



TUESDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2011  
TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE 2010-2011 SENATE

**Call to Order**

***Start Time: 7:00pm***

**Roll Call**

**Finance:**

**Student Activities:**

**COLA:** Senator Cooper, Unexcused

**CODEEE:** All Present

**Student Action:** Chair Simmons, Senator Ravech, Senator Fifield, excused

**Public Relations:** All Present

**Academic Affairs:** All Present

**Approval of the Minutes**

**From 2/22/11 - passes**

**Public Forum (0:00.34)**

**Jane Knodell, Provost**

**Jane Knodell:** Very good to be here. It's always a great discussion when I come to visit this body. My prepared topic is internationalization so I have some remarks to make and then I'd like to get into some dialogue with you. If there is anything else you'd like to ask me about I'm totally open to that too. What's my time limit? Internationalization, what is it? It is a multi-faceted initiative on campus. It is supportive of our drive for academic excellence and touches on all aspects of our academic life here on campus. From the point of view of your curriculum, we have acknowledged that it is absolutely essential if you are to be prepared for the world you will enter, that we integrate global perspectives into the curriculum as we have in the 6 credit diversity curriculum requirement. The student experience, the Board of Trustees has a statement on diversity that I'm going to quote from a lot in my remarks because it's a powerful statement and hits many nails right on the head. In that statement they say much student learning comes from personal and group interactions inside and outside the classroom. Those interactions need to be enriched by a diversity of experience, opinions, and views. Many of the most able and gifted students actively seek out the diversity of ideas. Without this type of multicultural experience and the depth of understanding it helps develop, our students will lack a very significant dimension of educational preparation as they leave to take chosen careers and take your place as leaders in a state and nation that are increasingly diverse. Internationalization is about your experience as a student and bringing more diversity to the table. It is also about diversity. Our mission statement says we are going to build a diverse and globally aware university community sustained by an inclusive, supportive, and just campus climate. Diversity and academic excellence are inseparable. We really can't achieve our goals without having a very active diversity agenda. The question before the house and the reason I am here is the following question. Is now the time to advance internationalization and become a more international campus through an intentional increase in our international student program? Right now international students make up about 1% of total undergraduate student body which is a very small percentage compared to other universities like us. Middlebury has 10%. SUNY Binghamton is in the 8-9% range. When you

compare us to the places that we think we're like, we're very national and domestic in our composition. Now, the two preconditions before you even start getting into these. One is that you have to do it right. You have to really have the student services that are needed. You have to do it in a way that compliments our domestic diversity efforts. We can't think that recruiting students from South Asia is somehow a substitute for recruiting and retaining ALANA students. It's not about that. It's about doing both. It's about the two kinds of work complementing and strengthening each other. In our thinking that international students would not reduce enrollment. It would be part of our out of state enrollment strategies. The other part of doing it right and the reason why I'm here tonight is because we want to engage with everyone on campus and hear your thinking before we get too far into this and get your advice. What are the things that we should be thinking about? Do you like the idea? If so what are the things we should be sure to plan for and think about as we move forward. I think that in many respects increasing international student enrollment could really jump start internationalization and could be very powerful in terms of changing the way the campus feels. When I talk to faculty and look at all of the international work that faculty do, they go abroad on research projects, they do field work internationally, they have colleagues in their research communities. Then when I look at the curriculum we have a new and growing global and regional studies major, I don't know if there are any majors in that here tonight. We are actually a very international campus but it doesn't feel that way. There is kind of a disconnect there in my mind and an opportunity to do something that is going to build our multicultural awareness, our multicultural competency, and done right will be very synergistic with our drive to excellence which encompasses everything we're doing as well. There are some practical considerations that I'm not going to get into. I want to kind of leave it there. So can we do dialogue here? I'd like to hear your questions, your issues, your reactions. What do you think?

#### *Open the Floor for Questions*

**Senator O'Brien:** Thank you so much for coming in Provost Knodell. I was curious in terms of internationalization if you could consider UVM students studying abroad as part of that? [inaudible].

**Jane Knodell:** Absolutely that's a great question. I absolutely consider study abroad as part of internationalization. In fact a larger percentage of our students do study abroad than in many other universities. We're kind of a high performer in that way already. That says to me that our students are actually really interested in the international experience and education and study abroad is totally a part of the effort.

**Senator O'Brien:** In terms of Spring 2012 all out of state students who plan on enrolling in a UVM bilateral exchange or foreign program that accepts international aid that is going to go up to 150% of in state. Is there a fear that might de incentivize studying abroad for undergraduate students. So for programs like the UVM bilateral exchange that for out of states currently costs 100% of in state tuition and that's changing to 150% as of in state tuition as of Spring of 2012. Is there a fear that might de incentivize that for undergrads who might have chosen that because it was a cheaper option and who decided that?

**Jane Knodell:** I think that I'm not exactly sure who decided it but I have to take responsibility because everything eventually comes up to me. In general, we are constantly assessing our tuition policies on things like this to make sure they are comparable to what other institutions are doing. Our sense was that at 150% of in state is still probably a pretty good educational value. We'll probably see what the reaction is and if there is a large adverse reaction we will go back and rethink it. We do not want to have less activity and we actually think that exchange relationships where UVM has a relationship with say the University of London and we each say we are going to send and receive each other students and consider the tuition even versus you going to Butler and looking at their study abroad options and taking one of those and going on that. The great thing about the exchange relationship is that we get to build relationships with faculty over there and vice versa. It can spread to faculty doing projects together, faculty taking

students on a trip to London because they've got a colleague and going to do a service learning project in London or something like that.

**Senator Cesario:** Hi, thanks for coming in. I have a big question I guess. I can totally understand why UVM wants international students but I want to look on the flip side as to why international students want to come here. That's a large concept so I will frame it in a narrower sense. I work weekly with students from the USPP program, so Chinese students who just recently arrived and have only had a few years of English. There is a lot of trouble with professors not knowing how to equitably approach these students work so they struggle getting graded on the same level as people who have been speaking English their whole lives. What do you plan to do to make professors have an across the board training for professors to be able to understand how to work with international students?

**Jane Knodell:** This is something I have been talking to with Jay Dickinson who is a professor of Anthropology and also a co-director for the Center for Teaching and Learning. She has been saying the same thing that faculty actually need some training to be prepared for students in their classrooms who have a very high level of academic training and are very prepared, but English is their second language. Especially early in their years in an American university, you need some way of helping the students adapt to an American classroom environment which is different from what they're used to, but also getting faculty to adopt the universal design to learning which actually are some really great techniques to acknowledge that even in this room there are multiple different ways that people learn. Really great teaching is about using different ways to explain material and engage students. The techniques that will work for international students will actually be enhancing educational options for everybody. We absolutely need to plan for that and make it fun and attractive for faculty to participate.

**Senator Caster:** Within the Board of Trustees reports there was much mention of diversity but there was also a mention of the revenue opportunities that comes from an internationalization program and I was wondering if you could to that and what that opportunity looks like for UVM and speak to at the Board of Trustee committee meetings the issue seemed much more contentious amongst the Board of Trustee members. I was wondering if you could speak to the Board of Trustee contentions they may have with issue, resolving that contention and the financial opportunities that go along with an opportunity like this in terms of the University of Vermont and its learning.

**Jane Knodell:** I agree with your assessment that at the full board it was unambiguous that, yeah we think you should go do this. At the educational policy committee, there was a little more discussion which I heard as some trustees worried that we're trying to do too much on top of TRI and Gen Ed, it seems like a lot of initiatives. What I said then and I do believe is that these 3 initiatives reinforce each other and we can move forward on all three at a reasonable pace. You are not going to transform or change the world over night, but if you keep going in 5-10 years you could really do some transformative things on each of those fronts. On revenue opportunities, I think most people know that the University of Vermont is tuition dependent meaning that the State of Vermont provides about 13% of our operating budget down from in the 70s 50% of our operating budget. That means we have to make up everything else from other sources. The primary other source is tuition and there are a couple other sources but mainly tuition. People also know that of the undergraduate student body about 2/3 of you are from out of state and about a 1/3 of you are in state. The 1/3 in state is constrained by Vermont demographics. There are fewer and fewer high school students graduating from UVM but a lot of them are down at the other end of the hallway. This is Chittenden County admitted students visit day. They are down in the Maple Ballroom so hopefully we'll get a bunch of them. Going back to out of state students, you are 2/3, about 80% of our out of state come from the Northeast. We are very dependent on New England plus New York, Pennsylvania, the middle states. When you project out the number of high school graduates, they decline in those states between 10-20%. If our market share stays the same and just the number of students and we don't do anything but keep doing what we're doing, our enrollment falls by 10%, and we have to make some other changes. We think that we're the

right size so we're trying to get out in front of that demographic decline and we think that recruiting internationally is a way to kill two birds with one stone. If you do it right.

**Senator Moise:** Thank you for coming in. With the increased interest in international students on campus, what is going to be done to ensure the current ALANA students and the new incoming ALANA students that the needs of both will be properly supported?

**Jane Knodell:** That's a great question. I am going to work with our Chief Diversity Officer Wanda Heading-Grant and we have been working very closely on this. We both are absolutely committed to seeing no, at the very least, a maintenance of current level of support for ALANA students and it needs to be enhanced. We know it's not where it needs to be and that needs to be a part of the plan. If we don't meet our enrollment goals that's also going to undermine our ability to provide the support that's important.

**Senator Rifken:** Thank you for coming in. I had a really quick question going in the same line of discussion about the incoming international students and thoughts for the future would that be going into out of state numbers? I know that we're not predicting any more growth as a university so my concern from a student point of view is does that mean that in state or out of state are going to be decreasing?

**Jane Knodell:** We see it as part of our out of state enrollment targets. At a time when there is going to be fewer numbers of students coming out of high schools in our primary recruitment area.

**Chair Adams:** Thanks for coming in. There has been a lot of talk, more so in the fall, about issues surrounding the Kaplan program that feeds the USPP program. I was wondering you're your thoughts were on that and how international partners are chosen.

**Jane Knodell:** USPP, does everyone know USPP? Has been a great learning experience for us. This is our first real foray into doing this in an intentional way. There have been some great success stories among those students and some students who haven't succeeded and had to leave the program. I think what we've learned is number 1, that we would be better off having more involvement in the preparation of international students than is the case in Kaplan. In a way that's outsourcing. There are some models where you do it yourself, you have a year kind of like a college prep year that students enroll in and then you matriculate. There is kind of a very good story here which is that for next year we increased our academic standards and we're getting more students next year. What we know is that there has been really good word of mouth going to the USPP students high schools. They are saying they are having a really great experience here at UVM in large part because our community is welcoming and they feel supported and feel like they're having a good educational experience. I think that's a plus for us and we've learned a lot from that. It was a good educational experiment. Sometimes you've got to experiment because that's how you move forward.

**Senator Vitagliano:** Thanks for coming in. I had a question in the interest of internationalization will that influence the capital ranking proposal submitted by the ALANA Student Center to accommodate the needs of the students so those resources are there for international students to have an upgraded facility?

**Jane Knodell:** Will it affect the ranking of the ALANA Student Center? The answer is no. They have gone through the ranking, the ALANA student center which is the first time in a while it was introduced into the process. It actually ranked pretty well. That's the ranking that we'll take to the board and we're going to proceed accordingly.

**Senator Vitagliano:** Can you share where it ranks?

**Jane Knodell:** I don't know the number off hand but I'm pretty sure it's in the top 1/3.

**Senator O'Brien:** Can you talk about what kind of financial aid international students are eligible for? Is it just merit based?

**Jane Knodell:** You can't use federal funds for international students but you can use UVM's own dollars for international students. We would apply and develop our own policies and we would definitely take need into account because we don't want to undermine Socioeconomic diversity with this effort either.

**Senator Ballas:** Thanks again for coming in. Are we aiming for that 8-10% sweet spot similar to other universities? Also is there any particular location in the world we're looking or just anywhere?

**Jane Knodell:** The question of our target is 8-10% is what I want to hear from you guys. Should we do just a little bit or should we do enough to get a critical mass and make an impact? I would like to hear from you guys on that. In terms of the latter case, again, I would like to hear from you, but I think that most people are saying you want to recruit from around the world. Some people think there is a lot of opportunity in South America. Where the numbers are is in China and in terms of the numbers of students coming out of high school and there is a lot of interest there in studying abroad that I think we would want to have a real good mix and just draw from one region.

**Senator Yeager:** I guess with me I would love to see a more diverse campus, 8-10%. I feel like if you're not confident enough in the facilities and the teaching you wouldn't want that, you would want to see gradual increases. If you think that the USPP was that much of a success that you can jump to 8-10% I would say definitely but I think there have been some issues with the program or as someone pointed out that the teachers teaching the international students so I'm not quite sure if we're quite ready yet for the 8-10%, at least until there is training program established for teaching.

**Jane Knodell:** I think it would take 5,6 years to get there.

**Senator Caster:** While you're here, I have been working with Senator Rifken has put together and been working pretty extensively on a budget ad hoc committee. One of the projected models and data that we have been looking at is the \$3-6 million in projected budget cuts and I was just curious if in your opinion if there was any implications of that that would be most visible on campus and how the administration has worked to provide a pillow so that the changes are not going to be directly affecting academics and how you and the administration have been working with some of the contention particularly in light of the faculty executive council coming out against this budget coming out against this budget with the hiring of the new business professor. To shorten that, how has the administration been able to provide a pillow zone so the budget cuts will not directly affect academics?

**Jane Knodell:** We asked the Deans and the VPs to prepare a 1.5% cut scenario which is the 3 million and a 3% cut which is the 6 million in January because at the time we didn't know what was going on with the appropriation, we didn't know what tuition increase the trustees were going to approve. We thought we need to start planning for the range of possible scenarios here. When we looked at those two levels of cuts we thought in general, it was hard to do the deeper level without causing damage. We went to the three million dollar level and with the Deans I said please bring me proposals that do not involve the reduction of tenure track faculty lines or the reduction of lecturers or anything that would cause the ratio to rise. The ratio at 17.5 I don't think should rise. They were able to bring proposals that have other ways to skimp and save in order to achieve that and we did. My budget I did a 6% cut. I took money out of my discretionary accounts and I just thought I needed to do a bigger cut and I did and it means when faculty comes and says can you help me put on a conference I'm going to have less money for that. That's life.

The main thing that is more important to me was preserving the instructional experience of our students.

**Chair Monteforte:** Hello. I just wanted to go back to your question asking about international students. I'm in the Business School so I think about 50 of USPP are there. Daniel is here, he's on my committee and in one of my classes as well. I think it's a great opportunity, I've learned a lot about China and I would love to see more students from around the world, Africa, Europe, South America. Learn about different cultures and might help influence my study abroad ideas and stuff like that. I think it has been a tremendous success and I think trying to reach for that 10% goal would be fantastic.

**Senator Yuan:** As Nick Said, I'm a USPP student so we had program last summer and it was after just one semester 5 have left the university. I agree with Senator Yeager, we are not quite ready for 8-10% of international students yet. I was wondering if there are any specific programs to support or help international students here at UVM. Also, international students, some speak really good English but some don't really. I was wondering how we are going to solve this problem?

**Jane Knodell:** Some models, if we were to reach 8-10% in 5 or 6 years we would work with some outside entity in the way that we're working with Kaplan and USPP. Other entities have different models in which you the university actually does the English language instruction for the international students yourself instead of leaving that to Kaplan to do. I think that would result in much better outcomes and Jay Dickinson had the idea that would then help the faculty increase their teaching skills in teaching more diverse populations.

**Senator Mason:** Thanks for coming in. Just thinking ahead if we actually do increase this to 5-10% and the teachers get the training they need, what's going to be the academic standard? Is it going to be the same as it is going to be for regular students because I know that for last year I think we had a whole bunch of international students in Living and Learning saying all we need is Ds. I know none of us can stay in our colleges with straight Ds.

**Jane Knodell:** Let me speak about the admissions standards would be the same as for any other students. In terms of passing grades they are subject to all the academic regulations that everyone else is subject to.

**Senator Rifken:** I think Senator Caster touched on this a little bit. In the budget proposal there was a piece in there and there were other considerations but I believe internationalization was in there. I was just curious about financial resources and how that would look in the future, as well as tuition increases and how that would play out if that is going to be affecting that because we've had such high increases recently.

**Jane Knodell:** All of those initiatives, internationalization, general education and TRI involve some up front investment which so far has been very modest with TRI, involve some up front investment to get the future benefits. In the case of internationalization it's about protection of our revenue base to respond to our demographic decline. I see it as a revenue generator. I have to do more careful costing out of what are the costs associated with it. The very early calculations I've done tell me it will be an enhancer to our debt revenue situation and that is something that in the long run we will draw from. In that line of reasoning it will lead to lower tuition not higher tuition.

**Senator Caster:** In your mind is the administration and your office committing to maintaining the instructional capacity level where it is with the budget cut in light of any misstep or difficulty such as the lack of level funding from the state appropriation?

**Jane Knodell:** Assuming that nothing terrible happens to us we will maintain our instructional capacity.

**Audience Member:** Soemone mentioned earlier and I was wondering with the recent decision by the Faculty Senate executive salary for the salary comes down what is the administration's next step?

**Jane Knodell:** We are going to be meeting tomorrow with the Executive Council of the Senate to have an open sharing of views to hear what's on their minds and for them to make their argument about why we think this is in the best interest for the university. They are very large, high salaries. We see them as these two recruitments will build to a much better school of business. The Dean coming in has already defined his metrics by which he's willing to perform in terms of enhancing the ability of the school to attract strong students. It is not among our strong straws, frankly. We want it to be more competitive, to be able to attract the best students who are going to come here for the school of business. Entrepreneurship, we are in a tough economy and Dr. Sharma and Dr. Sharma are among the leaders in the world among family business and entrepreneurship. Wouldn't it be great for students to come to UVM and be successful entrepreneurs, not only be successful business people but also create jobs for other people. I think that would be really important for us. Sanjay Sharma who will be the Dean was the CEO of a Multinational Corporation based in India in the food business. Last time I checked we're into food in Vermont. We're doing food systems, we want to revitalize our agricultural sector in the state. Something tells me this guy will have good ideas. He combines the successful business career and then he went into academia, wrote some books, moved up the faculty ranks. He has both things. Often when you go on a business Dean search you say should we hire someone from the world of business or the world of academia? These two very different types of choices. We're getting both. They are a very impressive people and I think they are a good catch for us. I understand the concerns about the salaries, it's big numbers, especially for a moderate income state like Vermont but I do think it's a good investment.

**Senator Tepper:** Thanks for coming in. I guess this is a good segue from that. I know Senator Monteforte was saying there were 50 people from the USPP in the business school and I'm in the Rubenstein School and I don't see a ton of representation from international students. Granted, it's a smaller college. Is there going to be any way to recruit students from a wide variety of interests? I'm a little bit biased towards the environmental stuff, but specifically I came to UVM because I was under the impression that it was a green university. If we're going to be trying to recruit strong business students is there going to be an effort to recruit international students from all types of academic interests?

**Speaker Chevrier:** Point of Information: There were originally 30 USPPP students. About 75% were in the business school and about 5% dropped out.

**Jane Knodell:** If you want to diversify by country of origin and also academic interest. If we want to have real integration of international students on campus, they can't all be from one program because then that program has a nice international experience but no one else does. Yes, that would be my thinking.

**Chair Filstein:** How many or what percent of the international students receives need based financial aid?

**Jane Knodell:** I don't know the answer to that question.

**Chair Filstein:** What ever became of the proposals that you and Richard Cate opened it up to receive outside proposals.

**Jane Knodell:** We have not started the RFP process yet. We wanted to do community engagement before we put the RFP out and at the end of April the deans are going to reconvene and share notes, talk about what we've heard from the different corners of campus with which we spoke. If this seems like good initiative we will go out with an RFP at that time. Nothing will happen of that until the fall.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Thank you for coming. I was a program assistant at the U.S. Sino Pathways Program last summer. I have been in touch with many of the students I work with and now that I have the opportunity I feel the need to voice some of the frustrations they felt that I've heard and ask how they are being met because I feel it is important their needs are being met before we expand. For instance, there has been issues with professors denying the right to have note takers for foreign students if they don't have any sort of documented issue. I know that was brought up with the President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusivity so little steps have been taken but not many. I know there has been a lot of issues with the student code of responsibility and conduct or student rights and responsibility because as international students because as international students if they are caught drinking their American counterparts might get a slap on the wrist from the peer judicial board whereas they might get sent home for violating a law and therefore having their visas removed. There has also been a lot of issues with the Kaplan Center that the U.S. Sino Pathways students come from. What I personally saw was the students from the Shanghai Kaplan were all stellar students. They spoke beautiful English, they've all kept up. Daniel has been a shining example and then students from other Kaplan Centers were grossly unprepared. They bragged about all they did was cheat on their Kaplan exams and they came here and all they are doing is cheating and that's not working out well. Beforehand you said that international students are held to the same standards as American students but international students didn't have to take the SATs or any other entrance exam. I guarantee that most of the students, had they had to take the SATs in English would not have met the same standards we require from American students because a lot of them have not been able to keep up because they couldn't write before they came here. That wasn't the case with the Shanghai writing center and whoever is over there should be teaching the others, but it was the case for a lot of the other writing centers. That's a big issue. When I engaged in conversations with them over the summer and I said I love Vermont, why did you choose Vermont, they said I got placed in Vermont and I didn't want to have to take my college entrance exam in China. I think that's a big problem and I want to know how those various issues are being addressed and if there's any talk about creating if it's not the SATs because that's probably hard to find to take in China, but if there is any new test that we could administer to make sure people are actually ready to come to the University of Vermont and succeed as a student. I know the U.S. Sino Pathways Program was extraordinarily expensive and then a lot of them left because they were in classes they couldn't keep up. How are we addressing that and making sure we are addressing all of these things before they come and are set up to fail again.

**Jane Knodell:** Some of this is news to me about the college entrance exams and so forth. I am going to go back to Chris Lucier who is in charge of this. I think in terms of the faculty we have to, the Chairs and Deans have to work with faculty and say you need to allow notetakers, you need to be responsive to the needs of all the students in your courses. I didn't know about the higher consequences for violations of rules. It could be nothing we could do anything about. In terms of how do we make sure our students are prepared, I think we're going to learn from what happened this year, number one. Number two, as I mentioned before the new crop coming in looks more academically qualified than our first class, on average. Ultimately, I think if we do a college prep year for international students ourselves on campus then we're going to know what kind of work they are doing at the end of that. That might be even better than an SAT in terms of assessing their preparedness.

**Chair Filstein:** To switch gears a little bit, what are your thoughts on where Gen Ed is right now and moving forward for the rest of the semester?

**Jane Knodell:** I think Gen Ed is in a really good place. I think there has been a really good back and forth between the Gen Ed committee of Faculty and the Deans who developed the idea and the Faculty Senate where people have raised questions, concerns. They have been going back and forth. At this point there is a motion that has been drafted that will go to the Senate for discussion but not necessarily a vote that says ok, we agree with these learning outlets in concept and we will agree to a process by which in a Faculty Committee identifies recourses which are needed to

achieve these learning outcomes. Then that committee, which will probably be Brian Reed in the Provost's Office, we will probably work with him, will come to the Provost and I will say ok it looks like we are ready to implement quantitative reasoning. We will do that and do it in a sequential way that we will invest a little bit of resources year by year. I think we'll see what the Faculty Senate has to say. The main concerns I've heard are around resources. How can we really do this without asking the faculty to teach a lot of new courses on top of what they are already doing. The committee process is meant to address those kinds of concerns. I think the learning outcomes are really powerful when you look at the educational philosophy inside it's very powerful and could really create an educational experience with very high value and relevance. Education is not just a commodity. What are we for? We are here to educate young people to go out to solve problems in our business. I think this Gen Ed proposal is pretty well designed from that perspective.

**Senator Bennington:** So I'm really interested in what you had to say about the Business Dean, especially in terms of meeting entrepreneurship to be encouraged and I've met some wonderful student entrepreneurs in this school in the time I've been here. They all come from CDAE that I've met. It seems to me a lot of times we don't focus on what we already have here that's really great and we focus on trying to make things that aren't great better. Food, we love food. I love food more now that I've been here for 4 years. Not multinational corporate food though. I'm kind of curious how someone involved in multinational corporate food, maybe I misunderstood that, how that is going to fuel local food research. When was it decided, I didn't see it in the TRI or anything I've seen here in my 4 years about bettering the university, when was it decided that we wanted to have a top ranked business school?

**Jane Knodell:** The latter point. I think that we, I've never heard anyone say we should get rid of the business school or any existing college or school. I think business education is part of our mission and we need to have every college and school to be as good as it can be. I think that is where it's connected to our strategic direction. I think that we've got a really good faculty, we have a significant investment in the school of business with a faculty that is increasingly research active. We have very good teachers and frankly they have language for lack of leadership. I'd like to give them an opportunity to achieve their potential. I think that entrepreneurs in CDAE and the School of Business can feed each other in positive ways and I know that Dean Vogelmann has already worked interim Dean Sherman to create a very innovative project with Cabot Creamery to create some internship opportunities for our students. I think Dr. Sharma will help us do more. My vision for business is not a global vision. When I was on the City Council I did a lot to promote local food and support local food and support the interval center. I'm really into that. I think the answer is more of a regional food system if you think northern New England, for example. I think someone with his larger scale perspective can figure out what are the supply chains. You need to create market institutions that don't currently exist. Our vision is not a multinational system but I do think his expertise in entrepreneurship will help. Those are markets and he understands that.

**Senator O'Brien:** I know we were talking about the international advisory council earlier and I was looking at the membership in that and I noticed that all the colleges were represented in that except the Rubenstein School. I was curious if you knew some of the technicalities if there was a space reserved for everyone if there was a popular demand for a position for a representative from the Rubenstein School. I was curious if you could touch upon that voice not being brought to the table on internationalization stuff and perhaps having international students involved in that?

**Jane Knodell:** I don't think there are any of course we should have faculty from every school. I don't know why we don't have one from Rubenstein School. It's possible that we did and then that person couldn't continue and we haven't replaced them or something like that. I am going to look into that and I agree that environmental science and studies and entrepreneurship should be a big draw for UVM and we should build on our strengths.

**Kyle DeVivo:** It's for a public purpose. As you all know I'm sure by now President Fogel has announced he will be resigning in 2012. I know you've gotten emails from Kofi that they are launching the Presidential Search Committee. It will consist of faculty, staff, administrators and why I'm talking to you, students. If you are interested, as Kofi's two emails stated, please talk to himself or myself about the position and what it entails. It is a pretty large time commitment. It will probably be about 2-3 meetings that the committee is charged with, so if you are interested talk to me or talk to Kofi. On a separate note, it is Chair Mallea's birthday today, so the Finance Committee has invested our own money for cake. Our money, not SGA money.

*Open the Floor for Questions (0:55.30)*

**Senator Bennigton:** The committee that is being set up, I know there is a committee set up to set up the faculty committee, is this committee that students can sit on going to be the one that will ultimately say, Board of Trustees, here is our choice and will the student members have the role of voting power in that?

**Vice President Maciewicz:** Point of Information: It's in the university manual how it's set out. The process is different for each, very similar to what we did for the Provost Search. Kofi will send the chair 6 nominees and he chooses 2 undergraduate students. It's not a unique committee every time there is a vacancy for the president. It's a set process.

**Kyle DeVivo:** This happened in 2001 for the presidential search. There were 19 people on the committee, 2 were students. It says, as Vice President Maciewicz just stated, in the manual that there will be no less than 2 students to sit on this committee. It is in an important role so if you care about the future of this university for a long time, please talk to one of us about it and Kofi is going to send the 6 nominees in.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Are graduating seniors eligible for this or people that are going to be graduating within the time period before they make the final decision?

**Kyle DeVivo:** The timeline hasn't been set yet but it is going to go over the summer so I'm not sure if I can really speak to that.

**President Mensah:** Most likely graduating seniors, I'm 98% sure graduating seniors will not be allowed to sit on the committee because even though it is going to go over the summer, the committee will go into the fall semester so if they're not here on campus.

**Kyle DeVivo:** It will almost definitely go into the fall semester and probably into the spring semester of next school year. Base that timeline on whether or not you want to do it because it does need to be someone is going to perpetuate through that timeline. I'm not saying that you couldn't be one of the nominees but it could affect your selection on the committee if your timeline says you are going to graduate this spring or next fall.

**Old Business (0:58.20)**

**Resolution Asking for State Level Funding for the University of Vermont**

**Chair Morgan:** [*Reads Bill*].

**Senator Rifken:** The numbers we have here we have footnotes on this, but our numbers are including the one time state appropriation last year because we count as state appropriation.

*Open the Floor for Questions (1:01.57)*

**Senator M. White:** I was talking to Senator Benner about this earlier, what are you going to do to make sure that this isn't a toothless bill? What are you going to do to make sure when we pass this it isn't the last step in our process of requesting level funding?

**Senator Rifken:** We'll be sending this out to the Senate, the Governor.

**Chair Morgan:** We're working with Clarence Davis in the State Relations Office to try to send it to as many people as we can. One of my high school teachers is now a State Rep and I will send it to him and I'll send it to a couple of my State Reps I know in Burlington. It's definitely not going to die but as far as after we send it out what do we do? I guess that can be up for discussion. Sending it out to legislators is important.

**Senator Bennington:** I wish I had it in front of me, there was pretty much all of the be it resolved except for the last one seemed more like they were whereas clauses. I want to make a friendly amendment to change them to whereas but I also want to hear why you made them be it resolved.

**Chair Morgan:** We will change is to *[reads change]*. The next one is *[reads change]*.

**Senator Bennington:** If you are into it and if the body is into it I think it would be super cool if we all signed a piece of paper to go along with this bill to go to the Governor and to senators. I think to represent the best interests of the students we all need to.

**Chair Morgan:** I think that we could write a letter and have senators sign that letter. I see that as more appropriate than having 42 people sign this document. I think that an accompanying letter would be best.

**Senator Caster:** I wanted to say you have done excellent work on this. I cannot say thank you enough. It's one of the most important things we will be voting on. In terms of organizational efforts, would you be supportive of Kofi sending something in his emails saying we passed this now write to your Representative or some kind of format that SGA can convey student opinion for this. I feel like every student would be behind having level funding and put in some sort of organizational effort to voice that voice.

**Chair Morgan:** I just want to say again that 32% of the students at the University of Vermont are actually from Vermont. If Kofi wants to put it in his email, I urge anyone to get in contact with their State Representative and whomever they feel would be able help with this issue.

**Senator Lovell:** I'm quite the visual learner, does this state level funding take into account the 3% predicted inflation for the coming year?

**Chair Morgan:** no

**Senator Lovell:** Friendly Amendment I was hoping we'd add that?

**Chair Morgan:** I'm going to say no because we hadn't had an increase in inflation in the last several years terms of state appropriations. We have been level funded for the past three years and there hasn't been an increase for inflation. I would feel uncomfortable stepping beyond those bounds.

**Senator Rifken:** I think part of it as well is asking for 43.3 million and the governor has proposed the 40.7. That's asking for the 43.3 is already hoping for that so I think that doing more than that might be stepping too much, as much as I would love to put that in there, I think this might be a bit better to get responses.

**Chair Adams:** Call to question

**Vote to Call to Question** – passes

**Vote on Resolution Calling for State Level Funding for the University of Vermont** - passes

### **Emergency Business**

n/a

### **New Business (1:07.41)**

**Senator Vitagliano:** Resolution in support of a Sustainable Beverage System

**Senator Juaira:** Bill Allocating Funds to UVM Cycling Team

**Senator Dougherty:** Bill Allocating Funds to Free Style Ski Team

**Senator Cooper:** Resolution in Support of Eco-Ware

### **Executive Reports (1:08.21):**

**Speaker Chevrier:** The reason why I was being hypocritical and using my computer this whole meeting is because I realized I filled out an entire note pad with speaking order writings and I thought that was wasteful. If anyone is opposed to me using my computer instead of wasting paper then I will be happy to go back to that wasteful method but I realized today how wasteful it was so I decided to change it. As far as elections, go on campus is contested, off campus isn't contested. I've heard a lot of really intense, people are really excited to run a write in campaign so hopefully it will still be a great race. I heard a lot of all oh sweet, now I don't actually have to campaign and I would hope that's not true because your job as a senator is to go out there and ask people what they feel and how they feel as though you would best represent their views I would hope you would choose to do that anyway. I am also going to motion for an informal poll and I will explain why before I ask you to vote on the motion. Senator Tepper sent out a lovely and eloquent email after our meeting about the constitutional amendments. I agree but I am frustrated that everyone didn't vote for it originally. Currently it is not contested and that's really frustrating because it's not going to be a popular vote most likely and that's really frustrating. I'm going to motion for an informal poll to see whether or not everybody is still in favor of bringing up Constitutional Amendments. I'm thinking it's an epic waste of time if we re-bring them up and then vote them down or then every single person abstains. The poll is not to ask if you want to vote in favor of off campus but on whether you think it is appropriate to bring them up in general can. They're currently on the table but they can easily be taken off the table which means we won't vote on them and hopefully the next senate will.

**Vote on Having an Informal Poll** – passes

**Informal Poll on Those in Favor of Voting of Constitutional Amendments Regardless of how you are going to Vote** – fails

**Speaker Chevrier:** I am going to withdraw them. I hope that for those of you that are getting reelected they get brought up again in the future but that's for you to decide, not me. If you have any questions about elections please come and talk to me. Last week was fairly easy as Speaker.

### *Open the Floor for Questions (1:11.57)*

**Senator Rifken:** So about elections, publicity in general, I don't know if it was just me but I didn't see too many flyers up before. Are there going to be flyers up promoting? This might be a PR question but I figured it was in the realm of elections.

**Speaker Chevrier:** There were some posters, we had more of a budget, I would be happy to talk more with PR because they are the brains behind that.

**Senator M. White:** Is there a way we can resubmit those so they could come up at the first meeting of the next senate?

**Speaker Chevrier:** Yeah, technically they are on the table right now so if I choose to just not take them off but not introduce it as business then I could introduce it because speaker's term is two weeks longer after all of you senators leave so I could re bring it up.

**Senator Bennington:** This is a question about elections, something I noticed today and yesterday. On the off chance that this happens, what would the protocol be if an alias won a write in votes, like a name of someone that is not actually their name.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Every year Batman, your mom, Homer Simpson, gets a few votes. I am not aware of any time they won but the problem is it would be very difficult to reach your mom, Batman, Homer Simpson. Similarly, if Big Bird or Little Bird does win, I won't be able to contact them. Unlike if a student won, I could look them up in the UVM directory, try to facebook stalk them until I found them, it would be very difficult to actually get in touch someone who is refusing to come out as a person.

**Senator Bennington:** What if Big Bird contacted you upon winning?

**Senator Ravech:** Point of Information: How would you actually know that person was actually said Big Bird?

**Speaker Chevrier:** If they contacted me and they had some way of proving that they were Big Bird then I would have a conversation with Pat Brown and look into the appropriateness of allowing them to come onto our body. I don't think anything would come of it. First, because the blog in question has been using plural pronouns so we can't agree to have a group of Little Birds on our body and there's no way to make sure it's actually that person. They have already violated a lot of election rules.

**Senator Rifken:** Point of Information: Senators have to be full time matriculated students or paying the student activities fee, so if they can't prove that...

**Senator Caster:** First, how goes the process of inquiry as to the posters they have hung up defaming and saying immature ridiculous things about people on this body? Also, what is the process for determining people who have taken out packets not implementing the packets on the same timeline? Were the campaign rules changed? What is that setting a precedent for people who don't want to hand in packets on time having an extra weekend to do it?

**Speaker Chevrier:** You brought up a point I wanted to touch upon. As far as the Little Bird being immature, I have nothing to do with that. All sorts of bullying complaints should go through the Center for Student Ethics and Standards. While the election rules and regulations say that everyone who is running needs to adhere by all policies there is two problems with that. One, Little Bird is technically not running or a person. The second one is that bullying is technically a breach of policy under the student rights and responsibility code so technically any violation of that code would be a violation of the elections code because the election code says you have to adhere by all UVM policies. The problem with that is it's not my job to determine what bullying is CSES' job to determine what bullying is. The Center for Students Ethics and Standards would have to a) find it bullying and then b) bring it back to me that they breached an elections packet but Little Bird hasn't actually taken one out or signed anything so they're not held to the same standards anyway. It's a big cluster fluff.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** Point of Information: I filed a police report. The whole thing comes back to standards and ethics and there is an online report that can be filed. The police are investigated whether they are breaking existing laws but they are not UVM, they are UVM standards but there is so much they are investigating that a lot of things that could be done would actually be hindering their investigation.

**Speaker Chevrier:** The second part of your question about candidates. We had about 20 people take out packets and not turn them back in by Friday at 4:00. I called an emergency meeting with the elections committee via email and asked everyone whether they thought it would be a good idea to extend the deadline in hopes that it would be a contested election but giving them some sort of sanction. I put out the suggestion and 4 people emailed me back so that's quorum and what was necessary. We agreed that we would extend the deadline until Monday at 4 and that instead of having \$50 to spend they would only have \$25 to spend. I was not actually creating any sort of precedent, I was going off of something 2 years ago when then he became president but candidate Bryce Jones turned in his elections packet an hour late and he was running for president. We had an emergency meeting with all of senate to try to sanction him and they decided that to sanction him he wouldn't be allowed to campaign for a couple of days. It turns out that campaigning is kind of freedom of speech so you can't really stop someone from doing it so what the senate came to was actually an illegal sanction but we can stop the money that is being spent. They get half as much as everyone else does for turning it in a couple days late. We did have 2 people who signed it out turn it in. I then took the time to call all 20 people who had taken out a packet but not turning it back in spent hours calling all of them telling them we were opening it up for a couple more days and they would then have \$25 subtracted and then gave them different ideas how you could campaign with a lesser amount and 2 people chose to do it so I think it was a victory.

**Chair Adams:** How many people total are running?

**Speaker Chevrier:** I believe it's 13 off campus, 17 on campus. So that means I counted this morning, 13 or 14 off campus and 17 on campus. We only have 16 spots on campus because we save 5 spots for first years. We are accepting 21 so there is only 13 but I have already been contacted by 2 people who are planning on doing write in campaigns.

**Senator Caster:** Would it be feasible to have an expanded election next fall to incorporate not only 5 spots for the first year students but an expanded section under a new revision that it would be a popular vote and then we change to popular vote and then have as many open election spots as there are spots on senate?

**Speaker Chevrier:** Yeah, anything is possible, you actually have to vote on it when you open the constitution.

**Chair Herman:** I know we talked about this in exec about changing the number of first year seats? What's going on what that?

**Speaker Chevrier:** We bought that up 2 weeks ago when we opened the constitution and you all voted it down.

**Vice President Maciewicz (1:20.49):** I hope everyone is having a good week. I would like to start out with making sure you all have 3 sheets of paper in front of you. You should have one that is the SGA service award, the Edward Gormley Award, and the SGA Diversity Award. You can vote for any senator so everyone but Kofi and I, for the Diversity and Service Award regardless of their grade. The Gormley Award is only for a graduating senior and they should be on the list. I double checked to make sure they were correct and it does appear to be. Make sure that it's a senior for the Gormley award, a senator for the other two, but just know you can't vote for Kofi, Liz, or I for any of them. Please vote and I will come get them after my report. I know some of you sent them in and I will deal with that.

**Senator L. White:** Point of Inquiry: Would Josh Benes be an eligible senior?

**Vice President Maciewicz:** He would not be. He would need to be both a senior and a current senator. You will have to be a senator at the last meeting April 12. Josh is out of the question. End of the year banquet, just a reminder, the administration one is next Tuesday from 5:30-7. I sent out the invitation for ours today. I hope you all caught that in your email. If you are going to attend please RSVP to Jess. If you have any dietary restrictions, food allergies, vegetarian, vegan. I can tell you we already have vegetarian and meat options. If you are vegan please put that on there because we can make sure we have more vegan options as opposed to just vegetarian. Please have that done by April 5. I hope you all have seen the office. Most of the improvements that I had talked about last semester are done with the exception of a little bit of painting. The new sign is up in the hallway, on the desks. The painting has started it's just not completely finished. When that's done we can put the paintings back up, the pictures from the photography contest. I think it looks better. The storage remodel is coming along. We evicted all delinquent clubs yesterday. Clubs who didn't need the space or didn't respond, clubs that have been using it but no one really knows where the key is anymore. We're going to clear it out, donate everything to charity, recycle it, throw it away. Then put new locks in and redistribute it to clubs that want locked space. We're also clearing out all the shelves because if you've ever been in the back room people just kind of dump things and they never come back to pick it up. One of the work studies and I went through together and pried as minimally as possible to try to figure out whose it was and gave all the stuff a number and then contacted all of them saying if you want to keep it in here come put a sticky note on it with today's date and they'll have a couple weeks and if they don't we'll donate it to charity like we did last year and new clubs can come in and put their stuff in it. We'll hopefully have a nice organized system that clubs can actually have a place to keep stuff and it's not just a junk pile that goes for years and years. Working on finishing an ethos report of the Davis Center. Pat Brown, Chair Adams, Alan Josie, a bunch of us sit on the Davis Center advisory council which helps oversee the Davis Center I will send that out to you. If you have any comments on how we can improve the Davis Center feel free to send it to Amanda or I and we can include it in our reports. Also, I'd like to say since it's been a week congratulations to Will who will be taking over for me. I'm excited to start the transition, it's only 14 days until a lot of us won't be here anymore.

*Open the Floor for Questions (1:25.20)*

**Chair Monteforte:** Bonjour. When is the time that we can boot clubs out that have desks that are never there? Is that in our term or would that be next fall?

**Vice President Maciewicz:** It can be at any time. There is traditionally a review once a year in January. There are some clubs who are not very good with their office hours. The interesting thing is when I asked people who didn't have a desk if they wanted one, we got very minimal response. We only 2 people out of all of the 120 clubs that don't have a desk or a studio or something. No one else seems that eager to expand. We did make some people leave buy by and large we did leave some people there that were delinquent on their office hours. In the past usually when you offer up desk space there is a lot of people who want it and it's easy to pick out slackers. That just didn't happen for me. If Vice President Vitagliano would like to do it sooner he could do earlier and see if there is more interest in the fall.

**President Mensah (1:26.47):** Good evening everyone. I had my last meeting with the senior administration and I mentioned who I was meeting with last week and one of the only questions I received was from Senator Bennington and he listed a few things so I'm just going to go into one of the conversations that we had and the topics of discussion. The biggest questions that was brought up was about the TRI and the allocation of undergraduate funds to the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative. Knodell's answer that was when the TRI was originally being discussed there was the promise holds true that they are not going to reallocate undergraduate resources to the TRI but according to that there is no stipulation that they wouldn't use. It's more of a word play

so there is a difference between using and reallocating so you wouldn't necessarily reallocate existing funds towards the TRI but that doesn't exclude the utilization of new funds for the TRI. Really what Senator Bennington was talking about was a proposed fund from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 dollars that we might be getting but that's contingent on tuition and the state appropriation. If we get the amount we want from the state and the current percentage of tuition stays where it is there is a projected increase of funds that might be utilized for these other academic initiatives, one potentially being TRI. I did inquire about other academic initiatives they might be looking into, one of them is general education in which they are looking at the different learning outcomes and the perceived learning outcomes. In terms of the academic initiatives that they would be using for the funds one of them was what kind of involvement i.e. the student success committee or what kind of student involvement is to be expected from the general student body in these different committees. One of the examples given by Chris Lucier was that student success committee that hasn't been formally created yet but has actually been proposed because he figured here we are forming this study to see and monitor how students are doing on campus, especially in their first 2 years in terms of retention. That is what is the student feedback on that so that is going to Knodell's desk and if she approves that committee then it goes through. I'm not going to talk that much on international students as she just touched on that. There was also a question on priority registration I asked in terms of assessment about how are we going to assess priority registration now that the new system is going to be implemented in a couple of weeks, what kind of tools or analytics are going to be set up that this amount of students is able to get into x number of classes. It was actually brought up there was never any qualitative data that students couldn't get into courses. The change in priority registration was more so to address that it had been tripled in the past 6-7 years. It is going to be hard to say if it solved the problem but they are going to do their best to assess the actual changes within the new priority registration system. I'm not going to touch too much on the potentially proposed amendments. I stepped outside and you all had voted not to go back into the the constitution and vote on the proposed amendments. I just wanted to say that I'm happy and in favor of that because my first two years on senate and as was mentioned by Representative Ram said a couple of weeks ago whenever changes were made to the Constitution they wouldn't take effect until the following years to scramble to ensure that you all would be taken care of in the upcoming elections. Now that there are all these people running for on campus we need to make sure that we get elected and I don't think that's the best way to be looking at it. Best of luck in elections make sure you get yourself out there if you are living on and off campus, it really doesn't matter. As we know President Danile Fogel sent out a message that he is going to be resigning in about a year's time. June 30, 2012 is his effective resignation date. I've been in contact with Rob Choffey as he has been with different governance groups and each is expected to bring up a few names to be nominated. So far I've received close to 10 nominations. Right now it's kind of a tricky limbo stage because the final nominations are due to him by April 15 but I can send it in by the end of this week or the end of next week but it would be weird to send it in after April 15 after I am no longer president so I will be working with the outgoing President and Vice President to make sure they are involved in this process and I'll be having conversations with Pat and David to come up with a selection process to bring the 6 names up for nomination and once we decide which 6 names will go to Rob then it's up to him who is chairing the search committee and the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is going to be the Vice Chair of the committee. Keep Local Farms I received a postcard that was sent to Joe Speidell that was thanking us. It started last fall where 5 cents of every thing of milk is saved and donated to Keep Local Farms project. I am going to just quickly read the letter. *[reads letter]*. Joe Speidell wanted to make sure I got that out. Tumblr, the website with the Big Bird and the crap they have been posting with Aliza lies and Julain lies I've had a conversation with Pat Brown and Will and Alan Josie about some of the next steps in addressing the situation. I will try to in contact with folks from the website. It's a tricky situation because they technically haven't done anything wrong in terms of legalities aside from UVM Ethics and Standards so that's where we are falling into a tricky situation. I will be doing my best to keep you posted with that. The Senator of the Week is Senator Mason from the Student Activities Committee. She was nominated by 2 people on her committee and they wanted to thank for the hard work she has been doing all year long. The last thing I wanted to say was this morning David and I woke up to a bit of a surprise, we were called into Waterman and this is why

I was just talking to Jane Knodell to make sure it would be ok into Fogel's office we thought maybe something is happening or he's not resigning or whatever but he had a conversation with us and wanted to congratulate us for the hard work that we have been doing this year. He really thinks we have worked closely with the administration and tried to improve the level of students and their participation on this campus and trying to get them more involved and knowledgeable as to what is going on. He somehow learned that I was trying to get my driver's license. Unfortunately he didn't know that I failed because they purchased 2 Honda CRV's for David and my graduation gift. Our mouths just dropped open because we were like, whoa, we are getting 2 cars for our graduation gift and mine is blue which I'm going to paint purple and David's is red. I wanted to share that with you all.

**Senator Benner:** Point of Inquiry: with whose funds were those purchased?

**President Mensah:** I believe it was from their discretionary personal funds.

**Senator Yeager:** Point of Information: April fools is soon

**President Mensah:** Dammit Greg you spoiled it! I was going to milk it for 5 more minutes. I hate you!

**Chair Monteforte:** You could have picked a better car.

**President Mensah:** I was going to say a Volvo X90 because they are really nice cars but David suggested it was too expensive and it would be more believable if I picked a less expensive car but I was going for the Volvo X90.

*Open the Floor for Questions (1:38.16)*

**Senator M. White:** Well played. Two things, you said there was no qualitative date for the sentiment about priority registration. Do you mean quantitative because I believe we were chock full of qualitative data. And two, did you give any response to the response they gave you to Bennington's question because that kind of work fudgery is not alright.

**President Mensah:** It was really tricky because I was trying to gauge from them whether or not they were going to utilize undergraduate resources and I used that in all discussions last year you were saying you were going to be very staunch about not utilizing student funds for the TRI which has more of a graduate focus than anything. I know that some undergraduate students do utilize the research opportunities but on a whole we come here for more undergraduate studies and that was the lining of the answer which is that there was a promise of no reallocation. The example that I had mentioned was let's say the political science department had a budget of \$300,000, they wouldn't take away \$50,000 from that budget to push towards the initiative that is focusing on the TRI, rather they would look through the general budget and find some other sources to fund whatever project in TRI they are doing. On the flip side they are saying that a lot of professors have been really receptive to TRI and they have been taking up the reins on themselves with the TRI.

**Chair Adams:** If they are cutting every department's budget by about 2% and then allocating money to TRI, isn't that essentially the same as taking \$50,000 from one department and putting it towards the TRI? Did she address the fact that they are literally cutting funding from departments to go back to the general fund to go to TRI?

**President Mensah:** She didn't address that. That might be what they are doing but I can't speak to that.

**Senator Bennington:** Point of Information: The money so far has not actually been put into the budget. It is \$700,000- \$1,000,000 that is a consideration if they actually get the money.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** I just wanted to point out there was an inaccuracy in your presentation in that it is illegal what they are doing. Especially given that we took this big stand as a university in the fall semester that we don't bully when there were god knows how many suicides and there were LGBT teens being bullied. Bullying is categorized and cyber bullying is categorized as a direct malicious attempt to antagonize someone individually, myself and Julian, be it true or untrue, I don't think anyone would want to justify name calling. It actually is illegal and as the university having taken a stance on it it's not that tricky but the fact remains that since we said it won't happen here either we're completely hypocritical or it was completely false.

**President Mensah:** I totally get that and the reason why I stated it is tricky because it falls on first amendment rights. If someone stood in the middle of the atrium and was like Kofi Mensah yadda yadda I could file a complaint and talk about how what they were saying is false and it was slander but that doesn't take away from the fact that they have the opportunity to do that so that's what's being looked into.

**Senator Bennington:** I'm still really confused about this, 5.8 increase in tuition = this many more dollars in general fund = they can take that amount of funds from the general fund and apply it to the TRI is basically what they were telling you? This tuition increase, part of it could absolutely go to TRI?

**President Mensah:** Potentially, they are still looking at ways for funds. The only question that I raised was would you be using student funds for the TRI and the answer was there would be no reallocation of student funds but not necessarily not utilization.

**Senator Rifken:** I think that if, they have technically already written up this budget proposal that technically would be the allocation but I guess we don't really know.

**President Mensah:** At the earliest I can get the next updated look at the budget when in previous conversations with Richard Cate he had said by April 5 either the 10<sup>th</sup> or the 5<sup>th</sup> so by sometime next week we will be able to get a look at the budget that they are going to be presenting at the board in May so we will see where the different allocations fall.

**Senator Caster:** Going off of what Chair Adams said, formulating a budget is pretty much a 0 sum game so if one group of individuals is losing on their resources and another group is gaining, 57% of the composition of general revenue is from undergraduate revenue so it just seems like what's going on is obvious and I think I would ask this body to really look back on the comments that President Fogel, Jane Knodell and Chris Lucier have said to this body and really hold them accountable.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Point of Information: President Fogel when he came and spoke in here about a year ago the quote was I assure you this is not a 0 sum game.

**Senator Benner:** I was wondering if you could comment on, I'm assuming you read Dee's piece in *The Cynic* this week and I was wondering if you could respond to that and know what your feelings on that were and how we can combat the reputation of this body being biased?

**President Mensah:** I didn't fully read the article. It was pointed to my attention by Senator Ravech yesterday. I know that it touches on questioning the actions of the senatorial body over the past years. The second part of your question is how we can combat? That's an interesting question because I don't think it's something that can be answered in a few short minutes because it's not something that was just sort of created this year, there have been decades of it. I think I have to get back to you. And if no one has any more questions I just wanted to quickly state that I won't be at the banquet next week or next week's senatorial meeting. I'll actually be in New York with admissions getting more students to come and attend the university.

## Committee Reports (1:47.08)

### Student Activities

**Chair Adams:** Hi friends. Student Activities is wrapping things up. We have our end of the year celebration next Thursday which is exciting. We're soliciting clubs to send us what they think their big successes are and shout outs to specific members who have worked hard. Photos, whatever, we're going to throw it all on a slide show. If you're involved in a club the response has been minimal and I would love to have hours of slides to go through of what clubs are doing. Send them that way and tell your friends on clubs. We thought that would give us a chance to recognize more clubs and individuals than doing it the past way of doing the best of type stuff. We're currently throwing together a calendar of when all clubs meet. Hopefully that's something we'll be wrapping up this semester. Again, response has been tight so I'm going to be a little bit meaner which is always fun for me. Hopefully that will get thrown together by the end of the year. Jess is also collaboratively working on compiling club facebook pages and she's going to start tracking them down on facebook which will be fun. It's looking like with that generally there will be a push in the next couple of weeks for us to have a lot more information about our clubs. With budget season I just wanted to do a shout out to Finance because they sat through a lot of appeals and dealt with some not so nice people which is never fun. They really have done a wonderful job.

### *Open the Floor for Questions (1:49.04)*

**Speaker Chevrier:** Is it true that you got rid of the actual awards at the club award banquet and if so, why? Also, as far as compiling a calendar for when clubs meet is that going to be updated all the time because I know that most clubs change the day that they meet every year so doing at the end of the year sounds counterintuitive.

**Chair Adams:** Yes, we decided as a committee to get rid of the best of because we decided we wanted to do it as a general celebration of club successes. The other question was about the calendar at the end of the year. We wanted to test it out now because clubs do have solid meeting dates for April and then see if it's something we thought was beneficial that the new committee could decide to do again in the fall. It would be updated every semester.

**Senator Caster:** Have you continued the process of dividing clubs among senators? I know we discussed it previously. Is that something you have thought about and will do next year?

**Chair Adams:** That will depend on who chairs Student Activities and the body next year particularly the President and Vice President. I've given a lot of thought to it personally. There are clubs that tie into each committee. It would help with a lot of the mimic liaison programs. AA could do ed clubs and colleges and it would work out nicely but that's really up to president and Vice President and the Chair of Student Activities next year.

### COLA (1:50.45)

**Chair Morgan:** Hey everyone, so I have a sign up sheet for have a heart which is going to be this Friday April 1 at 5 pm. It usually is no longer than an hour. You only have to stay as long as it takes you to give away 100 chocolates and that's not usually that long. You hand them out to people with flyers that say please be respectful when you go downtown. It's not a huge time commitment. I'm passing out a sheet for April 1 or April 8 the following Friday. Please sign up for that, it would be great. Some thoughts from the Student Neighborhood Initiative Grant. We had some good applications and the selection committee met this past week and we're going to buy supplies for a couple of the applications. One of them is a student and a resident want to make an arch entry way for Pomeroy Park. It's really cool, they've done a lot of work already and they're going through the permitting process and they're working with Parks and Rec and we were going to buy some of the materials they need to help build the structure and we're really excited about that. There is a group of students working with Parks and Rec to put on an extravaganza which is a spring celebration in Burlington. That's again, April 16 and we were going to buy

some supplies that they needed and it is great advertising for the grant and we think they are great opportunities to show that students care about the community and show that we positively affect the community not by spending money here but by actually caring about the relationships that we have. Thanks for passing the resolution today. I think it was great. I know that a lot of the financial stuff came from Senator Rifken and the stuff she has done with budget ad hoc and she's not here right now but I would like to thank her for that. Party registration, Senator Fitzgerald gave a presentation at Community Coalition. We got a lot of great feedback because there were some people there from Burlington Police and the City Councilor and they had a lot of feedback and it was great. The next venue would be we are going to bring the proposal to town gown meeting on Monday. This is taking up a lot of steam and if you have specific questions feel free to ask myself or Senator Fitzgerald. I have an odd meeting on a Wednesday. I guess there are some residents on South Prospect St. who aren't happy with noise thus far in the spring so they are meeting with Gail and David Nestor and I believe Annie Stevens and a City Councilor from Ward 6 Karen Paul is going to be there. Gail asked me to go and I'm really 100% positive what it's going to be about. They said it's noise but from all the avenues we collect information from it hasn't been that bad in the spring thus far. Students have been pretty well behaved this year. We think it's more of a concern of the redstone lots and the construction of those. I don't know what to expect but from what I hear it could be a contentious meeting. Please sign up for have a heart.

*Open the Floor for Questions (1:54.29)*

**Senator Tepper:** Did you know that I love the have a heart campaign?

**Chair Morgan:** I did not know that.

**CODEEE (1:54.48)**

**Chair Herman:** I think it was great that Provost Knodell came in today. After having one of the last meetings with the President's Commission on Racial Diversity we touched on some retention issues and diversity within the meeting on Monday. It's good that she came into talk about internationalization, I think that was really need. The retention committee has been focusing on ALANA student retention and looking at campus diversity rankings published by U.S. News and World Report, UVM ranked 236 out of 245 schools which is terrible to be ranked under the University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire. So I think all of this coming up is excellent. I finally have a meeting scheduled with Chris Lucier tomorrow to speak about retention and the S cubed survey and things like that. I've been trying to meet with him for over a month and I'm finally meeting with him tomorrow. Another great thing that is happening is the commission is recommending to President Fogel that diversity issues and competency issues are evaluating factories for faculty member in the training process. Looking at a training for all faculty members when it comes to certain topics and language and how professors address students in a classroom. That's something that is also great. The Green fund, I don't know if you all remember, that's pretty much an initiative that Senator Benes brought up and we're going to be meeting with people from the Clean Energy Fund to figure out ways to start that process of a new fund and what that looks like because right now the fund is like really focused on narrow on what they want focus on so really looking into fund other green projects outside of clean energy. Another thing that we will be doing reaching out to Kate Strotmeyer, she's the marketing coordinator for student life, just from our meeting with Alan Josie weeks back about better composting and recycling issues around the Davis Center. The Campus Climate Survey, I'm pretty sure you have all seen posters saying coming soon. I'm not sure when that is. It would be before the semester is up, I know that much. The last survey I saw was in December and it was about 50 questions on a survey. 17 of those were demographic questions like are you a first year student. I think it's going to be a great survey. It has been cut down from over 200 questions last year. Look out for survey get as many people to fill it out as possible.

**President Mensah:** The dates that survey are actually coming out and the Public Relations Committee and I will be working to make sure it's really getting out there. It's going to be available April 4-22 and there's actually already a website. [Uvm.edu/campusurvey](http://Uvm.edu/campusurvey) to educate

students about the survey and what it's supposed to do. I believe it was included in this week's email and it will be on the facebook and twitter statuses.

*Open the Floor for Questions (1:59.02)*

**Senator Benner:** The U.S. News ranking, what were the criteria under which diversity was based? i.e. was it percentage wise I wouldn't be surprised if we were 236<sup>th</sup> but was there anything else?

**Chair Herman:** I don't actually know, those were just the results that were given to us at the committee. I can find out for you.

**Student Action (1:59.31)**

**Chair Simmons:** I've been really slacking on my tix me off because I've gotten a couple ones. I would like to share that with you. Someone was appalled by the point block balance distribution discrimination at Redstone Dining. She felt morally wronged because of the way that was being handled and she thought the hours were no good. I have a meeting with dining services advisory committee on Friday to bring up some of her concerns. Another student was from UNH about the guy who was selling back college textbooks from UNH, he had developed a program and wanted to include us in the loop. I still have to get back to him about that. There was one most recently which was very, very long talking about provocative questions in L/L. He said it was from his orientation leader he had respect for and he doesn't want to attack anyone in particular. Some of the things he mentioned was why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex? Why do you insist of making a public display of your heterosexuality? Why are heterosexuals so promiscuous? The student is kind of saying, whoa.

**Vice President Maciewicz:** There has been a lot of concerns raised about that art exhibit in D buildgin of L/L/ President Mensah and I were actually inundated with emails from students. We forwarded them all to Stacey Miller and the director of L/L and said she would directly respond to all the students who emailed us and possibly you if it is one of the same students individually.

**Senator Caster:** Can you expand on what this art exhibit is?

**Chair Simmons:** I'm not srue I understand it to its fullest. It seems like one of those things that people hang up questioning the status quo which I think is really great but when we start to question the status quo and forget why we are doing it in the first place which is to not assume things about a certain group and foster a mutual respect and I think this student has a point, this doesn't foster so much mutual respect. I thought that was pretty interesting. I would like to yield to Senator White to talk about GBBAH.

**Senator M. White:** First and foremost I'm making this executive decision will further be known by the BBC. Fuck copyrights. Sorry, foul. We had a wonderful meeting today. Thank you for all of you who came. Some stuff we realized was that we can start the motion on this video idea without being under the hood of putting it out right away which was my biggest fear on this was that it was going to be rushed. I have been assured otherwise so we're going to start immediately. Working towards this what we're going to be doing is recruiting on listservs and on posters and on flyers of 50 gay men who want to be part of our video here presenting the problem of the FDA msm men who cannot give blood, which we think is totally unfair. I can answer questions on this later.

*Open the Floor for Questions (2:03.41)*

**Chair Adams:** Just for the video and recruiting of 50 gay men I was hoping we could do something before or after filming the video as part of a panel or discussion while these people are all in the same place.

**Senator M. White:** This ad hoc, some people were under the impression that this ends with this committee. I'm under the impression that this is going to be an ongoing fight against this policy. Hopefully we can make this video and this will go on hopefully into our next term. If I'm still on senate I would like to work with this again. If I get voted off for some reason maybe someone else will do it.

## **Public Relations**

**Chair Monteforte:** Sup? A bunch of stuff going on in PR world because we're that awesome at life. Anyway, sadly an update on VSOP because we know that the campus climate survey is going out. Our advisor Pat Brown has been a little lacking in the area of helping us out with that. He says he'll be getting back to us and it's not really happening. We're kind of waiting for his approval to send it out. Right now our survey is focusing on late night dining and questions that UDS sent us and we also had some CODEEE questions about campus climate and stuff happening on campus as well as Academic Affairs but discussions with Pat Brown we didn't feel that was appropriate to put in VSOP because that was already asked in other surveys such as campus climate and other incoming outgoing student surveys. We didn't want to topple on those areas and wanted to get the best results that we can so as of right now it's just on food and I'll give you more updates when I know more. We are also working on a budget referendum sponsored with Whitney O'Brien and Burns is interested too and we are going to make a sign like we did last year on the stairs. We are going to have a survey going around, an awesome table with a tent to talk to students and get some opinions and get some results to the Board of Trustees. Senatorial elections are coming up, we're trying to promote that. Putting up signs around, make sure to tell everyone to vote on voting day. I was actually going to give you some data of Kofi's email that we sent out on how many people are looking at them but the computer's not up right now so I don't really feel like yelling numbers at you so I will wait until next week. Also, I'm working with Jess to develop the website and Facebook page that she's been working on with Amanda and Leon for clubs similar to Brown University's which is pretty awesome so if you haven't seen it check it out on Facebook on your own time and working to streamline the website to make it more functional for students to use. It probably will take until next year but if some people here on PR are elected next year we hope to continue that process.

## **Academic Affairs (2:07.05)**

**Chair Filstein:** Hello. I'm sad to inform you that things with AA have taken a turn for the worse. After our last committee sleepover something really unfortunate happened and we haven't really been speaking to each other since then. It's been pretty counterproductive. With regards to senatorial matters, Gavin and I had a meeting on the newly formed committee on course evaluations on Thursday and that was actually kind of unfortunate. This political science professor basically took an uzi to our proposal and poked it full of holes so we're going to be re-strategizing and moving forward with that. In a way we were kind of preemptive and we were jumping on the boat too quickly so we are going to be re-strategizing on that and hopefully that's something that the next AA and the SGA will be working on. Overall progress has been made. Things move slow in this bureaucratic bohemeth. Gavin came to that meeting real fired up, had a lot of things to say. This political science professor just made him look foolish.

**Senator Caster:** Guber, don't let the name fool you. Deborah Guber, MIT Press, Yale PhD tore us up. The constructive criticism was wonderful and I thrive on it and I'm thankful forever to her and I sent her an email saying thank you because what does not kill us only makes us stronger. She really provided a few good points and I wrote them down reliability and consistency of the information. We want consistent results with these course evaluations so that data isn't so variable that it shows we are not getting to the point of what we're trying to ask and students are misinterpreting what we're trying to ask. We realize that we needed to take a palce at the table with the universal course evaluation, they're trying to make it online. The SGA really needs to push to be a part of that. If we want to see more information for students to get rid of this asymmetric information we really need to be a part in the forming of those questions. The other question is who is going to maintain prevue over questions that are going to be made public to the students? Are we going to be able to change these questions, are we not going to be able to

change? And if we're not going to be able to change them readily and at will, we would need to maintain this by ourselves, that would be a ton of work for Academic Affairs so right now it's a question of strategy and my question to you is a request for information when you register for classes, what information would you have like to know or have known about that teacher or that class that would have helped you make those decisions? If you could communicate with students and get the key sets of information that they would have like to know about the professor and be in communication with us because we want to make this as collaborative as possible and not just an initiative by the SGA that isn't really working for the students. Again, things you would have like to know about the instructor or the class that would have been relevant and really helpful when you were registering for class. We really want to return to the table on this with a set of questions that we know are feasible and accepted by the faculty and provide us with important information.

#### *Open the Floor for Questions (2:10.58)*

**Senator Cesario:** That one Guber had the bad response but the other faculty you talked to what was the positivity?

**Senator Fistein:** It just made us reconsider our strategy for what we're doing. The Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate has been all about this idea and they really liked our questions. The concern was that we're not going to be able to do this without an online system and that's at least a year or 3 semesters down the road so what to do in the interim. Basically strategizing so when that time comes everything is in place and we can go with it. Faculty in general are really smart and critical for as many faculty as there are there are going to be problems with what we're trying to do. It's not that this isn't going to happen it's just that we have to time it right. If we come too early we're going to fail if not then we might miss the boat. We're just trying to figure those things out.

#### **Finance (2:31.23)**

**Senator Dougherty:** Hello lovely senators. We had appeals on Friday and Saturday which were awesome. We really enjoyed all the clubs coming in and asking us to move around and give them more money. As you know we had a tough budget season and over allocated by 25% which is about \$500,000 so we had to go in and cut every single club's budget by 25%. Some weren't too happy about it. They came in and talked about it. We did receive one death threat as a committee. That was fun. Tonight we had 8 supplemental hearings. One for nationals, one for a capital request which was a trailer and we got supplementals from a few others. We got a supplemental from the club that threatened us so that was fun and kind of awkward. We are going to be proposing the budget to senate next week.

#### **Senatorial Forum (2:13.59)**

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** Last week while standing in the Atrium of this building I had the joy of coming in the crossfire between Hillel and Students for Justice in Palestine which was actually epic planning in that they didn't know they would be talking across from each other. I was sitting there and first I talked to Students for Justice in Palestine and then I talked to Hillel and then I brought several people to the middle and then sent to their respective corners the students who started calling names. We actually came up with a really great idea, we want to have a literal round table of ideas because the reality is we are never going to resolve thousands of years of conflict but these are students that believe in a lot of the same ideals and if you look at both sides neither are evil people as opposed to what they were calling each other. The word fascist was used many times. If you basically look at the two parties and then bring them together it's really impressive how civil they were as they gritted their teeth and held back so much. If we had anyone that was interested I would love to sit down and collect names and took out the giant seminar room in Old Mill and had everyone sit down for as long as it took. The reality is we are not going to solve the whole thing but we're also never going to have a chance if we don't sit down and talk about it. There are plans that would offend many less people if we sit down and

come up with something of a bigger scheme. I'm going to pass around a piece of paper and it will be at a round table. I am basically going to book a space and get both parties to agree to a time and there are going to be very strict rules of what's allowed to be said beginning with no name calling. I would really love student involvement. Later this week I'm going to sit down with several administrators and Kim Martin from CSES about bullying on this campus and that although we took a stand on it we don't seem to actually believe in what we took a stand on. Again either we're being hypocritical or we're lying 100%. Not just because this is happening and it's personal because this could happen to any other student with a forum like this online. It's hilarious but it's inappropriate. Ultimately something needs to be done and either the school is going to take a stand or I'm damn sure going to make sure people realize that we are complete hypocrites for having a vigil in honor of ending bullying in our community and standing by our youth. Youth are not the only ones at risk and I think it's unfair that our community is voicing this as a free speech issue rather than addressing with the same intensity we addressed it with only 4 months ago. If anybody is interested please see me after senate.

**President Mensah:** To answer Senator Benner's question a few moments ago. I think one of the most important ways to continue to bridge the connection between different organizations that might feel certain ways about this organization or different organizations on campus such as Greek Life there are a lot of students that still have negative connotations about Greek Life and how they interact with other students. In my experience it has been the complete opposite on this campus of what other institutions display and portray. Getting into the community and really being accepting and getting people to realize this is how it might have looked in the past or at different times but right now these are the changes we are making and trying to approach different communities and minority groups that might not have been represented in SGA in years past and try to take their place on the Senate floor see what's going on and take the message back to their respective communities and say this is what is happening and going on. I'm please to see that more LGBT+ students and more students of color have actually signed out packets for senatorial elections.

**Senator Burns:** I apologize for this during your report but I would highly recommend you not withdraw your constitutional amendment for this reason. You said there were 17 people running for on campus and 13 or 14 running for off campus? So that means that everyone off campus will get on given that there aren't 10 write in campaigns and one person from on campus would not get on. I say you should keep that in there and we should vote on it next week for this reason that one person on campus who is going to campaign and got all the signatures will not get on senate whereas people who are doing a write in campaign who don't need all the signatures will get on much easier. I feel it's not fair to this one senator that is not going to get on from on campus to say you did all this work, you did what you need to do, but this person who ran a write in and got 5 votes beat you for no other reason than that.

**Chair Simmons:** Liza sick story, love it. Love the dialogue impromptu, might even call it a little ad hoc. Love that. We've been working on letter to send to these interested parties, who was interested, who was calling names. Love the idea of a round table. I realize that you can call something a round table that is actually a gathering of people because I think the word forum sucks and is overused. I love the idea of a roundtable going forward and that's what I'm going to call it. I would love to hear from anyone else and I guess the conversation will continue from there.

**Senator Bennington:** Everything Jesse just said, I'd rather call it a transformative dialogue process than a round table. I've been looking into dialogue processes. If anyone has ideas or things you have learned in classes before about dialogues send them my way. I'd love that. I sent out a *New York Times* article last week maybe I mentioned this but something that came up in debates had to do with if you are going to divest from these companies why not divest from companies that are invested in Libya. Interesting fact, some of the companies covered under the current proposal are doing business with Libya so they are already covered a little bit. You touch one bad situation and you do in fact start to get your fingers all over everything else that is nasty.

Dee's letter, Darrion I thought it was cool. I had some great conversations in the office about it. Some of the best conversations I've had as a senator. I would encourage people in going forward with these discussions and these uncomfortable topics is to not get on the defensive because I've heard a lot of people's immediate response be to defend their actions in terms of I'm not prejudice. No one is calling anyone prejudice people are just bringing up what has happened and what has been perceived. Something we really need to do is get over being defensive and just start listening and start respecting how people are feeling and we can start to make more comfortable spaces.

**Chair Morgan:** I want to thank everyone who signed up for have a heart because this is by far the most I've ever had. Senator Caster, you put your name down but didn't check a date. I'll mark you down. Sincerely thank you. I will send this to Gail and Alicia and get a reminder email, thank you.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I wanted to say earlier when Provost Knodell was here the question of international students coming was intertwined with the ALANA student center. I felt the need to point out that not all foreign students are members of ALANA. It was brought up in the SGA office that a lot of people don't know what ALANA stands for so correct me if I'm wrong that it's Asian, Latino, African Native American.

**Chair Adams:** On the topic of internationalization, I serve on the International Advisory Council which meets, my committee meets every month and David had to struggle to find a senator to fill that spot so I would hope that those senators considering reelections consider these spots as well as the socially responsible work group spots that no one wanted to fill but now no one is interested in ahead of time proactively. If any student does want to be involved in the council they are more than willing to hear student opinion. The idea that they are focusing on study abroad is kind of a misrepresentation. Right now they are focusing on international student experience here because that is more relevant to their plan for growth.

**Senator Rifken:** On the issue of the whole constitution thing, I think that judging by the numbers we have that's only one over we need to work on getting more people to sign out packets on and off campus. I also think that since this is such a huge decision I think we really need to get other students input on this. Just having it on the table and available to the public is one thing but I don't think that's enough, personally. I think a suggestion may be to talk to student clubs and student leaders and say what do you want your representatives to look like? What areas of campus do you want them to come from? I really don't feel comfortable doing this because it is one of the biggest things in the constitution.

**Chair Herman:** The ALANA acronym is African Latino Asian and Native America.

**Senator Burns:** So I'm not quite sure I expressed my point correctly. There is a lack of people running for Senate right now. Since there is one extra on campus member running, I personally feel they should be given the chance to run for Senate unlike the there are open spots, I don't see why shouldn't be given the chance to be on senate.

**Senator Caster:** I think that Senator Rifken just spoke really eloquently to this and the next body has a lot of things to do and one of them is revising the way that we get elected. To change this so dramatically the day before the election in that context it may be inappropriate to rewrite the rules. I have been talking to Senator White outside of meetings and this is a serious subject and I think it's important that we get input and when we fix these things we fix them in a way that most people agree with and we as a body agree with.

### **Senatorial Comments/Announcements (2:29.29)**

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** On behalf of one of my clubs that is having an upcoming event Comida Para La Gente is this Saturday. It starts at 8 and will go to 11. It's an awesome event, I'll

be cooking please don't blame me if you get sick. It's food from different Latina cultures and it happens twice a year and it's an awesome time. Half their budget goes to it and I think you should come make yourselves seen not just as senators so they know that their voices are being viewed by their representation but also because it's just a great event. Rock for Choices is being held by the feminist club on Saturday night as well. I believe it starts midway through that event. It's an awesome event, the concert is held, it's free admission I believe and they will be selling things at the event. It's a bunch of local bands that are coming to perform and take a stand against the attacks that have been going on against women in the House and Senate lately, which leads me to another thing that I am not going to be writing legislation about but I think it's that everyone should be aware and be appreciative that I'm telling you about it and not filling up your inboxes. If you haven't heard there is this new thing rape audits coming up in the Senate and the House in the next few weeks. Say Jane Doe is sexually assaulted as she is walking home on campus. Better example, say Jane Doe is assaulted by her husband. Basically what rape audits do is give the IRA the ability to go into a Woman's personal history and if she doesn't file within a certain time frame or at all after the assault and if there is no evidence, DNA or otherwise, that goes back to forcible rape she will not have an abortion covered by federal funding, which essentially boxes women into a corner saying that if you're not beaten up, it gets rid of marital rape because the context of law says you can't prove that your partner raped you which has been in place since the early 90s which is a very short period of time because it had escalated to a degree where women were dying. It's a really awful thing. The feminist club is working tirelessly to tie that heavily into what's going on Friday. They would love to hear from their representation because they are feeling really disillusioned on this campus because we had this peak of interest when Planned Parenthood was under attack and people were afraid they would lose their birth control and something like this that people are less informed about the campus has not gotten involved at all. I can't say as a senator I have enough reason or the student body is informed enough for me to write a resolution, I do think that we as a body are 42 very informed individuals, we should inform ourselves better and involve ourselves in a club that is working to end it. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved see me after this meeting.

**Chair Herman:** If you haven't noticed the Hunger and Resilience exhibit here in the fireplace lounge check it out. It's a wonderful exhibit. It gives us access to people talking about their experiences with hunger from various instances all around. Check it out. Another thing Alianza Latina great food Saturday. They are also hosting the New England conference there which is also a huge deal.

**Senator Vitagliano:** Just to rearticulate what I already said on the listerv on the LGBTQ survey please send that to all of your listservs, it's inclusive to all, you don't have to be gay or lesbian or anything associated with the center, just getting the input of the community, professors, staff, faculty everyone. Dr. Elle Miller Dr. Roy Brudeger Dr. Herb Pickett worked hard on it so just get it out and get as much feedback as possible.

**Senator Bennington:** Does anyone here like maple syrup? How about the wonderful fall foliage of Vermont? If you do then you should come to this awesome event happening tomorrow at 324 Jeffords. My class that I TA is going to be talking about Asian longhorn beetle and emerald and the threat that they are posing on Vermont's forests and what you as citizens can do to monitor and stop their spread. Asian Longhorn Beetle threatens to extricate Maple Trees from the landscape, they've been working pretty hard at it in Worcester, Massachusetts. Emerald Ashbored could extricate Ash from Vermont. They are already in New York and Quebec so they are coming here and we are going to lose trees and if you want to be involved in helping save Vermont's forests. 324 Jeffords, free pizza.

**Senator M. White:** Verbal fellatio wherever verbal fellatio is due. Thank you so much to the beautiful Senator Rifken. Top Cats and Zest put on a beautiful event. They raised \$1,500 for medlife as part of the month of service. The same goes to the Hit Paws stroke the lady group the Cats Meow. Phi Delta led by ex senator Darrion Willis is doing a great job with FeelGood as part of the month of service getting them open super late. Last point, this is more begging than verbal

fellating, please come out on Saturday at 11 for the campus clean up sponsored by Cabot cheese. I'm hoping you will all be there with your recycled plastic bags and we can do a good job cleaning up campus because it's kind of gross right now.

**Seantor Benner:** A few things. If anyone wants my cake take it I don't like cake. Second thing Thursday April 7 if anyone wants to go to the poetry reading at Pearl House I will be reading T.S. Elliot. Join me. On a slightly more serious note if anyone is going to be living in the Burlington Area from to May 22 to May 31 and has a couch or small cupboard under the stairs that I can stay in that would be nice because my class starts May 22 and I can move into my apartment on June 1. If anyone can help me please let me know.

**Chair Monteforte:** Thursday night there is a drag group a capella going on. Otherwise on Saturday in Ira Allen at 8:00 there is plastic music which is guys that bang on trash cans and make music. It's free so you should go before you go to your other festivities. If you like going to events and getting money you should apply for the events team for Program Board because basically you go to events and you get paid. You can ask Chair Adams. If you are interested in WOW which is week of welcome you go to cool events for 10 days and get free t-shirts and free food and you get \$300. Ask me for any more information and you get to move in early if you live on campus.

**Chair Adams:** Two senatorial updates that I forgot, we're still working on coming up with some sort of resolution with Avery and Mo and the Women's Center so I will have an update next week. The Women's Center wanted to talk about it at the meeting tomorrow. Senator Bennington and I and whoever is interested are thinking about looking into the TRI funding issue and are going to talk about it briefly afterwards. On a lighter note, Senator Benner if you would like to follow in the footsteps of some really great senators you can probably sleep in my bed for a week. I think we should start a little bird pool in terms of who it is. I think that would be a fun use of time. Speaker Chevrier has been hard at work coming up with suprelatives for all of us but I think we need to return the favor and so if anyone has some good ones I would love to give her multiple.

**Senator Moise:** I wanted to thank everyone who helped the Step Team with our fundraiser thing. We did well, we raised over \$3,000 which was really cool. The Step Team has our showcase designed by Dominique April 17. We have tickets on sale they are \$3 for studnets and we would appreciate everyone coming it's going to be great show we've been working hard all year for it.

**Senator Filstein:** Senate: Have you ever wondered why Hawaii is part of the U.S.? California? What happened in the Coup detat in Chlie, Iran, and Guatemala? Do you care about where your tax dollars go? Do you care about the murder being perpetrated in our names? Why is the government taking so many contradictory stances on the revolutions in the Middle East? The answers to these questions and many more Lafayette 307, come learn about U.S. imperialism.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** I forgot to mention that I'm still looking for someone to adopt a guinea pig. My landlord is really anxious to get rid of it. I really need someone to take the guinea pig. Jesse might have been interested I would really like it not to be in my apartment anymore.

**Chair Simmons:** I pitched the idea to my roommate. I thought that would give him some company I think he has an exclusive thing going on with her. I would like to follow verbal fellatio with some verbal cunnalingering, it's easier to win than it is to lose and hell of a campaign I thought she blew Julian out of the water in the debates. I just want a round of applause. She exceeded my expectations. I was proud to share Senate with you.

**Senator Tepper:** Are you a returning student? I'm teaching a class next semester so if you have room in your schedule and want something fun to do that isn't going to be like any of your other classes come speak to me.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Point of Information: I'm assuming by the lack of laughs that not everyone knows what fellatio and cunnalingus are. **F**

**Senator Burns:** Point of Clarification: What is fellatio?

**Speaker Chevrier:** Fellatio is oral sex performed on a man and cunnalingus is oral sex performed on a female. Also as far as quersiton about the constitution, as of right now I am not planning on bringing it up but anyone else can. It says anyone can bring it up so it's on the table. I'm not going to bring up but anyone else can.

**Chair Simmons:** There was a sign that said it was a public speaking sign that said come speak on this question and it was how should we define success in today's society. I was so excited because I really wanted to speak on that and I was upset because it was for freshman and sophomores only. If there are any freshmen or sophomores who are into it I'm down to write the entire speech for you so long as you split the prize 50%. I have some good shit that you can say.

**Senator Yeager:** Chair Simmons has a beautiful yard that gay pigs love to frolick in. they are free and they can join the bunnies.

**Seantor Lovell:** It's tiny but it is an edge piece if anyone else wants it.

#### **Roll Call**

**Finance:** Chair Mallea, excused

**Student Activities:** Senator Mustcchi, excused

**COLA:** Senator Sedek, excused

**CODEEE:** All Present

**Student Action:** All Present

**Public Relations:** All Present

**Academic Affairs:** All Present

#### **Adjournment**

***End Time: 9:47pm***