

November 8, 2011

Roll Call

Finance – all present

Student Activities –all present

Student Action- all present

Academic Affair – all present

COLA –all present

CODEEEE –Senator Talbot excused, Senator AL-Namee excused

Public Relations –Senator Siebert excused

Public Forum (02:19:05)

Speaker announces Christian Mathews

Christian Mathews: Hey, everyone. I'd just like to bring the attention of the senate a blog by fellow Senator Lederer-Plaskett. This blog is her—, I don't know, I would say tirade as a Greek life as a whole. I'd love for all of you to read it. Here's the website. (Inaudible sentence) In it she just attacks Greek life as a whole—negative things everywhere. Again, I can show you gang signs (parts of this sentence inaudible) sexual assault. And just is this the aims that we want our senators to have— attacking 10% of the population? And, it's actually great to see that we have a lot of our Greek lifers here in the audience. Thank you guys for coming. So, I'm just wondering, as a senate, do we think that we should be able to not represent our whole body by saying (inaudible words), you have the free speech to day all this stuff, but as a senator I think you should be better. So that's all I got to say.

Speaker announces Aliza Lederer-Plaskett

Okay, so. Here's the bottom line. Let's call this a "trump card." We have a thing in the United States called a constitution—in it I am guaranteed the right to Free Speech. Basically nothing on the blog names a person, a chapter, an individual, an organization, it speaks to the Greek system as a whole. I was in Greek life for 2 years. I went through formal recruitment. I went through 2 full years of activity and left it about a month ago. I have the right to share my experiences. If my personal program had a problem with me sharing my experiences, I would have hoped that they contact me, specifically me. Because the bottom line is that it has nothing to do with SGA. SGA does not recognize Greek Life as an SGA organization, because for a number of reasons they have been turned down. But for a number of reasons is because they are primarily an arbitrarily exclusive organization. They are an organization that plays on an incredible amount of privilege beyond (rest of sentence inaudible due to a cough). And I ultimately, as a student, have the right and the ability—I would like to think that you'd all have the faith in me that I could represent these people as individuals, since we don't represent Greek life. There is no bill that could come up funding Greek life, talking about Greek life standards, any of that really, non of that can come up. Because if it did, I would abstain. Because as a former member of Greek life, I shouldn't have been voting period, because I would

have a conflict of interest being involved with Greek life for 2 years. But there won't be such a bill, because there can't be such a bill. Because we don't recognize their organization. That's the bottomed line. We don't recognize any panalytic or multi-cultural or inter-fraternal organization. Because they're arbitrarily exclusive—and for a multitude of other reasons. We have turned them down. So, the bottom line is, I have a constitutional right to free speech, and nothing up there, period, flat out, you can deem it offensive, you can deem it hurtful, because I am sharing my experiences of commentary. So here's the deal. If I was outright lying, we would have a problem. And it wouldn't be here. It would be with Greek life. If I was targeting an individual, then that would be bullying. And as someone who has worked tirelessly to help develop programs on this campus to end bullying, or to end programs/issues that target the individual, we'd have a problem. If I named an organization, not implied, not suggest, if I named an organization for a specific behavior or action that they did not actively, we might possibly have a problem with that organization. The bottom line is that because we do not recognize them as an organization, we do not recognize Greek Life as a whole, we recognize these students as part, as maybe 800 of the 10,000 students who make up our body. I represent solidly with the help of my friends, who are still in Greek life, some are Greek Alumni, and I am still communicating with these people. I have not done anything. I still speak to them on a regular basis. And I will continue to represent them to the best of my abilities. The bottom line is that if any of you came up with a blog that say—let's say one of you went out and formed a blog that talked about how evil guns are, and how bad they are for our society. The shooting sports club might take issue. The bottom line is because that shooting sports club, you have the right to Free Speech, but you're not specifically targeting the sports club. The bottom line is that you have the absolute right to have that blog, to do what you like on that blog, to express your opinion, especially since you are not shoving that down anyone's throat. No one is named, therefore if I am not walking around with a shirt, coming to Senate wearing that shirt that says, "Greek life sucks," if I am not walking around with a megaphone telling you all the reasons why Greek life is terrible, it's in writing, you can go look at it, I didn't send it to the list serve, because frankly, I think it is ridiculous that we are spending our time, and the student's time, discussing this today. I think it's absurd that we are going to waste our time on this tonight. Because the bottom line is that I have the right to Free Speech, having spoken with the ACLU, I have a right to free speech and represent the body, and if I am put in a position where you're questioning my ability as a senator, there's legal ramifications there. There will be ramifications there. Because I have the right to represent as an elected official at this school I was elected by more than just Greek life. I was elected by my constituents who believe that I was here to serve, and I am here to serve, and that I will continue to do so. And I would strongly suggest that you all take a look at the First Amendment. So thank you!

Senator Manago: I was just wondering because I don't really know what goes on with blogs, how would I actually visit your blog without having your explicit URL

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: you wouldn't, because I don't publicize it. (Inaudible sentence) I don't do that. I don't walk around with a T-shirt; I don't illegally chalk on this campus. I published my own thoughts on a Tumblr—that the only reason it is

viraling right now, is because I sent it to a total of 7 friends. And it has gotten over 25,000 hits in two weeks, because people either agreed or disagreed. So, if you want it, I can happily give you the Tumblr address. It's on a Tumblr site. If you're interested, I will give it to you. But I am not publicizing it on Senate, because it not a senate issue. I am not publicizing it on any list serve because it is not a UVM issue. I don't have the right to do so, and I haven't done so.

Senator Devivo: Hi, Aliza. So I obviously have work with you on different things that you have worked on. But you know, to come up here, to read this stuff, and you know, to see what's happening, I'm disappointed to see the least. I wonder, how do you think it affects members of our Greek community, which personally I have given all three years that I have been here. I mean I understand that we are not recognized by the Student Government, but you know me personally. And I know you know a lot of people who do good things in Greek life. And I want to know how it affects people like me and all the people you know in Greek life, when we see stuff like this. And it generalizes all of us.

Aliza: Here's the thing. I appreciate that, and in places of my blog, I have indicated that there are people in Greek life who are truly phenomenal people that I am proud to have met, and probably would not have had the opportunity to meet had I not joined Greek life. That's my personal story. And if I choose to share it on my blog, that's my right. Just like it is my right to say that there are people in Greek life that I am not proud to have been in Greek life with; that there are actions that took place in Greek life that I am not proud of. And I talk about Greek life as a national level, and on a level where I don't mention UVM, because frankly, I don't know what the royalty is there. But I speak to my experiences within my chapter and within my community, and there are parts where I say that there are people who are making progress, but the bottom line is that what I have written on that blog is a written opinion of how I feel. If you don't like it, don't read it. There are people who choose the blog, and that targets the individual. (Inaudible sentence). But the bottom line is that I own this. I own it as my action. I own it as my thoughts. And there is nothing in it that you have to read. It does not mention anyone by name.

Senator Mathews: But it's out there. So I ask you, you say UVM Greek life is not a group as a whole. But we're individuals, and as individuals you still represent us, so I'm wondering. Isn't that a conflict of interest? You say, you can't represent us as a whole, but we're still individuals that make up a whole. So how do you represent us then?

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: That was a problem, then every member of this body should probably resign, because we each have individual components that make up our identity. Some of us are queer, some of us are allies, some of us are Jewish, Christian, Catholic. We each have parts of our identity that make up that whole, and if the bottom line is that your opinion define your ability to represent someone, then we should all resign right now. Because my opinions are my individual representations, and they are my thoughts. I am entitled to put them down in a public space, as long as I am not attacking an individual, or spreading lines, or actively stating that I want to do something. But because it is not a representing body, I can't, I mean, the university can't do anything to Greek life. I am sharing my experiences. That's fully within my rights.

Chair caster: Yeah, I agree completely that you have a right to Free Speech. But I think that what you're saying more so implies that the issue here is your right to free speech, and I don't necessarily think that that is it. I think that the issue is that you're writing hurtful things, and I think that people are really hurt by that. My question is, with the fact that you are righting hurtful things, would you think that that is going to have an impact on how people perceive SGA? Because you writing hurtful things affects my work. It does. And so what I am asking, if you can take responsibility for the hurtful things that you are writing, and whether it be an apology or whether it be delete the blog, I am asking if you will take responsibility for the fact that what you are doing is hurting the group. What you are doing is implicitly connected to your participation in the SGA. And while you make the argument that it is not, it's not necessarily what you say; it's what they hear. And right now, I am going to say what are you going to do to deal with the fact that what you are doing, you are effectively compromising the work of this body. And I as a chair, and as a senator, I can't watch this happen any more.

Aliza: That's a good question. I am going to start by saying that no, I am not going to apologize for having thoughts, because if that were the case, then you as a particularly articulated person should have a lot to apologize for. The bottom line is that I am entitled to have these thoughts, and it's not just a matter of my free speech, yes, but if this is compromising your work, then I'd love it if you would share it with me individually rather than a) take up our time on senate with it and b) because this ultimately has nothing to do with Senate. If everything is everyone in this body does every moment of the day is representative. Of who they are in senate, and a lot of the people in this room, who do activities on the weekends, who I am not going to point out right now—Chair Caster interrupts

Chair Caster: Point of information, in every decision I make, in and outside of this body...

Speaker: Gavin!

Chair Caster: ...I have taken a role as a representative

Speaker: Gavin!

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: I have told all of you, what I have said here. I would guarantee that probably that most people have had hurt someone's feelings at some time or another, and there's a quote, "What's right isn't always popular, and what's popular isn't always right." And I am doing what I view in my gut, was something I needed to do and I needed to share, because this information is not available in other sources. It is a first-hand account, and ultimately I am not going to shut down my blog. I have the right, and I will continue to exert my right.

Speaker announces that there's 3mins left

Senator Campbell: So I know that you can defend your right to having free speech, there's been a lot of talk defending that. But, I am more interested, in your intention. So you're saying that you are not shoving it down people's throats. That's fine. But you chose to do it in a public sphere, which anyone had the ability to read it, instead of say, a book or a computer. So I am wondering what your intention was when you sat down, and what you wanted to get out of a blog that was essentially slandering this group?

Aliza: a) I object to the word “slander.” Nothing out there is inaccurate. From my personal experiences, all of it has been accurate. (Nay’s from the audience) From my experiences, theirs is nothing fact based that you can “nay” there. The fact is, I ultimately created this blog, because a) I am someone who has been blogging for a while now, and I have a personal blog that I work on. And this blog, I have actually created in conjunction with a friend of mine, who dropped out of a chapter at another school. And yes, the writing is my own but it is something that (inaudible words due to cough) and it is something that has had a massive following. And I get far more sort of excited emails than I have from Greeks who are more pissed off. The bottom line is that what I have put up there is representative of my experiences, and experiences of others—because I have heard it from others, and it’s a nation-wide thing. It’s not a UVM attacking UVM as a whole. The stuff that I talk about up there is Greek Life as a whole. It’s something that by in large something that I have found up there. There’s satire up there, there’s vicious sarcasm that I have gotten more hits from than anything there. Because some people tend to find some things more provocative and the reality is that yes, it might hurt someone’s feelings, but if you don’t like it then don’t look at it. It’s on a public forum yes. But as it was proven, you need the URL, you need the domain name. And I am not promoting it

Senator O’Neal: I personally disagree with the statement that you personally can’t hurt Greek life, especially the Greek life on this campus, since so many Greek life survive solely on reputation. When an accomplished senator like you does things like this do you really think that you don’t put a negative stigma on people like Kyle and all the Greek brothers and sisters who do really good things all the time. Like, do you really think that you are just expressing yourself?

Aliza: Bottom line is that if you’re reputation relies on the opinion of one person you’re probably in trouble. I have spent, yes, a fair amount of time become an active person on this campus, become a campus leader, as has Senator Devivo, as have members of this Greek community. But I am entitled to express my feelings about those individuals, and not about, sorry, poorly phrased—about that system, from which I participated. And the bottom line is that, they will continue to do the work they do. There’s nothing I can say that can stop them from doing what they were doing before. I can give information to those who are considering going through this stuff. I can give information about my personal experience. And honestly, whether or not someone wishes to base their decision off of my personal experience is entirely within their purview. But the reality is that as a senator on this body, there’s no behavior that I can do that will diminish the actions, the capabilities, or the general ability to have a presence of UVM Greek life. Because as an individual, I don’t have that power. As a senator, I don’t have that power. We don’t recognize them. So I believe that the representative issue at hand is not an issue.

There was a motion to suspend the rules. But the speaker says that this has nothing to do with Senate. It has something to do with Senate. But I feel that Senator Lederer-Plaskett has expressed her views, and he doesn’t feel that asking another 5 more questions about the same topic would do anything. And if anyone has other questions, then they can talk to the senator outside of the meeting. But for this meeting, there are more productive things to do for the students. Motion to suspend the rules was denied by the majority of the senate members and the speaker.

Speaker announces Dani Peck

Hi everyone, my name is Dani Peck. And, for those of you who don't know me I am the PanHellenic President at UVM, which is a council that represents the sororities at UVM. We are the largest women's organization on campus of 300+ members. But today I come here to talk to you all, not as Greek life, not as PanHellenic President, but a student. And as a senior UVM student—environmental science major, a student leader on campus; I'm part of a club signer of an SGA group. And I am here today, about the concern about the recent comments made by an SGA representative, obviously the blog that we are talking about. This student has created a blog marginalizing students based on their affiliation with a certain group on campus. I am in no way asking her to change this blog, or take it down, since she has every right to voice her opinions, and I totally respect that. My concern is with her stance in representing the student body, and with leadership position that she holds, I think as a student, like, there's a lot of responsibility that comes with the leadership positions, and how you're representing the group that you're a part of. I think as a student, I don't want another student representing myself or any of my student peers that makes as openly of the student opinionated statements against a whole group, 10% almost, of the student population. In a leadership position, there's a choice to carry a lot of responsibilities, and this blog shows portrayal of the mission of the SGA, student government association, like what's it all about. And when I log on to the SGA website, the first message that comes up is, "The Student Government Association of the University of Vermont represents the opinions, ideas, and the beliefs of the undergraduate student body. And as an undergraduate of the student body, I have grave concern with this individual representing me, representing other student leaders, representing the group of students that I belong to. And I don't think that as a student leader that I want someone who shares these negative connotations about a whole group of individuals. 10% of the student body—Greek life holds 80% of the leadership positions on campus. And I don't think that an SGA representative should, in my opinion be allowed to say the things that they say and still represent the student body. So I wish to file a motion to impeach Aliza Lederer-Plaskett from Senate.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: Did you vote the SGA election? And can you attest to the fact that a majority of Greek life remembered to vote me at SGA election—seeing as I hold an elective position, in which you only comprise 8-10% of the student population. Additionally, I would like to ask a follow-up, a second question, as to whether you understand the process...

Speaker interrupts: One question.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: The process of impeaching involves that someone has to have broken/fractured a constitutional, or committed a constitutional violation of SGA constitution. And on a greater level that SGA constitution is subject to those purviews of the U.S constitution. So are you willing to bear the (indistinguishable word) fact that that may fall under a constitutional violation?

Dani Peck: I am just here as a student trying to get my voice heard. And I'm not trying to sure of the exact ways to do this, but I am sure other SGA representatives

will help me, because as a student I hold a voice in this Student Government Association, and I am going to get help with what I believe is right.

An SGA member reads Section B Part 1 of the SGA constitution about the process of impeachment, and points out that a senator from SGA has to give a motion in writing to support the impeachment.

Senator Matthews: I will support this.

Speaker clarifies the policy for impeachment, and moves on to further questions.

Chair Caster: Could you reiterate again, of what part of the senator representative actions that you believe that violated our constitution, and how that violation is separate from any issue that deals with Free Speech. Just to clarify, so that this body is assured that it is not going to face any legal pressure from the ACLU for dealing with your complaint/file.

Dani Peck: Well, I haven't memorized the constitution of SGA, like any of that. I just voice a concern that from my understanding that the SGA senate body should represent undergraduate members, and I shouldn't feel attacked as a student by any of you all. And I think that many students have, as you can see, and I don't feel like I am being represented. And if there was any vote or big decision based on the groups that I am a part of, I don't think that Senator Aliza Lederer-Plaskett would do that in the best light. And I feel like she should hold a bias to us, just because of the organization that we are a part of.

Senator Campbell: Would you say that her actions are neglecting to promote the welfare of the academic, culture, and social aspects of the University of Vermont community.

Dani Peck: Absolutely.

Senator Mansfield: I know this is very heated. So, if this was a pro-choice blog, I guess would that have caused this sort of an uproar? Or an anti-choice? I guess that shows my stance, or whatever stance you may be. Would that cause similar amount of distress.

Dani peck: Well, I'm just concerned that she groups us as a whole, as UVM Greek life. And she, if you read the blog, she attacks everyone on the individual basis, on chapter basis on the Greek life organization as a whole. And to do that when you're representing the student body, and even though it is not represented by the SGA, we are a student group of UVM. And, I think that, on that base alone, like she shouldn't have—.

Senator Mansfield: Would you have found it more appropriate if she were to have created this blog without her name attached to it, as she is an individual and sometimes individuals have the need to voice their opinions.

Dani Peck: Yeah, like if we did not know that she was an SGA representative, I would be totally fine with it. The blog has nothing to do—like I'm okay with her having a blog. I have a problem with her representing me as a student and also putting up this blog.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: So, if a student doesn't own their ideas and resorts to hide behind the Internet, you have that a preferable means rather than owning their ideas? Because the bottom line is that, even if I didn't own my actions, I would be ultimately producing these opinions as a senator. So you would prefer that I hid behind the Internet as a means.

Dani Peck: Well if I didn't know it was you, then I wouldn't have a problem with it. So the point is that you are representing the student body, and now that you put your name on it, and are admitting to having this blog and having these opinions about 10% of the student body, and you're representing the undergraduate representatives of UVM, like that's where I draw the line.
Speaker denies Senator Lederer-Plaskett a follow up.

Speaker announces Senator Devivo.

Senator Devivo

Hi guys. So most of you know me, but for those of who doesn't know me, my name is Kyle Devivo. I am obviously an SGA senator, and the president of Kara Sigma. As well as being the board of trustee, student trustee. You know, whether intended or not, I have to say that, this really does personally hurt my feelings. What I don't understand is, I personally sit here every week and listen to us talk about when one student has an issue—it's our job to deal with it. But when you have 50 sitting here, and 900 others who are pissed off, we say that it is not an SGA issue. Like, that I just don't understand. And I don't want anybody to ask me questions. I'm just giving you my opinion here about how hurt I am. Because honestly, as president of a fraternity here, and president of Interfraternity Council, I can speak to the fact about how difficult it is to recruit men at this school in the first place to join fraternities, because of the stigmatization around here. I didn't want to join the fraternity. And honestly, my fraternity is the only reason that I am in this room right now, and in the room of the board of trustees. I would not be here on the SGA if it weren't for my fraternity. And that is why I am so personally hurt that none of you think that this is an SGA issue. That's all I want to say.

Old Business (01:46:15)

Bill allocating funds to Al Pine Ski Fund

Bill Passes!

Bill allocating funds to the Cynic

Bill Passes!

Resolution supporting the inclusion of Queer Issues in UVM Diversity "Race and Racism in the U.S" courses

Resolution passes!

Emergency Business (01:20:29)

Bill appointing Andrea Goodrich to Senate.

Bill Passes!

Andrea Goodrich appointed to COLA

No New Business (01:15:20)

Executive Reports (01:15:15)

President Golfarini –takes a poll of transfer students in the SGA

- Had a video about “Implicit Bias” to share w/ the SGA, but he will do that next week.
- Asks SGA to give the Cynic a round of applause, and for their accomplishments.
- Talks about the video for last week on top of IRA Allen, and about the forthcoming Veteran’s day video.
- If people have any ideas for clubs, people, locations for the video, please let him know
- Talks about the press briefing with Governor Shumlin, who is going to start a governor’s commission to look into how UVM is spending its money, more so the federal money. And if anyone is looking for notes from that meeting, shoot him an email.
- Before the meeting, he was at the L/L mural meeting, which was sparsely attended, so he encourages more people to be active participants of that.
- He reminds the SGA, that anyone and everyone can elect senator of the week.
- Senator of the week is Senator Kaufman!!
- He and Will are going to meeting with the Greater Burlington College Council on Wednesday.
- He is starting a *Mustache Movemember* team, and asks for as much participation as possible.
- Question #1: If you were going to ask the next president of UVM anything, what would that be. He wants creative questions, so please email him.

Vice President: will be going to the Greater Burlington College Council tomorrow at 7pm. They will be going over their mission statement and vision of what they want to get out of their organization

- Introduces Adam Row, who is VP of Student Government Association at Champlain College
- Going over application for the new office coordinator position. He currently has 74, but the posting will be taken down this Friday.
- Second formation for Board of Trustee meeting this Thursday at the Memorial Lounge, so email him about details
- Encourages questions for the next UVM president, because they will be narrowing down the search down to 10 to 14 individuals the coming week to interview in Boston at the end of the month. He encourages student perspectives.
- Talks about the next hockey games give a ways, cups, and scarfs. And Sodexo is donating hot chocolate and coffee for the cups and games. It encourages reusability and sustainability rather than having plastic cups at games.
- He has one more off-campus position available for senate.
- Question #1: He will be the going through those applications, narrowing down that field and setting up interviews. He hopes to have a new office coordinator by next semester.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett is concerned about whether the money for the giveaway coming is coming from the Wish Discretionary Fund? And why they are continuing to endorse give a ways, because she feels that there are more cost-efficient ways rather than the cups and the scarfs.

Answer: We do not receive tickets to the hokey tickets, because every individual should have a free opportunity. But there are 30 tickets to give away to students for coming into the SGA office and asking questions, and interacting with Senate. So it increases their name to the rest of the campus. This is not coming from a Discretionary Fund. Every year there is a donation give a way fund that is set up, so the funding will come from that.

Follow up: Didn't the scarfs and the hats come out of the Discretionary Fund?

Answer: The Discretionary Fund's criteria have been changed—as to what counts as discretionary. In the past, it did. But with the restructuring of the rules, no, it does not come out of the Discretionary Fund.

Chair Benner: What committee has an opening

Vice President: The Finance committee does.

Treasurer: Working on resources for finance committee, and starting budgeting next year. He hopes that the budgeting materials for the clubs will go up before winter break. So he is working on getting started before Thanksgiving Break.

Speaker: Tells chairs to turn voting records in after the meeting.

- Wanted to leave the door open for encouraging students to come to the meetings.
- An impeachment has been made, so he will be working on that.
- Constitutional committee will be meeting at 7pm.
- The impeachment process will only be open for people in the constitutional committee, so he encourages people to attend if they want to get involved.
- Those that are interested in the speaker committee he suggests that person come to the Constitutional Committee, at Thursday at 7pm.
- He announces that next week will be his last meeting.
- Chair Caster: Will the constitutional committee have a verdict on the grounds of the impeachment? And is that the function of the constitution committee at this time to determine whether to bring the body to a 2/3^{rds} vote, or to decide impeachment proceedings are not worth bringing the body for the vote?
- Speaker Moneforte reads the impeachment section of constitution of the SGA to answer the question.

Committee Reports (00:55:44)

Finance—tonight they had 1 supplemental for Quidditch Nationals.

Shows appreciation for the bills being passed.

Student Activities Committee – Tim Burton Lee will help him deliver his report. He emailed his report.

COLA—Veterans Day this Friday Nov. 11th

- Asks for help to put up ~6,400 flags in front of the Davis Center
- Speaks about the minute of silence at 2pm, so let professors know about that.
- Roll Call is being read from 7pm to 3pm
- Commemoration Ceremony is at 3pm in Waterman Memorial Lounge, but is concerned because she hasn't heard back from Bernie Sanders, but she thinks that he might speak then.
- Acapella group will be singing the anthem.
- Fliers for Veterans Day for people to put up
- 18+ is being word on by Senator Kennan
- Chair Burns: when is the commencement of Veteran's Day celebration?
- Chair Rifken: About 7am, but the flags are being put up at 6:30am.

Academic Affairs –immensely proud of his staff!

- Sent a final list of questions that they would like to see in the committees.
- Speaks of transition to an online evaluation system.
- Academic Credit for club signers is being addressed in the Provost
- Enhanced course descriptions—hoping to follow through on that.

CODEEE- Senator Yuan is on the International Advisory Council.

- His survey has been sent to the international student.
- The Asian American Student union is thinking about changing their name Asian Student Union, but there's conflict with international students versus non-international students.
- Worries that the Cynic loves a good fight. And that this could draw away from bias incidences that have occurred on this campus. This fashion of addressing the issue is going to draw away from the gravity of bias incidences in this campus.
- Chair Caster: In reference to bias incidence, is there any information that can be disclosed to illuminate your claim?
- Chair Burns says that yes, there have been bias incidences on campus, but they can't get into it because it is confidential.
- Chair Caster: are they more related with racial identity, gender identity, and ethnic identify.
- Chair Burns doesn't have information to identify that, but it's hard to get information on bias incidences until they are resolved. He doesn't want to intrude on people's privacy.

Student Action—working on mostly the issue that was presented earlier today (blog), which is taking up most of his time.

- Working on printer usage information.
- Senator Mathews is also working with the blog issue.
- Senator Manago is working on Eco Reps about cigarette butts that are prevalent in front of Bailey Howe.

- He is hoping to have a meeting with “Free to Be” on Thursday to continue on the gay blood band, to make connection with other campuses around Burlington area.
- Culture Cats has a meeting later this week.
- Dining Halls are staying open during vacations, and he plans on getting information from students who stay on campus and on what kind of food they have access to.
- Talks about Water bottles plans coming in and staring that up.

Public Relations: will be emailing out his report

But announces to pick up t-shirts

Chair Rifken encourages wearing the SGA t-shirts during Veterans Day.

Chair Benner: will there be results about VSOP in the report?

Chair Denton: They only had 141 responses, which is very low. They usually had about 500-600 responses. So the Public Relations is looking into how to make VSOP more interesting.

Senatorial Forum (00:37:33)

Senator Lederer-Plaskett talks about mayoral debates. She talked with professors about hosting the debates this week. She is starting a absentee-ballot campaign. And later on in the Forum, she announces that there are procedures to go through before mayoral campaigns can occur. So if any of the SGA members witness a campaign for a mayor taking place, to send her a message so that she is assured that every candidate is following procedures.

Senator Daley; Comprehensive Campaign Committee will be meeting by this end of this week. He encourages more people to come to that meeting, and any suggestions/ideas that people have. He will be sending out emails with more details.

Chair Burns: There are more panels than audience members, today. He then yields to Senator Colfill.

Senator Colfill says that he is going to be focusing on a survey from students concerning the theme of the L/L mural. He will be keeping SGA posted because he needs help publicizing the survey and about the mural.

Senator Osef: speaks about his frustration that his motion to suspend the rules was chided as a frivolous motion, because the issue about Greek life reflects 10% of the student population, and he refused to believe that, that was not an SGA issue. He asks the members of the SGA to reevaluate their priorities, because he felt that they expressed their priorities were not about students—at least not the 10% of them, and that it was embarrassing.

Senator Devivo: Supports Senator Osef’s stance about Greek life issue being an SGA issue. And feels that it is strange, that when one person voices a concern, the SGA tries to do everything to solve that issue. However, when 50 people are in the audience, and when it affects 900 students, the SGA does not feel that it is an SGA issue. He questions that his choices for being a senator, if it means only helping selective students/group of UVM versus the wellbeing of all.

Speaker Moneforte clarifies that his motion to not suspend the rules and to move on was not because he did not feel that it was an SGA issue. Rather, it was because having Senator Lederer-Plaskett speak more would not be productive. He wants to go over it with the constitution committee and see if there was even anything that could have been done. He points out that the person defending themselves would have unlimited time during the next meeting.

Chair Benner recommends to the constitution committee that this type of ordeal (blog issue) cannot happen in the future.

Senator Etter: wants for people to hold for questions and inquiry before calling any bill question for either passing it or not passing it.

Senator Chaouch: anybody who is interested election committee meetings to stay after the meeting to talk to her.

Chair Denton: supports Senator Etter's request of waiting to see if anyone else has a question about bills, before calling them to question.

Chair Burns: wants to voice his position in the blog issue.

Senator Mathews yields the floor to Caroline, a member of Greek life. She speaks about coming across a statement during Senator Goodrich's oath. It said something along the lines of, "promising to represent every UVM student equally and fairly." She asks if Senator Lederer-Plaskett's blog really doing this? She speaks about Greek lifers representing themselves in the best light everyday, and trying to fight the stereotypes about Greek Life from the '80s. She questions whether Senator Lederer-Plaskett really is representing the SGA well?

Senator Osef respectfully disagrees with Speaker Moneforte. He feels that hearing Senator Lederer-Plaskett speak more would have benefitted the Greek-life students, and that Caroline could have said what she wanted to say an hour and a half ago, rather than waiting until 9pm at night.

Senator Devivo: talks about his research he has been doing about faculty salary increase. He clarifies that a student financial aid is only changed is if their parents' or their own salaries increase, or if they do not meet the grade requirement. For information about the faculty salary increase, email Senator Kyle Devivo.

Chair Burns: commends the civility about the blog issue throughout the meeting.

Senatorial Comments and Announcements (00:14:54)

Senator Osef has room in his car for Albany, NYC, or New Jersey during Thanksgiving break.

Chair Denton: marketing club is having a meeting tomorrow 5:30-6:30 in Kalkin 300.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett: shows gratitude for the 6 members who donated a total of \$272 dollars for families of 9/11 fund, and a total of \$7,000 from UVM. She is also running another drive for the same fund for Christmas, which she will have a jar for in the office. .

Senator Etter – 11/11/11 6pm Bike Users Group is going to be auctioning off various items.

Chair Burns—has room in the car for NH, MA, and RI region for a ride.

Citizen White: for the Bike Users Group auctioning a date, and making a burrito. He also speaks about picking mayoral candidates for democrats caucus. He needs about 100 volunteers.

Senator Daley: gives fashion awards.

Senator Devivo: talks about VCATS, about going to your high school and promote UVM to perspective students.

President Golfarini: This Saturday, there's an open house on campus. So he advises for people to stay away from central campus.

Senator Zurlo: calendars on sale.

Senator Lederer-Plaskett defends her stance on the issue of the blog by giving a national example and removing her from her seat is unconstitutional.

Senator Keenan: This Friday he and his band are playing at Brennan's at 8pm.

Senator Goodrich: shows appreciation for her acceptance at SGA.

Citizen White: It's going to be Memorial Auditorium on Main Street.

Senator Osef: he feels that UVM SGA holds itself higher than the tea party and the U.S. congress.

Senator Campbell: feels Senator Lederer-Plaskett's use of legal threat is impacting the freeness of discussions, so he advises her to downplay her threats.

Roll Call (00:01:10)

Finance – all present

Student Activities – all present

Student Action – all present

Academic Affair – all present

COLA – all present

CODEEEE – Senator Talbot excused

Public Relations – all present

(7pm-9:20pm)