



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2010  
NINTH MEETING OF THE 2010-2011 SENATE

## **Call to Order**

*Start Time: 7:02*

## **Roll Call**

**Finance:** All Present

**Student Activities:** Chair Adams, Senators Golfarini, Malloy, Mason, Moise, and Yeager, Excused

**COLA:** Senator Sadeghi, excused

**CODEEE:** Senator White, excused

**Student Action:** Senator Burns, unexcused

**Public Relations:** All Present

**Academic Affairs:** All Present

## **Approval of the Minutes**

From 09.21.10 - **Approved**

## **Public Forum**

### **Beverly Colston and Monique Swaby, ALANA Student Center**

**Beverly:** Hi everybody, it's nice to be here, thanks for having us here. We're happy to be here. My name is Beverly Colston, I'm the Director of the ALANA student center so we're happy to be here to share some information with you about what the center is, how we operate, our mission, our purpose and entertain questions as to what we do. I thought we'd start by asking, what do you already know about the ALANA student center?

**Chair Monteforte:** It's in the Blundell House

**Chair Simmons:** You have tremendous breakfasts.

**Senator Benes:** You mostly deal with diversity issues.

**Beverly:** Yes, and we include everyone as a part of that. Well, we want you to know that at the ALANA Student Center, an important thing we want you to know is we see race. We think it is an important marker of identity just like sexual orientation, gender, class. We believe that race is something that impacts relationships, communities and really all aspects of life for all of us. We want to start there because we know that sometimes there is a discussion about race isn't real but socially constructed. That's part of our philosophy that it is real. We have some stories to share just so you can see why we do what we do. These are stories of your peers here on campus. We obviously won't share any names but want you to know a little bit about what their lives of students of color can be here on campus. The first one that comes to me was a young woman, a friend of mine, who graduated recently. She was sitting on the green with friends when an ambulance went by and she heard the sirens. Her friends said to her you must be used to that. She said you are my friends, you know that that isn't what I'm used to in any way and you should know that, you know me. She talked to that because it hurt her feelings and stereotypes existed even with her friends.

**Monique:** So, what we deal with at the center are a multitude of things that are subtle and aren't apparent even to students of color sometimes. All white students try to be color-blind but don't realize that there are more important things that happen even on our own campus. There was an incidence in the Res Hall where a student was an RA and she happened to be an ALANA student. She went out to do something and she left for hours. She came back and opened her door and noticed that the n-word was written on her white board. Someone had erased it but she could still see it. There was another incident, a more overt thing, where a student of color had feces smeared on her door. So these are things that happen here on campus and aren't talked about. It happens all the time that, maybe in a history or literature class where people are having a discussion about race and talking and the professor may call to have a student of color speak to an incident because of that. We don't all know how that feels when that happens if you aren't a student of color and when you are the only one on the classroom that looks like that. There are things that happen everywhere that don't get talked about. One thing that happens is when a white student notices that a lot of black students are sitting together on campus. If you put this in perspective as a white student, think about who you hang out with. Do they look like you, have the same beliefs and backgrounds as you do? Do you feel more comfortable in that setting? You have to think about that. You have to understand where you come from. The question is, why do all the white kids sit together but people only comment about that when it's say Black or Asian students. Put yourself in those students' shoes. How would you feel if you were the only one? How would you feel if you were a first year student who moved across the country and then you get here and feel like no one cares about you?

**Beverly:** The results of these kinds of activities are that students feel isolated, miserable, don't feel seen or included or welcome, not seen as part of things. There is no denying that how you feel about a place reflects how you do for instance in the classroom or the way that you become involved the ways you put yourself out there in the UVM world. If our students of color don't feel safe and seen and cared about then even the best of them won't come out to be a part of the university environment. We want the students of color. Our mission is to help them achieve to their utmost just like everyone else and we don't want hurdles like race to get in the way of their academic achievements. All of those services are aimed at helping students. They differ from person to person, we would never paint the same picture for any two people for all students of color. There is a huge range in colored experience and we accept that. We examine as to where they are and what their issues are. So whether they want go to a conference or do research feel like no one is listening to me and any of the many possible things you may feeling here, that's where we help students like clubs. We're for students with different needs. We have many different programs I'd say 99% or programs are open to any student. I would say that we do have a few programs what we call Affinity Space programs. Those are programs that are like what they do in the Women's Center where there is a meeting for women only. Most people understand there is meaning in this. You want to discuss the issues and not worry about other people in the room. We have similar programs at the ALANA center as well. We have Student Circle, which is only for students of color and others that are only for Students of color. All others are for everyone and we would love to see more people at our events like Friday breakfasts. With all the things going on we want others to join us because at the end of the day we want everyone to feel included and empowered at this university.

**Monique:** Many people have the perception that the ALANA Student is a club and really it is a department just like any other department on campus like res life or student life. They are all there because there is a need for it to cater to students. We have had white students use our services and we want everyone to be feel comfortable using them. So if you want to come see what we're all about we want you to. There is a lot of misconception about why the center is there. There is also an ALANA U.S. Ethics program for academics.

**Beverly:** That's the brief overview we won't go into the minutia of all the things we do. We'd love to open the floor for any questions, comments.

*Open the Floor for Questions*

**Chair Nelson:** I'm not sure if you will be able to answer this but I'm just curious. There has been a lot of debate over diversity requirement and we are looking to change this to a diversity and cultural requirement. Can you speak on that or how do you perceive that?

**Beverly:** I don't know a whole lot about that debate so I can't really speak to that.

**Monique:** I think it's a fine line for me as to what's mandatory and what's not. But with that aside I think it's necessary because you want students come to a campus and for them to not explore different identities and culture than how are you going to be able to translate your skills to the real world? It's not just one race. It's really important, if you aren't honest and willing to learn from each other and educate yourself you will miss out. I think that's what's most important.

**Senator Filstein:** Do you feel like, there's been a lot of crazy and unique history at UVM around racial issues in the 90s protests and cake walks even before that. Do you think that old history is kind of being pushed under the rug and not being explored enough? I have been on the website and these things aren't on there and it should be.

**Beverly:** I absolutely agree with you and I have also talked to people from the University of Virginia and they have also had a very challenging history around race. They have chosen to just make that part of what they show students in orientation by saying this is where we come from and then saying this is where we want to go so that it's not a secret. It's just a part of our history, not a pretty part but a part we have to claim so I totally agree.

**Vice President Maciewicz:** I think that most people know recently the affirmative action office was reorganized. Provost Wanda Heading-Grant reorganized this and is now running it. What changes will this mean for students accessing services and what students should know?

**Beverly:** This is recent, it just happened a couple weeks. We don't think anything of our services are going to change just based on my conversations with Wanda Heading-Grant. I'm very excited about it and pleased about our growth to be a diversity equity division because that's all the identity center is along with cultural pluralism. I mean, what a great team, I'm really excited about that. I don't think our services are going to change at all but if they do it will be enhanced. We don't really know all this yet because it's so new.

### **Gioia Thompson, Office of Sustainability**

Gioia: I have a PowerPoint. I'm sorry to say, I had one of those student moments where I forgot my laptop at home and had a meeting and pulled it together. It's too long so I'll skip some things. I just want to show you some of the technical aspects of sustainability and it's probably very different than what you just had. I'm Gioia Thompson from The Office of Sustainability. It's an office of now 6 people, which is 2 full time folks, and 4 grad students who are about half time. We also have interns, work study students, other things going on. And I report to 2 people the Vice President of Finance Administration, that's Richard Cate and to the Provost. The commission of the office is to bridge academics and operations relating to sustainability. How many of you have heard me speak in Environmental Studies 001? I did change this a bit. How may have heard me speak in another class and know about my office? So ok, not that many people. Today Josh invited me to speak about something called STARS, it stands for Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System. It's a bit like the LEED program, which is for buildings, and it works as a rating system. We are trying to figure out how we are going to measure our commitment to sustainability and we also need to figure out exactly what we mean by sustainability. I will take you on a little trip. I've been here at UVM since 1996 and watched the campus grow from when I started in 2000 to what it is today. I'm seeing that sustainability has been a new word for what we used to call environmental responsibility. When we talked about environmental responsibility we also always felt like there was a social justice aspect to it.

My primary job is to deal with the environmental aspects of sustainability. There are many aspects to sustainability. It's about social justice, it's about economic sustainability functioning and it's about the environmental resources of sustainability too. Nonetheless, as I mentioned in the previous conversation we had, it does tend to get wrapped up in STARS rating system. I'm sorry to sound like a classroom here but want to show you a few things. So that's my job and that's who I was just telling you I report to, the vice president and the provost. My job is to cover everything, which is pretty much impossible, and to do that requires help, SGA help. We first started looking at environmental responsibility at UVM in 1996 with the environmental council and that group was with me as a graduate student, along with faculty and staff council, students and community members who cared about environmental sustainability. We tracked numbers we had important conversations, I made it my thesis topic for my Masters' thesis and it became one of the first half dozen to a dozen sustainability coordinators in higher education in the 1990s. In the year 2000 things started changing and now there are 100s of positions like mine. There are like guides for how to hire people like me so this is an incredible change over time. We've been working on this for a long time. We've had environmental studies, we've had environmental sciences. Burlington has been committed to these issues for 30+ years. But now we're having some interesting findings because now other people are getting interested in how green is your campus and what are we doing, when we have these rating systems we come out on top but then we go down. I haven't been able to have a coherent conversation on our campus about what matters. We are always being pulled in different directions by what is the latest thing we care about. Then the president signed a climate commitment which means we need to choose a date by which we need to be carbon neutral which means we will have to get to 0 carbon which mean we will need to make a big shift in thinking and a shift in the way we do business. It's a lot of work trying to keep up with that means. We've been measuring the greenhouse gas emissions and we have a sense of what's going on with we need to do measuring carbon emission and noting this to people on campus that we need to get to 0. So what I'm going to be doing in the next couple of months is putting together a plan that I would like to present to SGA in November. We've been measuring this kind of stuff and talking about sustainability has mostly been about carbon but there are still a lot of other things that we can care about. Because its gotten too crazy the conversation about what is sustainability, we have been talking about what courses are you teaching, do you use salt in your landscaping, what's your research about, are your students activists? This is like all over the map. People needed to figure out how to have an organized conversation that creates a rating systems like the LEED for buildings. And so it's based on 300 points and spread out about education, research, operations, planning, and admissions. Just to show you the level of detail, just to show you how entrenched this is getting and how it has been structured so maybe there is a way we can talk about this and get students involved in the process to keep everybody honest. So STARS has its rating system bronze, silver, gold, platinum. What might UVM get if we participated in this? This question was addressed by 2 classes, Josh was in one of them. So 2 classes participated in trying to figure out the rating systems and one class was looking at the planning and administration engagement and the other looked at social engagement. Where do we end up? When the CDAE class looked at it they ended up looking at a subsection and found we're doing ok on some things but there are some big gaps. When you look at the gaps you can then look at other institutions that participate in STARS and see what they do. What does their plan look like? So this allows ways for people to compare us and to know that it's not just a green launching effort but there's actually some data. The environmental studies class did an analysis and the results ended up looking about the same in each of these and came out with silver. UVM would end up being about STARS silver. Sounds like where we are in our LEED buildings. We have gotten somewhere, we have made progress but we have a whole lot further to go. An example from the class was the way we define things may be different from the way that the rating system defines things. Like how far away is local for food? And we may end up looking worse than we really are, but at least we have some basis for a conversation. If you want to talk about dining and food, you can find info under STAR system. The goal of this is to get more and more specific and more about numbers and less about grooviness factors. That's the intent of this whole program. What we want to do is get students involved whit this to keep us honest and to make sure the middle managers responsible for these things get to work with students for fresh idea. These are some recommendations students came up with. I hope that

explained what you wanted explained Josh. These are some ways students have and can continue to be involved. I think that we could have an annual report to campus on how we're doing and perhaps review by each representative body and that CODEEE might be the right body for this review and then make recommendation to the larger group. Because then you can say on this credit like human resources section, like the last section that josh's class is working on is not about environment but how we treat people and equity and about who gets what money for what reasons and who gets recruited and how this process happens. The bigger goal of STARS is to not only deal with environmental responsibility on the operations side but also on the policy and administration side. That's where we are if anyone wants more information, there's a lot out there.

### *Opens the Floor For Questions*

**Senator Cheney:** Thanks for coming in. I have 2 questions. For a stable rating does that include body carbons in terms of operations? And then, I haven't done my own research but with compost on campus do you think that's somewhere in the future, Could we make a push to get a facility on campus?

**Gioia:** Were you saying about the embodied energy is this counted in the carbon calculation? No, that's not, its an improvement that definitely needs to be made to the whole rating system. It's mostly about what goes through as opposed to what remains. The idea of this is you should be able to make standard evolve to evolve over time. One of the questions is how much you can measure and it's that's really hard to measure. We are trying to work on is the most obvious things that we really could be dealing with and making sure those are on the rating systems and things like what kind of fuel are you burning and are you burning way too much of it? The embodied energy conversation will probably end up more on the academic side. As for composting, there has been a study committee that followed up on some students and others work on potential to do composting in a digester at the farm. There was grant money found and hired some consultants and the report was finished and is on the sustainability website. The conclusion was great idea but it doesn't make financial sense. It would only make sense if there is some academic value to it expressed in terms of faculty getting hired and facilities getting upgraded and that kind of thing. There is a lot of money that would have to be found and it would have to be a push from academic side and with students pushing for it. It doesn't make any sense from the operations standpoint. If it has value it is not purely on the cost side it must be academic. If its going to be a teaching location and its not just going to be a one or two year thing with grand funding, if there is a commitment there then yeah, it could work. We have expertise and a lot of enthusiasm. It's a good question to keep asking why do you want to do that? If it's for student involvement and to promote learning about it then that's where pushing needs to happen.

**Senator Benes:** Thanks for coming in and wrapping up presentation with no computer. You said you have a lot of pressure from upper administration and faculty and all outlets on campus to do certain things. You said office has a hard time doing what matters to them. What is that? If it's just the office of sustainability choosing what to do on campus what would you do?

**Gioia:** We have 4 fellows and the clean energy fund that is a pretty interesting learning exercise that you have all paid for and approved, thank you. They met today and approved more projects. We are doing ok We have the Eco Reps program, the clean energy fund, the environmental forum once a month where we invite people to come to hear about a topic like the climate action plan or composting or transportation or whatever. If I had my way I would never get a call from salespeople telling me how to solve the university's problems, never want to do that again. I also would also spend less time dealing with little annoying things that have to be dealt with, there are lots of those. I guess my priority is trying to get the climate action plan moving ahead, and I have not been able to do that until this year. I am finally getting there this year. I met with Richard Cate this morning and presented it to the president's group so it's on their radar. Its late, would have been nice to get done before. Requires huge amounts of effort and concentration and its really hard when salespeople are trying to sell you things. It's been working really well and we're glad we have the funding and we really are trying to start to make connections with others and

we're only 2 years old haven't gotten far with that many people. We are beginning to make connections on the human resources side and have made efforts on the other aspects of sustainability so that's great.

**Senator Cesario:** Thanks for coming in I know you've been helping CODEEE a lot. I was curious if the Gened committee had been working with you at all with new sustainability section of the general education requirements and would that help increase our STAR rating?

**Gioia:** Yes, SGA in past has supported the sustainability requirement which would require some knowledge of sustainability. So I explained that I am typically working more on operations side and I am not a faculty member so if I tell a faculty member what I think they should do they aren't as receptive to the idea. What we have been doing is trying to understand what forms of sustainability are already on the curriculum and what it means. We have started a sustainability fellows program. Last year we had 16 faculty members from different departments applied for this fellowship position. It was 2 days of training as to what sustainability is and a few lunches ahead of time to get them focused and then working on courses with those things being incorporated. We ended up with all these different courses in the education department to psychology to philosophy to art and really everywhere and it's interesting to see how those people are doing sustainability. Also, we have been looking at course list and identifying how many courses include this. We also started a conversation with faculty senate's curriculum committee and got as far as a small sub committee working with me to find courses in the existing list with sustainability aspects. And we decided to work on climate change instead. Avoiding Brian Reed the Vice Provost as a result and the question is for students what do you want to see what does the health and environmental requirement mean? Are you sure you want a required course? Course designation in the STARS you get credit for different things. We have to do something to make it official. We do a ton of courses in our office. The challenge is taking our story and repackaging for the STARS program. If Students push for that then faculty members will follow. If you care about this then definitely get involved. I know Michaela McDonald did a really good job and it really impressed people. It's wide open.

**Senator Filstein:** I think STARS is cool program, it's too bad we're not a part of it yet but hopefully we will be in the future. So you see the potential for it to be silver already? That sounds pretty good and are there are small improvements we can do that would be something like turning the lights off more frequently and getting pat on the back and be done. It's really basic things, like LEED that specialize in sustainability but there's so much we could do beyond this.

**Gioia:** LEED definitely has limitations. You don't want this to be the new testing blanket. This is a new way to coordinate the conversation to be able to say look I'm able to do these things. The director of each department has a job for this to work with students and be held accountable. It could be an accountability tool. I think Human Resources is open to incorporating this with job descriptions, and really want sensitivity to be a part of their work. For instance when hiring someone for dining services they have to make a commitment to use local foods. It's something to manage the conversation. People want to know what's going on with organize. We don't want to spend too much time on websites, we want to do something. We don't want to just brag about gold stars but actually enact our vision for UVM. There are some STAR things that aren't actually a good idea. We can say to people we don't like this idea and our community decided this isn't the course we want to take.

### **Daniel Cheney, Chair of Student Athlete Advisory Council**

**Dan:** I'm Dan I'm the chair of the student athlete advisory committee, I'll refer to it as SAAC from now on. This is Jasper Smith he's a co-vice chair of SAAC and that is Luke, he's a Basketball player. He's going to start you off with sort of a day in the life of a student athlete.

**Luke:** How are you doing, thanks for having us. So, a day in the life. Today I got up at 5:30 and left at 6:00 and worked out until about 7:45 and was at the class from 8:30 – 12:45 and then had

rehab from about 1:15 until 3:30. Then pick up at 4:30 and I'm injured so rehab instead of individual work outs. Pickup starts at about 4:30 and goes to about 6:30. After that I had dinner, and now I'm here until whenever and then I will be at the library until I finish my work and then get up tomorrow. As athletes it's pretty similar for almost everybody. Individual sports or team sports where we get some perks for being athletes but we are here tonight to give our case for something we would like from the school seeing how it's a 24/7 job for us.

**Dan:** So we came here to talk about early registration. Recently there has been thought and conversation from the administration about trying to cut down numbers of early registration and one place they want to cut is athletes. There are about 400 on campus, we all have priority right now. My understanding is that all other group who have priority registration have managed to lower their number somehow like Honors College or access. Sometimes they did in-class registration early so if you are a first year you get to choose before other first years but still after upper classmen. That works for some cases but we don't think it works for student athletes. There are some reasons why. As you heard we are really busy. First off, we are students, go to class and strive to succeed and get our degrees. We have other commitments and we have to do them. We really do need the priority registrations..

**Jasper:** I think a big issue among student athletes on campus is that we don't get to choose practice times. The combination of teams using fields we have to schedule with women's soccer and field hockey and lacrosse. So with many teams sharing so few fields our practices are very scheduled. For basketball they lift very early in the morning and have the afternoon for class. Our coaches do their best to get what we need on the practice side athletic side. It can be difficult to balance with student athletes. Priority is incredibly important because if I can't choose the classes I need to especially in my junior or senior year with only one or two sections of each class, if they conflict with practices and I can't get into the section I need that means I'm forfeiting academic responsibility or athletic needs. Its detrimental to team mentality being there 7 days a week doing the same amount of work. But also our Athletic responsibility is also driven by our personal goals. We practice like we play but that's not the coach or athlete's fault. Sometimes it's different with individual sports where you can make up work easier but especially with team sports its if you miss your team training it won't be the 25 guys the next day, when people leave early come late its difficult to succeed athletically, not because we're athletes but because our academic requirements and limited options when choosing classes. School comes first if that's the case and team will be second.

**Dan:** one of the things the administration and athletic department came up with was even with full priority, right now, we choose on the first day. 75% of student athletes still miss part or all of practice at least 1 day a and more miss 2 or more. If you consider what that does to our athletics prospects and our teams it's a really big deal. If you have your starters not at practice for basketball its really harmful. It's not something we can afford to give up ground with. If we do priority within class then we lose a lot of opportunities and chances of success against other talented schools. If we don't have priority registration we won't be properly nourished or rested to be in a state of mind where we can learn properly. If I'm practicing at 7 am and have class at 8:30, if I don't have time to go home and eat and drink shower maybe get a nap, we aren't able to work as hard in the classroom. And I know that's really important to me to be healthy and do well in the classroom.

**Jasper:** I think sometimes non-student athletes resent the idea that student athletes get perks like priority registration but we don't get much beyond that. We don't feel entitled but it honestly does help us manage our lives. That's not to belittle people in Student Government or other clubs there are commitments beyond the classroom that are time consuming and stressful and adds another layer to your life. Everyone else has commitments outside of their regular classes. Being a student athlete is hard to explain to people that aren't its really like a second job. You go to class and have homework every night, deal with professors, make up quizzes like other students. For 3-5 hours a day you are separated from room, books, email. This gets stressful without being

able to organize your life before the real stress of athletics sets in you can have a really hard time meeting any academic commitments without priority registration.

**Dan:** It's not something that hasn't helped us. I'm not sure if you're aware but the academic cup has been won 6 consecutive years by athletes at UVM students. We are succeeding in the classroom and we are doing better than other schools. We are very proud of that. To my knowledge all other schools have academic priority. If we don't have that we will be at a disadvantage.

**Jasper:** Also this is helpful because student athletes have a higher GPA than the rest of the student body. We work really hard in the classroom and can do that because we have the classes when we need them in conjunction with class schedules. American East Athletics requires that student athletes make certain levels of academic progress each year going into the season. As a junior you need 60% of your major requirements to graduate on time. Without priority it's hard to make these progress requirements. Without these it can be very detrimental and damaging. We are first and foremost students. Maybe it would be better to have that jock mentality but if you look at our records no one other than hockey and basketball our teams have been as strong as we would like. But the reality is we are doing our best and making sure we get the job done in the classroom. It's really important to continue this.

**Dan:** We are here as students, same as you guys, and we want to talk to you so we can continue to do be both athletes and students.

#### *Open the Floor for Questions*

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** I entered UVM planning on participating being an athlete and was not able to be due to injury. What is the difference to you between a student who works a full time job and a student who is a student athlete. My roommate is your average UVM student and came here and didn't play field hockey because she works 45 hours to job. She still doesn't have time to do anything and she doesn't have priority registration. So what to you is the difference between yourselves and a student who has the same academic needs and still wants to graduate on time? She chose not to play sports because she considers her education more important.

**Dan:** As I say this it sounds narcissistic but we do fulfill service through the university. Although in no way do we have a 45 hour jobs its solely to benefit the university. Our ticket sales benefit the university. It's our personal choice and we can put the effort in but we put in and the time we put in is ultimately not benefiting anyone but the University of Vermont and ourselves only in an academic sense.

**Jasper:** Many student athletes are here because they get a scholarship to come here and that's the reason they come to UVM. My assumption is that this young lady works to pay for her bills for education and housing and that's similar to a lot of athletes. They come here solely because they got scholarship and they are working for their money.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** So in the vein of scholarships, I have to acknowledge that when budget cuts were made and baseball and softball were the first to go, girls in my hall were gone and left the university. That wasn't because of academic priority but little to do with choosing their courses. Also in regards to your comment that student athletes are better students, I'd like to see the statistics on this. And also what of money is brought in by ticket sales since UVM students get tickets free and are most of the attendees. What do those numbers turn out to be on the whole? There are a number of students who are working equally hard to be in the classroom. Other fields require a GPA that is probably just as high as the NCAA requires..

**President Mensah:** Point of information: I don't have the exact numbers on ticket sales or anything but the athletic department overall has a higher GPA than the rest of students. Their GPA is higher collectively than other teams in the northeast.

**Dan:** Our collective GPA last year was 3.17 or 3.15 and the regular student body's GPA was below 3.0

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** The average sorority member has a GPA of 3.2 and the characteristic of a "normal" UVM student is somewhat biased language.

**Senator Mason:** I think this is a hot topic and has been for a while. Heard you both say that priority registration makes your life more manageable. I would like to know how you know it's more manageable since you've always had it. In regards to being busy, I think I can speak for most UVM students, we're all pretty busy. What's the difference between someone in a club sport because they don't pick their practice times either and they have to deal with what time they are given. My days range about the same time and I don't get back to my room until 12,1,2 taking jobs, internship, class, club sports, senate. What makes yours different?

**Luke:** To start off, if I wasn't lucky enough to have full athletic scholarship I wouldn't be at UVM. I would not be in college at all getting this level of education. To comment on if I didn't have it how would I know? There are 14 people on the basketball team and if there are 5 missing we can't practice or play our best in the 25 games on our schedule and put UVM on the map. It's impossible to practice without a full roster when you only have 14 guys. As stated before, even with priority 75% athletes are missing some practices. When you have one guy missing once a week that is time they aren't playing. When he's here to play basketball and that's why UVM gives him a scholarship. Basketball is the full time job. In terms of scheduling, I'm in the gym doing athletics 6,7,8, hours a day. I do classes in morning and then go to the gym. Studying is later on in the night. There is no such thing as free time. I don't know how much free time other students but I find it hard to believe that their schedule puts them through what athletes do. There is a choice, I choose this, but for me that choice means I wouldn't be at a college at all without basketball.

**Senator Mason:** I don't want to come off rude or anything or attack you personally. I'll say it as nice as possible. I don't know the statistics of athletes that are injured and since you aren't actually contributing to those wins, why you still get your priority? I know you still go through the training but you aren't actually contributing to those wins.

**Dan:** Last year I tore an ACL in my knee for two years in a row. It's hard to watch your team win or lose from sideline. It weighs on you psychologically and it has physical tolls, you bummed out and depressed. Whether or not you are on the field, when you are in a team environment, it's all 28 people that matter. It doesn't boil down to how many people are on the field there at that exact moment it boils down to everyone has something to offer and to disregard that would be a narrow view of the sport. If you aren't playing, even if you are on bench or hurt they are still involved in the team, they are not just a useless body. You also offer a different perspective and support and everyone provides something.

**Laura:** I was on the on Cross Country team not to get back at you or anything like that but I know that many are injured. Many are not only battling injury and competing at the same time. You are adding rehab time on top of training and are still participating. When you are trying to push you body to the limit but not too far so they are adding to injury. You can continue to make an impact on you team. Sometimes it means they put in additional work to make a contribution

**Dan:** I'm injured right now and I was nominated by our teams and coaches to be on this council. If someone is hurt and they aren't playing at the moment, they can still being a leader such as by being here tonight.

**Senator Malloy:** Thanks for being here. You mentioned scholarships already. How many out of the 400 student athletes receive full or partial scholarships to come here?

**Dan:** I don't know personally don't know the number, it has to do with title 9 and things like that. I personally don't have one here. I'm doing it out of my willingness to compete and to put time forth.

**Jasper:** I'm only familiar with soccer programs. Those that do well financially there is a limit to 9.9. I don't know exactly what UVM does but on a team of 28 there are maybe 2 or 3 on a full ride and rest are either sharing or doing it for free.

**Senator Benes:** Thanks for coming in. You talked about team athletes and team sports. What about individuals? Do they not have more of an ability to schedule practices without having the same times? Can they have less freedom to choose courses than others since they have more flexibility?

**Chris Lemieux:** I'm the captain of the track team, I'm a junior. It's true that individual sports you don't need the same chemistry of the basketball team. I don't have to be with everyone on the team saying it doesn't matter at all couldn't be further from the truth. Two things: as an individual sport and from the team aspect. Academically and physiologically, I know personally from cross-country and track and field individually they are the highest GPAs among their sports. All of our athletes are in demanding majors, About 10 or 20 people came up here because they are radiation therapy majors, premed, biology majors, and are doing those things and managing to do track and field on top of that. There is a lot of communication and resources for what those managers are we have some high GPAS and demanding majors. I don't have a demanding major but I do a lot of community service. They make me proud and happy that they are my teammates. Physiologically, I know a lot about the body, we have practice from 7-8, lifting at 8:15. With high intensity exercise back to back, when you rest for only 20 minutes you shouldn't do this again for another 6 hours. This is making them come back later in the day to life by themselves because they can't come back right after. It's terrible because when you are next to something you push your teammates as hard as you can. They push me to be better for them, the school, all of you to make VT team as much as possible. I lift twice as much when my coach is there he lifts with me because I'm the only one who has class at 2. That 6 hour period for those people they go from class at 8:30 and then a clinical then are forced to go from being an athlete to being a student, back to being an athlete. It's draining. They would much prefer to do practice lift, get it out of the way and spend rest of their time being a student. I'm trying to make my point as best I can.

**Dan:** We also limited facilities, there's only one indoor track and its open recreationally frequently. It's difficult to practice when you have people running in and out of your way and basketballs rolling everywhere. The facilities are very limited and individual sports have to compete for space.

**Jasper:** We tend to think of individual sports as track and swimming. But also the ski team is individual also they take vans to Stowe and if they don't have that van you have to find your own way up the mountain. We talked about this last meeting that SAC made the point that yes, they can come to the pool later and the coach can come, it's his job to be there, but if they aren't there pushing each other it's difficult to get out there on their own.

**Chair Monteforte:** thanks for coming in I want to thank you for all your work. They work so hard they aren't saying we all suck at life. Without athletics our school wouldn't be on their map. They are here to advocate for something they need and I urge you to support them. They have the job to represent the school and we want them to be happy with academics and their experience here at UVM.

**Chris:** I know the basketball team when they beat Syracuse in 2005 with the 15<sup>th</sup> seed beating 2, the following year, the school had 15,000 more applicants, partly because of that. What we do on the court contributes to that. They pay a lot to come here, for those that have scholarship work really hard and it means a lot. There were 15,000 applicants with 60 bucks a pop that's a lot to the school. I bet with what we did last year it helped again. To say they don't contribute is false.

**Senator Tran:** thanks for coming in. I support you guys too, I don't want you to think we're all against you all. I need clarification. What is your proposal? Do you want just VT athletes to have priority registration?

**Dan:** We just want to keep full priority for all student athletes. The worse case scenario would be within your classes but we would ideally like full priority registration for all.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** I say this with all the respect but people don't come to UVM because it's an athletic school. Athletes might come here for the athletic components. I'm a huge basketball fan, I was really excited last year. But, I believe soccer won something like one game. You play your hearts out and I have a lot of I can't imagine how hard you guys work but at the same time its not a football school or Michigan. Especially with something like the TRI on the table, we are a moving even more to being a research school and I'm excited that we are a D1 school and have a lot of intentions. It's just not why I believe the bulk of students come to UVM.

**Brooke:** My name is Brooke, I'm a senior on the field hockey team. You said your friend thought about playing and didn't. Last year we had a 1-17 record I'm not happy with it but this year currently 4-6 which I'm very proud of. That's a real improvement. I personally think that it doesn't matter. The fact that yes we do play our hearts out yes the records don't always come up where we'd like them. We do have a couple of stellar team. We don't have football, baseball, softball. I fought tooth and nail for those teams but that's a different story. The fact that my team had to change practice times because even with priority registration there were two or three days where we would only have 7 or 8 people there. Because of that, since we never had a full practice roster, was why we had 1-17. We practice weird times and a have lot of education majors and a lot of people we have to fit around but I believe that because we changed those times. I believe that our season is already at already at least 4 times better than last year. I don't think we're trying to think we're better than you but we do need it even if we aren't the most successful teams can only help us be more success.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** First of all, congratulations, that's a great comeback. I do understand that it's hard to function without all members of your team. It's hard for any group to function without all its members. The Fact remains that we pride ourselves on being an academic institution. We are a much smaller institution than Michigan with a huge budget gap. At the same time, who are we going to worry about with a bigger focus, students who are seniors struggling to get in classes needed to graduate or, while its nice that they are working hard to compete, the 400 students are excelling in their fields.

**Dan:** Student athletes are leading the way academically based on our GPA. No athlete will deny that they are a student first and foremost. That's not to say that there aren't individuals that struggle in the classroom or aren't as serious as they should be but ultimately we are an academic institution and student athletes proven that they are serious about this.

**Senator Willis:** I'm having a hard time figuring out why there are so many spaces and not making it a priority to make it easier to register. UVM students in general are super busy. I'm just as busy as you and have had priority too. I suggest you probably register during lunch, outside your practice times, in the library. I feel like when you guys have done for priority registration I guess what do you think you have done to earn priority?

**Speaker Chevrier:** Point of Information: The student athletes are currently here talking about whether they have priority registration meaning they get to register the day before other students not that they are lacking their personal time to get on the computer and register.

**Dan:** We have time to register for our classes, that's not an issue. Whether that's 7am or the middle of the day. Our goal is to continue to have full priority registration for all student athletes.

**Senator Willis:** What about the rest of students who won't have priority. Why is it that student athletes get this priority registration?

**Jasper:** I know you Darrion, I know you are always busy doing things. I would argue the group of people in this room are not representative of the average student body. If you are in this room you have proven you are willing to do things above and beyond the average student. Athletes also have practice. If you are in the honors college, you earned it. If you have ACCESS, you need it. If you are an athlete, I would argue, you have both earned it and need it. We can do things above and beyond athletics and class as well. A lot of people are in clubs, or programs, they just can't realistically do this without priority.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** There are over 87% of students involved with either a D1 sport or a Club Sport. It's way more than half of students.

**Senator Corkins:** I just want to say that I support you in having priority registration and it would be interesting to see priority you have a physical need for needing it and that's getting on the field and coordinating with other teams getting on the field. Maybe priority registration should be something that if you have a physical need you get it but maybe not for groups like the Honors College where you have intellectual needs you don't get priority registration.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Honors College would get in class priority registration and they get this because have to write a thesis in their senior year.

**President Mensah:** I think a lot of what is going on right now is miscommunication and not enough clarification. Please be respectful of others in this room. I invited SAAC over here to talk about why they would like to keep priority whether it's full or if it's class registration. I think they spent the past 40 minutes explaining why they need full priority we need to realize what they've said. If you have clarifying questions please ask them and with respect. There are 400+ athletics here and many of them are here because they have a lot of talent and have been personally scouted and asked to come. And knowing a lot of athletes, I don't think anyone said they are better than anyone in the room. Their charge that they are given that makes their predicament of the situation a little different. Let's keep that in mind

**Chair Adams:** I have been told this is a new question is that do you think part of the reason you guys are obviously excelling as a body, we are proud of you for that, but do you think you are academically successful because you have priority and get to take what you want to take and therefore have more motivation in the classroom? Is it fair that you are registering ahead of maybe seniors that don't have that opportunity.

**Dan:** I do think it is a large part due to priority registration that we have been so successful. Having priority registration gives us the advantage to take classes in the order we need to take them. It allows us to be in the right state of mind to be students. I can't go to class if I'm super tired or too hungry, or dehydrated. I'm not going to learn. To me that's an important reason.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Thanks for coming. I want to give kind of another perspective many people seem to be anti- or pro- athletics. I am definitely pro athletics completely. With every athletic student that gets priority registration a class is taken from someone who does work 50 hours a week or is in ACCESS now and is moving to in class registration. Would athletics be able to survive if you had in class priority registration?

**Luke:** We as the basketball wouldn't be able to, we need to do the plays and work together if there are too many guys missing. Last year there were people with injuries and people missing and we had nothing to do because people weren't there. If we went through a whole year with never having everyone on the team there it's not realistic to think that will work, strictly from a basketball standpoint.

**Senator Lober:** Thanks for coming in, I appreciate what you do and appreciate what you face, talking about your schedule. Right now you have what's called priority register before everyone else and the new proposal is within in class. Do you have positions in that spectrum that could be applied?

**Jasper:** With our academic advisors that work with SAAC we discussed possible alternatives and obviously they know more about options on the table. All we have discussed in depth is partly because they are long meetings its hard to know what would be good for each team so we've only really been talking about full priority.

**Senator Wilich:** I think you should know, thanks for coming in I support you, there are about 3000 students are on priority registration right now. 400 student athletes are only 13% of this number. Take that into consideration.

**Senator Lober:** I encourage you to talk to Chris Lucier this year and work with representatives from that group.

**President Mensah:** Point of Information: they have already been in contact with Chris??

**Dan:** Our academic advisors have done that we don't have all information.

### **Marie Johnson and Sydnee Viral, Student Financial Services**

**Marie:** I'm Marie Johnson, I work at Student Financial Services

**Sydnee:** And I'm Sydnee Viray, the federal work-study coordinator.

**Maria:** So we've been asked to come to speak about two things, the reduction in number with students receiving work-study this year and changes of federal funding. We'll begin by talking about the reasons for the reduction. There have not been these kind of controls in place to prevent overspending. Given the economic situation and financial needs of our students. You probably know friends, others across campus where things aren't as good as they could be. Last year we had awarded similar to how much we had for a number of years our funding is 2.2 mil dollars and that's all there is. 75% comes from the federal government and 25% from the institution. If we overspend that extra money has to come from somewhere and that's financial aid. Approaching this year knowing that last year we saw a substantial increase of usage, more students took more jobs than in the past. We can speculate it's because there were fewer jobs available on campus and members of the community were taking them. There is always more demand from supervisors on campus. We are always looking for students to work with us in our office and pay bills and expenses and understand the importance of that. We are very passionate about student employment increases. But with Work Study there as \$2.2 mil budget and we had to look at a more conservative approach and this is part of a need-based thing so it can't be all the students from last year receiving financial aid again. It has to go to the needier students. There has been a substantial rise in need for student and the total number of students has increased by 65% in the last 3 years. It's a pretty dire as far as that. We are trying to keep grant funding more over a 3-year period. We consider these things as much as they can impact people applying for financial aid. Had we kept expenditures at 3 million like we did last year, we would have had to take money from grant funding and I couldn't support taking grant money for work-study. There are also certain numbers recording need to be in place that don't have to be there for other kinds of employment

**Sydnee:** We really there are such a few students who have access to their money. In some ways it's really access to a very specific program. It's very much out of our control. It has much more to do with student profiles. Based on the profiles we've been seeing we have to project a certain practice that has shifted since the start of this program and we haven't gotten any increases in that since we first started receiving funding for that program. I think that this knowledge doesn't keep

us up with the times. The second question posed to us was communication strategies we have been employing. This is one of the biggest processes I have ever been involved with was from moving from career services, which was very student, focused to student financial services to deal with their financial need and obligations to the institution. It is a very student centered process. When I first got here we only communicated by mail, there was no use of any email even though we had email access. We increased our email usage and we've increased allowing authorized payer so parents can pay. That's incredible that in 3 years we can introduce that. The other piece of knowledge that has been about employment rights we are looking at as a program but the other issue if you look at any other student employment activities, are there rights are they're regulations. There's no structure there so the fact that we are not communicating what your rights are and the employer's responsibility is to the student, that's incredible. There had been a lot of student employment objectives. If you think you are working a lot in the lab and have no this is where we can help solve other issues on campus.

**Marie:** One of the questions that was posed to me was why didn't we communicate with students who had work-study in the past but didn't receive it this year? We only communicate by awards. Financial awards vary from year to year. These change each year based on financial circumstances the award can go up or down. For a 72 mil financial aid budget this if we communicate something special to the student you didn't get financial aid award, what would that have done? We certainly have spoken to many families and students and understand why people are upset. We want to expand student employment on campus. I have been asked to chair the Student Employment Taskforce, which is working on a way to centralize student employment on-campus and figure out how to train supervisors and what we can do to protect the students. We are looking to find funding for a centralized model and find opportunities on campus to bring them together. When students did receive work-study, the student and the parent are now looking for a job and we are working closely with career services and to do job placement. They are there to support students and help them look for employment opportunities and this allows them to work elsewhere.

### *Open the Floor for Questions*

**Chair Morgan:** If you had a work-study, like student had it last year and didn't accept it, is that counted against them?

**Marie:** Federal Work study is based each year its by your family's Expected Family Contribution, EFC, and this is based on income, the number in the family the number in college. Whether you accepted in the past or not has nothing to do with it. It is strictly based on financial need.

**Senator Mason:** Thanks for coming in. First, being a student that was affected by work-study I definitely have some questions. I kinda want to know I know you talked about why you decided you didn't want to notify students who didn't receive work-study. I don't want to say I didn't like the response so much as it was kind of a cop out as to answering questions from these work study students as well as the effort put forth on finding alternatives for the students. As you know legislation was passed to increase loans and there is no appeal process to get the students work-study back. You could have been in a home with two parents and then your parents split up but the financial aid had already gone through. Those students weren't taken into consideration. I know a person went to SFS about their basic award and they were basically told maybe you just don't need to go here anymore, maybe you should transfer. I don't see that as a good approach to this either.

**Marie:** Ok so this question is regarding the change in financial circumstances and an appeal opportunity. Every student has a chance to appeal if there is a change in their family financial circumstances since they filled out the FAFSA. If they fill out the FAFSA and then they appeal and provide documentation that there was a change, we can make with our professional judgment. If that drops their EFC into a level that they met the criteria for federal work study then they are

granted it. However it's not permissible to just give people work-study who just want it. It has to be based on financial need, if that drops we can do something, but we can just give it to someone.

**Sydnee:** I think that also that Federal Work Study as an award is tied to other financial aid and it's not stand alone object.

**Senator Mason:** I guess I'm kind of mind boggled and blown away by your response in that situation of going through a process because your financial status is different. I personally walked into the financial aid office and spoke to a woman at the cubicle with reddish blonde hair she told me there was nothing I could do and that you don't do that kind of process to re-file. She said that there is no way to do that because you status is different. She told me this while I was in the office. I went as soon as school started.

**Marie:** I'd be happy to speak to you. I don't want to talk about individuals' situations but do want you to get what you need. If any of you here feel you don't have adequate services, I mean you can't come in and say I want this or that, but we can't give it to you. If you feel you haven't been treated with respect or given the time or right information, please let me know.

**Chair Herman:** Thanks for coming in. I personally know and from other friends and others with financial circumstances, that my EFC has been 0 since I've been here. My family is overall income has decreased annually. Each year it's harder to get enough financial aid as we progress through the year. The packages get smaller, the loans increase. A lot of students take a loan from their parents and their parents aren't approved because parents have bad credit. What can you do to take steps after that?

**Marie:** UVM is not able to meet full financial aid for almost any of our students. When there is a 0 EFC that doesn't mean that we won't incorporate parts of that student award. It's been a very tough time for students, families, and quite honestly even our staff trying to have tough conversations. And when students aren't able to have parents willing or able to take out a loan. We can't and don't have the capacity or the money which has to come from somewhere. We push revenue our endowment isn't that big to begin with and there isn't much interest or money from the state especially in this economy. Even though there was a tuition increase this year it puts strain on financial aid. Sometimes we have to talk about options. Sometimes we can't help a student. I would rather talk to students lay out options maybe stepping out and working for a bit to try to get to a good place then have them go ahead and take a loan and get into trouble. They may think they will be ok and then that semester with huge loans and no means to pay they get poor grades. I'd rather protect our students not put them in a bad situation. I saw many well intentioned people get into a bad situation. I can't in good faith put someone in trouble so sometimes we do have to have the tough conversations.

**Chair Adams:** Thanks for sticking it out. We really do appreciate you talking to students and having those tough conversations. We'd love to see all students being able to stay here. With work study changes the jobs available to students haven't changed and so now there are a lot of vacancies in positions that needed to be filled by work-study students like front desks and those types of things. So how is that being handled and will it be different in the future?

**Sydnee:** Let me just give you some context of work-study program. When it first created part of the core pillars was to create career opportunities for students. One of the de facto realities is that it has been subsidized in university applications to be employment, very different than the intent. University is comfortable having many students be able to take positions to earn that money and now we are in a place of economic need and want this even more but not being able to access this without more funding. The university has moved business processes to have students do work that is really important to their assumption. That's not part of the spirit of the program. We have these vacancies but every year each individual supervisor a student has the ability to leave the position. Really, all positions could be vacancies. Are we as a university thinking about what our

needs are and providing services. Is it really appropriate for the work-study students being the one to provide that service. That's some context of face of the program.

**Marie:** Several of our employers are classified as being supposed to be generate enough revenue to be inexpensive. Because they have lost a lot of work study students and weren't really realizing the full cost of that labor, we did have communications with the budget people in advance so they knew there would be fewer students in the mix so we need to build in some controls that should have been there all along to protect students. We've had students over the year they have worked 50 hours for an employer and realize they have done no paperwork and then the students and the supervisor come to us for help. If people don't follow the process we are going to revoke their ability. We are going to protect the students. We won't put them in a situation out there where they would have been able to work somewhere else earning money and being subject to these problems. We have 1300 students in the PeopleSoft system that can enter time. That has never happened before and it has created some bumps along the road. I'm sorry that my colleagues across campus have struggled. There were 3 weeks of filing to do and we are all having to make adjustments. With having to make a reduction in work-study students and we now have to build in new controls, which will pave the road to a better program in the future.

**Chair Nelson:** does every student who gets work-study get the same amount? Or is that based on need?

**Marie:** It is based on need so depending on other parts of their award they might not get the full amount. For example, maybe we've awarded \$1,600, it's the maximum amount we award for any student. Maybe the student has all other grades and scholarship as part of their award. If they had all that we might reduce their work-study. That does happen. But generally it's a \$1,600 dollar award.

**Nelson:** If a student declines their Work Study because they get a job down town, does the money go back to budget or does it go to another student that year or is it cycled into next year?

**Marie:** Because we always have demand higher for work-study than the money available, we always award more work-study than we really have available knowing that not everyone will accept it. We base this on historical usage patterns. We award many more than we expect to use it. We were expecting 1,600 people to use their awards last year and we gave out 4,800 awards. Then 2,400 students utilized it so we were more conservative this year. We expect only about 52% who receive it to actually earn at least some of their award. If everyone earns \$1,600 we will be overspending again.

**Senator Tran:** Thanks for coming in. I just wanted to hear what you have to say about offering first year students' really great packages and then not so great packages the year after.

**Marie:** Thank you for your question because it is one of those things we get asked a lot. Our practice is to not make a nice package year one and then make you pay for it year 2. We base it on family's financial circumstances. When people describe something like that it's because something has typically change and we will explain why this award change. One common example is if there are two students in college in year 1. If this is the case the EFC is divided between the students so each student is eligible for more aid at their respective schools. If one graduates and the other is still in school the EFC is all back to one student. It's going to make a huge difference in the financial aid award. It has nothing to do with yanking things away. We do try to keep awards as similar as possible. There are some things that are outside of our control when working with limited funds. Have to not overspend. In addition to overspending on the federal work-study program we overspent on the SEOG grant program student and we gave it to all eligible students in the past but we overspent on that as well. There were so many more people who wanted PELL grants than before. If we did as much as before it wouldn't work so there was a change only in that fund. We don't do bait and switch.

## **Old Business**

### **Bill Allocating Funds to Women's Club Soccer**

**Chair Mallea:** So I brought this up in my report last week. Women's club soccer is going to use this funding to go to nationals [*reads bill*]

#### *Open the Floor For Questions*

**Chair Morgan:** How much money did they originally ask for?

**Chair Mallea:** Just under \$13000

**Senator O'Brien:** I was wondering when are nationals and also if they've gotten in or qualified?

**Chair Mallea:** They would be going at beginning of November, I can double check that date for you. The reason they came in and requested it early was because they did their research ahead of time and saw that there was an early bird registration fee and they got a discount if they registered by a certain date. By utilizing that they will be eliminating some cost because it's really expensive to fly out 22 members to Phoenix Arizona.

**Senator Yeager:** How many games are they guaranteed to play in?

**Chair Mallea:** We actually had the same question if it was something that they had to qualify for or if it was something anyone can go to it? I'm not sure how many rounds they are guaranteed to play. The reason why they are going is because they will get to play teams not in the northeast division. They constantly play Middlebury and teams in the northeast and it would be a really cool experience to play teams not in our region. I'm not sure how many game they are promised to play.

**Senator Benes:** Knowing how much research you have already done on this topic I would like to call to question.

**Vote on call to question - passes.**

**Vote on the Bill – passes**

## **Emergency Business**

### **Bill Sanctioning UVM Club Kayak**

**Chair Adams:** I sent the bill out to exec listserv.

**Senator Golfarini:** So I am the senator liaison for the outdoor and recreational clubs. So I'm just going to give a little background as to why they are being sanctioned. The kayak club had a few infractions with regards to the renting of vehicles. They towed a u-haul trailer with a thrifty van and drove it on a dirt road, which you aren't supposed to do. And they had only one certified driver and they need two if the trip is over 15 miles. That's what they did wrong. For your information, we met as a committee. We thought that eliminating driving privileges would devastate the club. It would make it non-operational so we thought it would be better to restrict driving privileges by adding extra steps in the van rental process and checking in with me as the liaison for the next 5 trips. That's a brief overview.

**Chair Adams:** I'm going to read the bill. I want to reiterate what we are voting on tonight is if they broke the rule and if they did is this an appropriate sanction. Its not about what the policy is just did they break the policy. [*reads bill*]. So this is adapted from the bill written for the last violation so that's where all the fancy language is from. But we met, Danny was at the meeting he is fully aware of the sanctions so want him to talk.

**Danny:** I know you've sat for a long meeting so I don't want to drag it on any longer than necessary. Is it possible that you could move forward and vote on this. I'm totally accepting of this. I thought the meeting went well. If there are problems and you would like me to speak I will explain.

*Open the Floor for Questions*

**Senator Filstein:** Just to clear something up, you talked about with an action list in 10 days. That is the standard policy, is there a set amount of days in advance?

**Chair Adams:** So I can explain it, that part is 10 days prior, know action sheet we did at the retreat? Leon and I are going to Basically go through each trip and break it down who is doing what for what date and that will be done with Julian since he's their liaison. The completed copy has to be given to Leon and I by the ten day mark. The sanction is more meeting with Julian throughout the process.

*Bill automatically called to question.*

**All those in favor of bill sanctioning UVM Kayak Club - passes**

**Resolution Requesting In Class Registration as the Only Form of Priority Registration.**

**Senator Filstein:** Alright, sorry guys. The reason this is under emergency business at all is basically this is a really complicated issue, it's really nuanced and you know all that. But, basically a couple of years ago SGA passed a resolution to talk about priority registration and talking about reducing the number that have it and then changing it to in class priority registration instead of uber. Last year our committee came to an agreement with the administration that the new reform would kick in for next semester. Basically the administration has been doing some weird things but basically they need to know from us this week that we want priority registration reform to happen for next semester. If we sleep on it, it will have to wait another semester and we just see that as taking too long, it's already been years in the work. This is something that could have gotten taken care of years about but the AA Chair switched and the new chair didn't keep up so we don't want it to fall through the cracks again, which is why it's emergency business. I'm going to read the original priority registration bill from a few years ago. And we don't have to keep reapproving the same thing, it stands even though it's an old bill. [*Reads old Resolution*]. Basically this says that we want to reduce how many people have it and for those who do make it be within class instead of uber. That was two years ago and SGA has been meeting with administrators, figuring out how to make it happen. Basically it's all said and done and then the issue came up with athletics and whether they should switch from uber to in class which is really something we don't have the power to decide, we make recommendations to the administration and they decide what's best.

**Chair Nelson:** So we then give our standpoint about whether all people will be failing in class or if certain groups will have exception. [*Reads Resolution*].

**Senator Filstein:** To give a little more background, basically, Chris Lucier who is in charge of this said ok, if you want to go ahead with this for next semester and by the way, we want to know what do you think about athletes. In the previous legislation it says clearly that everyone that remains should go to in class, which is what the SGA said. It was kind of weird and he kind of asked Kofi what his opinion was and what the senate's opinion was and we wanted to make it more clear, basically, that senate wants this and even, they have a really good argument and every group that is on priority has a good argument as well, it's nothing against them. We see it as a fairness thing. Whoever is left on priority registration should be the same. This is just us saying it should be fair. Tomorrow if Chris gets this and talks to the Athletic Director and says no we're not ok with this we really need uber, we are ok with them having uber as long as the whole change goes it. Our best bet is everyone gets in class and it happens next semester. But you now, if everyone gets in class and they are still on uber, I was surprised, there are only 400 kids out of 3000, the administration wouldn't tell us how many were athletes so it's not that many athletes. If

they stay on uber it wouldn't be that bad. The fact that everyone else is changing and it's reduced is really good. Basically this is our final statement that we want it reduced and we want it in class.

**Chair Nelson:** They also have already started reducing the number getting priority registration and cleaning out the cobwebs and there are slowly getting less on priority.

*Open the Floor for Questions*

**Senator White:** With in class registration the way you are describing it. Is it that you are a first year do you register with the sophomores or do you just do it before your class because that's different.

**Chair Nelson:** if you are a freshman with priority registration then you would register with the sophomores.

**Senator Filstein:** It's every day and its at 7am so that's really the only way it can be unless they did it at 3 am and the other grade goes later, so that's what in class is its always at 7. We see it as a lot more fair. Like the resolution said, seniors need to get classes. We represent all students and seniors need their classes, it's not fair to hear one side. I'm sure every group would come make a great argument. This is just us asking for fairness in the process.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I already sat through a debate similar 2 years ago about deciding to change priority from uber to in class. I want to read what Steele Taylor Chari of AA. [*reads Steele's message*]. I want to point out a few things. It's obviously very necessary that it turn from uber to in class. 3,000 students get this uber priority registration right now. It's easy to say that maybe athletes should get more than advocats it's really difficult to say that athletes need it more than access. I think it's really important to do it across the board because you are comparing students. There are students who work more at their job more than athletes spend being athletes but they're not getting priority registration. With my knee surgery last year, I was an ACCESS student, I could not work in the mornings, the mornings were painful. I couldn't get there. And all these other groups have been willing to turn it into in class priority registration so I don't see why athletes shouldn't be able to adjust as well.

**Chair Morgan:** Let me just summarize what you had said even though you want in class registration to be the only form of priority registration you want us to vote for it even if we say I think that 90% of people who get priority should have in class you want us to vote for it anyway even though it says, you see what I'm getting it? This is making our statement at the whole we want to the 3,000 number cut down. So even if I don't believe in it personally where you say only, you think that I should still vote for this even this even if I think some should still have uber?

**Senator Filstein:** So hypothetically you still think that 10% should still have uber, would that prevent you from final negotiation, and some may get still uber. We are just asking for fairness and we recognize that that may not be likely but we want to be on the record with something strong.

**Senator Corkins:** Could this bill come back next week and be changed to something where we said well maybe the SGA as a body doesn't believe that we as a body don't need full priority registration.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Point of Information: If you want to change something that you see up here you can offer a friendly amendment. So friendly amendment let it be resolved that we really like athletes. And if they accept it then it will be part of the bill.

**Senator Filstein:** With regard to bringing it back next week, like I was saying, if we wait a week priority registration for all the other groups, the other 2,600 kids will not change for a whole other

semester and we feel like that is a detrimental blow and its not worth pushing it back. And also, this isn't going to be the law that no athletes will get uber.

**Vice President Maciewicz:** I'm sorry for speaking so much tonight but the reason I decided to say anything was I think I'm only one or two or three people who were actually here when we debated the original bill 2 years ago. I'd like to give props to AA for writing the resolution and I'm going to have to disagree a little bit. To put in context the original resolution dealt almost exclusively with the honors college and that priority registration also includes other groups like ACCESS, TREO, Tour Guides, and Vermont Scholars. But the focus was the honors college because it was growing tremendously and it was seen as unfair and I think it is unfair even as someone who is in the Honors College. But no one spoke of athletics and no one spoke of TREO or of advocats. That was really the spirit behind it was to restrain the Honors College and this is something the administration is still working on because it really does need to be restrained. You need to write a thesis and it's a very complicated process but it's not a big of a time commitment. I think this resolution isn't considering the special needs of student athletes. Part of the reason I voted against two year ago was because I didn't think it was expansive enough. I think athletic students have requirements that go beyond what one class can offer. I totally get if you have a medical disability and can't do mornings or something and that should be accommodated. But I'm convinced that could be accomplished with specific times throughout the day. My third and last point is I don't see inclusion of flexibility in this resolution. I know we're talking about how we want this but we would settle for something else and I don't see we would settle for something else. I encourage a friendly amendment. I know from personal experience that the athletic department will be furious if this resolution passes and they might slow up the whole process. I encourage a statement expressing that if we don't get in class for everyone it won't stop the whole process because just knowing Bob the athletic director they will try to stop the whole process I would consider amending it or voting against it if I were still a senator.

**Senator Vitagliano:** I want to build off of that, I agree with what VP Maciewicz has to say. As an ACCESS student along with others on the campus that there are medical needs that students need to have. For myself, I have monthly injections that take 2-3 hours for processing monthly and having to fit that in a day and having to miss classes can well obviously, well health is a priority. And to be able to have some kind of control as to when classes are can be beneficial for ACCESS students. I would push to have some kind of flexibility included in this resolution.

**Senator Filstein:** Basically it's a nuanced issue and the problem is the administration is giving us more power than we should have. We should not be deciding as students who get it and who doesn't. They made that mistake by saying. I don't know if you know what I'm saying. People in ACCESS are still getting priority registration and this is something that they worked out. A lot of people in ACCESS got priority registration but didn't really need it. Look at the numbers, of the 3000 that have it at UVM is more than any other university. At UCONN, which has a slamming athletics department only 30 athletes get, uber and they decide who gets it. They give it all to their basketball team because they think that they need it the most. We give it to everyone, all 400 and they have way more kids than we do. We just see it as out of control and in terms of flexibility it's not like this is going to veto the process going through. This is just us saying we want it to be fair. When Chris and Bob get together, Bob is going to say no way, we don't want to give up uber than Chris may say, ok fine. It's just a consideration of our opinion and not vetoing the process. We're not putting anything into action in that sense. We were going to have an addendum to this and the more important thing for is to see the change go through for next semester and putting it back on him that its for him to decide what happens to athletics and its not fair to us or the athletes. Basically tell him to do his job as an administrator. He didn't want to take a stance on athletics and this will let him make a decision.

**Chair Adams:** Friendly amendment to in the second whereas to change the uppercase t to a lowercase and remove the word remaining from title.

**Senator Filstein:** Yeah, the rationale that went into that was that we didn't want it to appear as if we were disregarding the reduction. So instead of saying reduce people and go from uber to in class, the remaining is just stressing the fact that there is a reduction we reference in the first lines and the two lines. I will do an informal poll if you would like to take out remaining. I would rather keep it in to have it clear.

**President Mensah:** Again, as Vice President Maciewicz said I don't want to speak too much on this issue but I feel like there needs to be a little bit of clarification as to what's going on. Late last week I got an e-mail from Chris Lucier letting me know that SAAC felt as if they had been left out of the conversation. There was a huge misclarification on their end they thought we wanted to kick them off priority registration in total and that was never the case for anyone. No one who has priority registration is going to be completely kicked off from athletics and in general. There is going to be a reduction. What Chris is waiting for, that regardless of what happens, but why I decided to bring SAAC here was to have the conversations that took place this evening and when I send back a reply and weigh in on my end from the process or progress they should be moving in. He asked me what my input was on this matter. I don't know if it was too much of a mistake because it's important for students to have input as to what's going on. Priority registration is what's at stake. Do we think they should have uber or not? Think about, in terms of limited gym facilities, if all athletes are moved off from uber that may mean that there are even longer periods to use the gym facilities for regular students. So I brought them to facilitate the discussion and hear from both ends and take that into account. I don't think when they came they think they are better than us it's just that their situation is a little more delicate.

**Chair Adams:** I just also wanted to clarify that from a SAC perspective, Varsity athletics already have priority for space in the gym so that doesn't necessarily mean that makes it easier to get everyone together, but, they are double benefiting in a way that allows them to make their schedules much more manageable. I think this is a good idea and I want to commend Academic Affairs because they were in the office late writing this. Keep that in mind too it wasn't haphazard and they spent time on this and we need to vote tonight.

**Senator Yeager:** There is something already in the works that will be implemented next semester, do you have that information?

**Senator Filstein:** Yeah that's part of the problem, the administration is being really secretive. I was pressing Chris at the very beginning of the year for numbers that me and the other chair talked about and he said they were going to do it for the spring but he says he can't give me those numbers which is part of why we were in the dark. To clarify something that was said we realize that athletes will probably get some degree of uber. It's our responsibility to represent all students equally. We have to say that we want to be fair even if we realize it most likely won't be. It won't be. It's just us giving our suggestion. The administration is going to have to decide. We see this as more our responsibility of fairness for everyone.

**Senator Yeager:** You said that it's not like all of ACCESS would be in class registration, there would some in ACCESS have uber?

**Senator Filstein:** Well, that's something like, say there's is one kid that really needs the uber I'm sure that's something that Chris and ACCESS would work that out. As it stands there were many that didn't really need it and ACCESS came forward with that and they said they will reduce the number and were willing to go to in class for everyone

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** Point of Information: ACCESS has two divisions, physical disabilities are handled differently, usually through the Dean's office than someone with a learning disability.

**Senator Filstein:** So it's not like this is really inhibiting someone's rights as a student. Everyone's needs will be taken care of.

**Chair Simmons:** I don't think we should say one thing and expect another, with all due respect you've said that like four times. We should say what we want to have happen. If we say I think if you amend a section I would like to offer a friendly amendment to include that. I think that we should do like UCONN does it in a certain way, why don't we take a little inspiration from them and compromise a little bit. I offer a Friendly amendment at the very end of being resolved barring medical necessity and for 20 varsity team student athletes. 20 spots for student athletes and have it at the jurisdiction of the people who make that decision. I want to respect what Vice President Maciewicz said and this will matter and could affect the process. It's not just that it goes out there and something else may happen. Barring medical exception and 20 varsity athletes.

**Chair Adams:** Point of Procedure: You can't throw out a friendly amendment in the middle of a comment.

**Chair Simmons:** I'd like to offer a friendly amendment allowing uber for medical necessity and varsity athletes and also like call to question.

**Speaker Chevrier:** We are going to vote to call to question and end the debate even though there are still 7 people on the speaking order. **-fails**

**Chair Nelson:** Thank you for friendly amendment, Jesse. I agree with you and the only problem I see and I know by saying and granting in our resolution that medical students would still be granted priority registration in the uber way and x athletes allowed in uber we're not standing up for other groups.

**Senator Filstein:** It's also just putting in our hands to arbitrate who is deserving and who is not although I think you have a valid point. This would be the best case scenario according to our committee. We are realizing that something else may happen but our main goal is to have this happen next semester. Second we are willing to forego athletics for that but we don't want to waste it happening next semester just to work this out. Frankly, it could be another 3 years and it could fall through the cracks again.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I want to point out you can't call it to order after you speak. It's not fair for you to speak your piece and then make a motion to silence others.

**Senator Alleger:** In terms of the friendly amendment following in class for registration for the majority of students in the program. The Administration in the reevaluation of priority registration to implement in class registration for the majority of students in the program.

**Senator Lober:** In the title switch remaining with only remaining form.

**Speaker Chevrier:** So when Vice President Maciewicz talked about what happened with the debate 2 years ago it was December 9, 2009. I didn't remember the same and I looked up the minutes from that night. It was not just about the honors college. [*reads old minutes*]. Chair Issadore spoke as an Advocat he would need some priority, they are already moving from uber to in class. Senator Robertson on Academic Affairs [*Reads old Minutes*]it should be taken away from all. Senator Whalen [*reads old minutes*] said it was important to keep the honors college to attract students to the school and attracts those who may otherwise go to more prestigious schools. There are all these arguments that have a lot of importance but all these groups around school are willing to move to in class. Really important we pass this bill. Students shouldn't have to take another year because it was filled even though as senior and filled because it as filled.

**Chair Morgan:** Motion for an Informal poll to see how many senators have priority. – passes  
If you have priority raise your hand: - 2/3 or so

**Chair Morgan:** I think it's a conflict of interest to vote on this bill if you have priority registration because we are voting on this and if so would we have quorum?

**Speaker Chevrier:** You all have a conflict of interest because you either priority registration or you want it. As most bills we have to think about our representation and not what our personal opinions are.

**Senator Alleger:** I feel that if we want to continue this discussion about the friendly amendment I think it gets the point across that we do want in class registration to be at least for the majority but there are exception and we accept that.

**Senator Filstein:** I think that's a good idea and I am ok with that as long as we don't specify what groups or how many. We can say we realize there will be discretion in the administration while moving forward but we want in class to be overwhelming status.

**Senator Alleger:** It's a general bill about students we can't say anything specific, just what we feel.

**Senator Filstein:** It's specific in that we want to take a stance on in class versus uber.

**Senator Benes:** I'd like to make a friendly amendment be resolved that SGA encourages the administration to make a clear application process for multidiscipline medical or athletic students through ACCESS or their advisor for priority registration.

**Senator Tran:** Sometimes we've been talking about why we want to do this and it's to be fair and I don't think we actually say that in here. Friendly amendment to add at the end as the single form of priority registration available to students in order to be treating all priority registration students equally.

**Senator Filstein:** It was in the first bill that we referenced. We wanted to weight in on the specific issue of in class and uber. It feels like its implicit.

**Senator Lovell:** As a senior myself that this has been the most difficult year to get into all the classes that I wanted. This bill still allows senior athletes essential uber registration. Seniors would have essential uber registration. For freshmen who would only be getting essentially sophomore registration, I know one of my requirements freshman year was Calc 1. There are 24 Calc 1 classes spanning a range of 24 hours of coverage on m,w,f or t,r and there are 48 spaces with some going over to 52. There is probably going to be room for freshmen in one of these classes given that they are mostly required to take general classes the first year.

**Senator Lober:** I'd like to offer a friendly amendment to keep the previous be it resolved barring restriction ... priority registration available to students barring....

**Senator Filstein:** I like the idea of allowing for a mechanism for those who want uber to make an appeal. We want to encourage a mechanism to apply for uber and a group to decide if it's appropriate. Would that be adequate?

**Senator Lober:** I just was worried about it referencing specific groups.

**Senator Filstein:** This would just say you can apply and it's the administration's job to decide.

**Senator White:** Back to what Chair Morgan said, this to me is a gigantic conflict of interest. The Honors College is why I came here and I applied for it as a sophomore and a huge part of why I bothered doing it. There's another thing you said two things one is that if you.

**Speaker Chevrier:** Conflict of Interest is defined as the way you vote will impact you outside of senate in a way. If you think that voting either way, you can choose to abstain if you think it's a conflict of interest. Being a student and having it or not having it does not force you to abstain.

**Senator White:** That was for myself, I'm not trying to influence anyone. If it's wrong with you it's wrong with you.

**Chair Adams:** So I was talking to Pat about emergency legislation earlier and this came up. For us to pass this it might not have any effect on anyone sitting in this room. If you came and joined Honors College because you were promised priority registration the university promised you this so those who had it and would be losing it could potentially be exempt from any decision made. I don't know if this affects your thoughts about this but he said in execution that is what could happen.

**Senator Filstein:** I don't think it's possible for someone that has to keep it I think they will go to in class. It is going to change for people.

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** So to begin, basically beginning with the athletes, UCONN does allot around 30 priority registration spots and they allot them all to the women's basketball team which has won three years in a row but realistically maybe the hockey team has that prospect but we are a different university. A lot of people are confusing is that ACCESS has a physical impairment and a learning disabilities section. Those are the people most are able to change and they have agreed to it. It will not be life or death impaired by changing priority. You can receive aid through the dean's office. That said I think this is important because a number have said I get this or that but do I need it no? Will I speak out against it? No, because no one wants to lose it. I think it boils down to we are a research institution that can't withstand the growing number in the Honors College and we need to downsize them as well but as long as ACCESS and Honors College are capable of downsizing, I don't know why athletes should take priority over massive number of students that aren't athletes.

**Senator Wilich:** informal poll to decide if it will pass as it is.  
In favor of informal poll - fails

*Bill Automatically Called To Question – Passes*

### **New Business**

**Senator Vitagliano:** Resolution Supporting Christ Armstrong the University of Michigan Student Assembly President

**Chair Monteforte:** Bill recognizing Men's Club Rugby as club of month and Resolution recognizing Anna Lavenberg for her deeds to the community.

### **Executive Reports**

**Speaker Chevrier:** I already mailed mine out but a few things have come up that I want to add to quickly. Previous speakers have said that senators should not invite people to public forum and it should only go through the speaker. I really don't care, if I don't know someone and you do then go ahead and invite them. However, maybe try not to invite them to all the same meeting and wait until next week.

**Vice President Maciewicz:** I promise I'll be quick, I made retreat evaluations that we are not going to do to next week. I emailed out my summer stipend list to the listserv, finally, if you have any question email me. I did 7 weeks and did a justification for all the weeks I took money for. If you would like to see my oracle, Jess will print it for you. On-campus appointments I sent out a list of urgent ones I will be doing in total in the next few weeks and will be doing an appointments website so you can find out if there are vacancies and who's already on them. There are several

appointments this week, thank you to all of you who took those on. I'm still looking for people for the technology and innovation fund, it's a nice chunk of money that is given out for new computers, new Wi-Fi. It's like the clean energy fun but less money and about technology. Academic Integrity Committee, which requires an application and handles accusations of plagiarism and its really cool it's like a peer-to-peer thing. Please come see me about that. Committee meeting times, you need to send them to Pat Brown tonight. Make sure the office hours are good because we are posting them tomorrow. If you haven't gotten back to Jess about your committee meeting times you need to let her know so she can talk about the Lynx and only 3/7 have done that. I've been noticing that the desks are kind of messy. We spent a whole day cleaning the office this summer. It's unprofessional, it's not a place for dishes or personal storage. Please wipe things down, organize things. If you need folders or organization systems, let me know but an office space should be tidy and welcoming. Important people and students shouldn't be walking into a pigsty.

**President Mensah:** Hey, I'll keep it brief. As you know as year goes on and more things come up on the agenda we will typically go 3-4 hours. Like my first year I was here one night until 12:30. Just a heads up. I've been working on Board of Trustees Selection Committee and thankfully David has been helping me, to get two off campus senators so hopefully we're looking to have our first meeting next week. There was an Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees that met last week. There was a staff appreciation earlier that day mentioned that during the appreciation lunch Fogel announced they would receive 3 extra bonus days during winter break. In terms of total enrollment we are at a record high there are usually a few weeks into the semester we wait for a prelim period. The total right now is 13,554 students including undergraduate, graduate, medical students and folks that might just be auditing courses. This figure represents a 163% increase from the figure last year. If you are wondering what the current enrollment is for ALANA students its 1,375 which is a 25.15% increase over last year and Fogel noted that most of this increase is Hispanic and Latino students and was affected by an implementation of new student survey standards. Enrollment of international students is a 28.2% increase over last year more info on listserv. I will do senator of the week for last week, this week and next week at the next meeting. Tomorrow is the President's Campus Leadership Forum. The TRI is a major topic on the addenda and an action item for the October Board of Trustees meetings and I will be asking you all if you want to solicit certain comments you want me to put in my report for the quarterly meeting. Happy birthday to Elizabeth Salsgiver and Tram Tran yesterday. Also, just to let you know a couple weeks ago I mentioned I will be inviting members of diversity equity unit and this was one of the first from ALANA Beverly Coleston who is the director and one of the staff from ALANA Monique Swaby. I think next week LuAnn Rolley and Candace Taylor from women's center will be joining us so do research on the Women's Center and engage them. Also, take into account what they say and the tones that we take with each other. I went out after the meeting with SAAC and a lot of them felt attacked and they felt that they were asked here and they hadn't been heard and the administration also thought they hadn't been heard. So I just wanted them to come here and not to say that they are better than anyone but to convey why they feel as if they might need uber or maybe not, just for you to understand where they are coming from. Be mindful of your interactions with others.

*Open the Floor for Questions*

**Senator Filstein:** Did you say that there is going to be faculty bonus days?

**President Mensah:** No, just staff.

**Chair Simmons:** Did you say that overall enrollment increased 163%?

**President Mensah:** No, 163 students, not percent. Sorry. Oops. 163 more students.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I suggest that you talked about how your friends were athletes and you wanted to invite SAAC, but just so you know we aren't supposed to represent our friend but the

student body so maybe we should allow someone who can't register or telling people with more time to have other side.

**President Mensah:** I get where you are coming from but I didn't invite Dan, I didn't know him until recently or because people on SAAC are my friends but because I needed to respond to the administration. I didn't do this because of the bill or athlete friends. I was contacted by Chris Lucier the Vice President of Enrollment Management to clarify SGA's stance on priority registration and I wanted to get a better sense of what this body says.

**Chair Nelson:** How are you planning on responding to the administration about the issue?

**President Mensah:** I will be in my office after this meeting because I need to get this to him tonight or tomorrow. So, I've been taking notes about how the conversation went and I will draft something up and I will do my best to send it to you all before I sent it out.

**Senator Filstein:** Are you planning on vetoing it?

**President Mensah:** I have no idea yet, I don't want to answer yes or no.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance:**

**Chair Mallea:** I emailed it out. Read it, free to ask questions.

#### **Student Activities:**

**Chair Adams:** I'm going to give a report just because we had a bill come up. I wanted to address the kayak situation. We all as a committee felt good about it. Danny felt good about it and didn't think it was an attack. Thank you all for passing it. We aren't diving into the he said she said of what happened. We had policy workshops last night and my committee did a great job presenting their pieces. The Liaison program is still going we have an email going out on the lynx soliciting more feedback. I know a lot of us were missing earlier, we were late to the meeting and I was super late, but when I walked in the tone was really scary. It felt very confrontational walking in and probably from the financial services people as well. I don't know what happened before but it felt like it

#### **COLA:**

**Chair Morgan:** I will email it out but I want to say that last night at city council there was a resolution about legalizing hemp and cannabis in the city of Burlington. If it had passed it would be on ballot for November 2 so residents will want to vote. It ended in a tie so it's not going to be on the ballot but could be in March. A group of citizens are doing a petition and they had not gotten enough signatures. So maybe in March you will be voting on legalizing marijuana.

#### **CODEEEE:**

**Chair Herman:** I emailed out my report.

#### **Student Action:**

**Chair Simmons:** I will email mine.

#### **Public Relations:**

**Chair Monteforte:** I will email out my report.

#### **Academic Affairs:**

**Chair Nelson:** I will email mine.

### **Senatorial Forum**

**Senator Mason:** I'm sorry I know we're here late but I just have some issues to get out there from an observing standpoint. And this is kind of what we signed up for. I just had a little problem with something that happened earlier. I think that Senator Filstein brought it up with the

stipend issue in *The Cynic*. It was a great thing to bring up and I heard it brought up again about President Mensah's stipend and was he getting it this week. I kind of thought about it and I wonder why certain people's stipends are getting questions when other people on senate who hold chair positions or are on exec were missing from meetings as well as exec meetings and we didn't get other members reports from over the summer except for Vice President Maciewicz' a couple of days ago which I appreciate reading. What is the difference and why are certain things being questioned when others are not? My second point I want to bring up is the remaining people who always say at the end about repeating questions and we should not repeat questions. I'm all for not repeating questions but sometimes I want to go about things as an interrogation kind of form, I'm not saying we're interrogating anyone but sometimes if you rephrase them differently you get a better response. I am a pure person who won't say something that's not true and I do not believe. I feel as though some senators think that you shouldn't stand up and ask your questions because this person already asked it in a certain way is not fair. We were all voted onto this body by the students because they value our opinions and questions and for people to stand up and say you shouldn't say that because I want to get out of here and watch Glee or something it's not ok in my book. One thing you can totally not agree with it at all but I felt as though exec, this corner, kind of talked a lot today and real voiced their personal biases on to the senate and it may or may not have changed people's minds. I do think that maybe you shouldn't have been speaking, I'm not saying that you shouldn't speak at all because your information from the last resolution that we just put through is important and to know that past information is important because they were students as well but you will see in the minutes you talked for a long period of time and I feel like this is for us in a way.

**Senator Vitagliano:** I want to say a few things in connection to what Senator Mason said. Is there any implementation as to whether or not chairs need to document what they do in the week to get their stipends?

**Chair Mallea:** Point of Information: That's part of what the finance polices is in the role of doing right now in the role of looking into SGA compensations and who determines if you get your stipend that week? Is it who is in the Office? Is it who you are working with? So any suggestion the Finance committee would like to sit down with you because this is something that we've been exploring.

**Speaker Chevrier:** There used to be a system where chairs had to document hours and certain things you accomplished but they were supposed to be at least 15 hours but they were only being paid 65 at that point which is under than minimum wage which is inappropriate and now its just chairs giving formal reports during senate. Which is why hopefully everyone will email those out tonight.

**Senator Vitagliano:** I would push for documentation. And also as a sort of point of information I believe that the TRI initiative has been changed to just TI? Is that right?

**Vice President Maciewicz:** Point of Information: President Fogel has informally started the it the Transdisciplinary Initiative and sort of dropped the research but I don't know if that's actually been approved.

**Chair Mallea:** This issue has been talked about tonight and I think that I can bring up a few points that make the argument more valid. In regards to being respectful to speakers on public forum. You are students. Your charge is to hear students' opinions and listen to them. It doesn't matter if you agree with them or not, you should be respectful of that. You can voice the fact you disagree but in a respectful manner. I'm not going to lie I was a little bit embarrassed tonight with what happened on public forum.

**Chair Herman:** I agree with all of what has been said thus far. In keeping with that I have been speaking with members of CODEEE, Vice President Maciewicz, and Gioia Thompson, there are different people I want us to keep in mind this is a student driven body. Just leave your personal

beliefs and feelings at the doo. Especially with the Coke contract and a lot of things were said last week that I personally think that Coke is good or bad because of this or that and this doesn't affect how we should deal with students. The outcome affects students. So just be mindful of what you are doing and why you are doing it. Is it for the students or is it just about you?

**Senator Doran:** I just want to add I feel like public forum is a time for questions. If someone comes in I want them to educate me about something and I am curious about athletic program and what their lives are like. It's not a time to share your personal opinion. And if you want to try to sway their mind find time to do it somewhere other than here because doing it right there here is rude.

**Senator Moise:** This is going off of respect. I want to talk about respect and I stress this a lot personally and feel very strongly about it. And I personally have said time and time again we are not all going to be friends on SGA but we need to respect each other. Having said that I want to discuss a situation that came up this week. There has been an instance where a member of committee who has been asked by one person on our committee to help moderate or regulate the conversation between myself and another senator. I looked up the definition of regulate and it is to control as if by rule. I am not a child and didn't think I needed regulation. As senators, we're here for one thing, and that's students. So whether or not we are happy about it we are going to be together for the year and I want us to respect each other and our interactions.

**Chair Adams:** Going off of what Senators Mason and Moise said with regards to repetitive, I have definitely been the advocate for not being repetitive and I know I'm not the only one. For me, I have no problem if you think you are going to ask a question and get a different answer. But I think that there is a difference because it was unanswered and repeating a question because you didn't hear the answer the first time. If we as a body could be more attentive than that might sort of speed up the process. On a totally unrelated note, I was discussing cultural competency on campus today. Maybe this should be part of your review for tenure, you as sort of subject to a review of your cultural competency. So maybe if you are a professor but women constantly feel that you are discouraging them from doing well in the class than that is sort of reflected. So I'm just throwing that out there. It was a new idea to me but it was kind of cool and kind made sense.

**President Mensah:** Again, I do have to apologize for speaking a lot during this meeting but I just want to leave off with saying one thing. I don't get upset that easily. It takes a lot for me to get pissed. One thing that gets under my skin is when people make assumptions. The thing we need to do the most is be as clear and concise as possible or when we're bringing up an issue regarding ourselves or regarding any of the situations we're working on. The thing that you need to be aware of is that if you make a certain assumption because you have failed to do the proper work and failed to do the proper research behind it, you end up looking like a fool and not only that but you make this organization look like a fool. That's one thing that I won't have. Because for the past 3 years that I've been on this campus or 2 ½ years, one thing I hear about SGA is that we don't do anything but sit around and bicker and waste student funds. This isn't true. I've seen the hard work you all do and the past 2 years have done. I don't want this organization to be marred by rumors and assumptions for another year. If you have a question and aren't aware of the answer to that question, go out and seek that person and find the answer. If you find it hard, continue to dig deeper.

**Speaker Chevrier:** I just want to ask a question, because the reason we voted on this priority registration bill under emergency business, if you do veto the bill in the 48 hours, are we willing to have an emergency senate meeting to be able to override the veto if we feel so inclined so it can actually take effect? Or is the senate not willing to do so in which case the veto would be uncontested.

**Chair Herman:** Point of Clarification: I've been reading the constitution and I'm not sure but for the speaker are you part of exec so how can you place yourself on the floor and you don't have to have the floor yielded to you like the president and vice president?

**Speaker Chevrier:** I was thinking about something, so the speaker is elected separately. The President and Vice President are elected before regular senators. After senatorial elections, the speaker is appointed. I was appointed last year. I am a senator like you and I am allowed to speak. The reason why in the past is before is if you yield the floor to me during public forum is because its awkward to give myself the floor. Within senatorial forum I can do this on my own but they are not technically senators so they can't speak because they can't vote but I can because I can vote in the instance of a tie. But everyone can talk on Senatorial Forum

**Chair Herman:** So I read that you have to resign your duties if you want to voice a personal opinion. When would that happen?

**Speaker Chevrier:** That's when, for instance, I step up and I speak and when I give my executive report and Vice President Maciewicz says are their any questions for Speaker Chevrier and then he returns the gavel. It's in the case of people wanting to go back and forth and ask me questions and not be in the form of yielding the floor.

**Senator White:** On the topic of veto, it's a 2/3 majority you need to override and there already was one so it's like a de facto override.

**Chair Adams:** This is the first I heard of a veto of this and I would like to yield the floor to get your thoughts on the legislation so we aren't debating something that might or might not happen.

**President Mensah:** I have to go back and reread it but the chances of me vetoing the bill are close to none right now but I need to reread the bill because it has been changed a lot during the past two hours.

**Chair Adams:** I don't know if that is enough for everyone but yeah.

### **Senatorial Comments/Announcements**

**Senator Lederer-Plaskett:** The humane society needs volunteers because they don't have enough and if you have spare time want to walk dog or play with a cat there are opportunities.

**Vice President Maciewicz:** Tomorrow on the fourth floor of the Davis Center is Inside Out by President Fogel's wife and there is a reception with free food. So come get some art, free food and good conversation.

**Senator Mason:** On Saturday BSU is doing their soul food social at 6:30 in Grand Maple and the Step Team will be performing as well as other people. And free food that's always good. You do have to RSVP. Those emails go around to most people.

### **Roll Call**

Finance: Senator DeVivo, excused  
Student Activities: Senator Golfarini, excused  
COLA: Senators Fitzgerald and Sadeghi, excused.  
CODEEE: Senators White and Benes, Excused  
Student Action: Senator Willis, excused  
Public Relations: All Present  
Academic Affairs: All Present

### **Adjournment**

*End Time: 10:43pm*