



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2009
SIXTEENTH MEETING OF 2009-2010 SENATE

Call to Order: 7:05

Roll Call

FINANCE: Senator Tran (excused)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all present

COLA: Senator Shushereba (excused)

CODEEE: Senator Adams (excused)

STUDENT ACTION: Senator Brown (excused) Senator Church (excused) Senator Greenwald (excused)

PR: all present

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: all present

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from November 17th approved

Public Forum

Daniel Freilich, United States Senate Democratic Candidate

Mr. Freilich: It's an honor to talk to you I did my residency here in the early 90's and I have been out of state for most of the recent years. I wanted to start with an antidotal study. Music is subjective and personal and what was presented to me was action oriented music but the fact is I think we need sad music because what's going on in America is really sad and laughable if you would not want to cry about it. I find it abysmal that we keep doing the same things over and over. When I critique it is the power in the Democratic Party just as much as the Republican Party in Washington. Accepting the status quo and allowing the same problems is not acceptable. When we came up with the slogan of this campaign "equitable pursuit of happiness" it was criticized a lot and but I think if this is a right we don't have than what kind of a democracy do we have. The question is one of fairness, we don't need everything to be perfect, but it has to be reasonable. If you don't have fair and reasonable policy you have lost the cohesiveness of your democracy. The 5 priorities of why this campaign is happening I want you to understand them. In order to communicate we summed it up as the 5 E's. The first is equitable economic policy-without it you have lost the middle class and have haves and have nots, power is only good if you use it for goodness. The second thing is health care, if you have no insurance and can't get proper care or if you are scared to lose it or people who stay in jobs just for the insurance, and I can't tell you how much that's a common denominator. My most stressful thing running has nothing to do with public policy, I have not had secure health insurance for my family for the last 2 months and its kind of scary and I experienced what some Americans do and that's just not right. We are 37th among countries to give health insurance to our people. I say to myself what is morally and economically right. Some are gray areas but the fact is countries that have single payer systems are the only ones that have affordable health care for everyone. Where do we need competition? When you call an ambulance you

don't get competition and when you call the police you don't pick which department to call and same with war. Apparently we do believe that there are basic services the government should provide. I think that a single payer system is the only moral and economic answer. Those that care most about economics there the ones that should be jumping on the bandwagon as much as anybody. You as young people, I think this is important to you because we are bankrupting out country. The next area is in terms of the environment. We need to understand that the energy and environmental policies we are pursuing are existential threats to the United State in terms of the change it will ensue. The second thing is that it's a national security and economic threat. What it does to our balance of triad and national debt and war it cost us hundreds of billions of dollars. What we need is a comprehensive energy policy. We need a comprehensive transformational approach. How do you do it, the federal government establishes standers and incentives and penalties. The next thing has to do with overseas- what you see in Africa is another travesty and we as Americans should be embarrassed. In 2009 millions of kids were dying of preventable illness and we just did nothing but this is not necessary and we can fix this. When you have poverty, misery, illiteracy you get angry and then you do stuff we don't like like terrorism. Enlightened security. I believe that military power should be used only as a backup to your moral framework. We can be a beacon of hope but we are told we are not consistent. If we do the right thing in terms of our own people I think that gives us an enormous amount of security and is the best thing we could do for you.

Chair Glynne: Thanks for coming in and thanks for your service. So as a soldier how do you feel about the current direction of the forces in Afghanistan and what would you do about it?

Mr. Freilich: I will come back to that in one moment. I think Iraq no mater how you look at it was a mistake. We didn't get and weren't going to get what we expending in terms of the human loss and national funds. But I don't accept the kind of things that were stated towards Bush. It is possible he made a mistake, I don't accept that. Now that doesn't mean we can't get something good out of it. We are working on a democracy and hopefully something good will come out of this. In terms of Afghanistan it's different; we were attacked by Al-Qaeda with the assistance of the Taliban. I believe that Al-Qaeda does represent evil. In terms of what to do I don't think you have a choice we need to win that and can't lose. What allows you to exit is to establish a stable government their and keep Al-Qaeda and the Taliban at bay. We would like an egalitarian democracy. I believe that our NATO allies need to do more. We were attacked and we have a treaty with NATO and we came to their help twice in the 20th century and I think it's reasonable able to have everything on the table.

Senator Vivas: You were talking about moral and economical right. What happens when these two factors are conflicting with each other? What should we really do? There are thing economically that are right to do but they are morally not right. Example: child labor or sweat shops. Do you choose moral over economical?

Mr. Freilich: I think that the answer is an obvious answer. You should do what's right , do what's right because its right. I think that educated adults can visualize real truisms. After WWII we as Americans believed that if you are wealthy you should share with you fellow citizens. This is where morality and what's right conflict but I don't think it conflicts at all. You need to dramatically increase the taxes on those that can afford it.

Senator Whitmore: I appreciate a lot of the optimism. If you could go more in to your tax policy? How would you necessarily reward incentive for people who have done well economically who are providing jobs?

Mr. Freilich: Much of what I am saying is economically cheap. A single payer system will save hundreds of billions of dollars a year. It's cheaper because the administrative cost of the market system that accounts for about 1/3 of our budget. The truth is that for this governments are more efficient because they don't need to compete. There are facts to make the statement that you will save hundreds of billions of dollars. 60% of physicians think this is what we should do. Only the United States has no bargaining powers with pharmaceutical companies because they can compete. The federal government has the authority to stop this. If we do a single payers system it covers everyone. You don't need to raise taxes to fix that, in fact you will return funds to the treasury. But there is no way in the world that any single payer system will pass through congress right now. I believe the right thing to do economically is a single payer system and anything else is maintaining a bad system. In terms of tax policy, I don't understand why people who make more should pay a lesser tax burden for someone than someone who makes less. If you have that much income you have more expendable income so you can pay more taxes. I think there are 5 areas that are unjust in America. The income tax should go up for a max of 50% for the highest tax bracket starting at over \$350,000. Next is payroll taxes. It's a regressive tax right now. If you are wealthy and make over a certain amount you don't need to invest in the social security and Medicare system. It's so unfair. Also capital gains are only taxed at 15%. Why is your income worth more? That doesn't make sense; I think taxes should be progressive. The point is that I think we should change the federal income taxes, payroll taxes, and the capital gains taxes and only on the wealthy. Do you have any idea back in the day what was the average CEO pay to the average worker pay in the United States? It was 30 to 1. Now it's over 300 to one. Now that's greed. I don't think we need to be paying people this amount to work hard and be innovative. What I would propose is if you are federally traded company that you can't go over 50 to 1. In the olden days you had unions that didn't allow this. I am not optimistic it will happen soon but it has to start somewhere.

Chair Maciewicz: I appreciate you want to keep your campaign positive but how would you be different than your opponent and would you really support doing nothing rather than support the democratic option?

Mr. Freilich: I think its a travesty we are not covering everyone tomorrow. There isn't an emergency in Washington if they are not stopping this till 2014. So we can surly spend a few more months discussing this. We shouldn't be willing to win a little battle to loose the war. There 40 million that need to be covered today. If you want to extend coverage than do it while we are deliberating about the right system. I am not going to say anything negative about my opponent. I don't expect the party on the right to pursue these kinds of things but the Republican Party doesn't promote progressive taxation and national health insurance or environmental issues if they are in conflict with economics. Democrats are the only ones in power so they are the ones that have to change things. I can't find the word tax policy on my opponent's website but this is not a priority to him. But we need to fix this until we have economic equality. Health insurance, I advocate we vote no for the current proposals and we only pursue what's right here. And environment and energy policy I would want transformations and differences. What I would say is you do what you have to do to get off oil everywhere. Massive mass transit investments. If you do one thing sometimes you get a bad thing you never expected. So when you make cars more efficient than the cost of traveling is cheaper but than they travel more. So you don't do anything in isolation it has to be a compressive approach. Enlightened security means we need to be more generous.

Senator Henley: You spoke about the environment. Would you elaborate, on December 9th President Obama will attend Copenhagen Conference. In November there was a pre Copenhagen summit which all

the African countries boycotted for a certain period of time. Could you state your opinion on asking developing countries to lesson there carbon footprint.

Mr. Freilich: It's difficult because we are where we are now but you have to clean house at home first. I think if we do what we need to do we can go back in 5 years and if we did what we needed to do we can than go to the developing country. But they look at us and laugh because we aren't doing anything ourselves. You should have a fair tax system on carbon. We can't insist on the developing world to do more than voluntary for the next couple of years.

Emergency Business

Old Business

Bill Derecognizing Consortium for Ecological Living

Chair Chevrier: Read bill. I wanted to point out that derecognizing a club isn't because we don't like them but its because they don't exist.

VOTE passes

Resolution Supporting a Ban on Bottled Water

Senator Baron: Read resolution. I want to make it clear that I hope you will realize that if this was passed tonight this wouldn't imply a full ban on anything or anything close to that would happen over night or in a semester or over a year. My objective in offering this resolution would be to establish a dialogue with the administration and the reason I don't have a stated plan is because I don't think that that should be within the aim of this resolution, and putting this pressure on the administration so we can come up with some sort of compromise on how an initiative like this would work. Voting down this resolution is cutting off all possible conversations.

Senator Vivas: We all like what it represent and we understand that it is not to ban bottle water but if its not intended to do that than why is it called supporting bottle water ban. Isn't that a contradiction?

Senator Baron: I don't think I said that down the line the objective wouldn't be that. There wouldn't be a ban in that you can't have it on campus, but the overall goal is to prevent the sale of it. What I am clarifying is this isn't something that would have to happen all at once or on a specific set date.

Senator Vivas: You say that you will just be banning water bottles from campus, I would like to know that its confusing on one hand you are saying its just to open talks to engage in a debate towards this but now I asked and you say its not to debate but to ban it. Which one is it?

Senator Baron: I think I answered that. Overall the objective is to see a band in the future but that I purposefully didn't set out a specific time line for the ban because I think that is something be deliberated on.

Chair Chevrier: The University doesn't have an authority to ban water but this would open up the dialog to in the future do so, so in that sense it would be supporting it.

Senator Michel: Friendly amendment to change it to campus climate commitment instead of action. (Accepted). Catering serves and whether or not they would be a allowed to use bottle water?

Senator Baron: I would be in support of ending that as well. I think that everything that passes under on campus should be included.

Senator Buswell: Friendly amendment to mention clause about how bad bottled water is for you.

Senator Baron: I am not in opposition to the statements you made but I think that my intention in starting off the resolution by referencing to Senator McDonald's resolution from last year was that I would steer this legislation away from specifically talking about the impacts of bottled water.

Senator Buswell: What I am suggesting is to put in something that is factually and morally grounded. It is incredibly general right now. If you vote against this than you are voting against human health.

Senator Baron: I think that the other legislation that is already passed goes into all the issues you were stating.

Senator Hannaford: Thanks for the work you put into this. I heard people question that we ask that the University strikes some language or whether that's too much to ask. So friendly amendment that be it further resolved that if the administration doesn't ban bottle water that it should strike its self from the common ground, like you know split it into two.

Senator Baron: I would accept an amendment to strike that part of the cause because I feel like it may be a bit unnecessary and overly abrasive.

Senator Hannaford: I think the first part of the be it resolved is long. So I would want to see it split into two.

Senator Baron: accepted

Senator Benes: I am uneasy because is this really the correct way to go about cutting bottle water on campus. But I think that it might be more effective to have more of a grasp on these efforts. If you think this is a good idea or if people can learn to make a good choices. Also what do you think about people rallying against bottle water. Do you think because it's a ban people might rebel?

Senator Baron: I would like to point out I addressed all those questions in an email already. I feel that there are several objectives with this resolution and one is to pressure the University to be held accountable to common ground and all the goals it stated. The student response is of high importance. I feel that's what's been addressed throughout this process and the educational campaign is of utmost importance to this initiative but that having the administrative support of this is very crucial in the success of changing the entire communities behavior. There are many people who need to understand why this issue is an important issue before they can rally behind it but many people don't take the time to understand issues till they are directly impacting their lives. I think that for the students who really have never been approached with these moral dilemmas, it's just like this is a habitual activity for them. If they are presented with the opportunity, they don't have the opportunity to buy it that way they will make an effort to change there habitual actions.

Senator Benes: How would you feel conducting a test on certain spots of the University? See if there is an increase in soda or something.

Senator Baron: I am not sure if I am against an idea like that but in light of the business aspect of things on campus that's not really something we could procure with dining services. I am positive that is not something the businesses on campus would be able to do for us.

Chair Maciewicz: Voting for this resolution is the beginning of the process. We don't have the power to ban bottle water but we do represent the student voice. But if we don't say anything now it's not going to happen. I think its time we start making some old decisions. Sometimes we need to support the things we ran on. Its time that we start making some bold choices. And that we are not running to hear ourselves talk.

Chair Cafarelli: I agree with Senator Benes, they are called reverse test markets. I think its feasible for them to do it if we are ultimately trying to remove it from everywhere. I don't see why it wouldn't be easier to remove it from one area. Rather than having us listen to each other talk, who wants this ban? Do we want this, do the students? Where are the students? What research has been done besides the VSOP to acutely garner this support that should be required to make this big ban?

Senator Baron: First of all the support that I am bolstering this resolution on didn't come from the VSOP. But I do know that there were students who signed a petition, yes signing a petition doesn't seem like a major commitment, but I would point out that the students I encountered who were in opposition to this didn't sign it. That all the students I was in contact with signed it with full support behind it. I could open up my email box right now with students who sent me emails excitedly thanking the body for considering this resolution. I can bring in the faculty members who have fully supported it. I think the support for it is greater than anything we have gotten in opposition to it.

Chair Cafarelli: I appreciate you saying you received emails. What are we talking about, 4 emails from a body of 10,000? I think that if we are going to vote on something that is this big that it shouldn't be rushed. I think that voting on it today isn't allowing everyone to sink it in. I feel like those that read the emails are those that have the time but more advertising needs to be done more media coverage more grassroots camping. We cant' just take this and say it's enough to justify a bottle water ban. Whether or not the other side is involved as much as the other it isn't something we can turn our shoulder to.

Senator Buswell: Point of information there are people who exist who support the ban and here they are.

Senator Vivas: I wanted to remind the senate that the school is occupied by over 10,000 students and the presence of 2 of them isn't enough to say there is support. I would like to quote the Bill of Rights. Read first amendment. Even if we deny or accept this the bill or rights let us argue about this. Freedom of speech let us gather together to argue. I don't think that by denying this like Lord Voldemort's Harry Potter is a good move. There are laws protecting us for saying what we want about bottled water.

Senator Whitmore: I am very on the fence about this right now. We clam to be a representative body but I think a lot of us need to realize that there are some of us that tend to be swayed by the more extreme left with social and environmental issues but there are also students out there who probably are not this way. I think we need to realize we do have a lot of students that are not this way and that we need to be aware of the more silent minority. I would propose a more educational thing. I think we should direct our efforts towards educating students. Give students reasons not to buy it rather than a ban. I am a propionate of choices; I don't think its our place to ban bottled water nor do we have the authority to do so.

Senator Baron: Cigarettes used to be sold on this campus but now they are no longer sold on our campus. Our institution has in the past made a commitment to social and ethical values and has taken away some form of freedom of choice from the members of the community.

Senator Whitmore: I wanted to bring to your attention that I think it's poor logic to use cigarettes and bottle water and to compare them. Cigarettes are the only product in America that's direct effect is it kills you. Bottle water is not going to eventually kill you so I don't see that that's an appropriate analogy. I think it's the opposite, that if you are buying bottled water instead of soda its better for you health.

Senator McDonald: The comparison is relevant because there is new research coming out that shows that bottle water can have multiple chemicals in it that are in significant levels in bottle water. Corporations that sell bottled water are trying to suppress this information but studies show there are cancer causing agents in bottled water.

Chair Rifkin: From the student body this will look like a top down approach. You talk about education efforts and I am glad but what kind of education has been going on before this. I know there was the bring your own bottle day but other than that have there been other efforts?

Senator Baron: One thing VSTEP is working on is coming up with more diversified approaches for educating people. Not many people saw this but we were tabling in the DC and giving out baked goods to people who brought their own bottles and had information set up. Positive reinforcement campaigns are something we are going to take on more of in the future. In addition to more articles and we have a display case with facts in the DC. We are very pressed for time a lot of our efforts went in bring your own bottle day but everyone shouldn't see that as this organizations last step. Whether or not this is passed it's still an important thing on the minds of VSTEP. We would like to gain more support for this from more student organizations.

Chair Rifkin: Have you engaged other campus leader? Are there other groups that would help with this education other than VSTEP?

Senator Waldvogel: Also I am part of Eco Reps and we have been doing a lot with one less cup and each of us are in the residence halls promoting reusable bottles and we have signs up in all of the dorms. And Eco Reps is a big program at our school.

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: a lot of the discussion about this bill has not been about whether bottled water is good or bad so to accuse people and calling them cowards I think is inappropriate. When we are looking at a bill like this I think it's safe to say that a majority of this group understands that bottled water is bad and it's fair to compare it to cigarettes. We have to look at what's the best was of eliminating bottle water. Clearly the best way to stop it is to ban it, but if we look and take the macro view and look at people once they leave this university, unless we can create a world wide ban people have to face this later on. Although a ban would bring up some immediate education to some people, if you look down the line after this blows over I question whether people will be faced with this decision whether they will have been educated on the implication of this. What we are talking about, this is the top down approach. It safe to say that students do support this so I think we have to support this. One concern is that if Senator Baron leaves next year who is going to take over this. Voting against it would say we support bottle water and voting for it would open the discussions so I am going to vote for it.

Senator Henley: For me the only reservation that I have had is that it is symbolic in nature. I think it lacks teeth. There is no strong statement saying we will tell students why we are banning bottle water. I

find it hard to change the views of people who are already against you. We are in a unique position to educate the consumer who doesn't give a shit. It's a unique opportunity to educate people who are going to say why is there no bottle water and I think than we can present that information. So an amendment to the last be it resolved I would like to see it say more of something about education.

Senator Church: I support this resolution and I think when there is a product doing clear harm we have the right to ban it. I would say we have an ethical imperative to support this. We have according to the platforms many of us ran on we know there is significant support for this resolution. I randomly asked 50 students I got 47 supporting it and 3 say they would support it if there as one location that would sell it. That is a very strong percentage of random students.

Chair Glynne: I think that Mr. Freilich came in here and talked about moral verse the economic incentive and I see them clash in the business sense which is how the University operates. The moral and ethical aspect of doing this whether it's good or bad I am not going to argue that. If the student body as a whole wants to ban this that's fine but I know how the board and President Fogal works and they are going to wait till the contracts up and then go to the table. In terms of an economic asset bottled water is the most bought bottled liquid on campus so taking that away is taking away an economic incentive from the University. If it's not inherently going to physically harm the students they are not going to do anything bout it. Even if you open this dialogue with the University you will have to wait till the contract is up. I am going to go with what Senator Wilkinson-Ray is talking about with the tax. We get the choice but you have to pay more for it. I think just that is good because we get the best of both.

Senator Benes: I do agree this is a top down approach in the beginning. But it a top down approach that will spark a bottom up approach. I think it's a bill that will head us more in the right direction.

Chair Cafarelli: Do actions speak louder than words? Yes, so if that's the case how can we justify representing the students when the students are still buying bottle water. Why can't the students do the speaking by not buying bottled water instead of us forcing them to not buy it? The students not in support of this are out there buying bottled water. I don't think we can speak for everyone.

Senator Baron: There are more students that support this than the amount of bottles of water that are sold each day on campus. I am not denying there are students opposing this. I think that we should not cater to those students who are addicted to the convince that they have become so comfortable with. We have to think of the future implication of the students that will come to the institution as first years that don't know a UVM that offers bottled water; it won't be such a radical thing for them.

VOTE passes

Resolution Supporting the Green Mountain Boys Being Deployed to Afghanistan

Chair Glynne: I decided to take of the being deployed to Afghanistan. Read resolution. I received a few messages about this. The first was about what I just changed. The second was whether we should include the Global War on Terror. I used this term because it's the official title that the administration is using. And the next was whether or not we should say Green Mountain Boys but that is what they are still referred to as and consider themselves to be. We couldn't get a spot in presenting this to the commanding officer. We are going to present this at one of their last sendoffs which is there official sate sendoff the second week in January.

Senator Sadeghi: Friendly amendment instead change the term War on Terror to Over Seas Operation.

Chair Glynne: I am keeping this because I watched President Obama's announcement and he used the Taliban Insurgency.

Senator Michel: He said that more troops were being sent out so should the number of Green Mountain Boys be increased.

Chair Glynne: When he first took office in January he decided up to 30 thousand more would be deployed the actual number is 32 thousand as of now but no more Green Mountain Boys.

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: I think it's important to remember it was a war with the Soviet Union that brought the Taliban to power. There is a saying that fighting for peace is like screwing or virginity. I would like to support this resolution and I appreciate the changes that were made but I think the idea that people should do as they are ordered even if the means killing other people is nothing we should ask people to do. I think they should make the decision for themselves. I just can't on ethical and moral reason support a bill that is supporting people killing for peace.

Chair Glynne: This wasn't designed as supporting killing people. This just says we support those that have to go do that and be willing to fight for whatever the president says they will fight for. And if they didn't go than we would still have a draft as messed up as that sounds they are willing to go and fight in our stead. We are not supporting the actions they may take but we are supporting them going.

Senator Adams: Friendly amendment striking the be it further resolved because I think it is an empty promise. Because I know that personally I am not going to do everything in my power to help their families and them.

Chair Glynne: I don't accept for many different reasons. I think its shameful that you won't make an effort to support those fighting in your stead. That's just something deep in my core that really upsets me. I feel like not supporting them and their families is the same as people telling veterans when they come home that they are baby killers and that we don't support them. We do have plans, COLA does to volunteer with organization and the Vermont National Guard and the VFW and many other organizations that help. I am not saying that's you I am just saying at is core that how I personally feel about it.

Senator Henley: I would like point out that Senator Adams did not say he wouldn't do anything he said he wouldn't do everything.

Speaker Ellis: Please remember what point of informations are supposed to be used for and hear- hears and nays are for when people are done speaking.

Senator Tran: I feel like the last be it further resolved is abundant so get rid of assist in any way possible.

Chair Chevrier: I think that we should take out the Taliban Insurgency part and maybe make it best of luck on their deployment. I think we are subliminally supporting the mission they are fighting and I think that contradicts itself. I would also like to correct Chair Wilkinson-Ray the correct quote is fighting for peace is like fucking for virginity. I know this because that bumper sticker is on my car.

Chair Glynne: I have to think about that one.

Senator Buswell: Note that maybe what Adams was commenting on is that to me that means not having those soldiers be in Afghanistan, that would be the greatest thing that I could have done. I just think that

everything we could do is find an alternative to war. I do think Chair Chevrier has a valid point that listing military terms could lead to indirect support of the war.

Senator Whitmore: I think it's easy to sit here and say you can't kill for peace but if the US didn't get involved in WWII there would have been more killing going on. I think there are a lot of exceptions and yes I think we made a lot of mistakes in Iraq but I wouldn't say that the US are the instigators here. We are responding to threats against our nation. There are people who have made the choice to protect our country and our country wouldn't be this way if it weren't for those troops. By voting against this resolution you are voting against the United States Armed Forces.

Senator Frye: I am on the line. I think you have a lot of opposition to that statement from the body.

Chair Glynne: I could see how people could imply we are supporting this mission but on the other hand and my father was in the army and he fought in Afghanistan in the early 80's. My dad told me a story that right before he left they talked about their mission and their mission was x y and z whether or not you support that mission. They are ordered to do this mission whether anyone likes it or not. Until they are told that's not their mission anymore we should support them because if we didn't support that, to tell them that in formal piece of legislation makes them uneasy. When we are going to say this to the 15 hundred soldiers going to Afghanistan that might not come home alive. I don't want to send a message that says yes we support you but we don't support where you are going or your mission. We might not support it but we shouldn't actively say that the day they are going to war. I don't think we are saying we support what they would be doing but we support their mission because inherently their mission is one of terror and one of fear.

Senator Frye: I hear you but could it say like we support the Green Mountain Boys in their service to our country. I think that could be good.

Senator Henley: What you just told Senator Frye about how you have to support the mission I just don't agree with you. This is in our own campus climate this is a political statement and personally I support the troops as individuals but I don't support what they are doing. And I can't vote for a bill that says I support the mission because I don't. But I can support a bill that says we hope they get home safe and we appreciate their sacrifice but I can't support something that says I support their mission. I want to take issue with symbolic resolutions like this. A lot of resolutions that have come to the table here like with bottle water. A lot of people are going to ask have you done enough research. So do you know that this statement is something students support. Have you thought about it or is it just something coming from you because you believe in it?

Chair Glynne: There is a lot of talk about how we represent the student body. I think a large majority will support the troops maybe not the cause but the troops. Yes it is symbolic but a lot of movements within American history were symbolic as well and then gained steam. To say that look we support this is a good thing especially because we are not in their shoes. I think that any more social political problems should be pushed aside and we should give them the benefit of the doubt that we support them. Because they are Americans and young men and women that are willing to do what we won't do.

Senator Henley: Based on what you just said you should take the mission on Taliban Insurgents out. I reenter the friendly amendment that senator Frye offered.

Senator Fromuth: I think that I agree with supporting our troops without a doubt but I feel we made a strong case for changing that last part of the sentence and I would like to second what they said to the effect of a safe deployment and return or something along those lines.

Senator Sadeghi: Even though we are supporting the troops what are we supporting them for. This is Afghanistan not Iraq. Afghanistan it's a lost cause we are sending troops in for what. When you have the deployment of men and women and then go on to say fighting the Taliban Insurgency there is too much value on the overall mission.

Chair Glynne: It's there because it sets out why they are going. I am not trying to make it overtly political.

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: Maybe if you said I would support their safe return home. Personally I think the best way for the National Guard to guard the nation is to be at home and the more we go and fight other nations and impose our values on their people the more likely networks like Al-Qaida are to be created. I question why we have to support our troops indefinitely. I don't support us having a standing army. I don't think we need to support these people indefinitely. I understand there is pressure. Why do we have to forget our moral and ethical opinions. It's not a personal thing it's just do we think we should be fighting war in Afghanistan. Do we think that will bring our nation what we want?

Chair Glynne: I would personally like to keep the Taliban Insurgency in there but I am going to accept senator Frye's friendly amendment.

Senator Hannaford: There is a lot of interesting debate and it seems about semantics. SGA wishes to support the Green Mountain Boys in their deployment and wishes them a safe return.

Chair Glynne: I think that says we support what they will be doing over there.

VOTE passes

New Business

Bill recognizing active minds

Executive Reports

Treasurer LeMieux

There is a kid who is part of med life who is going on a service trip to Peru and we are granting money to go. The budgeting process begins very soon so get excited. And once in a while everyone should relax.

Speaker Ellis

I will send out my rules of order I updated them. And that way everyone has a full understanding of when legislation is expected. In the rules of order there are things about decorum and language. All those things might be humorous but they are not for our meeting. Certain language is unacceptable and when you are speaking please remember what you are saying. Decorum has been horrible lately. Vice President Ash got upset the other week and tonight it was just as bad. I am at the point where it is the rules of order. Although we are an organization and we are students but we have to act in a professional manner. We are senators, we are representatives of the student body and we need to act in a professional manner. And happy Thanksgiving.

Chair Rifkin: I have noticed a lot that there had been a lot of word tossing going around like shameful and I ask that in the future you call those people out.

Senator Whitmore: With the note passing I think that should stop. Or really ask people to minimize the note taking. I think it will have more of an effect if you call people out on the spot and tell them they are out of order.

Speaker Ellis: I am glad you both accept that. Being Speaker is nothing you can plan or expect. It is a learning experience. There has been certain adaptations so I appreciate what you both said and having heard that I am going to be more willing to do that.

Senator Michel: Question about the minutes. I read them and there were 27 stupid mistakes that could have been spell checked.

Speaker Ellis: So the minutes and minute taker are under the privy of the vice president. We are going through a different process of editing our minutes.

Senator Vivas: Since we can't have our computer why did we get all of our rules in a pen drive?

Speaker Ellis: Because we are not going to hand out paper for everything but your rules of order are things you should know before coming into this room.

Senator Vivas: What if we would like to directly quote them?

Speaker Ellis: Come prepared or ask your chair to have their commuter.

Senator Michel: What does it take to sentence someone?

Speaker Ellis: You have to let me know I'm writing and it will take a week and they will be given notice and if the sentence goes through you are automatically up for impeachment. I have to be a written motion to the speaker.

Senator Buswell: Who are the senators on the constitution committee?

Speaker Ellis: Constitution committee is being reevaluated because of the positions that have been dropped.

Senator Buswell: So if there are changes that need to be made who do we bring them up to?

Speaker Ellis: Chair Maciewicz, Senator Burns, President Jones, myself, Senator Doran, Senator Michel, and Senator Bradford.

Chair Cafarelli: Can you motion to silence someone?

Senator Michel: can you motion to silence someone within a meeting?

Speaker Ellis: Yes

Chair Burns: Are your rules of order on the usb right now?

Speaker Ellis: They were updated and that's why they are being sent out by email tonight.

President Jones

Keep Local Farms was a state created program. The road to excellence, Vice President Ash and I communicated with the administration and were curious what specifics were going to be addressed in undergraduate education. They are going to be working to create another document to write up specifying what opportunities undergraduates could get from this initiative. The transdisciplinary research initiative just to give you an update they are shooting to have their 8 different working groups proposals done by January 14th and then around March they will be having an open forum to allow people to come and comment on these different proposals. Budget update- Vice President Ash, myself, and Treasurer LeMieux have a meeting tomorrow with Richard Kate to talk about the budget further. By December 15th they are supposed to have a calendar of events given to the governing bodies to have. They think closing up budget gaps will be the end of April. There is nothing for me to tell you about naked bike ride. If you guys are planning on running that awesome but you can volunteer on the earlier committee.

Senator Hannaford: I want to impress upon you and Vice President Ash and Treasurer LeMieux to really push Vice President Kate to provide us and the students with as much clear information about the budget this year and the plans to meet the deficit.

President Jones: I will do that but it is our responsibility as students to understand what they are talking about. But it's not their job to spoon feed us. I am upset that you think that we wouldn't do that.

Chair Rifkin: About the TRI there is a big forum in March but I thought there were forums for each working group?

President Jones: They are open meetings

Senator Altendorfer: What are the details for volunteering for the naked bike ride?

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: I will send out an email

Committee Reports

Finance- Chair Cafarelli

I would say that we are on par with using up almost half of our resources in our allocation pool.

Student Activities- Chair Chevrier

We have winter activities week where the clubs take over the DC. It's a great way for clubs to recruit members, advertise, fundraise, and network. The dates aren't settled yet but I will keep you updated. The book store is doing a fundraiser for clubs. In hopes to get more people to sell their books back to where they bought them they are going to be giving our clubs an absurd amount of money. If I receive an email from the club their name will go on a list and there will be a competition. We are going to be doing a fundraiser workshop so that all clubs can make their \$100 requirement by February 1st.

Senator Buswell: Have you talked to the book store in depth about their concerns pertaining to the poor return on books. Is there only feeling that is the competition down town?

Chair Chevrier: It's also the poor economy. But they have high hopes.

Senator Buswell: It could just be a flawed business model that they are providing far less money when you return books.

Chair Chevrier: I said that and they said their prices are better than everyone else's.

Senator Whitmore: I sold my books back accidentally to the book store my freshman year and I got double for my books on Amazon and half.com all other years.

Chair Chevrier: But Amazon doesn't give money to our clubs.

COLA- Chair Glynne

Senator Candon: Lighting audit tomorrow night.

Chair Glynne: I am sorry if anyone is offended by my comment towards my resolution. I am very passionate about this stuff. I am really sorry. I sounded like a douche and I am sorry. I had a meeting with President Fogal on Monday and it was what I expected. I asked him whether they would come to our town meeting day and he said no and I much prefer to do the forums here at SGA. I think he meant because there was nobody here to talk to him about it. Unfortunately he is not going to come to our town meeting and we want more accountability from him. I also talked about the notice issued he said that the University hears what the city is talking about and we are actively trying to help out with the noise issue but that is a load of crap. It's up to the students to do something about it. We have a community coalition meeting this Friday from 2-4 at the Perl house. And we have an off campus shuttle meeting the same day to talk about the schedule and whether or not we are going to keep the off campus shuttle. We are very opposed to getting rid of it. Senator Atcheson and I are going to a COTS fundraiser meeting tomorrow. Hopefully we are going to be partnering up with program board so that we can lower ticket prices. We can lower the price to \$10 per student. We also have various community service opportunities. We are going to continue to work with COTS and we have our coat drive and my favorite the Penguin Plunge. I need 9 members to join our team. It's February 6th. We get a free hat and towel and free food before. And there is an off campus living workshop tomorrow from 5-8.

Senator Buswell: Before you go to program board go to campus programs because they have more money.

Senator Church: Would you be in favor of not taking students down town and only bringing them back?

Chair Glynne: Probably not, I think the University is hesitant to do that as well. The students are going down town anyway and the assumption is they are going to go drink and regardless of what time at night they would like to keep it going down the main issue is where they are stopping and the roots they are going to take. The main thing is they hate stopping in front of Pearl Street Beverage. But it is one of the best lit areas to drop students off.

Chair Chevrier: Was there talk about having the on campus bus going to Jeanne Mance?

Chair Glynne: The meetings have strictly been about the off campus bus. But I can bring it up to the transportation office.

Senator Henley: When you talk about limiting hours the earlier or later?

Chair Glynne: A bit of both, they don't have an official plan. One was limiting the hours to midnight one was having it start later at midnight and going to 2:30am. We are in sage 2 of planning so the next meeting we are having is to focus in and make a decision in the spring.

Senator Henley: When I was living on campus and worked downtown in the winter it gets dark early. And I took that bus home 5 days a week at 7. I think it is very important to women's safety.

Chair Glynne: That has been voiced a lot, about women safety.

Senator Henley: I know a bunch of women who have gotten attacked on their way back to campus.

Senator Adams: I accept your apology and I wanted to apologies myself.

CODEEE- Chair Maciewicz

Thanks everyone who voted for the bottle water ban. When we get back from winter brake we will have a our last sustainability requirement meeting. We have one final meeting I will advertise than. 2 Thursdays ago we had a meeting with the ALANA student center and we are working with them to do some diversity work in winter retreat. I would like to have another group to talk about the Red Cross. Thanks to everyone on senate who submitted a clean energy fund request.

Student Action- Chair Wilkinson-Ray

I went to a meeting with the dean of the libraries before break. The main concern that was brought up was hours. They said they have to run the numbers before on keeping it open. So they said they will run the numbers and get back to me. I will give you those numbers when I get them.

Senator Michel: I have an audit update. They are adding my name to the board of trustees audit committee list serve. If you have questions about the audits me or Treasurer LeMieux can answer you questions. Also an audit on the comprehensive fee if you are interested in it please come talk to me.

Senator Whitmore: I encourage student action to encourage the library thing.

Chair Wilkinson-Ray: I don't think I will be to hard to get it but money is hard to come by and they will need money to keep it open.

Public Relations- Chair Rifken

Benes: I printed out 400 VSOPs. I have the sign up sheet it is mandatory. Try and keep it as random as you can. I will send out an excel file if you could write the results in the file and send them back to me. If you could do that by next Tuesday that would be great. And drop them off next Tuesday as well.

Chair Rifkin: Drop off the hard copies on the PR desk. Tabling has been going awesome. Senator Whitmore and I tied yelling out random compliments to people today. If anyone has ideas of how to change it around next semester to get everyone involved. If anyone is speaking to the media please let me know.

Senator Buswell: Given the number of people who aren't sure when they will be around I think it would be best to postpone the t-shirt making till we get back.

Treasurer LeMieux: Do you have a waver for the design you are using?

Senator Buswell: For the mascot? It's going to be a cartoon caricature.

Treasurer LeMieux: You are supposed to get a waiver for anything that has UVM on it. I would suggest you get a waiver so we don't get in trouble.

Chair Rifkin: We do have a waiver. Treasurer LeMieux and I went to the general education meeting and I we encourage you to all look at that.

Elections Committee- Senator Buswell

Senator Venman stepped down for personal reasons. We were fortunate enough because we will be able to do mid year elections because of his resignation. They will happen when we get back from break.

Chair Chevrier: When will packets be made available? And have there been changes to any rules?

Chair Rifkin: Those were the changes we voted on so I don't know if senate wants an explanation because if you look over the rules and regulations I hope its pretty clear.

Chair Chevrier: Can you email it out again?

Academic Affairs-Chair Burns

I have the draft from Faculty Senate for the academic calendar for the next 5 years. It looks like all have the full 9 days off for thanksgiving break. In the fall also we have final exams on Saturdays but they specify students with religious conflicts could set up alternative exam times. For all the spring proposals no Saturday exams but also no town meeting day.

Chair Rifkin: Can you email out a copy?

Chair Burns: Sure.

Senatorial Forum

Chevie: I wanted to voice my frustration that we called the water bottle resuiton to queiotn early beuca ei think everyone was saign pretty diffent thigns so I think peoelhsoudl have the opurtunity to say something. Alos ti wanted to say with al do respet that if eveyroen is sugeting to make a freldly amendment just aept for deny. I thinkwe waisted a lot fo time eahvign everyone voe the same thing. Also I don't think foul langua makes a organization more or less profeitonal a do I think strong langasge is needed for proper emfacis. Also I unerstdand why we soul wiat til the end to heer her pr nay alo of things I think epeo say many tign and iwoudl woulnoy her her par tof there tatemtns. I tinkwe sholbe given that opprotuenity. Otherwise we wil ahv moer poe sading up to reper what pe have seiad

Frye: 5 at oru hosue wekly gathering.

Whitmroe: I ask everyone to asses the nessiasry of our comest coniering the time

Buswell; I think it appropriate to have a hearing when there may be a semicolon or colon in the speech or a comma. I know that human health was not a major part of the water bottle ban tonight but I just wanted to make sure that you know I am a resource as well as the worldwide web that the release information about the health hazards due to bottle water. I think it would be well deserved to take a look at.

Henley: I am continually disappointed by some members of this body to be unwilling to take the time to commit to this body.

Baron: thank everyone for supporting this resolution it means a lot to me and hope some of you askwell I appreciate all the support I got along the way. I want to say that I see this as a groundbreaking move that our university could be taking part in right now.

Glynne: there has been some talk about the read cross issue I am curious to hear about the situation. I talked to President Fogal about it. I am curious about what the students' leaders have to say. I want to do a quick synopsis of what I hear from Obama 30th anniversary to be sent to disrupt disband and defeat the Taliban. They will be sent to the southern provinces of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Some of the allies within NATO will be pulling their troops out. It will be interesting to see what NATO does. He says that he will actively pull troops out of Afghanistan within 18 months. By next summer all major combat troops will be out of Iraq and by the summer of 2011 will be out of Iraq. It's been a tradition that the last meeting before the winter break we have this holiday party. Senate put on some sort of snack and drink thing before so I propose we do something after as well.

Whitmire: I have given some thought to the idea of an after gathering at my place so look for an email.

Vivas; remind the senators about the rules of order there is a part that says during a debate no senator can attack the motive of another senator. We have to be very respectful towards what others have to say.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Ellis: last meeting next week should be short. Chairs I need your voting records.

Roll Call

FINANCE: caferelli ex

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: all

COLA: Shusariba ex

CODEEE: macdonald ex

STUDENT ACTION: grenenwald brown ex

PR: all

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: all

Adjournment: 10:41