



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2010
FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE 2010-2011 SENATE

Call to Order (0:02.58)

Start Time: 7:01p

Roll Call (0:03.01)

Finance: All Present

Student Activities: Senator Mason, Senator Moise, Senator Lederer-Plaskett, excused

COLA: Senator Sadeghi, unexcused

CODEEE: Chair Herman, excused

Student Action: Chair Simmons, excused

Public Relations: All Present

Academic Affairs: Senator Wilich, excused

Approval of the Minutes (0:03.31)

From 11.2.10 - passes

Old Business (0:03.48)

Bill Allocating Funds to UVM Women's Club Hockey (0:04.01)

Chair Mallea: Alright, so I will read you the bill and then we can discuss any questions. [*reads bills*]. Women's Club Hockey came in requesting around \$8,000 for new team uniforms and shells. They were eligible for this because they haven't requested uniforms in the previous three years. Hockey stuff is really expensive. \$8,000 is pretty much a ridiculous amount of money for a uniforms request for any other club. We took a look at their club history. At the beginning of the year they were in \$9,000 worth of debt. That can be attributed to a very expensive trip to nationals where they were caught in really bad weather and had to buy flights and pay for hotels. Situations beyond their control. It also contributed to just, kind of, bad spending practices thinking that they had more money than they did previous year. This year, they have been once of our best clubs. They have raised themselves almost out of \$9,000 worth of debt. I haven't seen other club do that. They really deserve this money. We looked at the precedent for uniform allocations in previous years. The previous highest allocation for uniforms was around \$3,000 so we are proposing that \$3,000 be allocated to UVM Women's Club Hockey because we can see that if they can raise themselves out of that much debt and grow as a club and be continuing to perform at really high level then they deserve to have new uniforms.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:7:04)

Senator Ballas: What are shells and what percentage of original \$8,000 was for shells?

Chair Mallea: I'm not sure exactly what the percentage I can get the number cost breakdown for you if you'd like. But, the shells are like the pants and stuff that go over their pads and stuff. If someone can explain it better that would be great. That's what it is? Cool.

Chair Morgan: Is this out of the capital funds?

Chair Mallea: This is out of the uniforms fund.

Chair Morgan: Are we on pace with that?

Chair Mallea: During our presentation tonight, which you should all look forward to, I will discuss how the funds are doing and what they are since senators don't know.

Vote on Bill Allocating Funds to UVM Women's Club Hockey - passes

Bill Recognizing UVM Badminton Club (0:08.28)

Chair Adams: Cool, I'm an ed major so I was just going to wait. [*reads bill*]. So any questions about the bill itself? Sweet. I'm going to let them do their presentation.

Melissa: I'm Melissa, I'm going to be the president of the UVM Badminton Club.

Dmitri: I'm Dmitri, some of you know me. I'm the treasurer. Eric Lee, the Vice President wasn't here today. He was sick. So on why we want to create the badminton club, there are no such clubs at the University of Vermont at moment. The purpose of the organization is to bring the sport to the University of Vermont. We would like introduce people to fastest racquet sport.

Melissa: Our mission is to give students that enjoy badminton a place to play and obviously meet other people that like to play badminton. We want to people who are advanced players as well as beginners because we think it's a really great sport and we people to get experience if they haven't already. We want this club to be an environment where you can play badminton and meet people and have great time.

Dmitri: So where we are right now. We have over 50 members interested in joining. The estimated active players, which means they would be there at every event and willing to play is 10-20 players. Over half of those 50 members expressed willingness to play competitively in future if other colleges want to play with us. There are active players from the Burlington Community willing to provide coaching to us free of charge. Those people come to the meetings every single Friday. There are open court hours at the gym. And many, many people, I would say over 15 members come every single week. Paul Reinhardt, good man Paul, promised assistance. He is one of the coaches at UVM that trains for badminton. He will provide racquets, shuttlecocks, equipment.

Melissa: Through recognition we hope to be able to request court hours from campus rec. We would like to get play 2 times a week. We hope to eventually acquire new courts or maybe just put tape down so we can play in other areas besides the gym. We don't need conflict soon. We are hoping that we will be able to play with other colleges and other groups that are interested in playing Badminton with us.

Dmitri: In terms of budget, good man Paul Reinhardt will provide most of the equipment. He has promised us racquets, shuttles, poles, and nets. The only funding we will really need is for replacement for shuttlecocks, which is a very very small investment. We would needs nylon shuttles for regular play and better shuttles for competitions if we ever play against other colleges. The other club members who are interested in investing in a better racquet will get a discount through, good man Paul, but they will have to make that investment.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:13.29)

Senator Filstein: Does anyone know the history of the word shuttlecock?

Melissa: We can find out if you want.

Dmitri: but only if you recognize us.

Chair Mallea: Hi, Thank you for coming in. I was just wondering If you could speak to, I know that badminton has wanted to come up for recognition for a while but there were some risk management issues, I mean, I assume that the risk management issues were cleared up because you're coming up for recognition, but were there any concerns from risk management that we should know about before we recognize you?

Chair Adams: Risk management was haggling with the angels at the insurance companies over the price. It's costing us almost as much to recognize badminton as it did softball, and that's post haggling. They thought that there wasn't as much of a risk with badminton as with softball. So that was it. It turns out the cost to add them to the insurance policy was like, \$530. Do you know it off the top of your head?

Senator Malloy: It was like \$503

Chair Adams: So that is sort of what took so long but there were no overwhelming complaints about this being an exceptionally dangerous activity.

Senator Yeager: I was wondering if there are any badminton leagues that colleges are actively playing with?

Dmitri: We are actually in contact with Middlebury College. We played with their members a few times on Sundays. They just started their own club last year. So we have been in contact with their president, and any time in the future willing to have competitive games and grow as a team.

Melissa: We also found a website with a lot of interest in the New England area if we ever get to a point where we want to travel, that would be down the road in the future. There other places that have badminton clubs that would probably interested in playing with us.

Vote on Bill Recognizing UVM Badminton Club - passes

New Business (0:16.24)

n/a

Emergency Business (0:16.43)

Resolution Calling for Publishable Course Evaluations (0:16.54)

Senator Lober: Thank you guys for attending tonight. I'm pretty excited and would like to start by thanking Claire for recognizing the time sensitivity of this resolution. Student access to course evaluations is really important to us. We are interested in students accessing course evaluation information so that they can make important and informed decisions when registering for courses. We would also like to establish a system of measuring metrics consistently across time so that the SGA can make judgments and analyze student perception of academic quality at UVM. I will start by reading this resolution, which is called the Resolution Calling for Publishable Course Evaluations. [*reads bill*].

Senator Filstein: So we're assuming since no one emailed us any questions, there won't be any discussion and we're good to go.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:19.31)

Chair Morgan: Can you scroll up a bit? Just a quick question, who is going to draft the questions that are going to be added to the course evaluations? Is that going to fall on the shoulders of AA?

Senator Lober: We were thinking of having it fall on the shoulders of AA. If people deem it necessary we would consider forming an ad hoc committee to initially draft those questions but that's at the discretion of the president.

Chair Morgan: If this goes through, we have this added to constitution as part of AA's duty to draft these questions so it doesn't sort of fall to the side?

Senator Filstein: Yeah, if the constitution committee feels it's necessary then we'd be all for it.

Senator White: I had a chat with Giselle on way up. I love, love the idea of this bill, phenomenal. At the end of the last 'be it resolved', and I emailed this earlier this week, is the boycott idea really the wisest solution, and I'll give you an example. I very much disagree with the idea of a gay blood ban but I don't boycott the Red Cross because it's important and it's helping people. Course evaluations are helping teachers to craft their courses. If they don't have them I'm don't know if those improvements will be made so I don't know if a boycott is the best option.

Senator Lober: I think the fundamental part to any boycott would be informing students that they are still going to have the opportunity to write up a response and give an evaluation to the professors. They can write it on a separate piece of paper and hand it in. We really do want to increase communication between students and faculty. I think right now course evaluations do serve a function but they're completely underutilized and we want to prove it. We think the benefits outweigh problems. I think you should just direct that question towards the administration and United Academics and say don't ruin something good, make sure you can satisfy these demands and this will be a positive impact for all of us.

Chair Simmons: I actually emailed my feedback to Lober. Can you just scroll up a wee bit. Love it. This 'redistribution to students are posted in an online database accessible'. Friendly amendment in a password protected online database. I remember when we talked with Shiman he seemed really into the whole password protection idea.

Senator Lober: If people did send me emails I don't think I'm getting these ones.

Senator Vitagliano: Friendly amendment to remove the boycott section within the last stanza or motion for an informal poll to remove that.

Speaker Chevrier: no, but you can motion for an informal poll to see where the senate stands. But this poll, because it's an informal poll, will not actually change the amendment.

Vote in favor of having an informal poll – passes

Senator Vitagliano: Informal poll to remove 'boycott of course evaluations until these demands are realized' – fails

Senator Willis: Wondering if there was a different way of going about communicating with the teachers than a boycott. Is there a different alternative approach to come up with a compromise? In terms of like trying to find a different approach instead of boycotting. Is there a way that we can continue the meetings with people that are in control of providing the syllabi for us. Is there any alternatives to boycotting. Alternatives instead of like, boycotting is there way you can continue with your meetings with faculty to come up with some kind of compromise. It may not work in terms for something they can provide for use this semester but something they can provide for use in the fall or in the future. I was just wondering what you think about that.

Senator Lober: I think what AA has realized is that this is a really time sensitive issue because contract negotiations are coming up in January and we need to get the issue on the table before we enter in to contract negotiations. That's kind of why at this point we can't sit down and keep trying to negotiate for some friendly amendment. It needs to be on the table before January and needs to be addressed before June when they finish contract negotiations. That's why we think it's really important. I think that they way to prevent a boycott is to ensure that in a way Provosts and Deans get letters back to us with a response. We don't see any real reason why they shouldn't be able to provide that demand.

Senator Willis: I just wanted to know if you knew when do they decide when they are going to like place the syllabi on line or when do they meet to figure things out like this I guess. If they were to go ahead about pushing this for January when would they meet and if they decide to do it how would. I guess what I'm asking is when do they decide as a whole to make decisions like this?

Senator Lober: Well, this is just about course evaluations, there's no syllabi involved. No one meets as a whole to make this decision. It's essentially members of the administration bargaining with members of United Academics, which is the faculty union. Those are the two bodies. They're not representative of the entire university but they have representatives but they have power and they have jurisdiction over this issue. Course evaluations in terms of distribution are left up to the responsibility of colleges and departments so it's the staff there who are actually organizing the specific information that is on course evaluations. They make some decisions but ultimately contractual issues are within the jurisdiction of the administration and united academics.

Senator DeVivo: So, I'm just a little confused. Is the boycott a stipulation of if they respond to us with either response or if they respond with a yes, basically. A yes, we'll go forward with all the whereases.

Senator Lober: Yeah, I think that if they respond with the affirmative to the whereases and be it resolveds, we have no need for a boycott. It's if they say we can't do this during contract negotiations then we would be drawn to have a boycott in the hopes that they'll see that we are mobilized, we want this, and the boycott would take place before December 15 and they are going to go into negotiations January 1. If we can show them how important this is to us before that point it can still get put on the table as it should and negotiated.

Senator DeVivo: I just want to make sure that we're not getting into a situation where we are going to see if they are going to call our bluff. I definitely think this is time sensitive and really important. I don't doubt that for a second. I just don't want to get into a situation where we are basically boycotting and forcing the hand of the administration by the resolution.

Senator Fitzgerald: Hi, I'm just wondering, have you talked to people in the administration in charge of helping you facilitate this new evaluation. Is it realistic to think that it could be done by the end of the semester since December 1 is less than a month away.

Senator Filstein: What we're asking for is just a commitment that they are going to address this issue in the negotiations, not that it's going to be done by the end of semester, which is well within reason to be asking for.

Senator Lober: Our initial projections are by the end of Spring semester 2011. Right now as a whole course evaluation system is really being renegotiated. The administration is looking to standardize it across the colleges and put it online. That for use is a perfect opportunity for us to get involved in the system. They're already going through a whole new process, developing a whole new process to get into the fray. Right now, it shouldn't be a problem getting our publishable sections added in.

Senator Yeager: Have you thought about the muscle behind the boycott because, if it's just an empty threat, it actually needs to happen.

Senator Filstein: We've definitely talked a lot about the ways in which this could go. If they decide to not agree to these things we would be asking for SGA to get behind this and get *The Cynic* involved and get all the students riled up about this issue and see why this is important to students. Other schools are doing this. It's not an empty threat if they're not going to do this we'd love to see this through and actually make it happen.

Senator Lober: We are already in communication with *The Cynic* if does go through they can run some information about it in their next publication and we'll have consistent run ups and wait for responses and use all of our media resources including *The Cynic* and President's emails to inform the student body about it. We have a few days after December 1 before the first course evaluations will be issued. So, within that time frame we can get people out there and show students the resolution and sign people up to a commitment. Explain to people that we still want them to provide professors feedback. We can do all those things within the timeline we've set up.

Speaker Chevrier: I love the idea of this bill and I love the idea of possibly doing a boycott if the demands are not met. I'm a little confused as to why we are pushing for this issue specifically and not also including something like syllabi. Rate my professor does exist, but some of the classes when I looked at the course catalog, some of the classes don't even have that one sentence blurb, it was just empty for some of them. To me that's much more of a pertinent issue. I would like to see, I understand we can't boycott something that's symbolic of needing syllabi, but I would go so far as to say that that's more important, at least to me and the kids that I've talked to. So would you think about maybe adding that into this or think about a different bill or try to come up with a different way to threaten people into getting syllabi.

Senator Filstein: You can't really boycott syllabi unless you are going to boycott taking classes. The committee feels like we are working some good avenues right now with syllabi. We are meeting with faculty senate, we're exploring other avenues. This bill is pretty straightforward to this issue that everyone is telling us this is the issue that isn't going to happen, there's no chance of students getting this. We took the most impossible thing and this is what we are going to try for. The other things are still priorities for our committee to work on.

Senator Lober: Just to reiterate, I totally agree that course evaluation information is important but syllabi information is extremely important and we should make an effort to get that through. It's not really a contractual issue though. What we are trying to do with the emergency resolution is to get this on the table before contract negotiations begin. We really think we are making advancements.

Chair Adams: I think a lot of the concern a lot of us are having are either our feedback being ignored because it's not being given through formal channels or us hurting professors who perhaps are really good professors who we really want to be given tenure, eventually instead of it affecting the administration. What I was wondering about was maybe offering an alternative course evaluation that we could facilitate as students. Maybe the threat of taking it out of their hands and taking control of it a little bit saying that we are going to solicit student feedback in courses evaluations on our own, I think that might be sufficient in getting them moving on this.

Speaker Chevrier: And then potentially offer to make those public.

Senator Lober: So you are saying just go and distribute another course evaluation? Historically that was essentially the primary responsibility of the Academic Affairs Committee. People would go just to Arts and Sciences and distribute separate course evaluation, collect it, try and compile the data, try to publish it and redistribute it to students. It ended up being the sole responsibility of AA because it took so much work and so much time. They are essentially having to set a whole new infrastructure that would essentially replace what there is a whole staff already doing. We're not interested in allocating our time for that. We think that if we can integrate this system into whatever's in place we will have a lot more success and be able to do it consistently throughout the future without burning out.

Chair Adams: I don't know when AA did that but I know we have the Lynx now and you could potentially not have to do very much work, it would more be soliciting the feedback and then publishing it rather than compiling. I think the administration sort of losing control of course evaluations might, like basically we have a list of questions that we want to be publishable questions but that will be up to negotiation with the administration, so if we had an alternative one we can pretty much ask whatever we wanted without them commenting.

Senator Lober: I don't think we're asking any feedback or review from the administration. We were interested in submitting it to United Academics, which is in fact the union to look it over and provide us feedback on. We are hoping to keep a fair amount of sovereignty in the questions we draft and the questions that are finally presented. We recognize that right now there is different presentation formats at departmental level that might need to be shifted to accommodate that. But right now we are thinking we would have some sense of autonomy. In terms of getting evals on the lynx, that sounds kind of like what we have with VSOP. And right now even though we do cite the VSOP poll in our resolution I think it's terribly uninformative, we think there's low turnout and it's not a metric that can be taken seriously and we are looking to establish metrics that we can use in response to some of the administrators claims.

Senator Lovell: I'm kind of concerned with who this boycott is actually going to hurt. I know I have taken courses where material isn't related to the tests, the teacher doesn't explain concepts clearly, if I am boycotting my only true avenue for feedback, the professor get to keep teaching his class however he pleases. However, the future students who could have been taking a better course because I didn't give recommendations to my professor are now just kind of screwed. That seems like a poor way to try to affect the administration.

Senator Filstein: We're not saying don't give your teachers feedback, by all means, we encourage you to give your teachers feedback. The administration claims that they use evals as a tool to make sure that professors are good teachers before they get tenure tracked. We don't believe that. WE believe that they are primarily operating under how much research you do and how money in grants you bring to the school. So taking this away from them and then not caring would say, yeah we actually don't care about how good teachers are to give them promotions. We care about research and how much money they bring to the school. We would love for you to give your teachers feedback, this is just taking away basically the rhetoric about we care about academic quality, we're not compromising it with growth and we're saying, well prove it to us. Jane Knodell said we are going to grow but we want to preserve undergraduate education. Well, giving us this information to help us register for courses better is a given. That's a step that can be taken, that's what we want. We don't want this to hurt teachers, we encourage you to give feedback. And again like what Asher was saying, this is a way to get this issue into the negotiations so that the contractual thing can get worked out and it can become streamlined with an online database and so on and so forth.

Chair Simmons: I would just like to really briefly go out in favor of this bill. I think it's really the right thing to be targeting. I think we're making a lot of progress with syllabi and I think Academic Affairs will continue to follow up with the progress we've been making. We've gotten a no to course evals so I think it's really important to take that next step after being told no, saying well we'd really like some or we're going to take actual action on it. Like student action, sick. I think that it's like, they did a really good thing making this a separate thing at the end with evals. We're letting the faculty union keep their evals exactly the same, as long as I'm not mistaken, so their evals don't change. We get exactly what Chair Adams was asking for, except we get it to every student. So it's part of it and you make sure you get it out of every student not like some of the other things like the lynx and other ways of trying to track down student. We actually get this autonomy that they were talking about where we get to ask whatever we want and we make sure that all students are getting it I think would be super super valuable. I don't think that a boycott would last for a long time and even if it did, I think your point, Senator Lovell, future students wouldn't be able to know about their professor, well the problem with that if a boycott was happening and there weren't evals, well I think that we're already in this problem because we can't see evals. So I don't think future students would know anyway with the situation we're in now that their professors weren't doing this or weren't doing that. I think that feedback submitted to professors outside of these course evals can almost be even more valuable. I don't think we have to worry about shutting down communication between students and professors by threatening a boycott of course evals. And I think they make a great point when they say yeah, it's a threat and I don't think it's going to be calling our bluff because we do have the capacity to carry it out. But I think ultimately it would put a lot more pressure on administration and the teachers themselves to allow us to have this.

Senator Vitagliano: Have you contacted the faculty union about this idea and what their response is with, like if it's still an intellectual property issue.

Senator Lober: It's not an intellectual property issue. There's an address to course evaluations in personnel information within the contract. The contract had been in place when AA was distributing separate evals and they faced no problems with that. There may not need to be no changes to personnel information as it stands in the contract but the fact that the union keeps saying and just makes the claims that what is stated in personnel information would make this an illegal act unless it was changed.

Senator Tran: Do you guys know of any public universities who have publishable course evaluations?

Senator Filstein: University of Toronto

Senator Lober: University of Toronto, University of Virginia, UNC

Senator Benner: Yes, well like Chair Simmons said basically everything and more than I was going to say. But for times sake I'm just going to say I think this is great and I'm 100% behind it.

Speaker Chevrier: So again, I am completely behind this but I think Senator Lovell's thing brought up a good thing that I hadn't thought about previously. I know that this would be a boycott of the evaluations that we get handed on the last day of class. And I know that we're now pushing that if there was a boycott then we would hypothetically be urging students to give their feedback in some other format. What I think is great about the form that we are handed at the end of class is that they are anonymous. If we had the option of just sending in responses it's possible that our name would be attached to it. I would understand if you have a suggestion for how to give an evaluation without this means that is anonymous.

Senator Lober: I mean, I think the structure is still going to be set up where the faculty member is going to have evaluations, he's going to have them in the class. Right now course evaluations have a qualitative section where you write out a response. People don't seem to be concerned about their teacher picking up their handwriting style with their name and then treating them negatively. Our hope have people take out a piece of paper and scribble down their recommendation and hand that into folder. Just not give them the official metrics.

Senator White: Could we add something to this bill that emphasizes that, that that's what we're looking for, not just for no response at all, because that's what making me really uncomfortable about this. That's sort of the deal breaker for this, at least for me, is that I can't get behind just wiping this out. I know you guys are intending this, but can we put it in the writing about what Speaker Chevrier just said just that, we're hoping that people are still going to send in ideas and responses.

Senator Lober: Personally, where I stand, is that this is a letter to Council of the Deans, to the Provost, to United Academics. None of those bodies are going to be filling out a course evaluation. I totally agree that we should send a clear message to the student body saying that we want them to make clear communications to the faculty members. But I think that's something we will hope to address concretely outside of this resolution. If you have a drafted... I can't put it into words right now to put it up there.

Senator Sadeghi: Just wanted to say before we move to voting that I'm all for this. We are representing the students, we're not representing the faculty, administration, we're representing the students and what better way for the students to get more information than by seeing, I see where the opposing side is coming from, but I think the positives are outweighing the negatives. What better to PR for SGA than to actually get this out, to have SGA be leading this and have it in *The Cynic*, if it reaches that point. Addressing Senator White, with what you said, I feel like adding something to this resolution would almost make this watered down, would almost make it a bluff and not a fully committed action.

Chair Adams: I agree with Senator Sadeghi that it would definitely make them call our bluff or call it a bluff or assume it's a bluff. But anyway, that's beside the point, my issue with this is that it's almost double playing the importance of course evals. So we're saying that course evals are really really important and we want to see them and then we're saying we're not going give them for an entire semester. I know the course evals that I like to write the most are for professors who I may have again but who I think could really work on improving their classes or their teaching a lot. To not go on record and say that in the process that could affect whether they are at the university or not, makes them nervous. I think we're saying that course evaluations matter a whole lot and then saying, potentially, that this semester no one is filling them out.

Senator Filstein: By doing this we're putting this in their hands to saw we realize how important this is to our academic experience. This isn't saying that we are going to boycott this. This is asking for this to be taken seriously and to be addressed. They could say, yeah, this is great and we're going to work on this and then next year another system will be in place. Most of your comment was kind of along lines of Senator Lovell's.

Senator Benner: Do you have any plans for if this does work out and we have a system, how many evaluations themselves would be put up on the website. Would you have like 300 from some anthropology class or what exactly would you be doing with that?

Senator Lober: I think that's going to be dependent upon whether or not an online system is in place at the end of spring semester. If it is we're going to have a robot doing it and all the calculations. They can calculate all 300 kids, student responses. If not take we would probably take the format that other universities have taken and take a sampling and publicize that sampling. So this is a class where 300 kids enrolled, we'll take a sampling of 32 and just let students know the proportion taken.

Vice President Maciewicz: I would just like to say I do support this resolution, and I only say that for one reason. President Mensah and I meet with the administration and then don't take this seriously, they don't. Which is fine, I understand their perspective, but if you want to force their hand on this issue, it's going to take something dramatic like this. So what I would suggest is either pass this resolution tonight or stop talking about the issue, and I say that in all honesty, because the administration from top to bottom is opposed to course evaluations and it will take something dramatic from the Student Government Association. So it's kind of a put up or shut up kind of moment. I would love to see through happen through negotiations, but President Mensah and I bring this up every time we meet them and they are just kind of like, 'mhhh, yes students, we'd love to talk to you about it'. So basically, do something or stop talking about it.

Vote on Resolution Calling for Publishable Course Evaluations - passes

Executive Reports (0:50.26)

Speaker Chevrier (0:50.30)– Hi. For everybody that is on the Constitution Committee if you could meet afterwards real quick that would be great. The only time that is available for the most people to meet, because I think that after only three people did the doodle there was not any time we could all meet, so we're going to meet Friday at 4, which believe me is the only senator who can't go is Mr. DeVivo and he can't go to any of the other times. That is our best option. The reason I keep bringing this up in my report in front of everybody is not to waste your time, but because this needs to be topic of conversation. There are a lot of really, really important things that we need to figure out in regards to the constitution. Everything from off-campus and on-campus people on this body, credit hours to be able to be on senate or to hold an exec position. These are conversations that need to take a lot of time and have conversations with everybody about, these are not just the duties of people on the Constitution Committee. Also, I wanted to thank everyone for getting here early today, that was great. And then, I don't know what else to do to try to get people to sign the legislation on time. I started emailing people to tell them that they have a resolution to sign. I used to call people, but now I'm just starting to get annoyed. Technically it says in the constitution that I have to force you to sign the legislation. And nobody's doing it, so technically I'm at fault, but it's not because I'm not trying it's because you aren't signing the legislation on time. So please do that, it's really important. I print it out, it's almost always out by noon tomorrow, on Wednesday. It's supposed to be signed within 48 hours. Jess is now kind because there is still bills that haven't been signed so I can't send them to her and she can't put them on the website so you're bills are not getting the credit they deserve because you are not signing them.

Vice President Maciewicz (0:52.41) – I made a quick PowerPoint, because I was bored. So, and I included some hyperlinks to things I've been working on for a while, they're all finally ready. The first one is we made some website updates, including a campus-wide appointment list. I'm going to see if I can click on it and we can all see it. Anyways, of all the campus appointments that I make. It's not completely updated but it's live. It lists the committee, the faculty or staff chair, and the student representative. I wanted to know a lot about VPIRG and if I wanted to email Whitney O'Brien, I can just click and it will email them. This will be constantly updated with all the different positions. They're not all on there yet but we're getting there, slowly but surely. So that's kind of cool. The aim of this is to increase the transparency and knowledge of the appointment process that I run. I realized that the only place that you could go to find out what students serve on each committee is my computer, and it didn't seem fair that we appointed all these students to serve on all these committees that we have and no one really knew who they were. So now there is a website for it. Just an update, appointment bills will be coming up next week for up to 4 candidates, we have 4 spots for one on-campus, 3 off. We have 4 candidates so potentially up to 4. Also, separately, if we have 4 or more vacant seats by December 3 we will have a midterm election, which looks likely. Even if we fill all four seats next week, 3 people have already told me that they are leaving at the end of this semester, so that would be just one more person and we would have an election. If you are planning on resigning, for personal

reasons, graduation, anything, please come see me. You have to fill out a form slash I would just like to know whether we are having an election. If you are interested in serving on the Election Committee please see Chair O'Brien, who will fill you in with details. Also, the appointment committee itself, I'm thinking about revamping it. Currently the appointment committee has 9 people. One member from each of the committees, a member of exec and me. The goal of this committee right now is to appoint new senators, but it seems kind of odd to me that appointing senators is such a formal process yet I get to just make hundreds of campus appointments with no influence from anyone else. So I would really like to constitutionally and functionally expand the role of this committee, to really help and assist in recruiting, training, contact with all of the student appointees that serve on all the different committees. I think that will increase the quality of the candidates because there's only so many hours per day I can spend reaching out to people to serve on them and to really help us keep in contact with them. This new appointments committee will also help encourage university departments to expand opportunities using existing networks. The Appointment Committee I am envisioning will conduct interviews similar to what we do for Senate and student leadership positions that are particularly important, like Board of Trustees appointments, presidential commissions and examine and recommend changes to the different conduits that we use for student recruitment which includes the lynx and the website and the interview processes that are used. This will increase the time commitment of the committee, which basically meets now only when we have vacancies. So I am going to have everyone who is currently on the appointment process, your term will end at end of semester. If you want to keep serving, let me know, but I will reopen it so you are not feeling like you are being roped into a bigger time commitment, which I'm thinking will be a once a month compared to what we do now which is maybe once or twice a semester. I think this is good training for people who are looking to become student leaders, or occupy higher offices in the SGA, to be really involved in this process, especially if you are interested in having my job. It would be really helpful to have this kind of experience and this help for the future Vice President. For the minutes, they are now being audio recorded, which is what that black box is in the middle of the room, and they are online and I will show you that too if the computer will allow me. If you go to the meetings, they now have the audio recording and if you notice the minutes from this week, they are time stamped where each begins, so you can just click on that it will go to your iTunes and move your scroll bar to new business and you can listen to it. So there is no more ambiguity about what was said. That is in this week's minutes and last week's minutes, so if you didn't notice that's super cool. I am considering a new format for the minutes, and I emailed it out to the listserv so you should click on this little PDF of the way GSS does the minutes, which are more note like format as opposed to court stenographer like. I think with the audio recording being online that we might not need the same length of minutes. That's something for future discussion but I just wanted to get that started. One on ones, I meet with all of the chairs every other week and I try to have Jess to randomly select someone each week to meet with me. That's when you get that creepy email like, David wants to meet with you. It's not done that you've done something wrong, I just want to get to know you better, it's my job to keep a relationship with the senate. So please, if you haven't had a one on one with me just stop by, I've posted my office hours, and you can just come by or email Jess to reserve a spot on my calendar. It's a good thing to do and we can build a relationship and I can help you if you're having problems. It's just too much to seek all 45 of you out to meet with me so just come at your discretion. Almost done. Oh yeah. Office improvements as I've been talking about a lot. What they are, signs and the like but I made a Lynx form about things you don't like and things you'd like to see purchased in the future, or changed. You can just go on the lynx and go to the SGA Office improvement form. Let me leave some suggestions and I will get back to you with a personal email and whether or not that is feasible or not. Also, office hours. I am starting random, unannounced check-ins at all the desks or all the clubs to see if office hours are being upheld, so make sure you're there or you might get kicked out. Spring senatorial retreat, save the date, Saturday, January 9 in Billings North Lounge. It's not going to be a whole weekend affair like it was in the fall, it will probably be a couple of hours. There will be food, so please send me some suggestions for what you think should be included in the retreat, what you didn't get out of the fall one, if you were there, what was covered, what worked, what didn't. I don't want to make up the retreat completely by myself, so send me feedback. The SGA holiday party is December 7 from 5-7. Tacky holiday sweaters are the theme, not my decision but

I just thought I would go with it. Food and drinks from 5-7 right before senate. SGA, Davis Center employees, club signers, our office staff. It will be a good festive time, so save the date. Keep up the good work. Every minute counts.

President Mensah (1:00.44)— Good afternoon senate, sorry, apologies for being late, I was at a dinner this evening for the sapphire with Chair Herman which was in one of the Williams rooms. I clearly didn't get them memo from the executive branch that we are getting Power Points today. I am just going to pull up something that I am going to mention in the latter part of my report about the new emailing system that I am using to reach students as part of my constitutional duty to keep weekly contact with students. One of the things that I utilize, Pat and I were talking about this over the summer and we try to do different thing with the university's html web page but this one was just utilizing the constant contact which was proven to work much better than anything else so far. To get to the rest of my report David forwarded a an email that we received from Tom Gustafson a few days ago about the R5 which is the request for information in essence about a new multipurpose events center. The discussion has already been happening for the past few years about the need for new space. Not necessarily just an athletics center but the need for new space where, one, it could be an athletic space for the division 1 teams and the club sports as well as a space to hold large concerts as well as a recreational space for different clubs and intramural sports to have this to interact and engage with. So that's what the multipurpose center comes out of. Last year there was a campus wide taskforce to, a report that was conducted and most of the information that came out of that led to this submission for R5. So the R5, the report itself, was sent out nationwide to different people last week Friday and the deadline for submissions back to the university is if I'm correct November 20 actually. Either its November 20 or December 20. Yes, I'm correct, it's December 20. This deadline is pretty much for different companies, different groups or whatever to present a report to the university saying this is what we have in mind for this new area and this is how we are going to finance it. Just like Redstone 2, they are looking an external party to completely finance it so the financial burden is completely taken out of the university. For instance, the gym right now is not up to Division 1 standards. Where the basketball team plays we have bleachers. It's not supposed to be bleachers that's high school level. The type of seating is not supposed to be bleachers for a Division 1 team. The swimming pool, the current way that it's modeled, is not even up to Division 1 standards. So there is a lot of buildings like our gym right now that need to be updated. This is where the multipurpose events center is coming from. I will be making sure to keep you all in the loop in the next coming weeks as to the process. In terms of the constant contact, over the past few weeks an the end of last year when if first sent out the weekly campus wide email letting students know what is going on on-campus, I didn't even realize that the email went not only to undergraduate students but also to graduate and medical students as well. 1,300 some odd people are getting an email from the Student Government Association but only about 10,000 of them are our constituents. So I was looking for a way to change that to make sure that our message is geared more towards our constituents and for the first time that we could somehow get statistics as to how many people were opening up the emails and how many people were clicking on the different links. Through the utilization of constant contact we can finally see that. The first email with constant contact was sent out yesterday and because it's the first email it was sent out in stages. I'm aware that some of you have not received the email yet. So far 7,000 emails have been sent and out of the 10,418 students that this email is going to go to. So what I have done with the advice of Pat and with different conversations is to separate the lists. So now the email only goes out to undergraduate students. It does not go out to graduate or medical students. As you can see I sent out the email yesterday at noon 1,273 have opened up the email. In terms of different links in there, If we as SGA are doing a survey or something, aside from VSOP, if we want to embed it in an email we can see how many people are clicking on it. A group from the Medical College sent me a survey that they are doing that I can report back to them that 18 students have opened the link to make an appointment or whatever. These are numbers that for the first time we are able to have and it's going to help increase the message. Now that we know that this is the amount of students that are looking at the message, then where can senate as a whole work better as to reaching other students. For those of you that haven't seen the email, this is what it looks like. I am going to be working closely with the Public Relations Committee in the next couple of days to

ensure that there are different templates every single week, that there are more images of all of you here. So folks are eventually getting to start to put an image to face of their senators to Academic Affairs Committee, to the Student Activities Committee, to all the committees on this body that represent them. So this is what it looks like it's a full new personalization thing so when you receive the email it would be dear Tram Tran, dear Elizabeth. I had an excellent suggestion earlier about the email with the SGA committee corner, I'm going to be talking more about that giving more highlights as to what the individual committees are doing and the events blurb on the bottom. So that's that with the constant contact. As David mentioned, we had a meeting with the senior administration on Monday. It was a very brief meeting. We didn't get a chance to bring up some of the issues we said we would last week like enhanced course registration because the proper folks we needed to talk to such as Jane Knodell and Gary Derr weren't there because the first round of provost interviews with Jane Knodell. So David and I are looking to reschedule another meeting with Jane Knodell so we can bring up some of these pressing issues. I had a meeting with the first director search meeting for director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity tomorrow morning. There was a Dining Services and advisory council meeting last Wednesday that I couldn't attend because of the Boulder Society event so I can leave to Jesse to talk about because he was at the meeting. Last Friday I had a meeting with Richard Cate who will hopefully be talking to us here shortly. In all actuality he is a really down to earth guy, he is actually an alumni, graduated here in the late 60s or something of the sort. He just talked about where the university is headed in terms of tuition, in terms of why tuition is going up and he will talk a little bit more today about the main cost from the office over in Waterman is Student Financial Services that is driving up tuition is actually the increased amount of Financial Aid that we are giving to students. Hopefully he will be able to provide those numbers. I told him, in all honesty a lot of students demonize the administration because every year tuition is going up, but the important thing is you sometimes have to justify why this is going up. If tuition is going up are there more teachers, are there more classrooms, are there smaller classrooms, whatever that may look like. This morning there was a President's campus leadership meeting. Again, that was just very brief because of all the things going on this week in terms of provost search and we had a very great guest speaker from Wanda Heading-Grant's office. The only things that we talked about were the R5 and a few other things. There is going to be a fall, so just in case some of you might not know, after today's meeting, there is only 3 more senate meetings. There is one more next week and then we go on fall break and then we come back and there's only two more meetings and then that's it for the fall semester. What I have decided to do that I didn't see my two years on senate is evaluations. I remember doing committee evaluations just within my committee and of my chair, but there was never an opportunity to evaluate the President or Vice President or the Treasurer. In the next week or so you all are going to receive all of the executive branch or the executive committee evaluations. There is going to be an evaluation that all of you are going to see that is going to give you the opportunity to evaluate Treasurer Salsgiver, Vice President Maciewicz and myself, just so we see where it is that we are doing good where it is that we are not doing so good so we can just improve for the spring semester. Individually, folks within the committees are going to receive individual committee evaluations so you are going to be evaluating you committee chair and then it's highly encouraged for the chairs to do inner committee evaluations so giving committee members the opportunity to evaluate each other. So hopefully that will happen in the next two weeks. The 10th thing is scarves. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, we partnered with athletics yet again this year and the scarves that are going to be given out at this Saturday's game, November 23, they are in and they are sitting in the athletics office. I was able to snag a few just so I can show them and will be given out more during our office party just to show to continue promoting SGA. I need 5 senators, athletics has asked if there are any senators sitting here that would like to be at the hockey game and give out tickets. She would like 3 but 5 would be ideal. So if you're sitting here and thing 'hey I would like to give out a snazzy SGA scarf' please get back to me tomorrow by noon so I can email her your contact information so she can get back to you where to meet and things of that nature. Which leads me to the senator of the week. The senator of the week this week is not really a senator. They are an ex officio member to the senate body, but over the summer and the past few weeks I've just seen her doing a lot of good work and actually they put together a great presentation tonight to show all of you about the budget system and how that

system operates and how the student activities fee pays for different operating things within the SGA budget. So the ex officio senator of the week is Treasurer Salsgiver. Just so you know this is what all the scarves look like. I think we ordered about 500 so, well more like 450, because I snagged a whole box of 50. 450 of these will be given out at Saturday's game, so if you would like to give them out, please back to me by tomorrow at noon.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:14.04)

Chair Nelson: Ok, so on the emails, thank you for adding the committee reports thing, I feel like that has been effective. I've received a lot emails forwarded from you personally regarding some of the things that have been put on there. Another thing I wanted to mention, I also wanted to mention it during VP Maciewicz' report, you guys met with admin on Monday and I was hoping to see an agenda a little sooner. I just wanted to reemphasize that it would be great to see the agenda before and last week I believe you guys had agreed to send it out sooner. I got it on Sunday night and the meeting was on Monday morning and I didn't get a chance to look at it because I didn't check my email. It just went to exec. So, I would love to make the request and encourage you to send out the agenda to all of senate and earlier than the day before.

President Mensah: ok

Speaker Chevrier: Hi, I have a few things. The first is, is there any way to make it so that your email does get sent out to everybody? Because there are a bunch of things that are time pressing because don't you in your email have events that are coming up for the week and things that Senate is doing, but if 3,000 people haven't even received it yet then are going to receive it after Senate, which we were giving them information for, and they will have missed all of the events that you were talking about. I would prefer that they get it all at once. Also, I wanted to point out that we did to evals of exec and the whole body last year. I know this isn't your issue but maybe we can talk more about it during senatorial forum, as far as the gym is concerned I am a little confused, because I admit its important for there to be a gym and I guess bleachers stink, but I would prefer money and effort to be put into making classrooms more accessible or making building paths more accessible. I know the Dean's office or whichever building Annie Stevens works out of isn't even wheelchair accessible so you can't physically complain or talk to them if you are in a wheelchair. I think that is much more of an issue than bleachers. I also know that most of my classrooms, if one person has to go to bathroom the whole row has to get up, even if it's during a test, which I know had a negative impact on my education which is why I'm here, not sports. I don't know if that's something that we've thought of or if we've already decided that we're backing this new gym idea. Also, as far as the scarves are concerned, are we operating under the same rule as last year where it only goes to students so you have to say no to the 100s of cute kids that ask you for scarves?

President Mensah: Ok, well with the cute kids, sorry, your parents can buy you scarves. The scarves we are still operating on the fact that it's only going to go to undergraduate students, why because undergraduate students are the ones that paid for students. If a cute kid comes to you and asks you for a scarf, just be like I'm sorry kid, this is for UVM students only, I'm sorry. In terms of the call out for the R5 I think it's important to realize that as of now the stage where it is, student money isn't going to be spent on building this new multipurpose events center. It's all going to be external funds that are going to be utilized to build the center. If it does, it's not 100% sure if it's going to be built, they are going to have to review all of the requests and nominations that they are going to receive to see if they like the ideas and decide to go ahead with it. My understanding is that undergraduate fees are not going to go to finance that new gym or multipurpose events center. For the third thing that's a great point that you brought up that some students are receiving the emails later. That's only because this is the first email that has gone out and because of the nature of this kind of formatting. The first one is going to go in batches just to make sure that everything is ok. By next week all of the emails will go out simultaneously at the same time. It's not that this new thing only sent it out in batches every single day, but that's a good point.

Senator White: I just want to reiterate Claire's point one being here for education. Also, the evaluations are those going just to you or are we making those public?

President Mensah: In terms of the gym, you have to realize that, one of the biggest issue that we've talked about here as a senate body here in the past couple of weeks is priority registration. And priority registration, how the conversation has steered is whether or not athletes deserve uber priority registration or as to whether or not they deserve in class priority registration. Just think about the benefits of a new multipurpose events center. This would make it so the discussion for athletes to even have priority registration would be moot. Why? Because they can no longer use the argument that they need priority scheduling because now they would have their own space to practice. That's something to point out there in terms of the R5 for the new multipurpose events center. The evaluations of the exec branch will be made public to the senators.

Senator White: For chairs as well?

President Mensah: Yes, you will be filling them out so you will be seeing them.

Senator Benes: Out of curiosity, are there any hockey tickets for senators?

President Mensah: Oh that's good that you bring that up because it's not looking like we're going to get you hockey tickets, unfortunately. The one that's doing all the student hockey tickets in the Davis Center is Jessie Bridges and it's looking like next week or so we have a meeting scheduled with him to talk about potentially a new method as to where the tickets can be put back into the Davis Center. His argument is that it wouldn't be fair for any group to be given preferential treatment for the hockey tickets. I was just thinking since we pay \$7,000 for the partnership with them we could get like a little perk but, again, I do understand where he's coming from. The conversation steered toward maybe having some tickets in the Davis Center. If I can just pull up a quick image to show all of you. When the hockey tickets came up yesterday, I think at 12 noon, within half an hour, they were all gone. They were all gone before noon. I'm not sure if you can completely see but as soon as the tickets became available there was already a line stretching from the ticket box office outside to the front lobby. So we were thinking, imagine students living off campus, students living on central or trinity campus, how fair it is for them to have the same chance as students that are living on athletic campus to have access to these hockey tickets. If these tickets were already gone before noon on three days before the game, then what is the likelihood of students on Trinity campus, or farther from athletic campus being able to make it to the gym before these tickets are gone. So that's where the conversation is.

Treasurer Salsgiver (1:22.47) – So just to start off as a report, we have had lot of Student Professional Development Application that we've gone through they went to their conferences. I prepared a PowerPoint that I'm going to go through with Alex, Chair Alex, Chair Mallea in a few minutes. We've had a lot of, I'm actually working on having a Treasurer's workshop for next semester, which we haven't done before, but we have been talking a lot about how some club signers change at the beginning of the actual year instead of the Fiscal Year and so there's not much transition for them and by the time the actual workshop comes around, it's kind of like a moot point, they've already learned that information. So we're going to have a second one and I was hoping that a lot of you can come out and go to workshops and what information that senators are getting and clear up some of the supplemental funds questions and other budget questions tonight. It would definitely be good for next semester so this is the PowerPoint. The objective for the first half of it I am going to cover, I just want to give you a general understanding of what this year's 2011 budget looks like. It's a budget that anyone that was on senate last year, you have already looked at it and then approved it. For those of you that haven't been here, maybe you didn't read through it very closely last semester when you voted on it in

matter of about 5 minutes. I'm just going to go through it again. I'm also going to go over the student activities fee and what we need to see for next year. Alex will go over the bulleted point and the role of her committee with supplemental funding. This is what this year's budget looks like. 70% of the budget is specific to clubs budget. It's mostly supplemental, but all this is supplemental money that will be going to clubs. The clubs sports funds only go to club sports. The only things that don't go directly to clubs are the wages, committee budgets, of which is there to benefit clubs, and also the senate costs and Springfest. And the retreat. Are there any questions on this particular slide?

Chair Adams: The Springfest contribution is separate from the SA concerts budget?

Treasurer Salsgiver: Yes. \$20,000 comes directly from SGA to Springfest.

Senator Filstein: What is the actual monetary value?

Treasurer Salsgiver: I'm actually going to go into that in the next slide. So this is the Internal SGA budget. So if you guys have any question as to how much money is given to each club you can definitely come into my office and I can explain it all. This is the internal SGA budget breakdown. You have the \$239,000 goes to wages, benefits, and fringe benefits. What fringe benefits are is for all part time employees. So if you have a coach who is actually a full time employee for your club they get 40.5% fringe benefits which means that whatever their wage is, 40.5% of that goes directly to them. If they are just a temporary employee, that percentage is 8.7%. Am I being loud enough? You can view the committee and executive budget as well. For supplemental funding that is broken down, we actually added \$10,000 more to nationals fund for them to have. The \$10,000 has been added to nationals because we had already depleted it a few weeks ago. For the Club Sports Fund, that goes to events and supplies, and it also goes to conferences for Leon to go to himself. The SGA retreat, self-explanatory. For the Senate Costs Internal Supplies and Services, that's what you're looking at. That goes to pay for the lynx, which is \$8,500 per semester. It also covers meetings, SGA conferences, notebooks and binders, that sort of thing within senate. For supplies and services that kind of is the whole operation of SGA. For the printer lease, for the fax lease, paper, copy materials and also insurance. If *The Cynic* published something and they ended up getting sued, they would be covered by media insurance, which is something that SGA pays for, so it's there to benefit UVMtv, *The Cynic*, *Vantage Point*, *The Water Tower*, all of those clubs.

Senator Vitagliano: Telephone lines, is that a recent amount with the cut of the lines within the office? or is that an old figure?

Treasurer Salsgiver: This is essentially, is before the beginning of the year before we actually cut it this is what we had budgeted for that. So this money can be reallocated now that we no longer have all of those telephone lines. The financial sources for the current budget for this year in total is about \$1.8 million. There was \$256,950 rollover, which means that from 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, any money that the clubs didn't use or wasn't used in the internal budget, so for example, the telephone lines, we haven't used that, that was rolled over here. That seems like a lot of money, and it is a lot of money, but that money was already planned for at the beginning of the year. We kind of assumed, Blanka is paid, we have Blanka here because she really knows what she is doing and she estimated that \$250,000 would be coming in, and we actually budgeted for this coming year assuming \$250,000 would be coming in, so that money is actually incorporated. So for Fall 2010 Student Activities Fee from all the students, that's an actual number because we know how many students are actually here and there is also a projection based on past years, we're assuming that that much more money will be coming in. That's something that we are protected for, we have a contingency for. We have \$40,000 as a buffer and that \$40,000 can be found every single year, it's untouched. I figured I'd give you guys some theoretical situations just to help you guys with the student activities fee. If we have identical enrollment for next year and clubs spend exactly what they spent last year, so we have exactly \$256,950 rolling over and the new clubs spend nothing, what that would mean would be that for

next year, each club would be getting slightly less money just because there are new clubs that are going to have new budgets. So let's say that that happens. This is that first theoretical situation, that's with \$77 as student activities fee. So, theoretical situation 2, we have the exact same enrollment and spend \$95,000 more than they did last year. Again, that sounds like a lot of money, but the Outing Club overspent by about 4,000, Women's Ice Hockey went \$9,000. Clubs spend a lot of money. Altogether, \$95,000 isn't all that unrealistic to assume that that might possibly be spent. Let's say that all the new clubs spent \$5,000. That would mean that next year for the student activities fee, for all the clubs to stay the same, to spend exactly the same amount of money we it would need to be \$82.80. Theoretical situation 3: if we have the same enrollment and clubs spent all of the money given to them in their budget, which isn't that realistic, most of the time clubs don't spend all their money, but let's say they did, the Student Activities Fee would need to be \$87.75 to cover all of our expenses, just so you know. So, I figured I would give you guys some different considerations for the Student Activities Fee just to give you a much better background. Some of the considerations, inflation right now is 1.14%, at least that's what it was this month. If we were to keep everything exactly the same, if we were to have \$1.8 million budget like this year, with inflation, where clubs get \$70,000 is worth less next year. That's just how inflation works. Another to consider is the work-study position situation. A lot of you may have been affected or are at least aware that a lot of the Federal Work Study grants were cut. There were 9,000 positions that were cut this year for work-study students. A lot of our clubs actually used work-study students, like the Outing Club actually used work-study students, to help with the Outing Club house. A lot of clubs use them for different reasons, we use work-study students. So now, a lot of these clubs are having to find actual temporary employees and so that is an added stressor to these different clubs that they now have to pay for these people that they didn't have to pay for in the past. Something that Outing Club has had to deal with this year for sure. Another party of the whole work-study problem is now that we have more temporary employees, the university has employed a rule where they have to drop from 15% of the costs of temporary employees and they are passing this on to the departments. That means that for Outing Club, for example, all of these temporary employees they are also having to pay an additional 15% of all the wages at the beginning of the year. This is another thing that has changed and will make it more difficult to get the student activities fee back in the same for next year. Another thing is that there are going to be more clubs, increased activities. You guys all just recognized badminton which is fantastic, that's great, there are all these people that are really excited about it but with that comes the insurance that risk management is going to have us pay. You might not have realized it at the time but down the line they will need money for transportation, they will need money for gas, they will probably request money for uniforms, for racquets down the road. There will probably be league dues at some point and they will probably have to pay other schools for competitions. If they have a coach, eventually, that is more consistent and works with them more closely, they are going to have to pay wages and fringe benefits. Adding all these clubs, it doesn't seem like much to add one club, but it really is a lot more money than you might imagine at first. Clubs are a lot more active. They are going to more competitions than they have in the past and it costs a lot of money and with inflation it costs even more. The requested versus allocated this year. When all the clubs ask for funds or submitted a budget, when you compare that with the amount that was given out, it's 44.13%. So less than half of the money they are asking for is being given out right now so that's just something to keep in mind. The last thing is that SGA can't go negative. We are a business. We have to carry the liability. When Women's Ice Hockey went \$9,000 negative, that's ok for them to go negative because we act as their buffer. We have money to protect them, to allow them time to get out of the negative. SGA is the one that is holding that liability and we need some kind of contingency buffer. So there was a \$266,000 rollover from last year but that's also needed and there is money that is needed for a contingency buffer to protect ourselves. That's all I have for myself.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:36.23)

Senator Sadeghi: I'm not sure if you are going to get to it but do you have any statistics on the fundraising accounts. Specifically the means and medians of the general 150-something clubs.

What do they fundraise, what do they have to look at something like \$100 dollars, \$1000, just so we have something to look at, just a general figure.

Treasurer Salsgiver: I could get that number. The range goes from about -\$9000 to \$400,000 with rescue. The average is probably somewhere between \$500-\$700.

Chair Simmons: Did you mention anything about clubs being derecognized? You assumed that new clubs would be added.

Treasurer Salsgiver: I didn't include that, no, but one thing to mention is that the clubs that are being derecognized are the clubs that haven't been active and a lot of them didn't even have budgets this year, so that's one thing to keep in mind too.

Senator O'Brien: I have a question with the gas supplemental statistics, when you're allocating money for the gas I was wondering if you at all encourage clubs to use public transportation and if that would affect the money allocated.

Treasurer Salsgiver: There are a lot of problems with public transportation, most of the people asking for money have equipment and are club sports, a lot of them are 20-40 people. Risk management would not want to see public transportation, they're really difficult to deal with as it is already. They can't take more than 2 vans to one place. They have to get a Coach Bus if it's more than 20 people or a certain distance. That is not really feasible with the risk management situation.

Chair Mallea: Elizabeth did a really great job explaining the overall budget process of the finance office. However, I've been getting a lot of questions about what the Finance Committee does and how the Finance Committee operates and how each account is doing, so I thought I would give you a little update. What does the Finance Committee do? Each week, on top of holding our committee meetings we hold hearings with clubs requesting money. Clubs requesting money have to submit their forms on the lynx by noon Mondays in order to be considered. Jess is really pivotal in helping organize all the forms and make sure the Finance Committee has all the correct information. And then based on the hearings and what questions we ask all the clubs, we make a recommendation for the amount to be allocated. If, as the senate hopefully knows, if the amount is over \$2,000, it needs to be approved by a 2/3 vote of the senate. So what does the Supplemental Fund consist of? I find that when senators don't even know themselves what the supplemental process entails, how are we supposed to expect all of our clubs to know what the process entails? So, there is a general supplemental funding process. These are the different accounts in supplemental funding process. There is a Capitol Account, a Diversity Account, a Gas Account, a Nationals Account, a Supplemental Account, which is a little confusing because it's under supplemental funding and then the Uniforms Account. If you like, I can go into a description about each account is, it's pretty self-explanatory. I feel like it would be a little more valuable to tell you what the numbers are when we started and how much we've allocated since then just so you know where our progress is as a committee. With the Capital Account we started with \$20,000 in account, and currently we have \$16,100 left. So this if for the entire year so we are more than on track and we are not expecting any huge capital accounts to drain \$6,000 in next week or two. The Cultural Diversity Account we have only had one request the entire semester. We started out with \$10,000 and we're currently at \$9,500. For the Gas Account, this is the account that is most often used, it does not require clubs to come in and have a hearing. Basically you have to fill out a form on Lynx and submit a Google Map proving the mileage so that we can calculate it in our gas formula. This account started with \$34,944 and currently we are at \$21,683. With our Nationals Account we started out with \$20,000 and we are currently at \$9,476. Supplemental started out at \$46,600 we are currently at \$38,520. And then finally the Uniforms Account started out with, looks like, \$15,000 and we are currently at \$9,700. These amounts that we start out with and what we spend, the money can be moved around between the accounts. If we can see that the Nationals Account is getting kind of low, we can move money from one account to another. Are there any questions on this process?

Chair Herman: Could you explain a little bit more about the diversity account?

Chair Mallea: Any time that a club wishes to hold a diversity event, whether they are bringing a speaker, whether they want to hold an event that requires them to provide food and it's educational within diversifying the UVM community, they can apply for supplemental funding through Diversity. So I will move on to last slide. On top of our Supplemental hearing process, we also have other issues pertaining to the Finance Committee, which we talk about each week in our report. We also deal with this huge thing called the budget process. We are in charge of holding a budget process for all of our SGA recognized clubs. We have been establishing a timeline, starting the budget process earlier and making it a longer period so we're not crammed in there Saturday from 8am to Sunday at 9 pm, that's really straining on the committee. I know it's hard to realize that Finance really does have a lot of additional work and additionally time commitments that a lot of the other committees can work on your own outside of committee times, but it requires a lot of committee work within finance. We've also been evaluating a lot of previous process and how previous budget season went and how different schools that we compete with in the northeast region and around the United State have their budget processes and the finding from that is we're pretty well off, we have a pretty good process in place although there is room for improvements and I will be touching upon that in the following weeks. Finally, right now we are dealing with looking into establishing an operational document to kind of lay the groundwork for what committee chairs are supposed to be doing each week and what President and Vice President and Treasurer are supposed to be doing in the summer and who they are supposed to be meeting, just some general guidelines just so there is something to reference in our operational documents. Any other questions? Seeing none, I would like to motion to suspend the rules.

Speaker Chevrier: Point of Information: We are motioning to suspend the rules so that we can allow our guest Vice President of Finance to come and speak so us, and a reminder that motion to suspend the rules is a misnomer, blame Robert. We are not motioning to suspend the rules per se, but motioning to suspend the agenda so we can allow him to speak.

Vote on Motion to Suspend the Rules – passes

Richard Cate, Vice President of Finance and Administration (1:46.06)

Richard Cate: Good evening. I have to get somewhere here. I didn't come with a particular agenda. Asher said there were some questions I answered a couple of them, I think maybe I'll just give you a brief update and then you can ask any questions you want. You've been doing good budget work here so I'm pleased to see that. I just came from teaching my budget course across the way here so we've been doing that. We are just really getting going now on the 2012 budget, which of course starts on July 1 of this coming year. The process is such that we are doing our developmental work here through the rest of the fall and then we'll begin conversations with the Board of Trustees in a preliminary way at the February 5 board meeting. Coming off of that, at that point we will get some signals around their thoughts on tuition. We will have given them some other things to look at around some of the larger pieces of the budget, especially financial aid is always a big one. The way this works is the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee meets in April in a special meeting. They go through the budget in pretty specific detail and then coming out of that meeting is a proposed budget that goes to the Board of Trustees to vote on in May. It's kind of a cycle. It's similar to what those of you who have watched it before, it will be similar to that. One of the key things that is going to be happening here this fall is the Provost and I will meet with each of the Vice Presidents and the Deans and have a conversation about what they view as high priority needs. But also, we'll be looking to them to talk to us about opportunities to gain efficiencies. Those of you who have been around a bit have heard me say there is never enough money, there never will be. As much tuition as you pay, there is never enough to do all that we need to do. As we start off looking at this budget, we are a little bit behind the 8 ball to begin with. One of the things that the trustees did this current year, what they

did last year for this year, is we had gotten some one time money from the state, about \$2.5 million more than we had originally anticipated. They asked us to put that in the budget as a piece of the structure of the budget. Of course, this is something I always tell my students is never do this, because then you have to pay for it the next year, because that source of money very likely won't be here in coming year. So, we have to deal with that and we also have to deal with a little bit of uncertainty about what is going to happen with our state appropriation in the 2012 because the state has a \$112 million budget deficit, they have to solve that problem. Part of that solution may be to reduce that appropriation, we're hoping that will not be the case, but we don't know. On that one we really won't know until the legislature adjourns in May, so that's right up the wire. They typically adjourn just before or just after the board meeting so it's kind of a close call on that one. The other thing we are dealing with is Financial Aid this year is coming through probably \$2.5-3 million more than we had originally anticipated, and that was in spite of the fact that we had expected it to rise by close to 10% anyway but it's going to be even more than that. Those are some of the things we're talking about, and maybe it's just better to have you ask me any questions you may have.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:50.30)

Senator Lober: I was just wondering if you could speak a little to the history of the UVM budget. For instance, in the Fiscal Year 2009, its matches that have been taken with the legislature to try to help get us money. I was just curious about the one time state appropriation and how that's been appropriated and how we have been using it.

Richard Cate: In terms of the state appropriation, in 2009 we had a decision in the state appropriation, it was reduced by 5%. Over time, during the period of the Federal Stimulus Program, that money was restored but not necessarily on a permanent basis. What happens in those instances was the state did not give us stimulus money, but because they got 100s of millions of dollars in stimulus money, they were able to restore that \$2.5 million during the past two years. Under the federal stimulus legislation, they were not able to reduce our appropriation last year or this year. If they wanted to get the \$93 million of federal money. I'm not saying that's the only reason they didn't reduce it but that was an incentive not to reduce it. That incentive goes away next year, the stimulus legislation expires so they can do pretty much what they want with our appropriation and not affect any federal money that's coming in.

Senator Lober: I was just kind of curious about some of the outcomes of Governor Douglas' taskforce that was set up to essentially help fund higher education in Vermont?

Richard Cate: He had proposed at one point that a 20% increase in our appropriation and in the appropriation in state colleges. Unfortunately, that didn't go anywhere. The legislature did not feel in those economic times that they could afford to do that, they had other priorities. And so, we managed to get the level funding but nothing happened with that proposal. We were grateful but unfortunately we never got the money. It would have been a nice thing if we had.

Senator Lober: You are still projecting growth in state appropriation money across the decade?

Richard Cate: We have in our 10 year budget plan, what we have projected was level funded for '12, with our fingers crossed and then a 2% increase thereafter. I honestly don't know if that's realistic or not. The best we can do, at this is hope there is some modest increase. The thing about the state appropriation is, even if it does increase, of course, any money is good, don't get me wrong, but the state appropriation only represents something like 7% of total university budget. When we get those increases they're helpful but they don't generate vast sums of money to make a difference. We get the lowest state appropriation per capita in the country. Vermont is simply too small, it really can't afford this institution, that's why our tuition is so high. You're paying a much bigger chunk of the action than is true in most State Universities. That is because we are this tiny state with 630,000 people in it. We've got the population of the modest sized city in this entire state. There isn't enough economic base to support the university in the way that occurs in

other states. The upside of that is when times are tough and they don't increase appropriation, it doesn't hurt us as much as in other places. Last year mid-year they had a 13.4% at SUNY mid year in January, unexpectedly, because the state had to slash the appropriation that New York gave to SUNY. So it means a lot more when they cut appropriations over there. It hurts here but it's not as bad.

Chair Adams: Thanks for coming in. Last year you made a good argument for the one time appropriation to be used to better deferred maintenance, which didn't happen, so where are we with deferred maintenance?

Richard Cate: Where we are is we have a plan, which I hope we can implement. In the 10-year budget plan that we put together, we say we want to put a couple million dollars in 2012 and then ramp it up. We should be spending \$18 million a year on maintenance and we're spending about 3-4. We wanted to have this supplemental interest. I care a lot about maintenance of building, I'm an old engineer. I think it's incredibly important we keep the classrooms and office buildings in good shape, but here are all these other competing needs. Some of you saw the presentation last year, if we have a 5 or 6% increase in tuition, because of the fact that Financial Aid grows much faster than anything else, we end up with a 3% increase in the operating budget and it turns into available money. Just to do everything we did last year takes almost all of that money. We are trying very hard to look for other sources of revenue to be able to get to where we need to get without having to have huge increases in tuition. We are nowhere near as far as I would like us to be, it's still a priority.

Senator Filstein: Hi Richard, thanks for coming in. Could you please talk about employee benefits in the context of the contract negotiation that is coming up?

Richard Cate: I talked about employee benefits and contract negotiations are coming up, I obviously can't talk about the content of the negotiations, it hasn't even been decided yet. All of the contracts on-campus expire on June 30 this year. Benefits is always an issue. One of the things you may have heard me speak about before is the retirement medical benefits. Under the current plan when an employee leaves the university if they have been here for 15 year and turned aged 60. People who got here before '97 the rules are 10 years and age 55. When they leave they get to have the university make the same percentage of contribution to their health insurance premiums as when they work here, so when they walk out the door, it's the same deal. You may know that the percentage that the employee pays is based on their income. So someone that is a custodian and they're making \$28,000, \$30,000 a year, they pay about 3% of the premium. Someone in my situation pays about 30%. So, what we have been looking at is the fact that this cost is growing exponentially, for two reasons. One is, of course that the healthcare costs go up much faster than the rate of inflation and the other things is that there are a lot of people in my generation that are retiring. And so the pool of people, who, oh, by the way, are living longer than they used to. It wasn't unusual that people, you know they were 4 or 5 years older than I am now to retire and die two years later. Now, it's just the cold hard facts of life. I don't plan to do that, by the way. Now, through the benefits of healthcare, I tell the doctors this when I have a conversation with our medical faculty that it's all your fault, you're doing too good of a job making people live longer. So people are living into their 80s and 90s. So what used to be a pretty short-term obligation on the part of the university has become very long. So the estimated costs, just of the employees that are here today, over the course of their lifetime, is about \$1.3 billion for this benefit, that's just in retirement, that's not while they're working here. We have been looking at it, I personally believe it's unsustainable if we are going to do all the other things we need to do. I think we need to provide for our people in some way, but I don't think we can afford to do what we've been doing. So, one of the things that we are likely to be talking about both with the represented and nonrepresented staff is post retirement benefits and how they should change. There is not a specific proposal on the table at this point, but you'll probably be hearing about it next semester.

Senator Filstein: I had this phrased really well in my head and I completely forgot. Is the administration looking into putting pressure on Montpelier now that we have a governor with the willingness to have healthcare, single payer? And since we are one of the largest employers in the state to kind of get behind that to alleviate the school and help the employees?

Richard Cate: I'm sure that that will be, I don't want to make a commitment on the part of the President, but the President will be meeting with Governor-elect, and I'm confident that will be part of the conversation. The university has supported single-payer and related proposals at the national level through our associations and at the state level in the past so I expect that will continue.

Senator Vitagliano: Thank you for coming this evening. I have a few questions for you. How is the Finance Committee looking into some projected scenarios that the university may be facing looking at whether or not 3, 4.5 or 6% increase, which would make the most sense for this coming year. Also in, kind of, connection with the salaries for faculty and staff, has the Finance Committee looked into at the grossing up aspect of same sex couple professors at the university to combat the healthcare costs?

Richard Cate: I think you are referring to a 10-year budget plan that we put up for the trustees to look at. We picked three levels of tuition increase at 3, 4.5, 6 over the years. There's really nothing magic about those number, it's just that they represent a range of tuition increases that we've experienced over the last decade or so just to show the trustees that if we didn't change anything else, what would happen. They may come down on either end or in the middle on this, or even in between some of the increments on this. I really don't know. What's pretty clear, unfortunately, nobody would wish tuition increases stay low more than I would, but it doesn't work out that way. The one thing that's pretty clear from the plan is that 3% doesn't work very well. We just go in the hole, badly. I have to tell you, a lot is that there is this incremental cost of financial aid that takes almost all of this. Then, we all know that 6% is a pretty high number, but the budget works better there. It's a balancing act. I expect that it will probably be some place in between those numbers but I don't know where. As the trustees look at context of salary increases associated with that for faculty and staff. As I said, all the contracts are expiring. I think the trustees are inclined to say, we don't want have to increase tuition any more than we have to, but we need more money. Inflation has been pretty low, so I don't think they are inclined to think that there should be really large increases. The fact that we just came off of 3 years of 5% increases, I think that would be tough to replicate again in the current environment. But, I can't negotiate those things in public. I just think it's going to be tough to go way beyond what we have in that budget. And again, it's just a place holder, there's nothing magical about it but we put in 2.5% increases per year over 10 a year program. But again, that has not been adopted, it was just an example to the trustees as to what that would look like.

Senator Yeager: I was wondering, besides, raising tuition, are there any small creative ways that have been discussed like, I don't know, I'm sure there are like unique ideas that aren't really in progress but you are thinking of implementing.

Richard Cate: I think I said it before, I go to bed every night and get up every morning trying to figure out what those things are. One of the thing we were exploring about is something that we don't do a lot of and some of the other institutions do. We'd like to augment our educational program with more online programs that are not as capital intensive so that you can basically get a better return on them to supplement what we are doing here, It's not to replace anything we are doing here now but to reach out and get to other students that think that a UVM degree in a particular area is worthwhile. So what the Provost has been talking a lot about is professional graduate programs and the possibility of connecting with an outside organization to help us do this. Online education is not a place you want to jump into too much on your own. We do some if now but not a lot. I'm on the faculty of Public Administration Program, and that is one of the programs where we are talking about trying to create an online degree. With that what you try to do is boost up your numbers, in terms of numbers of students, and still have the in residence

program but you have this other source of revenue coming in that doesn't cost you as much on the margin as the core programs do. If you do a lot of that, it can make a difference. I mean, little old Norwich University, right down the road in Northfield, Vermont, has like 2,500 online students. They've got more students on-line than they do at the institution. Champlain is a leading expert in this area, they've got a lot of their programs online. And again, it's not about replacing anything we have here, it's about creating more revenue so we don't have to increase tuition on site as much. And we're looking at some other things that I can't really talk about a lot yet, but I hope in the next year or so we can go more public with a lot of these ideas so we can get them out there. We can't keep doing it only the way we've always done it, we've got to change the models.

Senator Lober: In regards to online graduate degree program, I'm curious if any funds have been allocated for it so far? And if it's expected to be operational, if tuition revenue that it would be integrated into the 10 year budget?

Richard Cate: This is an R and D, research and development activity. I don't expect we'll see a significant stream of revenue around it, if it works, I'm sure it will be 3-5 years before it starts to make any real dividends. We would be trying to put it. In terms of our initial investment, if we did that, it would probably come from our Continuing Ed program, not from the programs most of you are based in but from continuing ed. It's a kind of entrepreneurial operation already.

Senator Lober: I was just curious with some numbers on the ten-year budget forecast. Particularly between fiscal year 2011 and 2012, just that it projected 19-21% drop in revenue coming in from graduate tuition. I know that's gross revenue, I had sent you an email looking for the head counts and demographics.

Richard Cate: Yes, I'm sorry, the person that needed to ask that question was out, but I should be able to get that to you tomorrow. But anyway, we had kind of a peak in terms of numbers of students and the amount of financial aid that is netted out, we did pretty well over the last year in that way. We are trying to be conservative, it may be better than what is on that projection. We just can't expect that growth to continue.

Senator Lober: Is that in regards to graduate program. I'm kind of unsure what's going on because from what I understand the graduate total headcount number isn't going to be dropping any time soon. Are you expecting there to be less graduate students or for the tuition to decrease?

Richard Cate: It's not that the tuition would go down, it would be that the Financial Aid may be going up, and the number of students may sit flat or drop slightly because we were on this peak.

Senator Lober: I guess 19% that seems like a big change.

Richard Cate: We thought it was a big change when it went up this year. This year is an anomaly, not next year. If you drew a line of what this has looked like over the past ten years, you would a blip down. It may get better, but we're trying to be conservative. We think there are some people that are staying a year longer and it doesn't represent the normal flow. So, we didn't want to overestimate the revenue. If we do better than what we've got there, I'll be a happy camper.

Senator Lober: The major reason for our large sum of revenue this fiscal year would have been that financial aid packages were higher or weren't as significant as we expected?

Richard Cate: We spent more on Financial Aid, we were anticipating a fairly significant increase and it was even higher than we anticipated.

Senator Lober: I think I might just be confused

Richard Cate: So let me give you a note to try to explain it better.

Senator Fitzgerald: Thank you for coming in to talk to us. Do you see any program or athletic departments or departments in general being dropped in order to help with funding in the near future? Varsity sports or just programs or academic departments.

Richard Cate: I don't envision anything like that right now. We always have to keep thinking about what works and what doesn't. The one thing I would say is the Provost and the President have imposed minimum enrollment guidelines for programs and courses. If there is a PhD program that only graduates 1 or 2 students per year for the last 5 years, will they look at it? Absolutely. There isn't anything specifically on the table today, but they are looking at that to try to see are we trying to do too much? Typically what the university does is we keep doing what we've always done and then we add something to it. We want to make sure we're efficient yet we want to keep the course offerings broad. There isn't anything particular, on the table, are we always looking, yeah. But I don't see anything really going on in athletics.

Chair Mallea: Thank you for coming in. I was curious if you could speak to, I've been hearing a couple things that the Jeffords project came in under budget and I was curious if the remaining funds went to deferred maintenance or where did those funds go if it did come in under budget?

Richard Cate: We went to the board and got permission, we've actually done this twice with 2.3 million so far. In each case we've gotten permission from the board to reallocate to funds for other facilities projects that were primarily deferred maintenance projects. When we can find 10 bucks in a facilities budget or a building project we try to divert it back to deferred maintenance needs. I think it is used pretty effectively.

Senator O'Brien: Thank you for coming in. I was wondering if you could speak to something that was brought up earlier in this meeting about the proposed Multipurpose Events Facilities for athletics and someone had mentioned that it would come from an external funding source and if you could talk about the status of the external funding sources or if you know any details?

Richard Cate: Outside sources of funding for athletics? I want to make sure I heard you right. Oh, the R5 that went out, I'm sorry. I was on to a different topic. So we put out this request for information in scale of things its the least formal. If you put out a request for a proposal you normally are really planning to do something, you've really scoped it out. Sometimes you put out a request and ask people to submit their ability to build a particular thing that you've got funding for. And then a request for information is kind of wide open. In this case, we don't have any funding available to build this arena. It's been determined through a number of studies that we probably should have such a thing if we're ever able but we don't have any resources available. So we put out this R5 and said give us your ideas, developers. Part of the reason we did this is because we've been approached by a couple people. One entity came in and said, let us build an arena on university property and own it and manage it and then have UVM Hockey and Basketball be anchor tenants but a lot of other activities would occur. There is value in the UVM name and in terms of our athletic programs so they like that. Another developer came in and said we know how to build what you really need for less than the study said but we need to do it on UVM land. Since we're getting these unsolicited proposals maybe we better just go out and see what the deal is, what's out there. It may be that nothing comes from this at all, or it may be that someone comes forward and says, yeah, we know how to do this well. There are about 1,000 different things we have to think about if we ever did such a deal it would have to be an entity that would fit with the culture of the university and they would behave themselves and do things right and they were good business people and that their business plan was going to work. There will be more information as we get these proposals back in December we will talk to the campus about what we've got. Sorry I didn't understand your question well in the first place.

Senator Filstein: It sounded like one of the arguments for increasing tuition is to keep up with the rising costs of financial aid and I was wondering what is driving that?

Richard Cate: Part of it, you could argue, is the rising cost of tuition. In the last few years, it's been less about tuition more about the recession. We, over a 3-year period have increase financial aid over 50%. Nothing in the budget has increased like financial aid. Meanwhile, tuition increased something like 15%. So what we are dealing with, I think, is the lag that occurs with the FAFSA forms that you and your parents fill out. Instead of having incomes go up on those forms and therefore the expected family contribution to go up, they have on average been going down in the last couple years. In order to retain the folks that were here and to maintain the diversity and academic quality of UVM students, we are in a competitive market and we had to increase financial aid significantly to keep up. The hope is that those kinds of increases don't keep happening in the future. It's a good thing for you, but institutionally if we do too much it drives up tuition. It's kind of a chicken and the egg thing.

Senator Lober: I just, I might have this all wrong but I'm just looking for a clarification on the question I had earlier. I was just wondering if you might be able to check this out. [*shows Richard Cate a piece of paper*].

Richard Cate: in the end most of it is about that aid goes up a bit and student count goes down.

Senator Lober: Head count is going down? Hearing what the provost and the president have to say about the graduate program. All we hear is there is ambitions to grow.

Richard Cate: That's simply a question of reality not necessarily where we want to go.

Senator Lober: What I would be thinking is that isn't a reflection of reality in any sense.

Speaker Chevrier: Point of Information: This is a time for question and answers and not a conversation, but I would encourage you to do this after if you want to continue.

Chair Simmons: I'm sorry, I'll keep this brief. I was just wondering about this external funding for different project. When the Redstone 2 people came to talk to us they talked about how it was being run by outside developers to develop the facility and then keeping the revenues for the facility. I was wondering if this is a possible source of funding for the new athletic complex, if there is a new athletic complex. Do you see this as a putting off paying for something, but in the long term would we be losing money on these kinds of deals because we're not able to collect the revenues that the buildings would generate in the long term?

Richard Cate: If the question is can you get burned doing this the answer is yes, you can. But, my job is to make sure we don't enter into an agreement that will disadvantage the university. Part of the problem is our ability to issue debt to do these types of things. One of the things that people often bring up are well, the university's debt service is growing in the last few year. There are limits there, both in our ability to pay for it and in the ability have the debt because it affects our bond rating. Our policy says that we shouldn't have more than 6% of our operating budgets being spent on debt service. So, it's a balancing act, there are some things we need to do, for instance, we needed 400 beds of housing at Redstone. If we had gone and done it on our own, we would have adversely affected our debt ratio. Housing is something that it works pretty well because there is a high demand for housing in Burlington, and because private developers can do that. Meanwhile, the students will live there. In the interim, the university gets a small stream of revenue from the project, students get a place to live, nice housing. At the end of the project, the buildings are turned over to the university. So, that should be a good deal. The arena is more complex, we have to be pretty careful there. Like I said, we have to make sure it fits with the university. The problem with the arena is, there are so many projects we think we need more than the arena, on the list, we might never got to the arena. That's the problem.

Chair Simmons: I'm just confused, if the buildings are getting turned back over to the university - I'm totally with you on the athletic complex, I think a lot of us are- but on the front of the

Redstone buildings being turned over to university, where is the financial incentive for the developers? Are they still taking all the rent?

Richard Cate: They are taking all the rent.

Chair Simmons: Is this consistent with other universities around the country, that they would bring in outside developers and put themselves at a disadvantage, kind of not being able to foot the bill now, and missing out on all this future money? And is there any other way that, obviously you've looked at other alternative, but is it a matter of the loans not being there or not being able to achieve funding from alternative sources for developing?

Richard Cate: To answer the first piece is, there are some universities that have thousands of beds of third party housing. Housing is something that can do two things on a university campus where a private developer there is an incentive, a financial incentive. The bottom line is with housing is the university doesn't really make money. If we were to, you know, we don't charge a rent level at some big profit. We have to get enough to pay the custodians to clean it and maintain it, keep the roof from leaking, that sort of thing. It isn't like we're missing out on a whole bunch of money. They are taking the risk, they are getting a return on their investment. My job is to make sure it's not an excessive return on their investment and if you talk to them they will tell you that I've been pretty tough on them all throughout this process. It is tricky but, if we can get housing that way then that frees up money to do other things we might need to do.

Senator Lober: One last questions. I was reading through the 2004 [inaudible] report and was looking at a part of it that was recommending that the administration try to balance external grants with the size of the graduate student body. I was just wondering how the administration since that report has tried to take that advice and how external funding has is a reflection of the size of the graduate student body.

Richard Cate: I think what's happened is that grant awards have increased even faster than the graduate students. There has been, what they were worried about was that there wasn't enough work for graduate students to engage in. We have actually exceeded that expectation in terms of where the 146 million this past year on grant awards. That growth is providing more opportunities for graduate student jobs. I think that the president and provost did do that and I think we've done it.

Senator Lober: So within your research you would generally say that a large sum of the growth in external grants is going to fund graduate tuition, graduate stipends or to project funds?

Richard Cate: It has helped with the stipends but it's more about the project costs, but there are more opportunities to be recognized.

Vote to Reinstate the Rules (2:28.50) - passes

Committee Reports

Finance (2:29.03):

Chair Mallea: Ok, so hopefully the PowerPoint tonight cleared up a lot of things regarding the supplemental process. If you have individual questions, please feel free to contact myself or Treasurer Salsgiver. In regards to this week, it was a pretty relaxed, we had about 9 gas requests and 4 supplemental request, none of which were over \$2000 therefore we didn't have to bring it before you guys. Executive stipend committee is meeting on Friday at 5 pm. I'm looking to get Gormley, however if can't reserve it, it's just going to be in lounge area. That's all.

Student Activities (2:29.58):

Chair Adams: Hi friends. Sorry I wasn't here last week, I had to step out. If you had any questions about my email, please ask me at the end of this report. Thanks for recognizing

Badminton. It was a long time coming and they will do great things, I'm sure. We're working on finalizing the club points criteria. Hopefully we'll have a draft for you guys to look at for next week during an extended PowerPoint type report. Other things we're looking at, we're looking to club sports and clubs sports medicine provided to clubs sports. So Zach and one other member of my committee will be working on that. We are looking into new club process, so what happens after they get recognized, how much time do they have to get put on lynx, to get their source numbers, to sign all those types of things. That will have to be an amendment to the by-laws of the constitution so Senator Lederer-Plaskett is working on that. Winter Activities will be the first week we're back in school and myself and Senator Yeager are taking the lead for that. If you have any questions about those specific things, please feel free to ask. With the issue Kofi touched upon with the gym, and if we build this new sports complex, I would love to see us consider clubs, particularly club sports, in designing that. Because right now most clubs sports have to go off site to practice which isn't cool. That concludes my report.

COLA (2:32.01):

Chair Morgan: Veteran's Day Celebration on Thursday, 9am-11am. Be there, it will be totally awesome. It either could be COLA's defining moment or COLA's greatest downfall. I would like to thank PR for making the sweet programs that we have and I would like to thank everyone who is going to me letters. Student Neighborhood Initiative Grant is due next Friday the 19th. They are on going. Panelists. Anyone, I passed this sheet out earlier and we have like 2 people signed up. Off-campus living workshops are going on and tomorrow there is one from 5:30-8:30. If you want to be an panelists, please shoot Gail Shampnois or Alicia Taylor and just Greg you were one and Amanda, you were one. You just talk about your experiences and shed light on what you've been through to other students. It's not taxing at all. I'd do it but I don't live off campus. So I can't do it, unless I lie to them and tell them I was. Community coalition is on Friday, 2-4pm, Pearl house. It would be cool if some people went. That's pretty much all I've got.

Open the Floor for Questions (2:33.29)

Speaker Chevrier: Do they still need people for tomorrow's off-campus living workshop, do you know?

Chair Adams: Point of Information: Senator Alleger is currently the only person signed up and they try to have 3 people, so 2 more would be ideal.

Senator O'Brien: If you are desperate can you take someone who has lived off campus for 4 months, is that ok?

Chair Morgan: I believe your experience has been subletting, so I'm not sure if that can shed light onto entering into a lease, so in that regards no.

CODEEE (2:34.20):

Chair Herman: Alright. We're still working a lot on retention. Some things that are happening right now, we are working to work closely with professor, a statistics professor, or a gentleman from the library that is supposed to be good at statistics to analyze the data we currently have. We are also going to get the retention, not the current rates that we have but, but the retention and graduation rates from the different colleges at UVM. Another thing that we're doing is getting that same data that we don't currently have from comparable institutions like SUNY Binghamton and the University of New Hampshire and some other institutions to compare where UVM stands and compares when it comes to those types of numbers. Another component that was added on was possibly looking at the LGBT students and what those numbers look like and it's a bit more challenging seeing as how there's not on applications to check off your sexual orientation so it's going to be a little more challenging to get those numbers. We still are meeting with the director of operations of the Davis Center to talk about compost and recycling. That meeting should be happening next week, but it got postponed because everyone couldn't meet. After speaking with President Maciewicz, CODEEE will be working on Red Cross policies and looking at further

research into that as far as their current policy about gay men and how they can't take blood, for whatever reason, so that's something that will start to work on. Just to let everyone know that there is a meeting regarding the resolution next Wednesday the 17th in John Porter's office. So, there are follow-ups regarding that. One last thing before I yield the floor is composting resolution. Ever since Speaker Chevrier emailed out the composting resolution I've been getting back great feedback from people and it's been helping out a lot. I will keep you posted on the various meetings that happen regarding that.

Senator Vitagliano: Good evening, just an update from the resolution that I passed regarding Chris Armstrong. The update is that Andrew Shirvell has been fired as Lieutenant Attorney General.

Senator Benes: Hey everybody. I just wanted to kind of throw this idea out there. So, just kind of, I had this idea for quite a while and I'm going to be leaving senate at the end of the month, I'm sorry. This is one of my last big goals, and I hope that some of you might think this is kind of cool. If you have any passion for this, but I was thinking of bringing every group together around campus who wants to change campus in some way. Kind of clubs, individuals, kind of create a collaborative campus conference in that all these clubs and organizations could come together share ideas and see where they wanted to go and kind of look at the student vision. See if they agree with the Student Vision and what they want to change and kind of just form connections. If anyone is interested please start talking to me, I'm going to be kind of getting the idea out.

Student Action (2:39.05):

Chair Simmons: Hello everyone. Sick. So we finished our bottled water boycott ban and want all of you to be part of it and join in the fun. So there are a couple things that are happening. On Friday, we're tabling from 10-5. Yay. We'll all be there for different parts of the time and we'd love to see you. We'll be by Brennan's in the Davis Center. It is Online in the lynx. It is signable online. I like that. So, the petition includes a couple quick facts about bottled water, why love it or don't love it. Excuse me, it starts with UVM's vision statement, a little smigen about what they envision their relationship with the environment is going to be. Then it goes into facts then it goes into these facts and the vision piece that you just saw are contradictory, therefore, water bottles should not be sold at the university anymore. And then a personal piece at the bottom just like, voila, I pledge to cease my consumption of bottled water, there is a spot to sign it. We are hoping to work with PR to have it in the offices so people can come to the offices and sign here. We are hoping to get out as much as we can and tabling ourselves, we can be talking to people while we're there and getting their signatures on it and then finally, it can be signed online so it's kind of like you read the thing and by checking this box it's signing my name in the lynx under my name and I am effectively recording my online signature for this petition. So that's wonderful. We're having a meeting tomorrow, we're going to be talking about different things and different goals we want to achieve. It's kind of a twofold thing, one by influencing people's behavior by putting a notice on them and a put their mouths were our petition is and then put their actions where their mouths are. Yes. And then the other for influencing people's behavior and then to have a whole set of names for the administration to go along with the whole Coke contract thing because it's very much a part of it, but we thought that bottled water was something we can focus on right now. So that's what we're doing. Yay. I will send out a copy to entire senate listserv, I'm sorry for not already doing that, we did it just before I left for senate. Student vision, I emailed chunks of the student vision to 12 different student leaders, this was a recommendation from Pat to go into the student vision and pick out specific parts that relate to different clubs on campus and then email those parts to clubs and say what do you want and I did that today and I already got some great feedback from I forget who, it's just wonderful. And thus concludes my report.

Open the Floor for Questions (2:42.23)

Chair Mallea: Hi, thank you for your report. I was wondering if next week you can give me an update on the tix-me-off.

Chair Simmons: Yeah, I'd love to. I've gotten like, I think, 4 or 5. I love getting tix-me-offs, they are probably my favorite emails to get. I can do a quickie off the top of my head. So there was a saga where this kid, this kid was so upset about chalk in the gym because he's getting big, and he's lifting weights, and he needs chalk. I don't know. Gloves don't cut it for him, he wanted the chalk to chalk up his hands when he lifts weights. I don't know what it was. He sent, like, an essay, several pages long. He cited a specific author quoting the benefits of chalk in weightlifting and why the other options were not sufficient. That was wonderful. I happen to know the director of campus rec, Greg Bates, the guy that was sending us an email about priority registration, cuz worked intramurals since I was a freshman, so I talked to him personally, and I don't know. Greg did a great job of addressing the student's concerns and it wasn't going to go anywhere, no one's allowed to use chalk, it's kind of a disaster. Another one was from Speaker Chevrier about the formatting of documents in the library and how she was getting points taken off on her assignment she was giving in because they weren't formatting it right and when she went to print it wasn't formatting right.

Speaker Chevrier: Point of Information: The computers that you can print off of in the library went from using Word to Open Mac, for a period of time, and Open Mac is the free version of Word so it completely changes if you did it in double space in 1 inch margins and going after the MLA style, it would change to 1.5 inch margins and change the font size so what you turned in looks like crap and then I a point because it wasn't MLA style.

Chair Simmons: I didn't take much action on that, I must confess. Another one was over the summer, actually, which was really exciting. It was a kid who was so upset about the algae growing in our fountain in the Central Green. He was so upset, like I could feel the sweat dripping from his forehead as he typed it. Just like, this isn't how we should be representing our university, this is supposed to be a beautiful centerpiece here. Here I am thinking we study like, eco stuff, whatever, that's just life blooming in the fountain. So I didn't do anything about that but I think after talking to you guys today that's just letting the fountain grow. I can't remember the other one. That's a good point, I don't really know what to do about these tix-me-offs. I guess, they are from the student body so are you guys, and I guess I should be addressing the concerns of the interested parties. Withhold my stipend alright?

Speaker Chevrier: I had a question about whether the water bottle ban include vitamin water. And also as a follow up to tix-me-offs from last year, I know the previous Chair Wilkinson-Ray had received a lot of stuff about the library not being open and how you can see yourself contracting disease as you type on those raunchy keyboards. I know that he had had a lot of discussion with various people regarding that and he was making headway and then it was summer.

Chair Simmons: Cool. This is actually something that Senator White has talked about too that we would love to look into as a committee. If there was a theme, obviously, then that would be a great indicator of something that I could work on, that we can work on as a loving family. I see it as including it, it's D's favorite drink, so we gotta be respectful, he's part of the loving family of student action. I don't see it as being the same and being under the ban because you can't already get it for free in the water fountain. I would say that contrary to people who drink Fiji water, what they say, I think that bottled water that is supposed to be h2o comes out of our water fountains and I think we are blessed to have that kind of water facilities so I think that's why.

Senator Fitzgerald: I was wondering if you guys were planning on tabling any other times than this Friday?

Senator White: It turns out getting a space in the Davis Center Atrium is really ridiculously full already. Friday, 10-5. For some reason, I signed up for Monday but it gave me November 22, which I think is Thanksgiving, so I don't know why I would be tabling then. I'm going to sign us up for all sorts of times after the break like twice a week and we'll be there. We'll be there.

Senator O'Brien: I was just wondering if you could fill in the senate body about the student athletic advisory council proposal to play a dodge ball game against the senate body.

Chair Simmons: The Athletic Advisory Council that came in, and we were really, really kind to, they want to play us in a game of dodge ball. We think it might be a hoax and we they might want to unleash on us somewhere. Fine Kofi, I'll yield to you.

President Mensah: it is not a hoax. Some of the members of the Student Athletes Advisory Council approached me to see if we could do a dodge ball game against them, having 10 senators whether it's all comprised not of exec but of senate as a whole because they would like us to come and interact with them in the field outside of senate because of our great experience we had with them the last time. They want to invite us, I think it's a great thing, if you are that worried about getting pelted with a bloody dodge ball, relax, I mean there's 42 of us. As of now, I'm still in communication with them, as of now, the date they had invited us for it two weeks Tuesday from now, but as you all know at Tuesday at 7:00 we're here. So, currently as it stands, we can't even make the time we have scheduled for the dodge ball game. I'm actually happy that Whitney you asked this because there was a change in the date, I wasn't going to bring it up until the date was set, but is there interest for senators to play a dodge ball game? I will bring more information back as to whether or not the date will be changed so we can make a dodge ball game. I think it will be fun.

Elections

Chair O'Brien: Hi again. Yeah, as David covered there is a 90% chance there will be midterm elections, but there might be a 100% chance because appointments may or may not fulfill all of the positions by the time for applications, so we'll find out in the next few weeks, which is really exciting. According to the operational documents, we are going to have to have a midterm election two weeks before the term ends if we have 4 seats available. So that's a little Election's Committee update to pass around. I talked to most of the Election Committee members and we're talking about wiping the committee clean and to let me know if you are interested in rejoining it, but I want, there are three open seats two senators and myself from PR and three member of the committee and there can't be two senators from one committee. We really want engaging and excited energetic senators who are looking to overview the elections process. And, if you are interested then let me know before. That's what I am really hoping for are people who are really excited about the process. So, basically that just covers it. Just contact me, again there are 3 open committee positions and I will be having more updates once we have confirmation of a midterm elections, we're looking, if we do it looks like it will be towards the end of January, probably the 25th or 26th, around that week. So I have my email on this page. The top part here is the constitutional duty of the Elections Committee and the bottom is the operational document about what we do, specifically to the midterm elections. So if you're interested please let me know and it's going to be awesome.

Open the Floor for Questions

Chair Adams: Are you looking for Senators that aren't running again this spring to be on Elections?

Chair O'Brien: Well, the thing is, no one on senate is going to be running for midterm elections because we're already on so we're pretty sure that, for example, I ran on midterm elections last year and Senator Filstein and Senator Giselle and lots of people. So, and then we had to run again for spring elections so it doesn't matter.

Chair Adams: So, the elections committee is changing, it's getting a new committee for midterm and then another new committee for spring and presidential?

Chair O'Brien: We may not get a whole new committee for the midterm elections. If I find that people want to rejoin it and be the same then that's the way it is. I'm just hoping that, personally, that we may have a member or two who are really busy and are only there because they have to be. So we may end up getting two different Elections Committees and people who are engaged in it because if they're not there in mind and body then I don't think it's beneficial to the committee or the senate body as a whole.

Public Relations (2:55.23):

Chair Monteforte: First off, there is no note passing in Public Forum so a lot of you were breaking the rule. Lies. I guess I'll give my report now. PR, who's excited? The color of the screen is messed up it's annoying. So we're working on VSOP, and the status of this is VSOP, ok I'll talk normally now. Pretty much VSOP is going out Thursday, hopefully. We are Student Voice, which is the company that owns the Lynx to distribute this survey. It's focused on coca-cola and one questions about water bottles. It's going out to 2,500 random undergrads, as I said before, and I'm kind of hesitant to advertise VSOP per se because some kids may say 'why didn't I get it?' so that's something we're kind of struggling with. Just kind of let people know what VSOP is and eventually they will get a chance to take it because it will be just randomized students that are going to go through so everyone will take the poll at lest once during the year, does that make sense to everyone? So that's the status with that, it should be going live at midnight on Thursday. I believe it's going to close Saturday in 2 weeks. There's going to be 2 reminders set up. The reminders are going to go to all students who have not taken it. That's kind of a cool feature. I will hopefully have results for you after break, so that's great. SGA at Brennan's, I guess UVMtv said they were coming to public forum but then they did not.

Speaker Chevrier: Point of Information: They said they were coming next week.

Chair Monteforte: We were talking about revamping SGA at Brennan's with some new ideas but I will just save that for next week so we don't have to talk about that now. Our new PR liaison just to make Amanda Adams happy. I'm going to yield the floor to Senator O'Brien.

Senator O'Brien: So requesting executive members from the executive committee to be sending their committee meetings and times and locations so that PR reps, multiple of us, can go to committee meetings and we came up with this initiative to increase intra-senate communications. It's something for everyone talking to Chairs saying what is each senator working on? I have absolutely no idea so that indicates something about intercommunication and there is not enough of it and I think definitely as PR is charged with, and all of us as well, to really advertise our knowledge about future SGA initiatives that are going on. We might delegate different senators but we only want to commit ourselves to one specific committee meeting so expect to see us. That's actually going to be starting up tomorrow with our first meeting with Student Action so we're pretty excited about that. A really cool thing about that is each different initiative within a committee has their own special way of creative ways of engaging the student body whether that be a water bottle ban and a petition. It's going to be much different than advertising the Student Initiative Grant with COLA. Just getting into know more about initiatives.

Chair Monteforte: Yay so that's exciting. This kind of stemmed too how when I talk to *The Cynic* and they ask questions and I say I don't know and then Asher and Filstein usually fill me in which is great and I will actually know what's going on in your committees, so that's great. Fasten your seatbelts do a ch ch. So, PR is looking into some stuff and this is what we are doing as a committee. We have purchased a TV. So if you let me talk, this is what PR is doing now. The current TV is staying in the lounge. PR requested funds to do a media project that we are talking about right now. We have recently purchased a 32" TV which will be installed in the SGA office on Thursday morning on the wall where the middle bulletin board is going. That's going to be there. It's going to be hooked to cable and the UVMtv network and this is going to be an option for us to stream announcements, events going on, agendas, galaxy space, club information, a lot of stuff. So we're really excited about it and we hope that people will eventually like it. We also bought a digital frame, Jess actually asked about this or as Kofi says axed. We axed Jess. We

purchased a 7-inch digital frame that's going to basically the same information that's on the TV at the front desk. So while people are standing there waiting for Jess they can see what's going on too. So that is another thing, it was only like 40 bucks, so that was cheap. Also, another thing, we're getting a video camera, just a little pocket one, so we plan to record little events in meetings, like public forum with Richard Cate or if something else is going on, so that we can upload directly to facebook so people can see immediately what we're doing and then maybe this can develop into a little UVM SGA YouTube page. We are also looking into having interviews with Kofi or something like that or just making little movie announcements to post on facebook because we think we can engage in a different way instead of reading long things just having a cool quick video to show them. That's our media project that we are working on now.

Open the Floor for Questions (3:02.17)

Senator Tran: Did you ever send out the VSOP questions and if not can we get them because I would like to know what they were.

Chair Monteforte: I guess I didn't send out VSOP questions, which I asked for VSOP question so that's that. I guess I didn't ask senate for them precisely which I will fix next time. I really don't want to send them out now because if you have problems with them I can't really do anything about it. I guess next time I will ask more.

Senator Vitagliano: This question is more towards chair/senator O'Brien. It may be, I'm just trying to wrap my mind around having a member of PR in the committee meetings seeing how chairs already report what they do during their committee reports, as well as just simply asking someone on the committee about an update rather than kind of, because I know that everyone is busy on the PR committee and to go above and beyond by spending another hour in the committee meeting, just to save time.

Senator O'Brien: I definitely know where you are coming from and we definitely have those kind of logistics to work out because it's a new initiative. Whoever can't attend a certain meeting, definitely because we are all busy, and we all have lives and it will depend on what we need and if not we'll cancel this initiative. I really think that talking to just chairs is really limiting. I hear some reports saying we're working on this, which is fine with the reports the way they are, these are conversations and these are the outcomes and these are the decisions we have and I don't think there is a ton of information disseminating in the committee reports. I also gave that example of what their committee initiatives are and as an individual senator. I also think it's kind of limiting and I just want to emphasize in the beginning is if we internal logistics issues than we can cancel the initiative. I definitely think that as senators charged with talking to students and distributing information and even posting things on facebook, we don't know what we're talking or understand how we're doing our just and I think it's a new way to get ourselves out there and to know what's really going on because I would think that every chair knows every single initiative as well.

Senator Lovell: With regards to the TV and the picture frame, it seems to me that there are two directions in the SGA office where one can sit without seeing SGA information streaming on a TV. What is PR doing to fix this situation? It seems that with the relation of you having the TV and the picture frame there are two possible directions towards the back of the room and at the wall that people will not see streaming SGA information. Will you be doing something to fix this?

Chair Monteforte: I will go around with a gavel and bash people on the head if they're not looking.

Senator O'Brien: I think as far as what Jess said about the digital picture frame is that when people are sitting around waiting to talk to her they can be looking at the picture frame waiting

for information they can say, oh there's the information I need, I can just leave. If they are in there to talk to Jess they are going to be looking at the digital picture frame hopefully.

Speaker Chevrier: Is the TV going to be streaming sound because this is a workplace so I don't know how effective it would be to put in a TV where people are trying to work?

Chair Monteforte: It obviously can have sound but we're not going to have sound on unless there is a special event we want to show.

Senator Filstein: I might not be wanting to open this can of worms right now but I guess this might be better addressed to the Chair of Finance. Can you explain the process, how much money was requested for these TVs, the process by which they were acquired, so on and so forth.

Chair Monteforte: Basically, for the capital request process, I went onto the Lynx at www.uvm.edu/clubs and I clicked on Finance and I clicked on capital requests and I wrote a report about what we wanted and how we wanted to do what we go with that money. I requested \$600, which I budgeted for the TV and the frame, the camera and some left over for installation and shipping costs. Then finance talked about the project and I guess I will yield the floor to Chair Mallea.

Chair Mallea: So PR came in as any committee can because every single committee has a budget and you are eligible to come in for supplemental funding, fun fact if you didn't know. They requested, they provided a breakdown of costs for both the camera, the TV and the digital picture frame. As Chair Monteforte made reference to, the request was for \$600 and they were given the \$600. I might yield the floor to Treasurer Salsgiver to explain why eligible for this funding because I feel like she has a better answer than I do.

Treasurer Salsgiver: So we talked about this a lot and I talked to Blanka about this. A lot of people came up to me and asked me why PR would be eligible for something like this and it's something that they thought was worth the money and was worth its value and you have to think of them as we think of a club. Like, when Figure Skating came to you and asked for \$2300 for their Celine Dion costumes, we might not understand it but we allocate the money to them because it's important to them. We had to think of the PR committee as the same, not totally comparable but you have to think of them as a club and something that is going to benefit them and benefit the space. Blanka and Jess both thought it was a good idea. I usually trust Blanka's instincts, she knows the policies better than anyone else does.

Chair Mallea: I would just like to add before I yield the floor back to Chair Monteforte. As a Finance Committee, we are supposed to look at requests objectively. We do not have the privilege to sit in on every single club meetings where they discuss what they are going to allocate for, what they are going to request money for. It was kind of an awkward situation that I was put in as has been the conversation with SGA exec over the last month versus my role as the Chair of the Finance Committee knowing conversations in exec in regards to TV. However, we couldn't take those into consideration because we have to allocate on a fair and equitable basis without any prior knowledge as to how the club came to request this money. You can see my dilemma and I hope you support what the Finance Committee's decision was.

Chair Monteforte: That's what happened. Thanks Alex.

Senator Sadeghi: Quick question. Is this a feel good item or is it actually PR? The television, the frame, it's all in the SGA office we're SGA. The Students that are actually going to need the information or looking for the information. Let me rephrase. People that are already in the SGA office know who to talk to. What's the point of having the TV or having the frame? Can we get the TV somewhere else in the Davis Center with the same message?

Chair Monteforte: I'm going to say no. We thought about this a lot and talked to Kofi about this a lot. It's not the fact that this is the best way in the entire world to capture how to convey information to students, we just looked at it as one of the ways we can do our job. PR is being restructured we are having different people being assigned to different things. One person is going to be doing television media. We are going to be utilizing the TVs in the Davis Center more and there is really no difference from moving the TV from where we are already utilizing the TV. So, we just took that into account saying having the TV in the office is not going to help everyone, but it is going to help in the long run more. We hope to put information up there that not only use senators can use but other students can use because not every that comes in that office knows what's going on, where everything is, and what to do. So having the galaxy map up there, having pictures of senators, their emails and stuff, it's a tool for us to see what legislation is going on. SGA matters can be displayed there. It also can be useful for clubs in that office saying, oh the Finance Office is over there. It's just being used as a tool to help us do our job, it's not the be all end all of what we do.

Senator Lovell: Point of Information: In my office hours I have yet to have anyone come ask me about finance, but I have given quite a few people directions telling them where to go in the office to get the information they want.

Chair Adams: Point of Information: We have access to all of the flat screens in the Davis Center and according to Kate Strotmeyer we haven't requested to use any of them.

Academic Affairs (3:13.40)

Chair Nelson: What did we do in Academic Affairs this week? We met with Greg Bates, the director of rec management. We've got a lot of stuff coming back about priority registration and that's what he came concerned about because he was worried about the trickle down effect of changing from uber priority registration to in class registration that would affect all athletes because of the space issue. The way that I have started to respond to these is to direct their comments towards Chris Lucier who is going to have the end decision on the matter. We met with David Shiman the President of the Faculty Union, and we got to go over syllabi stuff with him. Senator Simmons came, and Senator Lober came, it was great we had coffee. We got to collaborate together on our vision for enhanced course information and get ourselves on the same page and I was really impressed with how much he listened to us when he came to Senate to speak several weeks ago. He drafted up what he was envisioning that he did want and he was really right on. We encouraged him to move forward with it, he's bringing the proposal to his executive committee and then to another committee. It's moving through the faculty union right now, basically, and then he's keeping me updated on the progress of that, so that was good. Just a comment too, this was talked about during Lober's resolution that came up. Evaluations, just to reiterate, they are nailed to the floor according to anyone that you talk to. Even the professors that are ok with evaluations, which seem to be the professors who are really confident in their teaching, they don't see this going anywhere. So I am so happy, so proud, that you guys passed a resolution and that Lober wrote a resolution with Filstein to really make progress on this. I also wanted to say thank you to Senate, when I was sitting listening to the conversation that was happening during the Resolution for Course Evaluations, I thought that it was a very good debate, very civilized, and a lot of good points were brought up, and there was very little redundancy, which doesn't happen very often, so thank you. I thought it was a very good conversation and fast, which was great. Ok, other things, Faculty Senate met on Monday, which was yesterday. One of the big issues that came up was the academic calendar. That issue is being opened up to start making decisions about what the academic calendar will look like for the 2011-2012 school year. It has a lot to do with the exam schedule and the issues that have been coming up with Saturday exams and what that means. So, we will be looking into that. Another thing, Curricular Affairs is on Thursday from 4-6, and this is where we will be presenting, Curricular Affairs is a part of Faculty Senate, it's like the AA of Faculty Senate. Todd and other people from AA, if we can find the right schedule time, will be presenting to Faculty Senate our vision for enhanced course information just to kind of get the faculty sponsorship of having syllabi and enhanced

course information. So we're really excited for that. We're doing a lot of collaborating with all of the parties involved in syllabi.

Open the Floor for Questions (3:18.15)

Senator Vitagliano: I have a question about the, kind of a point of clarification, is the resolution for the California thing being tabled for next week?

Chair Nelson: It is being tabled for next week. I can yield the floor to Lober.

Senator Lober: Thank you. I think after sending it out I heard a little bit of feedback and I realized I kind of misrepresented my intention. I kind of expect to table it indefinitely. I think that I am personally still interested in trying to get someone from the University of California to come to speak to the student body here. But I think it's something that AA might take an issue on unless I hear back from people in SGA saying they really want to be a part of getting a representative.

Senator Vitagliano: With that, can you maybe just give a little information on the premise of how that that resolution arose?

Senator Lober: I think that for the most part just, I come from southern California, it's a long history but when I was leaving the state was having budgetary problems, they couldn't provide a budget. They had to go past the deadline they were expecting to finish the budget and in the end they had huge shortfalls and cut a lot of funding going to the educational system throughout California. For example, when I was a senior in high school they handed out tons of pink slips to teachers for non-renewals. And then as a result there were 30% tuition fee increases throughout the UC system, which was pretty unprecedented in the UC system because it was founded on the premise that it would be a tuition free university system and as a result there were tons of protests across the campus. They just released yesterday some numbers saying that there would likely be an 8% tuition increase this year. There are still a lot of conflicts, graduate students just organized and started a strike and I was interested in hearing more about the organizing strategies.

Senator Filstein: Basically, as probably some of you or most of you know, there is a huge crisis going on in public education and California has gotten it the worst, they've had a lot of student organizing protests over the whole state. Basically they are a model of worst-case scenario at UVM. We had students organizing here two years ago when teachers were getting laid off. It was successful not really, for the most part, not really the most successful. So having them as like a big sister school we can learn basically, and have them as a model to learn from their mistakes what can we do here to improve our student action, basically, and that was pretty much the premise of the bill, just trying to foster communication. Get some of their senators here, have us go there maybe.

Senatorial Forum (3:21.45)

Speaker Chevrier: A few things. One, I know this sounds silly, but last year I volunteered to give out the scarves at a hockey game because I thought it would be a lot of fun and I legitimately said no to little kids for hours and I felt shitty afterwards. The person I was with, Chair Cafarelli, he totally loved saying no to kids. I'm being completely sincere. I would really suggest that you only volunteer if you think that you will like saying no to lots of kids. Also, I feel like a lot of things are being unsaid and there is a lot of presuppositions that people know the background of a story and I'm assuming that a lot of people don't, but what goes on in exec, technically it's really open, anyone can sit in on an executive meeting unless we go into executive session which we haven't this entire year. The issue about the TV was originally brought up and I believe Chair Monteforte's idea but it was brought up by President Mensah to move the TV that is in the galaxy space somewhere else. Exec voted not once but twice to say, no, we weren't in favor of that. Exec gave a plethora of other suggestions and examples. We suggested that maybe we use

the TVs that were already available to us, we suggested that if we do get a TV we put it outside the SGA office because as Senator Sadeghi suggested, the people who are already in the offices are already privy to a lot of the information we would be spewing out on the television. We said no like 90 different times and I started to get very frustrated that it was being brought up every week and we had already previously shut it down. I'm assuming that the next thing that happened after exec wholeheartedly said we don't want this was that PR went ahead and did it, which is fine, but I have a few questions, maybe Chair Mallea or Treasurer Salsgiver could answer. It did come out of capitol funding, is that not correct? So that is directly from clubs because clubs have access to capital funding which is normally depleted at the end of the year and we as SGA asked for something from capital funding. I question, I know that I'm pretty sure it was the Step Team that asked for money for something that it really wanted to do as a club but was not necessarily not necessary and I feel like that's the same thing. It would be really cool if every senators could get an iPad, but it's not necessary. We could do our jobs without it and I really think that's a terribly use of money. I know it might sound silly to allocate money for uniforms, for Celine Dion, but the Figure Skating team needed that to be able to compete and to be able be on par with other similar figure skating clubs. We do not need this. We don't use the very similar items that are already available to us. I'm just really frustrated that we chose to go this route, and not to take it from internal funding, not to take it from the President's Discretionary Fund, it didn't come from the money that we save from the telephones, it came from somewhere that clubs tap into and we now took money out of things that we totally think are cool but not necessary.

Senator White: Three quick things. Thank you to everybody who gave your opinion or helped out on the water bottle ban. It's so nice to see some sort of result to months of work. Number 2. And I'd like to preface this with this some of our best work this year has come out of appointed senators, but, I would like to bring up the discussion of maybe having appointed senators run it the midterms, and I'll tell you why. If 5 senators are appointed, that's more than 10% of our body is unelected. I think that we all got elected to come here so I just want to take into consideration maybe having people who were appointed in the middle of the term, because it is important to have a full body, to have them all run in the midterms. Number 3. In response to Claire's statement. Reporting stuff from exec in the constitution is the President's responsibility and I brought that up before with you face to face, but I wanted to send that out there that it is explicit that it's the president's responsibility. Sweet.

Chair Adams: Point of Information: Colin Riggs got elected in the spring with 9 votes and I believe the appointments committee has 8 people on it.

Senator White: A vote is a vote.

Senator Allegor: So the meeting that presentation I'll be giving on Thursday to Curricular Affairs discussed what we said to the body that we'd love to invite anyone who is interested in participating in that. Let me know and I'll be glad to take somebody. We will be going down, the meeting starts around 4 but I don't go on the agenda until about 4:20 or so. If you want to get down, we'll do that thing if you're interested.

Speaker Chevrier: I just wanted to give Treasurer Salsgiver the opportunity.

Chair Mallea: It's hard because I asked to be on senatorial forum a really long time ago. It's hard because I raise my hand and you can't see me. A couple things. First off, I originally wanted to be on Senatorial Forum because a couple weeks ago when Speaker Chevrier gave her presentation about senators doing their due diligence, and this should be your first non-academic priority out of academics. I've seen senate do a really good job. However, I would just like to recognize the efforts that I personally have seen being on this body my first year, my second year and now for my fourth year at UVM. The effort of the Academic Affairs committee, specifically Senator Lober and Senator Filstein are phenomenal. I really can't even begin to express the amount of work and time that they put in. Bringing in Richard Cate and bringing up emergency business and really doing your due diligence as senators. We really do appreciate it and you make

this body something that the university values. Congratulations. Secondly, I would like to respond to Speaker Chevrier's comments in regards to the TV and the allocation and kind of give you where I stood as being the person that is supposed to bring this request forth to the committee and but also having previous experience with conversations within exec. Personally, I felt like I was being torn two separate ways, ask anyone in my committee, I will validate that the exec committee gave suggestions, we voted every single week, use different resources, talk to different people and it was never done and that was very, very frustrating. I was somebody in that meeting that was very frustrated. So going from having frustrations about seeing nothing done and the conversation being drawn out week after week and then being given the decision, just here, decide this for us, knowing that I couldn't take any considerations of previous conversations into account, I don't think was really fair. I made the decision and it's not easy being a chair sometimes, sometimes you are put in that situation. I made the decision to the best of my ability. I consulted with the committee, I consulted with Treasurer Salsgiver, and I consulted with Blanka. And I really hope that you were appointed or elected to this body as a Finance Committee to make these financial decisions on behalf of the body and I hope that you trust our decisions in the long run.

Senator Filstein: I have a question for David I probably should have asked you this during your report. What are we planning to do going forward with provost recommendations, I know there are a couple different options for how we can pursue making our recommendation and I guess I'm opening this up to the whole senate as well, how you think we should best move forward on making our recommendation?

Vice President Maciewicz: Anyone can make a recommendation on the website. Those of us who sat in on the interviews will decide after tomorrow if we want to write one collectively. If you have a preference you can go to the President's office website and go under provost search and any student or faculty member can submit one. We can talk about issuing one from those of us who actually interviewed them tomorrow after the meeting.

Treasurer Salsgiver: I just give some points of clarification. The money for the TV is actually coming out of the Davis Student Center fund, not out of supplemental money, but even if it had, that money is also for committees and you are all welcome to apply for it and I don't want you guys to hear certain comments and think that you aren't able to apply for that because it's also for you and for improvements for the space. I know that President Mensah did talk to people in the Davis Center and they did look for other possible avenues and I think those options are still open and they're being explored to use TVs in the Davis Center. This was just an additional thing to add a new dynamic to the SGA space. I think people need to be open minded about that, that it's just another avenue. There are other avenues too but this is just one. The comment about the Step Team. The Step Team asked for money for a retreat to go bowling. Again, that's something that their team wanted but every other club has to fundraise for themselves.

Chair Adams: Cool, I want to say going off or what Senator Filstein was talking about with the Provost search, I think this is something that we as a body should take a stand on and make a recommendation on, and I don't know, time wise, if it's possible for us to discuss it and/or write a resolution but, I would love to hear us discuss the candidates more after their interview.

President Mensah: Thank you. I actually sent an email about this late last week about process after the interviews in which students could submit their individual recommendations online as well as if the possibility Garr Derr opened up for a letter to come from me from the body to the Provost Search Committee Chair as to which candidate we are in favor of. In terms of a resolution, we would be under extremely tight time constraints, potentially an emergency senate meeting would have to be called because all recommendations are due by this Friday which means that letter is going to have to be drafted and turned given in to the search committee by this Friday.

Chair Adams: I think if it has to be a letter then we should find a time for as many people as possible to get together and talk about the provost.

Senator Lober: I would just say the general search committee doesn't have to submit a recommendation until the 19th, so we would still have the opportunity, there is no jurisdiction saying we couldn't pass a resolution if we wanted to. We could certainly get a resolution out there by the 19th before the committee makes its decision, that's not too time sensitive.

Chair Herman: I have an inquiry for Treasurer Salsgiver. You said that clubs needed to fundraise for retreats so what does SGA use for their retreats?

Treasurer Salsgiver: That is actually a point that was brought up. You guys voted for the SGA to have an internal budget for your retreat so that was previously voted on and budgeted separately from supplemental funds. I know when that came up we talked to the club signers from Urban Flavor. It's definitely a legitimate thing, maybe SGA should have to fundraise for their own retreat. As it stands the retreat is within the internal budget and it's not in supplemental funding which is what Urban Flavor applied for.

Speaker Chevrier: I just want to point out that I was wrong. I asked a whole bunch of people from this body and the finance committee as to where money was coming from and they told me that it was capital funding which is the same thing as clubs, so that does change how I feel a tiny bit. As far as the President's duty to talk about what happened at exec, that's a duty that the president is supposed to do but in the constitution it does not at all say that anybody else does not have that ability or shouldn't. I do think it's the duty of everyone who sits in exec if they don't feel that everything that has been discussed has not adequately been articulated to the whole body.

Senator Lober: I'm still trying to compose this, it seems like if we are interested in having just the group that's meeting with the Provost write a letter, if that's still on the table, if that is still on the table, even though it sounds like it's not, I encourage that we make a decision about whether or not we are going to send a letter before we have the next interview. Personally, I oppose the interviews, let people get a sense of where the group that is doing the interview is headed and what candidate they might be endorsing and then decide whether or not we are going to send a recommendation because I think that some people not wanting to endorse a candidate they do not support. That recommendation is if we are going to go through with letter whoever is meeting should meet this evening and make a decision about that.

Chair Monteforte: I invite other chairs to tell their committees what happened in exec, that's what I do, I find that effective. That's just another way for people to know what's going on in exec.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements (3:38.19)

Chair Mallea: The second information session is going on this Thursday in this ballroom for the Board of Trustees selection committee. Any student with 2 years left at UVM is eligible to apply whether that is and undergraduate, graduate or medical student. This position is really important you have a huge voice and a huge opportunity to be a trustee as a student. Definitely spread the word, tell your friends. If you missed the first information session, we had it recorded and you can check it out at the SGA desk so it's not too late to apply.

Chair Adams: There is this cool thing happening Thursday, it's called the Mix, it's with UVM, Champlain and St. Mikes at Higher Ground. It's like a big dance party and it's organized by the campus programs. They have 25 free tickets, which I have been told I could offer to you all, if people are interested in going. It's going to be a lot of fun. The other side is if you give them 3 canned goods you get a free ticket anyway so if you have 3 non-perishable food items that's a

better way to go. If you don't want to hand out scarves or Kofi is inundated with volunteers and would rather sit in Brennan's, we're showing *The Might Ducks* on Friday.

Chair Simmons: Some of you may have walked by the Student Action desk this week and thought to yourself, hey Jesse, did you get a little too into a piece of chocolate cake? or maybe you borrowed Senator Alleger's not beer but tea cozy and got it stuck on your face, or maybe you had some post nasal drip that dried up. But no, it's no shave November. So this pathetic little thing is my pathetic excuse for a moustache after three weeks. It is not bear-vember because that is a terrible bastardization of the word, I am going all out for a moustache by the end of the month and I would like to invite everyone to come with me. Also, Student Prudent Calendar is going on sale this coming Monday, which is also byo day where you don't buy stuff. We need to sell 200 calendars, Bike Users Group, I would really really appreciate if you are going to buy one you buy one from me and if you know anyone who is going to buy one you send them to me or I will loan it to you and you can pay me later. We have 200 to sell which is overwhelming. Me, Senator Alleger, Chair Nelson are all naked in it, so there's a huge incentive to buy it, and Senator White too. He actually got us in to it in the first place. I would really appreciate if you are going to buy it, buy it from us and just to advertise, I couldn't thank you enough.

Senator Filstein: In light of what's been said, if you are planning on going to the Provost interview with Miller tomorrow, stay after so we can figure out our game plan.

Chair Monteforte: I just thought I would share with you, this weekend I was in Connecticut for the National Association for Campus Activities Conference and UVM overall won best week themes and best marketing, so I thought that would be cool to have that recognized.

Senator O'Brien: Does anyone have the election update?

Chair Adams: Sorry, Chair Simmons naked reminded me, the UVMtv dating show auditions are Friday from 12-4. Chair Simmons is going, Chair Nelson is going, Senator Lober is going. A couple of you have already done it, if not I encourage you, it's an awesome experience. Also, I made Senator Lober the Jeremiah Church crunch those numbers memorial award.

Vice President Maciewicz: This Sunday the application for the next step social justice retreat are do. I've heard it's really great, I've been putting off going for the last four years and I finally applied. I urge you to send in an application.

Senator Willis: What is the next step social justice retreat?

Vice President Maciewicz: Student Life puts it on, it's a weekend of deep exploration into social justice like what we did at the retreat but for two days in rural Vermont and it's really pretty. Really great people go and it's facilitated by other students and staff. Check out the website.

Roll Call (3:43.53)

Finance: All Present

Student Activities: Senator Mason, Senator Moise, Senator Lederer-Plaskett, excused

COLA: All Present

CODEEE: Senator Benes, excused

Student Action: All Present

Public Relations: All Present

Academic Affairs: Senator Wilich, excused

Adjournment (3:44.09)

End Time: 10:42pm