



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 2010
SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE 2010-2011 SENATE

Call to Order (0:04.50)

Start Time: 7:03 pm

Roll Call (0:4.57)

Finance: Chair Mallea, Senator Lovell, Excused.

Student Activities: Senator Lederer-Plaskett, excused

COLA: Senator Sadeghi, excused

CODEEE: Senator McLemore, excused

Student Action: All Present

Public Relations: All Present

Academic Affairs: All Present

Approval of the Minutes (0:05.27)

From 11.16.10 - passes

Public Forum (0:05.44)

Dr. Mark Starrett (0:05.57)

Dr. Starrett: Sorry, I just finished teaching a class, apologies for running in late. I understand that the motion tonight on invasive species at UVM and the removal of invasive species from campus and I am very supportive of this measure. I have been here about 14 years and when I first got here, I noticed that there were quite a few invasive species on this campus and definitely something that needs to be dealt with. I just want to start by saying that I'm very supportive of the resolution. One thing I hope that senate would go to the next level on, which has always been the stumbling block for any kind of initiative on this campus, which I'm sure you all know, is the fact that it needs to have some funding behind it. The current grounds division Dr. Rosemarie Leland, she is the director of grounds and again, she has a limited staff. Most people think there is a huge staff on campus that takes care of grounds but in fact she only has 3 full time staff for several 1,000 acres. Having something where you are adding on to the burden of maintaining campus is something that is probably not going to be able to be done without additional resources. A lot of time they do hire people from off campus to support maintenance of the campus, but then again they are not full time workers here on the university property. I know that's not part of the resolution tonight but I hope that's something you will consider in the future is addressing a way to fund this type of initiative, because it won't happen unless you get some funding behind it. Some of your colleagues have already mentioned that I've talked to about the potential of either generating another fund, similar to your Clean Energy Fund that is currently set up, although most of you are like, well, we pay enough, we've got enough fees already, we probably don't need anymore. Another method would then be to take the Clean Energy Fund and reduce that, probably even a dollar would be enough to really provide the funding that's necessary on per student basis to put this project into play. If you don't provide any funding it's not going to happen. As students I'm sure you realize you have tremendous power. The Clean Energy Fund was just a concept a few years ago, I don't know what the actual value of that fund is but I'm sure it's several hundred thousand dollars. That's a tremendous impact. The University, the Board of Trustees, the President, they all take note of that fact. You have a huge amount of power. Your

power though, comes typically in the form of money. A resolution by itself won't get things done. Places also that I see how the Government could work here in this regard is that you could empower other students to do the work. It doesn't need to be outsourced off campus. I have already volunteered that I would be a willing advisor to any students who would like to do an internships to locate and map the existing invasives on campus then come up with a plan for systematic removal and a suitable replacement to put in their places. That's one thing I was pleased to see in the resolution was that it said suitable plants not just natives. You have to remember that we are living here in a university environment where almost all the soil has been brought in from other locations. We've got buildings where there used to be fields and streams and things like that. There is nothing native about this property anymore, so using appropriate plants is the best method. And certainly if natives can be used more power to that as well, but using the appropriate plant for the right location. I'm willing to step up and help with this initiative if funding can be provided from some source that I hope you will recognize in future to substantiate this resolution and then from that we can develop an on site internship program where students, depending on the funding stream, could be responsible for the removal of these plants. Some, certainly, are big and might need outsourcing to do. If you aren't familiar with it, right outside of Royal-Tyler Theater there is a growth of trees that look quite benign but in fact they're something called a Norway Maple. Norway Maple has now been identified as next invasive in Vermont, and it's displacing the Sugar Maple Trees. Guess what? Sugar Maple industry is huge in this state. These plants, once they get out of urban environment and into the rural areas could displace plants that are native here to Vermont and certainly they are valuable economical. A place to start is right outside of Royal Tyler Theater. We got to remember also, that location is very visible. People are just going to see those trees as beautiful trees, why are you cutting these down? So you are going to have to have money for signage to educate the population of campus and off campus why you are doing this and then what is going to be the suitable replacement? Again, it could be Sugar Maples, but it might be some other tree. Those are the kinds of things that need to be discovered and figured out before it's jumped into. Again, you are going to need some faculty help to work with students interns that could do this. It's going to have to happen over a long period of time, this is not something that is going to happen very quickly. If you look in front of Waterman Building, half the plants are invasive plants. There's a good number of invasive plants on the campus green. Most people use the term the Campus Green is the doormat to the university and you don't really want to have a bunch of invasive, weedy, shrubs on your welcome mat. Again, there's lots of very highly visible places where this could be addressed. We need to start with this resolution, which is great, and we need to find some funding. That's all I wanted to say.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:12.23)

Senator Caster: What would be, in your opinion, the projected cost for something like this?

Dr. Starrett: I currently advise Horticulture Clubs interns that maintain the grounds around Stafford, now part of Jeffords. Typically for one student for the summer is in the range of \$3,000-\$4,000.

Senator Bennington: I have two questions. One, do you have any, I know when the state is trying to figure out removal one of the problems they have is prioritizing areas so I'm wondering if you have ideas on how we prioritize. Like, campus green first or do we go after Centennial Wood and the Honeysuckle understory there. And then also, what are your thoughts on the appropriateness of using chemical control, in some instances, for plants that even if we remove might they might resurface and come back up.

Dr. Starrett: I'd start by doing the most visible areas on main camps first, I would say, because that's a good way to educate people as well as alums. We can get a lot of PR developed around that, after you get PR developed you could get a funding stream. There could be people in the wings who are alums that say that has really bothered me all these years that all these invasives exist on campus, and they may be willing to help support a fund like that, so you could have

specific fundraising goals because of that initiative. The Green, Waterman, very prominent locations so they are going to generate a lot of PR, but it could also generate a lot of good education and not just from this body, but campus wide and community wide. So that's what I would say. As far as chemical controls, currently campus doesn't use any chemicals and so I don't know how they could get exceptions for that. The reason why campus can't use chemicals is because they would have to notify all the periphery of the property that they were spraying, even if they were putting a chemical right in front of the oval and it doesn't come close to any private lawns but because this is one large space it's viewed as one big entity so everybody on the periphery of that entity has to be notified. There isn't really a way to do that, so I don't know how you could use chemical control. In some instances it probably would be the best method if you're talking about some of the vines and things in Centennial woods. There it would probably be the most effective but I don't know how you would do it.

Chair Adams: I was wondering if you could maybe sort of give us the spark notes explanation as to why invasive species are particularly bad versus the appropriate species you were talking about.

Dr. Starrett: Again, for the main campus we have here right now, having invasives is not going to be tremendously problematic because for the most part they are not spreading into the outside wild communities because again, the property is so vast that if it's on the green the likelihood of a bird spreading it beyond the periphery of campus main property is relatively limited, but it still has happened and some things have spread into some UVM communities like Centennial Woods and from there it has continued to spread. The main reason I think doing the removal on the center of campus is more educational than it is problematic. It's not causing a huge impact outside of the campus periphery, but again it's educational. What was the other question?

Chair Adams: Just the explanation of the difference between invasives and appropriate plants.

Dr. Starrett: What an invasive plant is a plant that will displace native plants from the eco system so doing so alters the eco system, so these are typically exotic plants that have been brought into the United States from outside of the United States. Therefore, they are not a native plant. If a native plant poses a problem in an area they call it a weed. If an exotic plant is coming in from the outside of the country then it's called an invasive plant. So it's really just displacing native plants and altering the eco system, which can affect wildlife as well as other plants.

Leon Lifschutz, Club Sports Coordinator (0:17.21)

Leon: Hi there. Thank you for having me, twice in a semester, it's an honor. Elizabeth and Alex asked me to come talk a little bit in regards to the fee increase and particularly what that might mean for club sports and as well as what I see for clubs in general. I'll just start with giving you a quick history of club sports in the past little bit. This is my fourth full year here. Since I started which was in 2007 – 2008 we have a lot more participants, about 400 more participants which is a growth of about 32% and 400 is about 4% of your student body so right there it's a pretty significant chunk overall. We have more active groups. The groups we do have are doing more than they used to. On average, they are putting on or going to 3 more events per year. So right there they have increased their activities by about 25% per club. We have lots more who are competing at higher levels. A lot more groups going to regionals, a lot more groups making it to nationals, a lot more leagues forming amongst the club sports so a lot more clubs doing that amongst their activity so they need to travel, they need to get groups places. So things that are immediate needs for us we are really looking at is we'd like to increase our athletic medicine, and again as Dr. Starrett said one of the things that comes along with that is we need money. We are starting to look for different options for and finding out how much it will cost. Eventually what it will come down to is we'll need to find some source of funding. which may or may not be SGA funding but at the end of the day we are going to need to find some money to increase that service for our student athletes. On that note, travel has increased. A hotel in Boston is probably \$15 more a night than it was 4 years ago, so right there even if you are doing the same exact trip it's a

more expensive trip. Your normal things, equipment, fields, marketing, all those things with a bigger base of students participating the costs go up as well. And on that note when you are doing more travelling and need more equipment, the general burden on general students goes up, because if a club hasn't gotten any more funding but they need to send more people then, and I think our club signers will speak a little more to that, then your club needs bigger budget and the burden then on individuals to put time and effort into raising it, or in many cases just paying it out of their pockets which can be a burden as well. That's kind of a club sports perspective or where we are financially. One thing that I've seen in the past four years with clubs overall is there's way more. I think you recognized something like 12-15 a year or so, so while there is attrition of some clubs, the plus minus in the end is probably 8-10 clubs more overall. The expectation when those clubs get recognized, even though you don't promise it, you don't tell them they're going to get funded, they kind of expect that the university and SGA in recognizing them, will support them in some way and that might be often times that might be to go to a conference, to go to a competition, and again that's going to cost money. What they all say as well among clubs and everything is that involvement is really a key to having folks engaged in the university, having a lot of pride, contributing to their mental and in our case with club sports, physical health and overall retention of students. So I think that the clubs that you all support is just phenomenal and it's great that you are supporting those clubs and keeping people involved and giving them something to do, and that's really, really great. Again, as the number goes up the burden to continue to do that becomes more and more challenging each and every year and many times that comes down to increasing a fee you can offer even more to some of these groups. I had a few that weren't club sports, for example Outing Club, students pay individually for trips. If they offer more trips for more students but their budget doesn't change they are going to have to charge more for each trip. The Debate University on has more people participating, they need more hotels for a competition. A great organization like Free To Be, some increase in money could mean another great program that they can offer to campus. The Student Nurses Association goes to a conference every year, the more future nurses we have the more people that can go to those networking events and improve overall. The more we are able to support those groups, the more students get a great experience and will lower their burden overall to get involved in some of those things. So those are some things I'm noticing. I think you can clearly see I have a bias towards a certain direction, but if you have any questions I'd be happy to answer those as well.

Club Signers (0:22.40)

Annie: Hi guys, my name is Annie I'm one of the presidents of the Crew team with Jake who is the Co-president. For those who don't know me, just for crew in particular, we're a club that last year requested about \$126,000 from SGA and received 51 and fundraised \$92,000 over the last academic year and we're still coming up short, as usual. A 3% increase doesn't sound like much and I think if you were to look at the perspective of each team's budget, but for us, our numbers since Leon has been here has just about doubled. In 2007 we were somewhere between 45 and 50 people in our club and now we're closer to 100 and our budget has stayed relatively the same. As you can imagine, there are a lot of implications that come as a result of that. We also charge dues for our members and we are all college students, so in trying to keep dues low and our operating costs low we've had to give up certain things like not being able to guarantee that every person that's on our team has the opportunity to race which is really hard because that's the reason that people join because they want to learn how to row and they want to get to race. It's come to the point that we can't promise that anymore. A 3% increase in our budget would basically give us the chance to have, we could make it work out so that everyone gets to race and that's the reason they are in the club, that's why they are paying their dues each semester is to row every day and show what they have learned to race against other teams that are fully funded. The slight increase in the student fees would give us the chance to guarantee that everyone would get to race once. If our budget was to increase 3% it's like \$1,500 or so and that's the cost of race entries and a weekend of vans, not the complete cost but it would be enough for us to allow everyone to race once in the semester. When we go to 6 races isn't much to ask but can't give it right now.

Frisbee Captain: I'm Captain of the Women's Ultimate Frisbee team, and our situation is very similar to Crew. In the past 3 years since I was a freshman our membership has increased threefold meaning that when I was a freshman we had one team and now we have almost enough to have 3 teams, however we're budgeted for about one and a half teams meaning that we have one team that is able to go to almost all the tournaments that they want and we have another team whose players are new and learning and really opportunity because we don't have enough funding. The thing that unlike Crew we are a pretty small club. We don't have fundraising chairs we just have 2 captains and because of that we don't have a lot of time we can dedicate to fundraise. We do fundraising, thus far we've already had 3 fundraising activities this semester, but fundraising has taken a lot of time away from planning our own trips, planning our practices, planning how we want to improve the sport and it's taken away from our ability to improve as players, which is really sad. Not only will we be able to do more, go to more tournaments, but our whole club will have more time to spend on what we actually should be doing as a club.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:26.40)

Chair Adams: If you could take a minute to touch upon what your club experience and how that impacted UVM experience. What does your club mean to you?

Annie: I didn't row until I got to UVM and I think as a freshman committing to waking up at 4:30 every morning for 12 weeks out of the academic year, committing to that and committing to the fact that I am going to be paying \$800-\$1,000 a year to be a part of that club is a huge thing to take on and I think it would be a big turn off for a lot of people, but when I think about where I've come since freshman year, I think I am going to graduate being more proud of myself and the person I've become in college because of my involvement, and I think everyone here in this room can say the same with your involvement in SGA, I think I would be a much different person and not as good of a person if not joined and been involved in a club. For me it's been huge. I'm going to be leaving UVM with so much more experience that is going to get me farther, later and I think that I wouldn't have gotten that had I not been in a club.

Jake: Personally, being on the UVM Crew team has kept me from leaving UVM. I was going to leave my first year in the second week and at that point I had started to go to practices, and those few minimal friendships that I had made on the Crew team just in those beginning times, really prevented me from leaving and getting the extra week I needed to consider staying and now I'm one of the presidents of the Crew team. It really is valuable to me to give other students coming in the same experience that I had more to race, practice, pay for coaches to be there and guide us through our experience. Without UVM crew I would not be right here, right now, I'd be at some other university, but I'm happy where I am and that's why UVM Crew and club sports in general are really important.

Frisbee Captain: My experience has been really similar to his. I never really considered transferring, but being a member of club sports has definitely gotten me a lot more involved with the UVM community and got me more engaged with other students who were outside of my major. I'm in Rubenstein, which means that I tend to stay within environmental kids and it's opened me up to more diversity across campus. Being a captain has provided me a lot of leadership opportunities that I never would have had otherwise. Organizational, helping teach other players which I've found to be a really great opportunity and just being involved in helping organize something on campus is really fulfilling and really helps me feel like I'm connected to UVM.

Old Business (0:30.05)

Resolution Concerning Invasive Plant Species at UVM

Senator Benes: Thank you everybody that submitted comments and were excited about the resolution and helped craft it. I'm going to read it out. [*reads resolution*]. This was the one

somehow I uploaded the new one and I think it was replaced by the old one because this is the difference the quotations are here I wanted to remove but yeah.

Open the Floor for Questions (0:33.01)

Senator Filstein: I guess you answered that, it doesn't have the change I suggested, I don't know if you have it if you could change it afterwards and use that.

Senator Benes: *[reads change]*

Vote on Resolution Concerning Invasive Plant Species at UVM— passes

Student Activities Fee Proposal (0:34.58)

Senator Tran: So I guess I'm just going to read it. *[reads bill]*.

Senator Juaire: *[continues to read bill]*

Open the Floor for Questions (0:37.04)

Senator Filstein: Friendly amendment to change all the periods except for the last one to commas.

Senator Lober: I was curious what the timeline is for the Board of Trustees of approval of fee increase.

Pat Brown: There is no one behind me to yield the floor to! Typically, this information goes over to the Dean of Students Office, and they actually have a fee meeting on Friday of this week. What you approve isn't necessarily a done deal, you are voicing this is what we'd like. It will go to that fee meeting where they talk about the whole university conversation about what the increases are for next year. Could they say it would go down? They could. I've been here 30 years and whatever SGA has said in the past has been what happened because it's really the students speaking for themselves. Many of the other fees don't necessarily come forward to be talked about by you all before they are changed. This will typically go to the fee meeting on Friday that will look at all the fees coming in from the institution and that's talked about as part of the university's budget and will go to the board for the February meeting. As a point of information for what the budget is beginning to look like for both tuition and fee increases for the next academic year. If it gets approved there it is instituted in fall of 2011.

Senator Bennington: Excuse me if this is the incorrect time for me to be raising this question. Has anyone done anything to gauge whether the student body is actually interested in the fee raising? I understand that club members and club signers are, but I don't benefit very much from the student fee, I'm not a member of any clubs currently, so everyone is paying so I think it's important that we know where people who aren't necessarily directly benefiting from the increase in clubs feel if they are being taxed as well.

Senator Tran: We actually haven't done any official polling, but the fee, even if you are not involved in clubs, you do benefit from what other clubs do and activities that happen around campus.

Senator Juaire: Just in having strong clubs on campus, we had a supplemental hearing with club Cycling today and one of their past graduating seniors has actually gone pro for cycling and they talked to us about how that helps bring other students to UVM to join Cycling team. We just heard someone from Crew say had it not been for one of our clubs, they would have transferred to a different school. So, not only does the club fee have to directly benefit you, but it also increases

the image for the entire university and increases our enrolment and our standing throughout the country like Cycling team, Crew team, but it also helps to retain students here and make it a better atmosphere for everyone else on campus.

Senator Tran: And most people are involved in clubs, a majority of the students here.

Senator Bennington: Is there a percentage of how many students are in clubs?

Chair Monteforte: We are having an actual member in the next VSOP going out. The actual question is asking if students are involved in a club at UVM, so hopefully I'll have some data for you in the next few weeks.

President Mensah: That's a great question that you asked Senator Bennington but another way to look at how the Student Activities Fee goes to benefit students indirectly is to look at the different things that SGA partners with. For instance last month when SGA partnered with the Boulder Society to put on Founder's Day that was 300 free mugs that was given to students along with apple crisp. Also when we partnered with Athletics to purchase the scarves, that was also 500 scarves that was given out to students. Also, the activities that were put on by clubs are sort or put on by SGA because we fund the clubs. So when BSU puts on Soul Food Social during Homecoming week and it's a free event that everyone gets to enjoy, when the Step Team puts on a show that's something students can go and enjoy and Hit Paws puts on a show that's another thing students can go and enjoy. If students seek out different activities on campus, they are benefiting from the SGA budget and Student Activities Fee.

Senator DeVivo: From a fee stand point, there are a lot of fees that are associated with our tuition, the Student Activities Fee obviously being one of them, and for us to pick and choose, right now we are talking about the Student Activities Fee because Treasurer Salsgiver and the Finance Committee, everyone who has worked on this has done a lot of research and it seems pretty necessary to raise the Student Activities Fee by \$5. We wouldn't be proposing it if it wasn't. It's hard to be objective and say this isn't going to benefit this group of students but another fee that might get increased might not benefit another group of students. I think we can all agree that a lot of students are involved in clubs at UVM and the club experience that they get will be enhanced by raising the fee to \$82, even if that goes against what we feel about raising fees and raising tuition. I think that's something that we can all agree on and one of our missions on SGA is to improve student experience and I think this would help to do that.

Senator Lober: I'd like to propose a friendly amendment that reflects my general opinions on where money lies at this university at the moment. There are a few changes throughout the composition but start with the last four lines. So it stands with 'Whereas student body at the University of Vermont suffers under an atrocious debt burden, be it resolved that the student activities leveled on all university salaries over \$200,000 be it resolve that the sum of these feeds total x, to equal, whatever Senator DeVivo and Treasurer Salsgiver recommend, be it resolved that this sum will be added to the Student Government Association's central budget for allocation to clubs.' I'm changing the last four lines, they're probably the most important, [*rereads friendly amendment*].

Chair Adams: Point of clarification: What are you trying to say?

Senator Lober: We want a certain amount of money and are recommending that everyone with salaries over \$200,000 start to contribute some money to a pool that would match our request.

Vice President/Speaker Maciewicz: Point of Information: That only is currently 2 people, it's the Provost and the President.

Senator Lober: I am opening it up to anyone in the College of Medicine there are a lot of faculty members within the College of Medicine who have salaries over \$200,000.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Does the Finance Committee accept the friendly amendment?

Senator Tran: That could be a different bill.

Treasurer Salsgiver: One point, no student in the College of Medicine actually pays the Student Activities Fee, so I'm just wondering why we would ask all the professors in the College of Medicine to be contributing to students funding for students that aren't actually underneath them?

Senator Benes: I think we're talking about 2 different things here. We're talking about the Student Comprehensive Fee, which is what we're dealing with right now, we're talking about raising that \$5 and then we're talking about tuition, which is a totally different aspect. Tuition is paying for Faculty members so if you're taking money from one place and putting it in another that would be kind of weird. I do support that idea, I think maybe in a different resolution that would be great, but in this resolution I don't think it makes too much sense.

Senator Lober: Point of Clarification: We're looking for money to go to the SGA central budget which would essentially be flowing into the pool already made by the Student Activities Fee.

Senator Benes: Ok, but I still think we're talking about two different things and I think we really want to be concise and to the point, we really should just pass this resolution the way it is and have the \$5 and focus on that topic differently because that's a different topic. I'd like to call to question.

Vote in favor of call to question – fails

Senator Filstein: Motion to table this resolution to next week until we come up with alternative options that don't charge students such as asking clubs to meet us half way, such as asking administrators making over \$200,000 to match us. It's in the middle.

Chair Adams: Point of Information: Budgets start coming in after the first week we are back.

Senator Tran: Point of Information: This is something that Treasurer Salsgiver has been talking about. She brought it up the week before, I don't know, a long time ago for us to talk about it, and this has been up for a long time.

All those in favor of tabling Bill– fails

Chair Adams: I don't think we can take money from somewhere else and put it into the Student Activities Fee because it's money that come from students for students so we can't really put outside pools of money in without putting in outside influences. The purity of it right now is students have discretion over how the money is spent. The other part that I was going to say is this is really going to benefit a lot of clubs and it's going to benefit them the year that they are here. It's not like we're putting \$5 in a fund to build a new Student Center in 16 years. It's money they are actually going to use and have access to.

President Mensah: I think some of you forgot what Pat mentioned and what I mentioned two weeks ago that the reason it was mistakenly put under emergency bill was because of the time sensitiveness of this bill. That's why it's been worked on for the past 3 weeks. This is why Treasurer Salsgiver as well as Chair Mallea emailed the listserv multiple times asking them for their feedback, and if they didn't fully understand the bill because it's coming up this Friday so we have to get over our recommendation to the Dean of Students as to what we think the Student Fee should be for next semester. So I don't know why there is so much doubt when right now when it's almost been on the table for the past 3 weeks. Second, I think Senator Lober your idea of trying to pull resources from somewhere else is a great idea but trying to get it from professors

and people that make \$200,000 or more might not be plausible because it's almost like it's another tax bracket for them. So they will get their check and then somewhere on their pay stub they will see \$10 or whatever removed for the student activities fee which I don't think will go over so well from folks over in Waterman making over \$200,000. Plus, I don't think that's where we really should be looking for funds, it's the Student Activities Fee so students are paying for the \$77 and now \$85 to help support themselves.

Senator Benner: If you could scroll up a little bit please. Friendly amendment to combine the 'Whereas there has been an increase in inflation' and the 'whereas there has not been an increase to the Student Activities Fee in 3 years' to 'Whereas over the past 3 years there has been a rise in inflation but the Student Activities Fee has remained the same.'

Senator M. White: So first Chair Adams has got it right on the point that this is times sensitive thing and that's why we're doing it now and why we can't wait a week. Although, I do think that Asher and Dan have really good points as to where we should be looking for new funding. That should be our next step to this bill versus throwing this into the bill now and seeing if it will pass because I worry about the bill passing if we try to tweak it too much.

Chair Simmons: I also think that's a good idea, with all do respect, President Mensah, I think that it's perfectly appropriate to create a higher tax bracket for those few wealthy employees. In response to Senator Bennington's point, it benefits the university if it's not benefiting him, I think you could say the same thing for professors. I don't think the friendly amendment is way off base. I do think it's a little bit disrespectful to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee do to the fact that it's been on the table for 3 weeks and it should have come earlier, although I love the idea. I think we should vote for it the way it is.

Pat Brown: Thank you. I'll just say something because the cost to students is the cost to students and the concern is the cost to students. There are other fees that the university increases that never come to the Student Government Association to even look at, it just happens. I think you should question that. If you guys haven't increased your fee for the past 3 years, what have those other fees done for the past 3 years? That's sort of that next step because maybe some of the other fees that have gone up in the past few years, there are a bunch of fees that make up the comprehensive fee. You might want to ask the university to put some of those on hold. So that if you increase your fee, there's other things to look at when you're looking at fees you all pay, beyond just the ones for your organization. It's just another perspective on what the cost is and you can push the university to include you more in those conversations. There are probably 5, 6, 7 fees that are all part of the comprehensive fee. There's the Davis Center Fee, the Student Health Fee, you've got an Athletic Fee. So there are questions there you can look at if you want to bring those up later on that would be a good way to look at managing costs.

Senator Filstein: I have a question for Speaker Vice President, can we, since a lot of us are new there's not a lot of institutional history going around, can you talk about some of the other fees that the senate voted against last year. I know there was one that they wanted to build a new Student Health Center. Senate has historically been against raising any kind of fees on students and a slap on the face for the last year and a half's work. So maybe just enlighten us.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: That's partially true but not completely true. Last year there was a proposal from the administration to build a new Student Health Center. Currently the Center for Health and Wellbeing is spread over I believe 5 or 6 buildings. There was a proposal to build one brand new comprehensive center for all of them, psychiatry, athletic, medical all of them in one new building for the purpose of a) increasing the square footage of the center and also helping our accreditation because we are often penalized for having such a dispersed health system. The SGA never voted on it, although the exec committee did authorize then Vice President Kate Ash to speak against in proposal at the Board of Trustees meeting in President Jones' place. The difference I would like to point out is that is a new fee. I believe it was around \$250 a semester on top of the fees we already pay and we voted against it in our executive

committee. We have never in my years raised the SGA fee or spoken in any way on fees that we already have, although we did speak against a new fee last year, kind of.

Senator Filstein: What was some of the rationale for being opposed to new fees?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Well, at the time there were 3 opinions. There were those who thought that the new Health Center was a good idea, me being among them. There were those who thought that a health center was a good idea but that students couldn't afford another \$500 a year, and there were those who thought we didn't need a new health Center. I don't remember how it broke down but the majority thought either that the fee was not sustainable for students or that we just didn't need it and that they went to the health center and it was fine.

Chair Adams: I was just going to say along with that there is the Student Comprehensive Fee Review that Student Action did last year and I actually just looked on this for the Center of Health and Wellbeing and the stance that Student Government takes in that resource thing as it is now and I believe there is a resolution that goes along with it is that we supported fees that went back to benefit current undergrads the year in which the fees were paid. I believe it tied in with the Center for Health and Wellbeing in that it was a fee that I would pay but I would never see the benefits of because it wouldn't be built until 5 years after I graduate. The Student Activities Fee in that report was slightly inconclusive because we lay over, or have in the past years, laid over certain amounts of money that was just unspent which goes back into the budget but it's also my understanding that that amount will be significantly reduced for next year.

Senator DeVivo: Sorry I'm standing up twice. I just want everyone to remember and it came up last meeting too, as a student and as all of us being students, I don't think any of us want to see fee increases, I don't know why we would. But, as senators sitting in this room it's our job to do what's best for the university at large and the reality of finances and business and being at a university is that inflation, like the bill says, happens, and things get more expensive like Leon said. For us not to increase the fee just on the principle of we don't want to increase fees, isn't really doing what we should be doing as a senate just because it's a fee that's going up. As a student I don't want to see it going up but as a senator on the Finance Committee where the Finance Committee and the Student Activities Committee's pretty much sole job, besides being senators and weighing in on other bills, is to deal with clubs and we see every day that clubs don't have enough funding to do simplest of things and it's such a burden on them and really a burden on us as committees to try to work with what we have now with increasing clubs and increasing members in clubs when our policies state that our jobs as committees is to increase membership in clubs and to increase the numbers of clubs as they come across the table. It's almost hypocritical for us to not increase this fee because you are decreasing everyone who is already in clubs and everyone who will join clubs in future's experience because the reality is that with more members, the cost goes up. It's just a simple reality.

President Mensah: Point of Information: Before the past 3 years, so before my freshman year, there had been a steady increase of the Student Activities Fee for the past 2 or 3 years which meant that every single year, typically, in the past the senate body has increased the Student Activities Fee \$2-3 each year in realizing things like inflation.

Senator Mason: I think some, speaking for myself but I'm going to generalize it just a little bit. I think that some of the issue is that when we see it on the bill it's only like \$5, it's not going to really hurt, but if I look at it as a student coming in with a different kind of an income and I'm looking at not just this fee going up but the whole group of fees going up. When I first came to UVM I think my tuition, out of state, was \$39,000 and a lot of students are out of state students, that's just fact. Now it's darn near \$45,000 that's like a \$1000 increase over a year. For a student it's not going to be just that \$5 but it's going to be another \$1000 on top of that \$5. That's where some of the standstill is. We know clubs need money for certain things but on top of other fees it may seem a little crazy. That may be part of the issue.

Senator Juaire: Although I realize your concerns, just to put it into perspective, \$5 for a student like me, I work 30 hours a week on top of being a full time student, \$5 is half an hour for me to work. However if I'm in a club and my budget gets cut next year because maintaining the \$77 Student Activities Fee will actually cut the budget of clubs, is going to require that me as a club member is going to have to fundraise more and therefore take time off of work and things like that. It's not just the fact that we want to maintain that status quo by keeping it \$77, but with maintaining the Student Activities Fee at \$77, we are also decreasing funding for clubs that have more students, so that's increasing the burden on individuals to take more time out of their already busy lives as students and members of clubs to fund the decrease.

Chair Adams: Along those same lines, we are only looking at the Student Activities Fee. If we want to pass resolutions about all the other fees and whether or not we think they should be increased, decreased, or stay the same, let's do it. If that's where the issue is then let's pass resolutions on each individual budget. However, I will forewarn you, that Student Activities and Finance do not have time to do that so it would be on all of you to go and do that, and Student Action has already laid the groundwork with their Comprehensive Fee report, but that's something that is totally feasible and doable if that's something we really want to do. We are not talking about fees in general, we are talking about student activities, and most students are involved in clubs. If we want to look at the most basic thing people go to, like Springfest, and you are here which means you are benefiting from the fee.

Senator Caster: I agree with you with that I think that people look at this and get frustrated because there are other allocations of resources that are just not advantageous for students. The general body and most students on and off campus know that money is being spent that they don't necessarily agree with. I think that we should continue the conversation on these things and continue to evaluate the fee because otherwise we are going to end up increasing student frustration that doesn't really believe we are doing our job.

Senator Burns: I'd like to call to question.

Vote Call to Question – passes

Vote on Bill Recognizing Student Activities Fee Increase - passes

Vote #3: Opening the Constitution (3/4 Vote required) (1:07.30)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Speaker Chevrier is in Florida so I will be managing the constitutional amendments. I hope everyone read the constitutional changes, they were sent out twice. I just sent out most recent copy this afternoon that was color coded. We need to do, before we can vote on the amendments, we need to vote to open the constitution. We can't consider or even speak about the constitution without voting to open it. If there is no objection, I'd like to vote. It requires a ¾ vote, which is 27 of you right now.

Vote to Open the Constitution - passes

Vote #4: Change in Membership Definitions (1:08.38)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: We have to vote on each issue individually, I will highlight them but you should have already read them. The first issue we are going to vote for, and chairs you do have to keep track of these votes because they are individual, is a change in the membership definition of the SGA. Currently it is contradictory, currently it says that anyone who pays the Student Activities Fee can hold any position on the SGA and in other sections it is says that you must be full time student. The Constitution Committee proposed changing it to degree seeking students, which means everyone except Continuing Education Students who don't pay the student activities fee, taking at least 4 credits which is the minimum that you need to pay the Student Activities fee, or if you don't take four credits you can pay the fee and join the SGA. This also would also strike the then obsolete sections in all the subsequent clauses.

Chair Adams: Friendly amendment to change it from ‘all undergraduate degree seeking students paying the Student Activities Fee’ and removing the second section.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Removing section 2?

Chair Adams: Removing section 2 and in section 1 replacing ‘degree seeking students taking at least 4 credit hours’ to ‘degree seeking students paying the student activities fee.’

Senator Vitagliano: I think we should have the 4 credits in there just to clarify who is paying the Student Fee. As SGA senators we know that but does everyone else know that the 4 hours makes them eligible?

Senator Filstein: Point of Information: You can take one hour and pay the fee, 4 is just the minimum to mandatory pay it if you only take 1 you can still pay it, and under this you could still run.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: That is true. If you take 4 credits you are automatically charged the Student Activities Fee. If you do not you can pay the fee.

Chair Adams: Point of Information: If you are a continuing education student you do not pay the fee.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Yeah, I said that at the beginning, Continuing Education students do not pay the fee.

Vote to Change Membership Definitions - passes

Vote #5 President, Vice President, Treasurer summer intentions (1:12.16)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: In each of the executive branch descriptions in orange ‘shall make known to the senate body the intentions of the president’ same for Vice President and same for Treasurer, ‘over the summer and the goals for senate for the upcoming year.’ Basically, we would require the 3 executive branch positions who are eligible to be paid for the whole summer to submit a plan of what they plan to do over the summer and their intentions for the next year was idea behind it. Are there any questions, comments, friendly amendments? This is in President, Vice President and under Treasurer, but we will vote on it as one, unless there is opposition to that.

Vote on President, Vice President, Treasurer summer intentions – passes

Vote #6 President BOT Report minimum review time (1:13.27)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: This requires that the President of SGA submit their written statement to the Board of Trustees one week in advance. It’s in blue, 13, right here. Written and oral, sorry, one week before the Board of Trustee meeting, before they’re due to be submitted. That’s it, it doesn’t appear anywhere else because none of the rest of us give a report to the Board of Trustees.

Vote on President BOT Report minimum review time - passes

Vote #7 Speaker’s power to change grammar mistakes (1:14.27)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: This is just a very mild change. It gives the speaker the power to change grammatical and upon consultation with the author of the legislation dictatorial

changes to the meaning of the legislation is not changed. Basically, if there is an inappropriate comma or something is spelled wrong, the Speaker can change it without having to send it back to the Senate for review.

Senator Benes: Can you change it to a different color so we can read it?

Senator Filstein: Someone changed this, it's not just dictation, it's just dictional. It's really a word, I looked it up.

Vote on Speaker's Power to Change Grammar Mistakes - passes

Vote #8 Vice Chair Option (1:16.07)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Creates the option for any Committee Chair to create the position of Vice Chair. It would be optional. 'Shall have option of naming a Vice Chair'. Vice Chairs used to be common on SGA then they kind of stopped. If you would like to appoint someone to be your designated report giver or member of executive committee if you cannot make the meeting, you can appoint one, or you can just ask someone individually, it's optional, and it would add that to the description of being a committee chair.

Senator Benner: Friendly amendment someone change whom to who that looks to me like it's subject not nominative.

Senator Ballas: Isn't it kind of obvious that they have the option if they want to? What is the point?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: it's obvious by tradition for people who have been around a long time, but it's kind of something that has died out a lot of the time. When I started everyone had a Vice Chair and by last year I might have been the only one, maybe two committee. It also was never in the constitution. We kind of thought that if someone was going to make up this position it should be authorized somewhere. And you can always vote it down. There are vice chairs in this room, but most committees don't have them, this would create a formal option of having one. That's what we thought. We really just wanted to give legitimacy to the position. It really doesn't carry any responsibility except being the acting chair when the chair isn't there.

Vote for Vice Chair Option - passes

Vote #9 Veto reform (1:18.34)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Removes the option of the President of the SGA to not sign legislation and it passing by default. When I was a first year senator, the then president of SGA would commonly refuse to sign legislation and claim that it wouldn't get vetoed, but he just wouldn't sign it. There are things like that in the Federal Government that if you don't veto it, after a certain number of days it just becomes law without your signature. That wasn't in the SGA Constitution but President Taylor kind of created that. Then Speaker Ana Dru Ellis added that to the Constitution saying that the President can either veto something, sign something or if after 72 hours he did nothing they would just delete the signature line and it would just become SGA policy without him or her being involved. The thought of the Constitution Committee was that really takes any meaning out of the legislation and the chief executive should sign or veto it. That's the back story. It would force President Mensah to sign or reject something.

Senator M. White: Just a question, isn't this what they call pocket veto in which case it does not pass after 72 hours. Just in the fed, not here.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: There are different ways. The way we interpreted it back then was that it just passed by default. We've never really had a pocket veto, we kind of just

decided if you didn't veto it, it must just become SGA policy. So no, it's not a pocket veto it's a weird passes by default clause. We are choosing to excise it unless people think that's a good option for the president to have.

Vote on Veto Reform – passes

Vote #10 Article XII changes (1:20.51)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: This is the really problematic one. This section was reformed but somehow in the editing process it got completely garbled and this section makes absolutely no sense now. The idea of it was to change a petition drive to allow students to write a piece of legislation and send it to the student body for a vote or for the SGA to refer legislation to the student body for a vote. I don't know what happened but it just grammatically doesn't work, it says vote considered for and speaker president of SGA. It's like completely garbled, but we had to present this version because this is the version that was presented to the Student Body. So I would really ask that unless somebody has a completely written new version of it I would ask that you reject this and we come back to it unless you have a viable substitute.

Senator Filstein: What happened was when it was changed, everything that was getting deleted was struck out and I guess someone went through and highlighted the whole thing and made it one color and made it one thing so all the old stuff and the new stuff was there which is why it doesn't make any sense. But, me and Todd could explain it and then because of the one we just passed the speaker could go find the old language and replace it with the new language. And on top of that, what me and Asher were going to propose is it's a conflict of interest for all of us to vote on the Student Activities Fee, so we wanted to send a referendum to the student body, since they were the ones that were going to be paying the fee, which is why we shouldn't deny this. We will miss opportunity, essentially. We can pass this with the intention we understand it to have and then we can go make a referendum about the fee and the language is still going to be there, it's written down and Speaker Chevrier has it. We know what we're trying to say and if you want we can explain it again, if anyone is unclear.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: I do have to interject, this is not a piece of legislation, it's the constitution. Speaker Chevrier would have absolutely no power to change this and also, we also all pay the Student Activities Fee. I really love the proposal and we talked about this in committee. This is what was sent to the student body and it's on our website in President Mensah's email. I had nothing to do with it but I can't change it because that would violate our own constitution so we will move on with the speaking order. I would ask that you reject this amendment.

Senator Benes: Call to question and we can vote it down and move on.

Vote to Call to question – fails

Chair Adams: I guess, question do you have a copy of it in its original form in email?

Senator Filstein: We changed it on the doc.

Chair Adams: Perhaps we could move on and the two of you could type something up real quick?

Vote #11 Attendance at impeachment proceedings – (1:25.17)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: This would delete the requirement that every member of the SGA must be at impeachment proceedings. Currently right now if we were going to vote to impeach someone and one person refused to show up, we could not vote. This would apply the

normal SGA attendance policy at impeachment proceedings and Section D unless excused by the Speaker of the Senate.

Senator Ballas: When was the last time someone was impeached?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: We had a censure our Sophomore year, so 2008. And then everyone did show up but we didn't end up doing anything about it.

Senator M. White: If somebody was just straight up refusing to show up, they weren't excused, that's grounds for censure so they would be excused automatically. I sort of think that everyone should be here for an impeachment. Impeachment is a pretty big thing.

Senator DeVivo: Just to speak to your point. In the Constitution Committee meetings we thought that this would be a good idea just because if, like you said someone refused to show up, someone could say that's not excused and then bring out the Constitution and say it's impossible to impeach that person.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: It is a technicality, but technically reading the old constitution, if you were all trying to impeach me, but Chair Adams refused to show up you could not impeach me. That's why we came up with this change.

Chair Adams: It also says unless excused by the Speaker of the Senate, which means that Claire can try to make you come anyway.

Senator Filstein: This is new. The amendment was to remove this entirely so that there was no attendance clause, the attendance would be exactly the same. This is messed up from what was presented two weeks ago. Friendly amendment to vote on removing six entirely.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: In effect what this would do really would have the same effect, is that the normal SGA attendance policy would apply to impeachment proceedings which is you are not excused unless you are excused by your chair. If anyone would like to speak on that. Deleting this would be the change from Claire excusing you from impeachment proceedings to your chair excusing you from impeachment proceedings.

Senator Ballas: So what are we voting on?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: I'm sorry, this is kind of confusing but I had to use this version. What this amendment would do is strike this clause. If someone is being impeached, the normal SGA attendance policy that always applies would still apply. Like, tonight if you could not be here you would have to be excused by your chair. It would apply to impeachment proceedings the same way.

Vote In favor of removing clause 6 from article XIV and applying the normal SGA attendance policy to impeachment proceedings - passes

Vote #12 Vacant President/Vice Presidential Replacements (1:29.08)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: It would change if both the President and Vice President resigned or both President and Vice President were impeached at the same time, it would change who took over for us until a new election was held. The Speaker would become the President and a Chair chosen by the Senate would become acting Vice President. Until a new election, right now it would have the Treasurer become Vice President and then would leave the Treasurer's position open which we thought would create a lot more hassle because the Treasurer's job requires much more professional training and even though it would only be temporary, it would basically close down the Finance Office until we had a new election. So we thought it would make more sense for a Senator to be appointed acting Vice President before the election than have the treasurer fulfill that role. It's very much a hypothetical but we thought if

both of us were ever removed or in the future it would be much less obstructive to the office to have one of you to take over for Vice President than to close down the Finance Office until we could have an election.

Vote on Vacant President/Vice Presidential Replacements - passes

Vote #13 Op Docs Changes (1:30.45)

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: It changes the op docs article to say that ‘a senator motioning to open or amend the operation documents need not be a member of the Constitution Committee and any member of the Senate may motion to amend or open the operation documents.’ It basically expands the power of the Constitution Committee and allows anyone to open the Operational Documents for amendments.

Chair Adams: Motion to remove section A. It’s repetitive.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Accepted

Vote on Op Docs Changes - passes

Return to Vote #10 proposing Article XII changes (1:32.03)

Senator Filstein: We’ve got a really long friendly amendment. ‘A formal petition presented by the student body to SGA will allow for accompanying legislation originating outside of the Senate to be acted upon by the Senate or to be put to the student body for a vote.’ So we considered Section A got struck out. ‘A formal petition brought to the Speaker of Senate...’ would make more sense to just have it up there so people can read it.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: I’m sorry for this disruption.

Chair Adams: Point of Inquiry: Do we have to motion to change all the numbering and lettering.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: they should have been changed with the amendments.

Chair Adams: but with the friendly amendments they weren’t necessarily, because we struck out like entire numbers.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Yeah, it probably would be good procedure to do so, but let’s wait until we have the friendly amendment in front of us. So a friendly amendment would be to replace what is written which is basically garbled nonsense with this section right here, which I will read. [*reads change*] And we would have to change numbering. It was offered as a friendly. I’ll accept the friendly amendment but that doesn’t mean we need to agree to it. That means that this section will become what we are voting on. I would like someone to friendly amendment to make the lettering and numbering to match.

Chair Adams: Friendly amendment to change the lettering and number for all of the constitution to things that make sense.

Chair Simmons: When it says a referendum requires simple majority to pass, is that a majority of the people who respond to this vote or a majority of the student body?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: It would be a majority of those voting.

Chair Simmons: We would send it out and people who wanted to vote would vote on it?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: It would be like an SGA election, those who chose to vote. It would require 2/3 of us to create the election and it would require half of the student body who chose to vote to agree. Again, you don't have to accept this. This is a proposal from the Constitution Committee. You get the picture but things crossed out will be deleted and the numbers will be changed.

Senator Alleger: Super point, Chair Simmons. I feel like we understand the point of this but I think it would be a good idea to set it up that if this has to be brought forward by 10% perhaps 10% of the student body would be required to vote and if 10% of the student body doesn't choose to vote in the referendum, they it's invalid or something. What do you guys think 10% for in the referendum? Friendly amendment perhaps move clause A down to B and add a new clause A saying that a referendum of the student body would require 5% of the student body to vote? 10% of the student body to vote?

Chair Adams: Part of this that makes me nervous is the 'completed prior to the following meeting of SGA' so essentially we would vote to send this to the student body and then it would come back the following Tuesday. That's not a lot of time to get people to vote and so that's kind of my main concern with the referendum and I'll let someone else make a friendly amendment but I agree with Senator Alleger, I think 5% is sufficient, that's way more than is sitting in this room.

Senator Benes: Friendly amendment to change 10% to 5%.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: I won't accept that.

Senator Filstein: Friendly amendment to say instead of 'passing by a simple majority' to 'with a minimum of 5% of the student population voting on it'. So if 10 people vote and 6 of them say yes, it's not going to pass unless 5% of the whole student body votes and then the majority of that say yes.

Chair Adams: Point of Inquiry: who is acting speaker right now?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: I guess I am. I am both moderating and acting speaker. Come to order. This is how it currently stands [*reads clause*].

Chair Morgan: Is the student body inclusive of graduate students and do medical students fall into that category. Should we explicitly state that?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Would you like to offer a friendly amendment interjecting the undergraduate student body?

Chair Monteforte: Point of Information: SGA is the undergraduate body governance board and GSS is the graduate student board so it's specifically undergrad.

Chair Adams: Friendly amendment to remove Section B

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: I am not going to remove that on my own because that was the consensus of the Constitution Committee. I would say if you don't like Section B I would ask that you vote no. I don't feel comfortable striking something that we didn't agree on unanimously speaking for the whole Constitution Committee.

Senator Filstein: I'll propose an amendment that addresses what I think you are trying to get at. You think that a week is too short, say the voting period cannot be more than 14 days, or something like that if a week is not enough time.

Senator Burns: Kind of going off what he said, why don't we just make it the meeting after a minimum of 5% of the student body has voted?

Senator M. White: Friendly amendment to put something in there about how the election is going to be run because right now it's just like, we're going to have a vote.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: It would require that the election's operational document be amended to include this form of voting. It's currently undefined. It would be up to the Election's Committee to develop a process to run an election just like every other election is run. We would have to change the operation documents to adopt procedures for how it would work.

Senator M. White: If this passes we are in operational limbo for a while?

Chair Adams: Point of Procedure: You can open the by laws at any point.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: We are going to vote on this. Before we vote I am going to move over to the copy we did all the other ones on. We are voting on just this section and it is the final section of Constitutional Amendments. It would replace all of article 12 with what we have just agreed upon now. You are absolutely under no requirement to vote yes. You may reject it if you are in opposition to any part of this article.

Vote on Changes to Article XII – passes

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: That is the end of the constitutional changes. The Constitution as seen right here is effective immediately.

Vote to Close the Constitution - passes

Emergency Business (1:44.29)

Senator Filstein: Motion to send the Student Activities Fee in form of referendum back to the student body so they can vote on it since they are the ones most concerned with the issue and they can vote on it.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: That's out of order because it's not under discussion of the legislation. The legislation has already been passed.

Senator Filstein: Is there any way that you can approve basically what I'm asking for to happen, or if not some reasoning behind that?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: As written I can't see any reason how that can be construed as that we're still discussing the legislation.

Chair Adams: Point of Procedure: you can motion to reconsider.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Actually that's not true. You can only motion to reconsider if the legislation has been voted down and you were someone who voted no originally and you would like to change your no to a yes.

Senator DeVivo: You can write a piece of legislation and if it's time sensitive enough we can vote on it in emergency business.

Senator Lober: I just want to introduce as Emergency Business a bill that says something along the lines of like...

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Do you have a written copy of this bill?

Senator Lober: I can type it up.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Do you have a written copy of the bill? Seeing none, there is no bill to consider.

New Business (1:46.23)

Senator Tran: Bill Allocating Funds to UVM Cycling Club

Chair Adams: Bill Recognizing International Relations Club

Senator Malloy: Resolution in Support of Athletic Medicine for Club Sports

Chair Monteforte: Bill Recognizing UVM Club Debate Team as Club of the Month

Executive Reports (1:47.08)

Vice President Maciewicz: I'm sorry for the confusion everyone but it's a lot all at once and I'm not usually the Speaker. As far as Vice President world goes, we will be doing appointments when we get back if there is no one else who chooses to resign by this Friday. I will be running the appointment process to fill the 3 vacant seats that will occur once people who are leaving at the end of the semester happen. So, if you are resigning or you would like to change committees, please come speak with me. Otherwise we will be doing the election process. Next week will be the Holiday Party from 5-7 in the Galaxy Space. We're having it catered by Sodexo. I encourage you all to come and eat some food. We'll have some hors d'oeuvres, some beverages; it will be a good time. Theme is tentatively ugly sweater party, not mandatory it will be fun. We're also in the process of office changes, we ordered some new bookcases. The TV is up and working. PR has been doing a great job so enjoy the Galaxy Space. Lots more improvements to come. I'm wrapping up for the end of the semester. We will be having the retreat when we get back too. If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see in the retreat, ideals, suggestions, what you liked about fall retreat if you were there. Please send them to me or speak about them during Senatorial Forum. The theme right now is reenergizing our body. We only have about 4.5 months to go, April 12 is the last day and really maximizing our time left. So I will be gearing events that maximize productivity. As far as Speaker goes, Speaker Chevrier will be back tomorrow night and will be back full force next week.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:49.05)

Senator Benner: I am wondering in the way that legality of the extent to which this evening you presented your opinions as acting Speaker without seeming to be on the speaking order unless you were on the speaking order.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: It was kind of complicated because I was representing the Constitution Committee because the speaker is not here. It's unfortunate that the one meeting that we had to debate the Constitution the person who speaks for the Constitution Committee wasn't here. I don't know what technically happens in that circumstance. Perhaps someone else should have been doing it, but really it's supposed to be the chair of the committee. I apologize, there really is no set format but I really had to speak for the committee as acting Speaker. Hopefully this never happens again because the Constitution is something that really falls entirely to the speaker and I didn't really want to change the things too much because the Constitution Committee did approve all these changes so I thought they deserved an up or down vote from you guys, and you obviously agreed with them all. So I apologize if anyone disagrees with the way the meeting was run.

President Mensah (1:50.29): Good evening Senate, hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving/Fall Break. Falls semester evaluations will be up on the Lynx, hopefully by tomorrow afternoon. As soon as I get them up on the Lynx, they're all ready to go just Jess and I couldn't find any time today to get them up on the Lynx we will do so tomorrow morning, so as soon as it's up on the Lynx and good to go and everything you all will receive an email with the deadline. This deadline is extremely important to stick to for the Fall Semester evaluations as I'm hoping that before you all get to go on break you can get an understanding of what senate as a whole is saying about the executive branch including Speaker Chevrier and also what other committee members are saying about your chair. So be on the lookout for the letting you all know when the fall evaluations are up on the Lynx as well as the deadline to fill out the fall semester evaluations on the Lynx. Is there like ink on my shirt? Oh, It's a horse, it's for Liz because she really likes horses. It's actually my shirt I just bought it because Liz likes horses. Back to the report. I will be having a capital campaign proposal for the ALANA Student Center tomorrow with the director of the ALANA Student Center Beverly Coleston, as well as Wanda Heading-Grant and Richard Cate who is the Vice President of Finance Administration, and this is just a capital campaign proposal looking into potentially new funding for a new center slash relocation of the center, whatever it may be and at the last meeting next week I'll let you all know what the outcome of that meeting is. I'll also be having a Dining Advisory Meeting tomorrow as well, it will be a webinar in which we're meeting with other Sodexo's on different campuses so I'll let you all know what the outcome of that meeting is. Tomorrow also in the late afternoon I'll be having the second Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Search Committee. This will be a meeting for us to preliminarily go over what we are looking for in a new director as well as review some of the applications that we have received thus far. Thursday, Treasurer Salsgiver, Vice President Maciewicz and myself sit down meeting with Jesse Bridges from Athletics about the hockey ticket redistribution. Again, we'll let you know of the outcome of that next week Tuesday. The other thing I wanted to mention is I have been contacted by Jimmy Doan over at campus programming through student life to ask us if we'd like to host a party. So far they are calling it Club 590, get it, 590 Main Street? It took me a couple hours to figure out why it was called Club 590. Anyway, they've given us a date, a Saturday in February, and they are willing to give us the funds, the equipment needed such as sound and lighting and it's going to be on a Saturday evening and all that will pretty much be required of us is the man/woman power in getting the word spread out and marketing the event and setting up decorations for event. If you are interested in it please let me know. I will be bringing it more to the exec floor this Thursday at our meeting as well as next week meeting sometime I will be having a meeting with Jimmy to see where SGA can progress with this. If you think this is a fun way for us to take a proactive step and putting on an event and actually putting on a party. The location of it is going to be in Brennan's so a lot happens in Brennan's comedy shows or whatever, so we could really have the venue to decorate at will. Probably pick a DJ, I already have a couple in mind and all the following advertisements would say a party hosted by SGA and I already have one or two clubs in mind that we could collaborate with to help spread the word more about this party. It's just a request to see if we'd be interested in hosting this party. If not, that's fine, but if there is an interest from any senators here, please start to email me now and I can email you more information about it as well as the discussion will continue this Thursday in exec. Thus concludes my report.

Open the Floor for Questions (1:55.08)

Chair Herman: What time of day next week will you be meeting with Beverly Coleston, Richard Cate?

President Mensah: I'm actually meeting with them tomorrow and I think the meeting is at 11:00 if I'm correct.

Treasurer Salsgiver (1:55.31) – So other than the regular purchase orders and reallocations and stuff, things that I've been doing this week. The Wednesday before break I organized the budgeting PowerPoint and I presented it to VIA which stands for Volunteers in Action. I got to coordinate a sort of general budgeting timeline, which I'll also send out to club signers. I also

solicited feedback from signers and senators over break and I got a few emails from club signers, which I sent out to you. A few people came into me to express their opinions on the increase. One senator came in and talked to me today, which was really great. I developed a club signer transitioning protocol so that there is a better flow from one club signer to another where the new club signer has to take the Treasurer's test if they're coming in in the middle of the year since they haven't gone to the actual Treasurer's Workshop so I think it's important that they learn all of the policies before going into that position. The last club signer has to send an email confirming that they are actually stepping down and then the new club signer has to sign the club signers book. One project that I'm doing now is looking into differences between how much women's teams are budgeted as opposed to how much men's teams are budgeted and how much women's and what amounts in wages are being given to women as opposed to men because I've noticed really substantial differences, like thousands more dollars going to men's teams than women's teams for the exact same sport. That's one thing I'm looking into now before the budgeting process goes on and I'm also looking through, I've been through about half of the 150 + budgets looking for inconsistencies or things that don't really follow the policy like food being given to clubs that maybe shouldn't be getting food and things that just don't look right.

Committee Reports (1:57.41)

Academic Affairs (1:57.44)

Chair Nelson: So, this week I am going to talk about course evaluations and where the process is on that. I just wanted to mention other things we've been doing this week, a lot of correspondence with *The Cynic* so a lot of tech work and meeting that's been going on on the part of Academic Affairs. There is still a few more hours, 24 more hours until the administration can respond to the course evaluation request. We are not seeing that's going to happen, that it's very likely. So, we are moving forward on a plan for encouraging a boycott among students and mobilizing our excellent resources, which looks like this. So we are talking about tabling and spreading the word Thursday and Friday. Getting a *Cynic* article out this week and there is actually already one out this week but continuing with that and then Asher wrote up a blurb class wrap quick let's call it spark notes on why we are boycotting course evaluations, and this is a resource that Academic Affairs would like to extend to you and to others to make it clear and explain to other students why we are asking them to boycott. We are also hoping to do class wraps on the last day of classes. I know that course evaluations have already started in some classes and some have already filled those out or chosen not to if they're behind the boycott. Regardless, this is all happening right now. We'll be extending this out to you to make it more clear and then encouraging students to stand up in their own classroom and kind of give a quick schpeel about it, maybe throw this under the projector and also take this to throw around with friends, peers, other students to get the word out to make it a project. We can talk more about this mobilizing effort over Senatorial Forum and we'll open up a way to organize chart.

Public Relations (2:00.52)

Chair Monteforte: Hello everyone. I have a few things to talk to. I hope you're all having a wonderful time. Just an overall, some things going on in PR right now, the picture frame is up on Jess' desk the TV has been working, we got that up last night. I hope you got the chance to see it. We're working on putting up slides on that. If anyone has any information that you want to put up there, please send our way, we would love to get it up there as quick as we can. We want to start utilizing it when the budget season starts and other committee events going on, other meetings. We are in the process of making a flowchart with everyone's picture and contact information on a slide so it would have your picture and your emails. It's going to be really cool so we're really excited about it. If you saw Kofi's email you know it's being different and all fancy. PR is now working on that. Mr. Benner here is editing it and the PR committee, Kofi is still writing the email and stuff but PR is making it look jazzy and making it better. That's cool. I'll get to the fleeces later. Before we cover this VSOP we're having another VSOP. VSOP 2 should be going live on Thursday. I sent out the questions so you all can see. So we'll hopefully have those results and I'll probably email them to you before we all leave but they probably will be discussed after

break. Now onto VSOP #1 about Coke. In a general sense if anyone does not know, the poll was sent out to a randomized sample of 2,500 UVM undergrad students. We received 602 responses, which was 24.08%. We were only looking for 20% so we exceeded our goal. We're pretty happy about that. The poll was live for about 1.5 weeks. Mr. Benner is going to talk. This is the progression of respondents over time. When the poll went live how many students took it and then increasing, and then we had 2 reminders issued out to students who did not take the poll yet where the number jumped and again on the 22 where the numbers jumped again. So that significantly helped out our process.

Senator Benner: Alright so let's talk statistics. First of all class standing. 42% of all students who did the survey were first years and descending from there. We're happy about 1.66% of super seniors because we didn't think we'd get much response from them. Going along with the trend of 40% being first year students, the majority were on-campus students at 64%. This is 50% of the students were from the College of Arts and Sciences which is not surprising at all. I don't know exactly what the percentage of students are in the College of Arts and Sciences but it's a large portion of the student body as a whole. We were happy that we were able to get a significant presence from all of the schools.

Chair Monteforte: I just want to point out too this is probably the first time in a long time that VSOP has had an actual statistical representation of all of the colleges because before it was kind of like passing around a piece of paper in the Davis Center but we actually have facts about on and off campus, what people's colleges are. We really have a good broad sense of everyone at UVM and I hope you guys understand the significance of that.

Senator Benner: Question 1 was 'Do you like having Coca Cola products on campus?' We had 40 saying yes 23 saying no and 37 saying do not care. This for me is slightly auspicious for getting rid of Coke as a whole simply because if only 23 are definitely opposed and I think further in this if you want to get more students into this right now we need to move further with educating students about not necessarily why Coke is better but what possible alternatives are.

Chair Monteforte: I also just want to say about 1/3 of the students here don't care. As Rob said, people like having Coke on campus is overwhelming majority right now. We were kind of surprised to see these results.

Senator Benner: And then our second questions 'What would your reaction be if Coca Cola products were not sold on campus?'. We definitely have a majority towards the indifferent, moderately and very unhappy. Again as with the previous question, it's a matter of getting people motivated and involved and letting them know what their options are and letting them know why they should or shouldn't be happy that Coca Cola products are being sold on campus. This 41% is huge and could make a very large difference with what happens in the future with the contract. And then for this question 'How many Coca Cola products do you consume in a week?' This question we have 40% saying less than one drink per week which is that's a good number to have, 42%, that's almost half but at the same time there is more we can do and get 60% down there or 80% or 100% is ideal. And also, we have to look at the fact that it was difficult for us to label all Coca Cola products that are on campus because obviously there are more than just the 4 or 5 that we list here. This data is generally fairly accurate because these are sort of the biggest ones, but it is a very good sign that 40% are saying that no, I don't drink anything.

Chair Monteforte: And of those people that do like Coke per se and like Coke they only drink 1 drink per week.

Senator Benner: Alright and then 'How many plastic bottles do you throw away each week?' This one we have 41 at none, which is really nice and then 1-5, we have 90% in the 0-5 range and for me it's very nice to see that there are so many that are in this 1-5 range, but my main question is that it's 1-5, it's a large range. If it's something like 1 bottle a week for me that's a victory,

that's a good thing, but 5 bottles is really not good that's inexcusable to have around campus. I don't know if you want to talk about this question and what your thoughts on its legitimacy were.

Chair Monteforte: I was looking, if you do a survey and look back on it and see some things that you would have done better. Honestly, we probably would have done 1-2 drinks in a smaller increment. I forget if Student Voice said that we should do this but maybe for next time it's something we can look into. The facts are there that people are recycling and throwing away bottles and that's more than 0. Now what? We did some math, Pat Brown and I did some math and did some averages and he took some averages I think he took the 1-5 and did 3 bottles throwing away and divided that by whatever, but in the end 25,000 bottles a week are thrown away, that's like 400,000 a semester and 800,000 each academic year. So that's a lot of bottles that are being shipped off somewhere. Pat Brown also sent me this picture, I don't know if you can see it but it depicts 2 million plastic beverage bottles, the average number used in the U.S. every 5 minutes. It's basically just a sea of bottles.

Senator Benner: As for what we are going to do with this data and this result, yes, it is true that the Coca Cola contract has died down a little but we think that this information we gathered is important in how students feel products as a whole and so I think we're planning on doing a write up about what we thought was important about this data and what we thought could have been changed is not necessarily worth looking too deeply into but we do think that the results of this are significant and be used to hold future discussions about alternate sources of beverages.

Chair Monteforte: Absolutely, so as Rob said we're working on that this week and we'll probably send it to Sodexo and if you have anyone, we'll probably send it out to all of senate. Please tell people what we did. It's important to have this information. I know it's taking a long time but I think this is important. I just want to show you something cool and we can have a meeting separately to talk about more stuff but it has the ability of this program, so if say if I want to see the people who do not want Coca Cola products on campus and compare that to how many... just looking at the people that do not like Coca Cola products on campus, we can see that majority of people are very happy that the products are not there and those people only consume less than 1 drink per week. It has the ability in and see what categories think about each issue. That's pretty sweet. What we haven't showed you yet is with this, we had some responses. This is all the responses we got. And that's just for question about how do you feel about Coca Cola products being sold on campus. Everyone's opinion yes, no, maybe, don't really care, the responses are all there I will forward these out after so you can read them.

Senator Benner: We are planning on going through the responses and finding the ones that seem to say the most and the ones that are some things other than n/a and no I don't like them and adding those into our paper as well.

Chair Monteforte: Also, we had a section for do you have any additional comments, 30% of people said they did and some people wrote like essays. There's a lot of good student input that we are looking for and I hope you're satisfied with this and I'm going to pause here and take any questions on VSOP.

Open the Floor for Questions (2:13.09)

Senator Ballas: Is there a reason you don't send VSOP to everybody? Wouldn't we get more responses that way?

Chair Monteforte: This is not the Nick Monteforte PR Committee deciding this, we could do that but we wouldn't get the representation that we want. We want this data represented by the entire UVM body and everyone just said hey Rubenstein School, go fill out this survey, that would be skewed results so doing this is statistically significant and just provides a better result.

Senator Benner: It allows us to do a lot of polls one right after the other because we've gotten about 1/4 of the student body and we can still do 3 more and those same student who were asked to be in the first poll will not be bothered by filling in a survey every other week.

Chair Adams: Since we do have the data and breakdown by year and by college, is it reflective of the university as a whole? I know for Arts and Sciences it is but there seems to be like a lot more first years and on campus. Since you have the breakdowns how does it compare to university breakdowns? Of students, like by college, Arts and Sciences is 50 and it was 50 on your survey but by year are there really that many more first years than seniors?

Chair Monteforte: We haven't looked into that, it's something I can look into with my committee. Definitely Arts and Sciences is more of the majority at the school, these results are pretty accurate. Business is pretty small like that, education, all the other ones are pretty much the same size-ish. I will look into it.

Chair Simmons: For those responses that you got did it show what percentage of those responses were from what answer. I'm wondering for example, like the Coke one because that interests me, what percentage of the people that gave substantive answers were from the pro, con, indifferent, etc. does that make sense?

Chair Monteforte: Yes, we are now looking at the 202 students who said yes and comparing with the 320 that gave comments. All these responses were from people who said yes they love having Coke, do you want to read them?

Chair Simmons: I was wondering if of all the people that gave substantive responses what percentage of those people that gave substantive responses fell into the categories of pro coke, anti coke.

Chair Monteforte: So the people that are pro-Coke, these are their responses. And we can do that for don't care and all those responses listed now, I filtered it down here so the responses are by liking Coca Cola on campus and their comments. So these are all the comments by the people that are pro Coke and I can break it down and do the other sections.

Senator Bennington: I am wondering if there's any way to access beyond the bar graphs the actual stats that went into this. Is it actually statistically significant the difference in people who said they like Coke and don't like Coke because if you don't have standard deviation in your graphs you don't know unless the program takes that into account?

Senator Benner: I believe it was a margin or error was around .5 so we have a standard deviation of 1.23 and standard error of .06. As we can see here based on the standard error, this is statistically significant.

Senator Bennington: When you send it out again is it going to all the students that answered it this time have an equal chance of receiving it again?

Chair Monteforte: All those students that took it before have been pulled out the say 10,000 people that go here that already did it, so no.

Senator Bennington: So it's not truly random after you run it a second time.

President Mensah: Point of Clarification: when you send out the new VSOP that actually wouldn't contain any more questions about Coke, correct?

Chair Monteforte: It's a new VSOP, yes, it will take the people that have already taken the VSOP out and it will rerandomize it to ask every student at UVM a question. I'll get back to you on that.

Senator Ballas: What did you say you were sending out?

Chair Monteforte: I will send out the total results and I'll send the breakdown of answers that are yes Coke no Coke don't care. So you are going to get 4 large files so be prepared. Real quick, as you noticed, fleeces are in. We will pass them out to everyone that ordered a fleece that recorded it before we have it for you. If you have your \$5 we will take it now, if not we'll hunt you down later. If you are new to senate and didn't fill that out we will get to you because we didn't order extras. We're going to do that right after I'm done. Continuing our tradition real quick. [*plays video*].

Student Action (2:21.11)

Chair Simmons: Hello everyone, sorry I wasn't here for Senatorial Forum last week. I hope you all read my email. Sorry. We've changed it. I want to move on in full force as a cohesive body. I'd just like to reemphasize that if anyone in the future is planning on actively working against an initiative we are taking I'd really appreciate email because that's pretty significant stuff. We'll be out at free latke day tomorrow. For those of you who don't know that is a traditionally Jewish delicious fried potato pancake where potatoes are sliced into small. If you don't know what a latke is, shame on you. We will be there tomorrow with student vision stuff and bottled water ban stuff. I'd like to commend Senator Doran for doing an awesome job sending out an email to everyone, I thought that was really great, I'd love to see more of that. Otherwise, onward and upward. I'd like to yield the floor to Senator White.

Senator M. White: V-Men, Sunday, sorry about all the stuff like oh my gosh that's Sunday! Chad Stokes State Radio hyphen Dispatch is putting on a little acoustic set. It's going to be down the hall, gonna be sweet. Accompanying the performance is going to be the V-Men workshop. It's a bunch of essays written by dudes around the world about violence against women and what you can do as a man or as a person to stop it. It's going to be sweet, I'd love to see you all there. It's Sunday from 1-3 in the Grand Maple Ballroom put on by Student Action.

Chair Simmons: Also, we're doing Naked Bike Ride stuff. One of my roommates actually gave a great idea that I hear Senate was working on before which was turning the Naked Bike Ride into a clothing donation thing. At the starting line in a grand show of naked glory, everyone tears off their clothes and then all those clothes are given away to people who need it. Thank you. New t-shirts are in. They're sweet. There's a royal blue one, a lime green, and a purple one. If you know anyone who is interested in volunteering, have them email me. I get to organize all the volunteers. If you can volunteer from 8-10 and help the Green Mountain men and women set up the things that block the naked people from the clothed people, and you can volunteer from 10:30-1am keeping the Naked Bike Ride safe and inclusive and we welcome your help.

Open the Floor for Questions (2:52.01)

Chair Adams: Chair Simmons, are you trying to control my committee?

Chair Simmons: Somebody should.

CODEEE (2:25,19)

Chair Herman: I emailed my report out, but I want to just say first thing I'd like to commend the PR Committee. Those results are excellent, thank you for your hard work. With that, those results show that we do need to move forward with education of our students regarding compost and recycling, water bottles and everything and that's where our energy should be going. I sent an email also, but Chair Simmons and myself, we attended a meeting with Thomas Gustafson, Jon Porter and Annie Stevens the Wednesday before break regarding the mental health resolution and the letter that President Mensah and Vice President Maciewicz sent to President Fogel. It was a really good meeting, they definitely expressed their concern for mental health and Jon Porter, Dr.

Porter expressed that most all students who attend Psychiatric Services, if they cannot afford it, they still help them, they never turn any student down that can't afford such psychiatric services. He said one of the main issues was that Psychiatric Services aren't known that they are available to most students so most students don't know about the Psychiatric Services and one thing they are working on how to publicize that more to students that they have these services and that these services are offered. Another huge issue that we discussed was the alcohol and drug abuse of student which they stated is one of the main contributors to students dying from overdosing on drugs or contributing to them killing themselves because they are drunk and intoxicated which is what happened with the past 2 people. About a month ago I was discussing how the director of ALANA center, Beverly Coleston was worried about presence or lack there of male students of color in leadership positions and myself along with Senator Willis we having our first student male color social gathering Monday to get more male students together and discuss issues that they are facing and to get them to come out and be present on campus, so that will be happening this Monday at the ALANA Center at 8:30.

Senator Benes: Hey everybody, I just wanted to touch ground on the Clean Energy Fund. I'm serving on the fund and there has been a lot of questions about exactly if we want to broaden the fund or if we want to just focus on renewable energy. I'm open to hear any suggestions from any of you. It would be great to get the main issue is a lot of good issues that really got the most amount of votes like composting and bike sharing, they got the highest amount of votes but then they were pushed by administration of the committee saying that they were off topic. It would be great to get feedback from you guys, I sent out a whole email detailing it all so if you have any questions just shoot me later.

Open the Floor for Questions (2:29.21)

Chair Adams: To receive psychiatry services here do you have to be referred by a psychologist or could you just go see a psychiatrist?

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: No, you do not have to receive a referral at UVM.

Senator O'Brien: This is for Chair Herman, did you have a meeting with the Davis Center staff about composting and could you tell us the outcome of that?

Chair Herman: That's in the report that I emailed but unfortunately we did not, it was cancelled last minute again. They expressed their apologies. I've spoken to both the advisor and the Director of Operations again and we're going to try to schedule something before semester is out but they cancelled yet again.

Senator Filstein: This question is for Josh Benes, what is the mechanism for changing the Clean Energy Fund to allow it to accept all there great ideas that got bootied?

Senator Benes: I would say that some type of mandate would have to come from this body because we are the ones who kind of initiated it. So, if any of you that are interested please contact me and it would be good if we can get a whole rally of people to come share voice that kind of voice to broaden the fund at the first meeting for the Clean Energy Fund next semester. I think it would be great to have that voice and have the committee be able to share their concerns and hear comments from all of you guys.

COLA (2:31.18)

Chair Morgan: I just wanted to thank PR for getting these nice looking fleeces. So Community Coalition is on Friday. I feel like we just had it because it was the wee before the week before break. We are going to be drafting a letter to send to the parents of first year students and the parents of second year students as well as planning for the Common Ground Summit which will be when we come back, the date escapes me right now. Friday Dave Potter is going to come and

do a dry run for Invite a Legislator Day so that's going to be one of COLA's goals for the beginning of spring term, it should be a lot of fun. There was no City Council last night so my Monday night was oddly free. Next Monday Town Gown meeting, we haven't had one since August. Other than that, COLA's kind of chilling with our new member, Senator Cooper. That's all.

Student Activities (2:32.49)

Chair Adams: I'm really mad at PR, they got all the way to me and then started going this way. International Relations will be coming up next week, hopefully. They just have to amend their constitution thus might also be coming up in Emergency Business. Activities Fest is the week we get back so if SGA wants to table we should decide soon. That will be a lot of fun. That's like the first week we're back to do Winter Activities Week. We're doing it with Winter Blitz this year hoping to score them giving away free coffee at the same place our clubs are tabling. It's kind of a nice opportunity for clubs to get new members for spring semester. Update sheets went out today so we should have updated contact info for all the clubs if the Lynx works, it's the first registration to go out on the Lynx. Textbook buyback is happening again so that is the Bookstore gets a certain amount of money every year to advertise for people selling books back. What Jay Menninger who is like their manager decided to do last year was to give the money to clubs and then have clubs advertise selling your books back and whichever club gets the most gets a lot of money. In order to make it more interesting there are actually 9 clubs that will receive prizes this year. The grand prize I think it was 3000 or 1000 for this time and it was 1500 last time. So this year its 1000 and then it breaks down from there. Essentially, it's allowing 9 of our clubs to meet \$100 fundraising minimum, which is really cool, so even smaller clubs have more of a shot. Yield the Floor to Senator Malloy

Senator Malloy: So next week there will be a resolution about athletic medicine for club sports. This has been something that has been on the agenda for the Student Activities Committee for a really long time. I just wanted to give a little background to it because it's kind of my baby. I was assigned to spearhead it and I decided to turn my Thanksgiving Break into working vacation sifting through this kind of dense report that I got. So, I sifted through this and next week it will be that resolution and I've kind of done my research about it and I was also provided with list of possible options and I looked through those and I picked the one I thought would be the best option for the SGA and for the students and that's the one that doesn't cost anyone any money and that is through the Center for Health and Wellbeing. So look for that next week.

Chair Adams: A couple things. Thanks for approving the Student Activities Fee, it really does make a tremendous difference for clubs. If you are a new Senator and you're not really sure how clubs work and how club recognition works, feel free to come talk to me. And it's Senator Moise's birthday, she's 21.

Open the Floor for Questions (2:36.38)

Senator Benner: Senator Malloy, could you explain in a few sentences, because I'm completely ignorant, can you elaborate on what exactly athletic medicine is? Are we talking First aid kits, or are we talking Ibuprofen?

Senator Malloy: I think we're talking both of those things. There might be first aid kits that might get involved in that but really what we're talking about is the athletic medicine things like physical therapy. When I went through this report, actually, the person who compiled this report is Kit Vreeland and she is a student in our Athletic Medicine Program, I'm sorry, professor I mean, not a student, so that's what we mean when we say athletic medicine is medicine that is specifically related to club sports and the activities of club sports similar to the programs that exists now through the Center for Health and Wellbeing for Varsity Sports.

Chair Adams: I will further elaborate. What happened was three years back they cut sports medicine at the Center for Health and Wellbeing from being available to all students to being available to only varsity athletes, which is one of those fee contradiction type things. What SGA chose to do at the time was hire Kit Vreeland and she kind of organizes all the personal trainers who go to games. If people need physical therapy setting them up, those types of things. Right now we pay 35% of her salary and the rest comes from the College of Medicine. So instead of essentially students paying twice but, because club sports have grown both competitively and in number and in participants, we are really doing a disservice and actually risking the health of club sports athletes. So the choice was either to pay more SGA money to hire more athletic training people or to petition Center for Health and Wellbeing to expand their services back to including everyone or at least club sports participants. We chose to go that way because it's already sort of double charging students.

Finance (2:39.18):

Senator Tran: Alex is sick and has a test so she can't be here but I'd just like to thank you for passing the bill, it was very much needed. Other than that we did a supplemental today we considered a supplemental for cycling so that's going to come up next week for nationals for cycling. It will come up next week under new business.

Senatorial Forum (2:39.58)

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: I wasn't here when new business for next week came up but I will be presenting a resolution calling for the addition of a physician or a physician's assistant to the Women's Health Clinic. I just wanted to give brief background right now. They were so scaled back in cuts that I spoke to a friend of mine who needed to go to the Women's Center for emergency care but for Women's Health emergency care and they weren't able to see her for a week and half. Which, I feel like if you are sexually active or know women or like having sex with women that it should matter to you. You will receive that bill probably in the next 24 hours.

Senator Benes: I just want to touch on the Collaborative Campus Conference and I just wanted to say that having a vision doesn't mean anything if it's not followed up by action. I told if all of you get a chance to read my email and read my blurb about exactly what we discussed at the meeting last week and hopefully we can get together and get students riled up and yeah so check my email that I wrote earlier today.

Senator M. White: I pray that you hear me out. Motion to suspend the rules in order to open the floor for discussion on the possible referendum on the Student Activities Fee.

Vote to suspend the rules - fails

Senator Benner: Chairs hi, so I may have spoken to a few of you already but I would appreciate it if for the slides that are coming up for the oh so controversial television if you could send me and Chair Monteforte of either you and your committee. They can be either funny, very serious, anything that you want. Just your committee as a whole. You may have heard a rumor that people from PR may be coming around and taking pictures of your committee by surprise and that rumor is true.

Senator Mason: I'm all for the 'Yea' 'Nay', all that stuff but I honestly had difficulty hearing Senator Filstein speak and because of that I didn't know what he said if everyone was naying so if we could kinda shorten that nay up a little bit you don't have to go nayyyyy. I honestly I kind of thought I knew what we were talking about a little bit and I kind of heard the last part and the part of the beginning. If we could nip that down a little bit because it's kind of rude.

Senator Benes: I just want to touch on the amazing job that PR did on the VSOP. I worked tirelessly last year on the VSOP I was on PR and it was so brutal and hard and getting all the

numbers out of this program is amazing. From the results of Coca Cola, I really see that we can't really make a referendum to remove Coca Cola on campus this year. I think that we really should work to decrease the contract so that there is less Coca Cola on campus maybe and requiring them to have a huge amount more refill stations instead of bottles. I hope that you guys take that up, it's a really important issue. Decrease the Coke contract, start bringing in more local stuff and let's work our way there.

Chair Monteforte: That said I don't we got the results that we wanted, but definitely we can do something with the bottles. On the fleeces, if you are just appointed to senate and would like one just see me after or if you didn't sign up for one before and you want one now come see me as well. I encourage you to wear them, I hope you like them. Treat them with respect, they're university property logo. I encourage you to wear them around when you're tabling and what not, that's why students pay for them. When you go to the Holiday party you can wear them too. This is ugly. Just kidding. I just encourage you to wear them around.

Senator DeVivo: This is kind of directed at all of you. I would like to know more about the boycott that we're planning now because today my BSAD 120 class when the teacher announced that emails were going out relentlessly for BSAD course evaluations the discussion popped up why we have to do them so I raised my hand and everyone who read *The Cynic* so they knew about that so I raised my hand and said I was on SGA and that we had a boycott in the works for course evaluations but I didn't really know much more information along the lines of that. I yield the floor to someone over there.

Chair Nelson: Thank you for raising your hand in class and bringing it up. What you guys need is this little cheat sheet on why we are boycotting course evaluations. We will email it out to everyone tonight, I just had to make a few minor edits and then I would encourage everyone with super smiles on your faces to share this with your classes as soon as possible, really, because course evaluations will be coming up any time after today. So share this before classes, during course evaluations, and if you guys have time to go into other large lectures, I would encourage you to do that. If you are a TA, I know I'm a TA and I can do that in some of the classes that I TA for and influence those students. I'm also going to send around a piece of paper to get help tabling Thursday Friday to get the word out as well. If there's a half hour time slot that you could do this Thursday or Friday just saying 'hey we're SGA, we're encouraging a boycott against course evaluations'. I do want to reiterate because I know this is one of the first question that comes up from concerned students is that this isn't to reflect poorly on professors. Please explain to other students that they can and should write in the comments section of the evaluations but not to give the metrics, the A,B,C,D,E, all that stuff, or to take out a separate sheet of paper and write out comments. We still want to maintain a healthy relationship with our professors, of course, because we love most of them and they do need our feedback. Please do that. This is going to go around.

Senator Lober: The ideal time might be when the professor is going to hand out the course evaluation packet and then leave the room. So that leaves you with the opportunity to have an open classroom with no pressure from your professor and you can explain to them the situation.

Chair Nelson: In addition, I'll print out additional hard copies of these and you can slip them into the envelope that gets handed in for course evaluations so that every professor has an idea what is behind these pieces of paper and unfilled out course evaluations.

President Mensah: In terms of the course of action that is going to happen in the next few days, I think one thing that is very important for all senators to realize is that this was something that was almost unanimously voted on by the senate body so a cohesive effort on making sure that students are aware that as an SGA body we are boycotting Course Evaluations is going to be very important for the next few days. The reason why is this is almost setting precedent for future demands and ultimatums made by the Student Body. If by tomorrow at 4:30 the Academic Affairs Committee doesn't hear back from anyone, specifically Interim Provost Jane Knodell

about the status of course evaluations, the turn form SGA is going to have to be pretty quick. There is going to be emails from my end that are going to be drafted, things that the Public Relations Committee is going to have to go out quickly informing students about this boycott against course evals. As Chair Nelson mentioned, it's important to keep in mind that we are not trying to inhibit professors getting feedback we are just saying that it's unfair that we spend 10-15 minutes at the end of the semester giving out evaluations that we're not going to see which really makes no sense because as I was talking to Vice President Maciewicz earlier when students are registering for classes and you see you facebook what is one of the question that they are always asking? Who is taking this course and who is saying what about this teacher? So clearly there is a demand for it and students want it. This is one of the reasons why we are pushing for publishable course evaluations. As of now we're still in that limbo period because we don't know exactly what the administration is going to say, they could very well within 24 hours give a response back to the Academic Affairs committee, but if they don't the move is going to have to be swift and cohesive from SGA.

Senator Filstein: So I know the energy is kind of low, it's late but on top of what Kofi said, this wasn't an empty threat when we passed this. This is unprecedented in UVM SGA history. This is a big deal. This is a way for the students to actually impact what happens at this university. The people in this room need to be the most excited people about this issue. We've got to be leaders in this. We don't have any grassroots movement in this. Our job is to represent the students and facilitate this happening. The AA Committee is going to be leading it but we do need help from everyone so like Giselle said, getting up in your classes when the teacher leaves, saying write comments, don't fill out any of the numbers. Tabling Thursday and Friday. The main push is going to be next week, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We're going to have an article in *The Cynic* and maybe some other things, but basically, just tell everyone you know and tell them why, tell them why it's important. Not everything in *The Cynic* was really accurate but if you have questions come to us. We're going to hand out this cheat sheet, but you know, spread it around to the listservs you are on. This wasn't an empty threat and if the students don't care and don't get involved it's going to make us look bad and has the potential to actually change the way things work. I know it's late and we're tired but this is the real deal. This is a student movement, this is us advocating for what we want. I really hope that everyone can help out and get involved.

Senator O'Brien: I was just curious for the people who voted down opening the idea of a referendum for the Student Activities Fee to UVM students if you could comment on why you don't think a referendum is a good idea via email or however you see is appropriate. I know the Finance Committee and the Treasurer say that are reasons for the fee increase but I know I was between a rock and a hard place because first of all I was a representative and proposing the question to fellow undergrads you know what do you think of an increase, of course they said, no we don't want that and that's my job as a representative but of course we need to educate them on these reasons and some people are struggling to pay for school already and it's hard for them. I was just wonder if you could comment on if it's a fear of not getting the results that we wanted since we already passed this increase but why wouldn't we want to open the conversation to UVM undergrad students when this is their money going to their activities.

Chair Adams: To speak to that I think that every student that I have talked to has been in favor of more money for clubs and \$5 they thought was reasonable, but that's who I've talked to. I would have been open to the referendum idea but to go back to what Senator Filstein was talking about I initially one of the people who voted down the legislation, but right now it is our body that is at stake. If this was an empty threat and we don't take the steps necessary then it looks bad on any piece of legislation we pass. I definitely think we should go ahead and put all of our energy into this boycott, it really needs to take precedence. Second, I think we should take the Senator M. White strategy of starting massive facebooking. It really is effective. Between 45 of us we have a ton of facebook friends and that's a lot of UVM students right there. I would also be interested in, I like the idea of filling out the comments but not the numbers, but I would be interested too in maybe providing an alternative sheet that students could fill out that just wouldn't be the official university one so that professors would still have those metrics if they

wanted them because ideally there are going to be no numbers at all so it might be helpful for professors to have that even if departments won't.

Senator DeVivo: I want to cover two things. First of all, I was one of the people who nayed the referendum for the simple fact that in my opinion as SGA, for every other bill or resolution, I know this is a really important one and overarchingly is going to affect everyone immediately, but I felt that it's our duty sitting in this room to make those decisions. While I would like to hear the student body's opinion, I think that's our duty on voting on bills in the first place. With the boycott, I just want to make sure, and it's been said a couple times so I'm sorry for repeating, but I just want to make sure we're all encouraging our friends our peers not to do this just to be lazy and not do the evaluations just because it is our job to educate them so they know why we're doing it and they know there is a point behind what we're doing and they didn't just read about it in *The Cynic*. So I think we should all try to make an effort. If we all stand up in all of our classes and just say something at the beginning of classes and ask professors if we can do that, it would pretty much cover the entire campus pretty easily, or most of it. I think that's pretty important just so everyone understands why we are doing it and what the point is because that's how we are going to accomplish something when you get everyone together to do that.

Senator Tran: I have an idea behind Chair Adams idea, maybe for the cheat sheet things you could print out a bunch of them and then have the facts and then spots to write on and then we can hand those in to the envelopes. If the SGA could print out a bunch of them and then I would hand them out to my classes. I think that would be easy instead of just talking about it.

Senator M. White: Responding to Senator DeVivo, why would we pass the idea of having a referendum? If we were going to use it then I feel like something like increasing the Student Fee across the board would be the place to do it.

President Mensah: Point of Information: Even though we voted down as the senate body opening up a referendum to engage more student feedback about the proposed Student increase, you can still go out as a student and create a petition and go get signature. It's to a certain percentage you can go out and get a certain number of signatures and if it's a high number and you get 2,000, 2,000 signatures saying that we don't want the SGA student fee to go up or something, maybe that's something that you can bring back to the senate floor next week as 3,000 students is a lot more compared to a 2/3 majority vote needed to pass the resolution in the first place.

Senator Lober: Point of Information: What was voted down was not the referendum was to allow for of the issue.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: Correct, we did not vote down any bill, we did not allow the discussion to take place. The original discussion was not allowed because it did not follow the new constitution that we just passed.

Senator Sadeghi: What AA is doing is great. This is coming up quickly, I don't think we need to make it more complicated by adding our own sheets or adding comments. What AA has said I think we should just follow through have students just skipping the numbers and putting in the comments. Just keep it simple and hope for the best.

Senator Wilich: I am resigning after today because I'm going abroad next semester.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements (3:01.02)

Senator M. White: I just wanted to say thank you Josh.

Senator Vitagliano: Senator White kind of stole my thunder but I just wanted to say that Senator Benes has been working very hard these last couple of weeks. The resolution he had today was

great. I know he's still willing to work with SGA on the issues all next semester and he will greatly missed on our committee.

Senator Doran: So a while ago my friend Ish or Sean McDonald came in and was talking about an event he was holding called Give it up for Agua. It's a benefit concert to get, I forget exactly what they're installing but it's basically to bring clean water to Honduras and I'm also, it's going to be a great concert, by the way, there is a rock punk-esque show on one half and a DJ rave on other half. It's from 8-2 this Saturday so you should come. I'm also going to be there in the beginning handing out stuff about Student Vision and with me for the water bottle ban. If anyone's interested you should just meet me there or let me know.

Senator Benes: Hey everybody. I just wanted to thank all of you and I wrote a little speech. After serving on this body for year and a half, I feel I have grown as a person and as a member of the UVM community. After all this experience, after this whole time I've gone through many mistakes and many challenges that other senator face. But how do we work through these challenges together? How do we bring the body closer towards a central cause of building a community and helping to build a better future for the university and the world? Now, I don't mean to be corny or anything, but it does just come down to believing in yourself. Believing in you ability to change the university in a way you see fit. Believe and trust in other senators to create a better campus. Believe that you can change the system as part of the system. Set the examples as student leaders. When I was just a kid testing for my blue belt in Tae Kwon Do I wanted to break two boards with a sidekick. Prior to the test, my mom said 'Josh! You can't break two boards, you are going to break your whole foot!' and I said 'Mom, I'm going to break two boards' My mom was like 'Hey Josh ask Master ?? first.' When I went to my testing and Master ?? asked 'ok, what are you doing for a break, Josh?' I said, 'I'm going to do a side kick with two boards!' And I went up and master held those two boards for me and I went right through those two boards like butter. And everyone was shocked and I brought the broken boards to my mom and I said 'see mom, see? I was able to break these two boards because I believed in myself. You on the other hands, mom, you wouldn't break any boards because you wouldn't believe that you would be able to do it!' Find your two boards within senate and then break through them. I know that when you join Senate it takes a while to become comfortable with how works and when to speak and finding your voice. It took me some time too find this out too, and when I did, it was still difficult to get things done with tons of tests and schoolwork. Find that balance you need to succeed. Plan your schedule and what you are going to do ahead of time or it's just going to pass. Trust me, if you can believe that you can do it you will. Find what you are passionate about. What ticks you off most about the university? Then just jump for it. Don't even look the other way. Sure, you are going to have to do some research and communicate with other senators, but trust me, you can do all the research in world and you still won't know enough about what you are trying to change. So just do it. Believe in your power to transform the university the way you see fit. Get other students around the campus amped up about changing it the way they see fit. Create a stronger vision. Get others to believe that they can do it. You have the power to make it happen. Just believe and dig deep within yourself. For me, I will still continue on this mission, however not as a senator. Writing a thesis and being a TA and working on Senate would be just too much for me to handle. I will still be around serving on the Clean Energy Fund and Landscape Advisory Committee for the senate and trying to build a grassroots effort to improve the university through a stronger vision and a network of students throughout the university and I'll probably be a lobbyist too. So, I leave all of you now urging every one of you to believe in your ability to change the university. Senator or not, if every one of us can work together, stand together, learn together, I have no doubt that we will make a much better future for the University of Vermont. So find your passion, help others with theirs, and make the University of Vermont lead the nation with a student voice like no other. I thank all of you and I officially resign from being and SGA senator and I wish you all the best of luck next semester and remember to just believe!!!!

Chair Monteforte: Point of Information: I was playing pomp and circumstance.

Chair Adams: Why do I always have to go next? On completely other notes, there is karaoke tomorrow, which I know a lot of senators here especially love. Monteforte, you do not go. Chair Simmons, Senator Alleger, beautiful voices. If you weren't there, you missed out. If that's not your scene you can go ice skating with UVM Skates on Friday, which is also my event, but it's super fun and there's free hot choc and it's going to be very fun. And also, I wanted to thank our minute taker, I don't know if you guys looked at the minutes but they were 27 pages long and I live with her, and I like you all but listening to your voices over and over and over again is really really haunting.

Speaker/Vice President Maciewicz: I have three announcements. First, tomorrow from 6-8 there is a really really cool art exhibit at the Allen House called Transformations. It's a multimedia essay video sculpture presentation about transformations of life. It's super cool, I really urge you all if you're free during that period to stop by and support fellow student artists. Also, tomorrow is World AIDS day. I sent out an email last week. If you could wear red in solidarity for the people who have died or consider getting yourself tested to know your own status or to show others that it's not something to be ashamed of to get tested for HIV. It's been 30 years since the HIV/AIDS epidemic started in the United States and we've come a long ways but if we don't keep reminding people that it's still a problem and that people still die every day from AIDS people will forget. The third thing I'd like to say is many words of appreciation to the three senators who will be leaving us. Senator Lober, Senator Wilich and Senator Benes who already made his dramatic exit, how much I appreciate your service, the amount of time you give to the organization. You will be missed. Please consider joining SGA in the future if you will still be here. Thank you so much on behalf of the organization and we will miss you.

Senator Bennington: So I'm a little unprepared for this but Students Stand Up is doing some work with CCTA bus drivers union and right now they are going through some contract negotiations. The CCTA board is decidedly against everything they are asking for. Primarily, they are looking for longer breaks or shorter shifts. They are concerned with how the periods of time that bus drivers are being forced to drive in single shifts, they don't think it's very safe for passengers. Anyway, Students Stand Up, which is part of Students for Global Justice, is trying to organize people to go to CCTA's meeting tomorrow at South Burlington city hall. I have no idea where that is. If you are interested, talk to me, and I can send you an email with more information on it. The CCTA union is going to be presenting to the CCTA board with their ideas and their contract and the CCTA board is trying really hard to organize against this, they are being pretty anti union. And we all ride the CCTA busses for free. It's cool because they're really just asking for increased safety.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: I made a similar announcement before, and don't tell my landlord, but I have a puppy and there are 8 more where he came from. If you have a pet friendly lease, I am looking for someone to take 1 or more of 8 puppies that are absolutely adorable. And they're actually like purebred labs and they're really cute, but they've been abused and one of them was almost strangled so they need a really good home. Please see me after they are really cute and they are fluffy and really adorable.

Chair Adams: Sorry friend, I always forget something but it's almost the end of the semester so I'm wondering if people would be interested in a fun end of the semester secret buddy type deal for like \$5 a person or perhaps doing some sort of pot luck or something.

President Mensah: I'm so happy that Chair Adams mentioned pot luck because a way for you all to cook for each other as well as to cook for other club signers and students will be at next week's winter office party. Right now what I'm looking to do is get more funding so we can get more food so we can invite more people to come so if we get that funding along with the fee waiver, the funding we are probably going to get, but if we can get the fee waiver, this allows all of you, I think I'll be making some cornbread mac and cheese or whatever, if any of you here want to cook something, Greg you're not going to cook something so don't even play, if you want to cook for next week Tuesday from 5-7, as soon as I find out if we get the fee waiver and more funding I

will let you know and I think it will be a great thing to show that you can cook and you want other people to taste what you are cooking so be on the look out for that email.

Chair Adams: ok I'll email you guys.

Roll Call (3:13.38)

Finance: Chair Mallea, Senator Lovell, excused

Student Activities: All Present

COLA: All Present

CODEEE: Senator McLemore, Senator Cesario, excused

Student Action: All Present

Public Relations: All Present

Academic Affairs: All Present

Adjournment (3:14.05)

End Time: 10:13p