeting we had last week.

Senator Michel: this Monday I took treasure **LeMeuee** spot in the board of trustees auditor meeting. Some brauud support for making the transparency of audits an up front issue. I was approached about putting them up on pdf on the SGA website. I am going to have a meeting with Richard Kate. The student actions committee might be working with the alcohol and drug task force to do the focus groups on the messages about alcohol. On your thumb drives is a document that is something on how to deal

with the media so its an FAQ on what's on and off the record. If you guys have questions about that stuff I am willing to take those questions or just let me know.

I think its great we have slow foods because as students action is we had a meeting last week with people with slow foods and sedexoh and talked about food stuff. I also had a dining advisory committee and one thing they bought up was the KLF keep local farms initiative and they were wondering what we thought about that and I said that we were still talking about that.

Senator Waldenvogal: they are going to be initiating KLF in November.

PR- CHAIR RIFKEN:

Senator Buswell: we have been talking about having club of the fort night come up once a month not every two weeks so that we are not forcing ourselves to come up with clubs. One of us will be taking a role to go into dialoged with the club. We are actually going to meet with club leaders we want to be more genuine than just a certificate.

I want to thank Senator Michel for all of her help. In PR we have been discussing a new direction that the committee is going to take. And we talked about each of us individually having something we want to focus on. I feel there is a difference between PR for each individual person and for the SGA. And PR is not for each of you individually we are responsible for the SGA in general. But that can be done by tabling. And I have a sign up sheet for tabling for the rest of the semester. We are also working on display cases. VSOP should be coming up later this week. I do a repot of what goes on during the meeting so you can submit to me what you want to go out to the media.

Chair Chevrier: are you including the down stairs tunnel display case?

Hopefully we will be getting to that one soon

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS- CHAIR BURNS:

On Saturday we have our joint meeting with CODEEEE. We are preparing for that and anyone who is interested can email one of us. The board of trustees meeting is this weekend and I sit on the educational policy and intuitional resources committee and I am going to be reporting back to this body on what was said. And I talked with Vice President Ash about making my notes available on line

SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vice President Ash: recognizing chair Chevrier for her hard work and wish her well with her surgery tomorrow. She will really be missed

President Jones: the KLF new is ridiculous because we were promised this would be a student initiative and I have communicated with the administration that I have been waiting to hear word about actual pricing. I think that if the formal tabling doesn't work for you but you would still like to have that exposure we have chartstrings and you can reserve a table yourself if you wanted to do your own thing.

There is a petition going around on noise violation. Its a petition protesting that the fees for noise violations are unconstitutional and they provide amendments.

Senator Henley: there is going to be a critical mass (bikers get together and ride to support bikers rites and awareness f bikes)

Chair Burns: they are meeting on Saturday outside of the Davis center

Senator Buswell: I hope that parts per million is a term that you are familiar with and I hope that people take the 350 day of action seriously and look at it as a piece of civic engagement.

Senator Whitmore: seeing as we haven't had a senate wide gathering this year. I would be willing to host one next Tuesday as a hollowing thing.

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: we are going to show a movie atn8 in marsh life science

Senator Altendorfer: this Sunday is the quidich world cup at Middlebury college, we do have a UVM team and they will be one of 26 team competing 9am to 5pm.

Chair Chevrier: I am most upset about having surgery because I will not be part of the Halloween senate.

Senator Candon: Monday not Wednesday for light audit

Senator Buswell: is there no lighting audit tomorrow?

Senator Candon: there is one at 6:45

Chair Glynne: Hopefully all of you know what the penguin plunge is. I am going to get a SGA team together.

ROLL CALL:

FINANCE: Chair Cafarelli (excused)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present

COLA: Senator Halloran (excused)

CODEEE: Senator McDonald (excused)

STUDENT ACTION: Senator Church (excused)

PR: all present

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Senator Hannaford (excused)

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ENDS: 10:00