

** (Correction from last minute: Christian Mathews is not running for vice president position due to personal reasons) **

March 20th, 2012

Roll Call

Finance—all present

Public Relations—Senator Heffrin unexcused

Student Activities –Senator Chaouch excused

COLA—Senator Wilich and Sennenopolous excused

Academic Affairs—Chair Caster excused

Student Action—all present

CODEEE—Senator Craine and Senator Al-Namee excused, Senator Neill unexcused

Public Forum

Anne Stevens: I don't have an address. I'm Anne Stevens. I'm from the dean's Students Office and I wear a couple of campus. I was going to be joined by the director of the Center of Health and Wellbeing, Dr. John Porter as well as Stacy Miller, the director of residential life. The three of us are colleagues on campus and we wanted to come to you tonight because last semester, you know it was pretty late this semester where the university made a decision about the naked bike ride and kind of not supporting it at least financially anymore. And, I personally felt like, wow we didn't have a lot of discussions and a lot of time for discussions about that, and what that meant. And as I entered this conversation, I just said I wear a couple of hats. One of those hats is that I am a chair of the President's commissions for social change, which looks a lot at systems at campus and issues on campus that all revolve health and safety so you can imagine that commission is deeply ingrained in conversation so really I came to you tonight to open up the dialogue. I don't get to see a lot of students unless they are in crisis. In my role in the dean of student's office and I thought that it would just be nice to have a conversation albeit ten minutes what you all think about this event. Where should we go? What should we be doing? What kind of conversations should we be having about this? The university is obviously concerned about this because students are getting hurt, and hurt badly. And if we were to hold any other event on campus then I would think that SGA would be at an uproar, that we would actually be holding an event that is hurting students. I just think that it's a good dialogue on a college campus. Lots of colleges have different traditions that are home-grown that come up from students wanting a kind of tradition, I get that, but here's one that is interesting and is hurting a lot of students, physically, emotionally, and also impacting its second-hand effects spreading through the residential life-style and other people who can't study. So, literally that's my intro. And we're just here to hear what you think, and what concerns you, and what interests you have in this event.

(Speaker and Senate welcome Anne, John, and Stacy one more time)

Senator Daley: If we go over 10 minutes, since this is such an important issue for students, Mr. Speaker would you be willing to suspend your rules. [Speaker agrees] Many students have said that even if the university has cancelled funding to the Naked Bike Ride, they are going to do it anyways, and in fact they did do it anyways.

So I think the students are wondering why the university does not fund the event anyways.

So I think that for the event itself, and can I give you a little history, I have been here for 15 years, so I have seen different events on campus. This started about 8-9 years ago. It was a group of L/L. it was about 20 of them. They literally did a bike ride around campus. Everybody went, 'woohoo' as they went around campus and it was done. It was about 15 minutes long. It grew over time to a time when it actually—Jay Taylor was the president of the SGA, and at that time it grew so much that we said to Jay like, "wow, we either need to stop this event, change it, or totally accept that we are doing it. Jay, at the time, we made a decision and the University was with him to try to change it; to try to offer some security at that point. The participants themselves were getting hurt. People were jabbing them, assaulting them, sticking sticks in the bicycle wheels. It was pretty bad. There was a gauntlet that went through L/L, and people were getting pretty hurt. So we offer, the university at that time made a decision to help this event and manage it, get more security, student volunteers. The last four years has been that. Until this fall, when even the management of it, it still wasn't working. And let's be honest, nobody minds the nakedness, nobody has minds the nakedness. It's the pre-gaming, it's the alcohol, it's the sexual-assaults, it's the strangers that we're attracting from all over Vermont, and the northeast and Canada that are up in the halls stalking women and looking for opportunity. That's the stuff that we mind, and the campus is concerned about. President Bramley came in and said, and the commissions has been talking about this for years now, and said, how can we be possibly, and I agree with him, frankly, how can we be funding support of this, trying to do this. And that's when we came up with the idea, albeit good or bad, that we offer an alternative event that we tried to do last semester. Some students still did the naked bike ride, but the university felt like at least we can offer something for students who don't want to participate—something that is fun, and food-driven, and some kind of an event at the end of the semester to celebrate. That's where we are, and to answer your question, the police will probably always be there, because we have an obligation. I mean they *have* to respond. They are the first responders on campus, so they will always be there. We're not putting any more funding to the T-shirts, food for training, volunteers to be out there. We're not making this a big event anymore. We're just saying if people want to go out there and take their own risk then they will do that. I guess my concern personally or professionally was that we know students are doing this because they think that it's a tradition. That personally hurts me to think that people almost feel pressured to want to participate in this event. And that was never meant to be that way. There are cases of frostbites that occur during the December month, and the ER is getting flooded with those types of patients. We are also getting sexual assaults reports. The list goes on. I don't have to ramble you with that but that's why.

Senator Mathews: Can you explain the institute's logic in cutting off all funding which pretty much gets rid of all the safety? It just seems to be that by cutting off funding, you are not protecting students at all.

Anne: As I just said, the police will always be out there. So we're not going to neglect our obligation to be there in case someone gets hurt. So that won't happen and that's why there was no leaning off. There was never a truly let go of the safety response to it. The let go was we're not going to put in the time and energy and funding into and other safety mechanisms like volunteer, and t-shirts. We were making it a bigger event than it needs to become.

Porter: And I think that the costs last semester were higher for security than they had been for previous semesters. So it's not as though that it has been withdrawn, it's just that the university felt that this event was truly causing harm. For the folks that are affected, it's really harmful.

Anne: So we didn't back off financially to support the police and the first responders to be out there. We backed off philosophically of the university cannot support an event where students are getting hurt.

Christian Mathews: I understand that but then the university supports Spring Fest and there is drinking and pre-gaming there and people get hurt. So I guess I am just confused as to why the University cut off funding for this event.

Anne: We haven't seen the range of incidents with Spring Fest that we do with this night. . And there is a lot more monitoring that goes on in Spring Fest, and alternative things that happen during Spring Fest that you don't have to engage in.

Chair Rifken: You touched on previous Naked Bike Rides. So, did you see higher rates happening this year? Could you touch a little more on that?

We should have brought in the police log. I'm sorry that I did not do that. I can get you, Katie, if you would like. The police this past December, what's ringing in my head, the number of confiscations particularly up in the residence halls, the pre-gaming—over 300 bottles of beer and hard alcohol and all kinds of stuff? We saw at least one assault this past December and I know that there were definitely strangers up in our residence halls. So I can get you the hard numbers on that, but those types of incidents are still occurring. And now we just moved it over the CBW. I'm a little concerned because I fear that the new gauntlet that is going to be formed over CBW, if the students continue to use that venue. But I am happy to get you the actual stats.

Senator Campbell: if student organization was to form to act as a form of protection at the Naked Bike Ride, if it were to take place, in what ways would they be liable?

Anne: All kinds of ways. I mean, as soon as the students try to do volunteer work, which I in many ways I get, but you're putting yourself in harms way. If you're not able to respond, and you're setting up a duty to care, and you don't for whatever reason from negligence, then anybody can sue anybody these days. So you are putting yourself personally at risk, and whatever group is formed. If it's seemed as recognized by the SGA then the SGA would also be at fault then.

Senator Campbell: If no group is to form, who will be liable?

Anne: It will always fall back on the University.

Senator Mansfield: Have we looked at what other universities do in form of DE-stress mechanism or other universities as a Naked Bike Ride, and how that has played out? Just to see statistics wise and the safety of students.

Anne: Yeah, actually my niece is just applying to Tufts University and they just had a naked run on their quad as well. And their president actually said that if people run naked, then people are going to be suspended. UVM has not gone to that place. But their student group turned it around and did some other event like an over-dressed event where the student body brings out their prom-dresses and make an event out of the whole thing. So my point being, universities have all kinds of traditions. In Maryland, they do like a food fest. If you Google campus traditions then you'll find them.

Speaker Osef: Why doesn't the University just give an ultimatum? Wouldn't that just be easier?

Anne: Because we don't think it would work. Also who wants to catch naked people? They will catch them when they are falling down drunk, then they will wrap them in a sheet and send them in a patrol car to the ER. So there is a little bit of a quandary about really, am I really going to pull you over suspend you right now? It's a weird issue. To me, It's also a philosophical issue. Is this the type of event that our student body wants to have as their tradition.

Senator DeVivo: I just wanted to comment and say that I'm tired of this argument that, yes, the university does have responsibility over the safety of its students, but I think that at a time and place where they can provide. Like providing a nice building or a safe place to live. When we're blaming them when students are pre-gaming, getting drunk, and falling at snow banks, and getting left there or getting assaulted by people who go to the school, I think that we're creating a situation with the students where the administration cannot possibly control that. No matter how much security or paramedics or whatever, put up everything in the world and it's not going to prevent these things from happening. It happened when there was security and it has happened when there wasn't. The police officers and the first responders are not going to leave us students out to dry regardless of us not showing the support. It's stupid that students are acting in irrational behavior and putting the blame on the university, and I am just tired of it. So, how can we as student representatives convey what I just said to students better?

Anne: I think that all of you should be answering that question. That's why we are here; because we just want to have that conversation about what do you want to do? That's your perspective, and I certainly respect that. I also acknowledge that that might not be the perspective of everyone in the room, and I think that this is student leadership at its best, right here. You are in a moment of where you want to go. You have a quandary before you about your peers' safety. So how do you want to represent your student body even though you know down deep that many of them may not agree with you, if you decide on an alternative route than the Naked Bike

Ride? The University is “stuck” right now, and if there was ever a time for student leadership, it is now.

Stacy Miller: What gave you the courage to say that? I fully appreciated and agreed what you said. And I think that that’s a rhetorical question for all of you. What makes some people say that this is not okay? There is no judgment if you want to run naked. But at noon, because it is not my responsibility if you run naked or not and if you get hurt or not. And it’s not my staff’s responsibility. Yet we are put in a situation where we have to take care of people who don’t want to take care of themselves. And that to me is incredibly frustrating as an administrator. I love Slade Residence because they run at noon. They don’t get drunk, they do it sober and during noontime because we’re really about running naked. If you’re really about running naked then why are you doing it at night, and why do you have to do it totally drunk? You know, we can’t take care of you for you. You’ve got to take care of yourselves.

(Speaker denies Senator DeVivo a follow-up due to a long speaking order)

Senator Keyes: Do you have any idea what kinds of number look like before funding this thing?

Anne: It’s about the same I would say. We only have 4 years worth of numbers in the past that we tried to help with safety piece, and we’ve only got one event this past fall where we didn’t. But I would say that they are about the same. But you should know that university resources are still going for this event. You know when President Bramley said we were pulling funding, we pulled funding for other stuff. We still have to pay officers overtime, and support the first responders. We’re still paying about \$15,000-\$17,000 for this thing to happen. So resources of the university, so your tuition is going towards this.

Senator Campbell: Speaking of traditions, Pat Brown had mentioned a town cry or something along those lines where students would all go outside and just shout together. Could you give us some background as to what that event was, and why it was discontinued?

Anne: It was called a “Primal Scream,” and it was at midnight, where students would open up their windows, scream for a couple of seconds, shut their windows and go back to bed. So, it wasn’t anything big, but it was one big scream at midnight. So we’ve had different traditions through different times of our history.

Senator Campbell: So was it discontinued because of the quiet hour issues or why was that.

Anne: All of these things are events where the students have either started it or stopped it. The university has never been associated with things like this. The University only stepped in on his one because of the safety pieces to this. So any event that has ever happened has all been student born or student ended.

Senator Holland: I think that the best way to get students to do something is to get a group of students, not just Senate but making a committee of students and getting suggestions out. I feel like one of the big reasons people didn't want to go was because they were told this is what you're doing. So we can't stop people from doing the Naked Bike Ride, but I think that getting more student involvement outside of this group, like students from every nook and cranny would be a good idea. So would that be something that we could do?

Anne: I guess we're here because we would need your help in doing that. I almost don't want it to be the Pat Browns of the world or the Student Life of the world to help organize that, because I don't think that that would help make it cool. I really think that it should be student led and born, and we need student leaders like you reaching out to the other parts of the student body to say, "hey, what can we do something that's really cool?" and then come to the university and ask for support on the event. And I really think that that first initial piece, that spark should be the students, because otherwise it's not going to be cool.

Senator Holland: Do you something in the works for this semester coming up?

Anne: No. We just want a conversation we just want to engage.

Chair Burns: I think that as student representatives we can only do so much to explain the administrative reasons for doing this. Because I think that students are most upset about the lack of communication to them as opposed to retracting the funds itself, and I think that we can explain to students that there were good reasons for doing this, like sexual assaults, but we can't talk to everyone? So, how can we move forward, and make it clear to students that the administration is doing this for students, because a lot of responses from the food fest was, "oh they're just trying to retract students from doing the Naked Bike Ride."

Stacy miller: I really don't want to tell you all what to do, because I feel that you are going to do your best sense of this, but I feel like it would be great if students can come up with, so what should we be doing? If this leadership body is in agreement that this event is harming our students, and you don't like that, then what else should you be doing? Could we create an event that would be offering something else? I don't know. I am not trying to speak for you. I am just asking you as student leaders it's your decision about how do you change this for your peers. What leadership should you try to take for your peers or not. If you have any thoughts as to pitch an idea for a new tradition then you could find one of us and we could help get the university to support the idea.

Chair Burns: If we were to create a new event would the administration be willing to help us out on that and make it clear to students that we are not trying to ruin their fun, rather we're just trying to have more safety?

Anne Stevens: Absolutely.

Senator Habib: In light of what you said to Senator Campbell about groups taking responsibility, how does that work with UVM rescue? I'm assuming they are on standby and they are recognized by SGA. If anything was to happen at any event, are they still held responsible if they can't be responsive to every student that needs them?

Anne Stevens: No they are under the health and safety aspect of UVM. If they can't get to students then that means that there are too many of them, but their whole purpose is first response. Volunteers are a different thing.

Senator Mansfield: Would you consider sending out an email to all students requesting input, giving statistics on what's happened with the Naked Bike Ride historically, explaining to them that this could be rape. Because we can't talk to every student, and we are stuck in a group think about this issue, so asking us won't be as effective and won't give you as creative answers as talking to the students. If you have a really creative title, do you think that we might be able to get input about this?

Anne Stevens: We're willing to do whatever you think would help. And that's why we're coming to you all. Truly, the university would be so open to anything, but we need students to formulate those ideas.

Senator Allston: I attended the food event on the Athletic, so I was wondering if you guys would do that again this semester?

Anne Stevens: Every plan right now is to offer that event again. I have only heard supporting comments about that event, so we will continue to offer alternative events for that night until we can come up with another tradition.

Senator Mathews: A feedback that I heard about that event and my personal experience is that it took 45mins to 1 hour to actually get food, and that pushed people towards Naked Bike Ride are you going to try to add more vendors or even lengthen the event?

Anne Stevens: Yeah, Student Life Office is helping us with that. It was our first try with it, so they are going to want to hear more feedback like that to cut down on the problems. So suggestions to them about improving the event would really be helpful to them.

Senator Accardo: I think that it's great that you guys are open to our ideas, but I just want to put this out there, what would happen if naked bike ride were to continue to earlier in the day? Because right now it's just in the night, so do you think that that would make it a little less sketchy I guess?

I would think. I think that the sketchiness is the nighttime, and the drinking is sketchy. And the nighttime is just attracting the strangers so there's some stuff

about the drinking and night, the combo, so doing it during the day may help it out. The nakedness is just not the issue, it's the other stuff that comes with it is the issue.

Old Business

Bill Allocating Funds to UVM Snowboard Team

Bill passes.

Bill Allocating Executive Power to President Golfarini for the weekend of April 24th and 25th

Bill passes.

Bill removing the "on" and "off" campus divide from the constitution.

There was a debate between senators about whether or not removing the "on" and "off" campus rule from the constitution would adequately represent the undergraduate students, and what the consequences would be for removing that law in terms of electing new senators. The argument's basis was do we want a better student-elected representatives or better student representatives in the senate body. Some senators however express that it does not matter if you are an "off-campus" or "on-campus" student, that issue is arbitrary. The question could be brought about why isn't there equal representation between genders, or sexual orientation, or the in-state and off-state students. It should just matter that they are passionate and hard working.

Bill doesn't pass.

New Business

Bill allocating funds to Tae Kwon Do

Bill allocating funds to Crew

Bill allocating funds to Freestyle Ski Team

No Emergency Business

Executive Reports

Speaker Osef: appreciates the debate about the constitution

Commends his committee for the work that they have been doing to the

- Senator Ravach: during public forum, you said that we were not allowed to pass notes
- Speaker Osef: We were not in public forum so the rules were suspended.

Vice President Vitagliano: There are still broken glasses for the banquet.

- They sat in on clubs this past weekend.
- Administration banquet. The deadline to RSVP'ing is tonight.
- The SGA banquet is on April 10th-from 5-7pm

- He has finalized his transition report
- Question #1: After whoever wins the VP election he'll be working on his subtle transition. He needs to focus on his academic work
- Chair Burns: Is it very important to be on time for the administrative dinner?
- VP: The dinner will start at 5:30.

President Golfarini: Thanks everyone for passing his bill to grant him exec power

- Met with Shiman scholarships on Friday.
- He was at the Honorary Degree Work Group meeting, so he'll let Senate know who wins the honorary degree.
- He has a meeting with Sodexo
- And a conference call with liaisons from the National Campus Leaders Council. They chose an exec board of other SGA presidents.
- Senator of the Week: Chair Dougherty.
- This past Sunday he won on the Intermural Soccer championship.
- Club Sports Council is having a fundraising event by holding a Carbon Offset Party on March 30th in Billings at 8-10pm. Tickets are \$1.
- Catamount Dance Crew is performing on April 6th, 2012.
- His roommate, Jared, works for Yankee Candle so this Thursday and Friday, anyone who is an SGA can get an employee discount.
- Question #1: Finishing his binder, catching up schoolwork, and planning his trip to Washington D.C.

Committee Reports

Finance: will try to have budgets done this weekend

- Thanks for passing snowboard
- Crew is requesting \$25,000 for a new dock.

Public Relations Report: working on elections

- Thanks the election committee for putting on a good debate the other day
- Looking into the poster project—It is gaining momentum.
- He wants to run legislation on Facebook to see what kind of feedback he gets for students
- Trying to figure out how the Facebook page can get more "likes"
- Meeting with Student Action to move the white board from the tunnel

Student Activities: They already received 20 nominations for the Student Life Awards

- Received a constitution from fashion club.
- He also met with VOX
- Working on the fundraising page.

COLA: passes around the "have a heart" sign up sheet

- Thanks everyone for the helping cleanup after St. Patty's Day.
- Police Luncheon went great—thanks everyone who helped.

- It was surprising to see that there was a lot less SGA people and a lot more student support.
- This past week was St. Patrick's Day—there have been a lot of concerns about the rude behavior. If anyone has any idea of what they could do to better the situation, she would love to hear them
- Senator Siebert: What is "Have a Heart"?
- Chair Rifken: It's a program where you hand out these fliers from neighbors and ask students to be more considerate about the community.
- Senator Siebert: Is handing out of the fliers on campus or off?
- Chair Rifken: It's on-campus. We're meeting on the Pearl House, and we're going into dining halls or the Green or Davis Center.

Academic Affairs: Chair caster will email out his report.

- Pursuing a resolution requesting advisor evaluation systems to get student feedback on them, because it's part of the 10-year process, but there is no way to see how they are advising.

Elections Report: they were having some trouble with the Vice Presidential Candidates

- Nolan Demasi has been taken out of the nomination pool
- Elections are tomorrow
- Senatorial Elections are going out this Friday. The meeting will be on March 29th. And elections are going to be on the April 4th and April 5th.

Student Action: Tabling with water bottles has been a lot of fun.

- Last tabling session tomorrow from 10-11am.
- Senator Conlon is working on microwaves
- Sodexo employee had a tixsmeoff about the metal forks being
- Working into possible renters union
- Chair Rifken: COLA would be happy to work with you on the rent control issue with Student Action.

CODEEE: Harry Potter Social justice Retreat has been postponed.

- AJ is going to be working with Jane O'Dell on March 28th about International Day.
- Dismantling Rape Culture in the Women's center is on April 5th
- Multicultural Day—there's been a lot of support about that.

Senatorial Forum

- Senator Casey: shares her frustration that there is no 24-hour study space on campus
- Senator Devivo: (regarding the bill to remove on/off campus divide) most students who are off-campus have at one point lived on-campus, and on-campus students have never lived off-campus. So, I just wanted to say that
- Speaker Osef: Did you receive the legislation? Senators say yes.

- Wishes everyone good luck for tomorrow's election
- Senator Holland: shares feedback from students about how they are unaware about some of the things going on on-campus, so maybe working with PR to make students more aware about the issues on campus.
- Senator Mansfield: Talks about her frustrating experience with Waste Management on campus.
- Senator Mathews: met with a faculty senator, they want to work with the SGA on things. He encourages Senate to try to meet with the faculty senate, because a lot can be done.
- Senator Comlon: talks about the 366 votes for the L/L mural. Vermont and Local won with 25% votes.
- Chair Benner: suggests working with Senator Casey about the 24-hour study area.
- Senator Rifken: Thanks people for signing up for "Have a Heart"
- Chair Burns: comments about the neighborhood cleanup
- Senator DeVivo: Talks about history about bon fire idea that happened where students got together to have a huge bon fire. Administration did not like the idea, but the students continued until 6 students died from a collapsed bon fire. But the naked bike ride issue is headed down that road.
- Senator Habib: Expresses her concern for ALANA saying that there have increasing enrollment of ALANA and the same number of staff.
- President Golfarini: Talks to Pat about the open space in the Davis center. Anybody can send a proposal. But the expectation for each open space is to make some kind of profit.
 - There was a policy on campus where they reduced the amount of trash and recycling units, and apparently there wasn't an increase nor decrease in litter.
 - The SGA is not going to organize the Green Caps. Senate cannot afford to be sued with the amount of clubs that it is responsible for.
- Senator Pastekiewicz: The Williams hall is open 24/7 for studying.
- Senator Devivo: I was not suggesting in the Green Caps. It is our responsibility to find a solution for this. It's important to have change 2 months before the event so that we can change the outcome, and not wait until the day of.

Senators discuss the effectiveness about the way that UVM handles grief with students and the counseling services. There were differing views with some approving the manner in which UVM deals with student personal issues and others with positive responses from how the University handled the

situation with the death of fellow student Abraham Kurganoff. The issue of confidentiality was brought in the negative aspects about the counseling services of UVM with peers not being able to know how their friends are doing or where they are. President Golfarini explains that that is why the new health center was put in the Davis Center to help students that need immediate help.

Senatorial Comments and Announcements

Senator Daley: Senator Allston wins the fashion award.

Senator Ravach: On Saturday 12-4pm, come to Tri Delta house for a barb-e-cue.

Senator Keyes: working with Greek life about getting a month of service, so email him if you're interested.

Senator Burns: Elections tomorrow till 4:30pm, and wishes his competitors the best of luck.

Senator Keenan: service being held for Abi at 4pm tomorrow.

Senator Campbell: Friday March 23rd, at 8pm, the Top Cats are performing and they are holding donations for MetLife.

Roll Call

Finance: All present

Public Relations: All present

Student Activiites: All present

COLA: Senator Nenopolous excused.

Academic Affairs: Chair caster excused

Student Action: Senator Manago excused

CODEEE: Senator Craine excused and Sentaor Neill unexcused