

Date: February 5th, 2013

Session Opening: Start time 7:01pm; start time with recorder (00:59)

ROLL CALL

Finance - All present

PR - All present

SAC - Senators Apicella and Hilzinger excused, Dowling unexcused

COLA - Senator Riley excused

AA - All present

SA - All present

CODEEE - All present

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Motioned, Seconded, January 29th, 2013 Minutes Approved

PUBLIC FORUM

Matthews: Hi guys, I'm an SGA Senator.

Campbell: Hi guys, my name is Tom Campbell, I was the co-chair of Academic Affairs when I served on Senate and now the Men's Education Outreach Intern at HOPE Works, which used to be called the Womens Rape Crisis Center.

Smith: Hi, my name is Keith Smith, I am the staff counselor here at UVM, and also...

Matthews: I figured we'd all come here and talk today just because of what we're trying to do, and what's been recommended for this campus. I'm going to read an actual opinion piece that I wrote that appeared in the Cynic on Friday. This brings up the history of what happened, and what the recommendations are.

"The purpose of this letter is to initiate a dialogue about men that goes beyond rhetoric and negative stereotypes. It also aims to increase the student body's awareness of the unique needs of college men and to introduce the proposal for a Men's Educational Center (MEC) at the University of Vermont. In early September 2012, Tom Gustafson and Annie Stevens released a report updating the UVM community on the 2011 Sigma Phi Epsilon incident. This report contained multiple recommendations made by the Gender Based and Sexual Violence Task Force.

Two of these recommendations were the hiring of a men's educator and the creation of a men's educational center. I believe that for the sake of all men and women at UVM, it is the duty of the university to take these recommendations seriously and act upon them. Some may ask why UVM should follow through on these recommendations. Some will say that men don't have 'issues' related to their gender. Some will say that men have enough privilege, however, this is not the case.

The fact is, men have been socialized since birth to be 'competitive, unemotional, and invulnerable.' For example, men are more likely to be the victims of violent crime, men ages 15-24 commit suicide at nearly five times the rate of women, men have a four-year university graduation rate 10 percent lower than that of women and the percentage of incarcerated men ages 18-24 is 14 times higher than that of women. UVM's 2011 Campus Climate Survey reports that male students are more likely to experience harassment and discrimination. They also report lower rates of feeling a sense of belonging in the UVM

campus community and lower rates of knowing how and where to get help if they are physically or sexually assaulted. These are some of the serious issues college aged men face that need attention.

A men's center would play a critical role at UVM by addressing these issues and creating a safe space for men where they will not feel judged or looked down upon. This safe space would allow for one-on-one or group interactions to discuss issues such as personal health, past trauma or any number of personal issues. A men's center can offer educational resources and referrals that are specific to men, such as substance use/abuse, sexual and mental health, abuse and developmental concerns. A men's center would provide this bridge while educating men about diverse expressions of masculinity, not just our society's set ideal (heterosexual white male, focused on making money, overtly sexually active, overtly aggressive, competitive, risk-taker, avoids femininity). A men's center would strive to promote positive masculine ideals that are inclusive of sexuality, race, gender, sex, likes and dislikes.

I wrote this article to bring attention to the challenges that men face, and to generate discussion about these issues. It is time for our society and the university to focus on men's issues. Therefore I fully support the hiring of a men's educator in combination with the creation of a men's educational center, and I urge the appropriate university officials to take immediate action on these recommendations."

At the bottom is a link to a petition and survey I made. The survey asks questions such as what would you like to see in a Men's Education Center? Would you use it? Also you can sign the petition, the petition basically is in support of a resolution saying the university should take action on these two recommendations. The reason I'm doing this is basically for men domestically abused and sexually assaulted. One of the first responses that I got was from a male. He had already graduated. He wrote that he was a victim of sexual abuse in high school. He came to the University of Vermont and instantly fell through the cracks. He provided that he had no support services, and he just fell through completely. I don't think that should happen to anyone, male or female.

Campbell: I am involved as the Men's Education Outreach Intern at HOPE Works. And HOPE Works which used to be called the Women's Rape Crisis Center, changed its name to HOPE Works because they were not getting any male survivors, so they were not able to help male victims, and the loved ones of victims who had been raped or sexually assaulted, who are called secondary survivors. The idea is that if you have an individual who is sexually assaulted, the loved one of that individual actually ends up taking on some of the emotional trauma caused by it, because they relive it emotionally through discussions with the perpetrated individual.

Smith: I've been in my position since 2006. I actually created the position of Men's Outreach Coordinator in response to what I saw as a lack of services being offered to men. Often times if a man was being accused of some sort of sexual assault or rape, they would go to a hearing with no support, the victim would have support which is great, but there is rarely if any support for men, so I sort of designed this position, partially to begin raising awareness at UVM around these issues, and getting the university to start addressing the fact that we really need to start supporting men in a way that we do not. I have been doing this work as I said since 2006. I've done Education Training, I've worked with fraternities, athletes. The challenging piece is I'm one person working in this area and I would say I've had some success but I've also seen the shortcomings of what I'm trying to do. I think the idea of a Men's Resource Center, with a group of people who are consciously focusing on providing services for men would be a much more effective way of bringing balance to the dynamics on this campus instead of men just being seen as perpetrators on this campus. I have been writing a proposal since 2006, I probably have gotten 100 pages of that written. It's been great in terms of my education around these issues, and trying to share some of

that with others can be quite challenging, so I've had to crank it down to about a five page executive summary. I hope to get people to read and help at UVM and that's why I'm here seeking your support in this effort.

I can share a little bit of it I won't read it all. So this executive summary is basically a vision, it has a mission statement, it has guiding principles, a philosophy of leadership and collaboration, and then what I have after that is basically a five year strategic plan of what a Man's Resource Center would specifically be doing, what activities, what initiatives, and things like that. I end this proposal by basically saying, "This concludes the summary of what is indeed an ambitious proposal. However, understanding masculinity is in of itself complex. Understanding masculinity in the context of gender-based violence, increases that complexity exponentially. Solutions must also meet this complexity." This proposal offers complex solutions, and as I said a more detailed version is available if you would like.

I know there maybe, and there has been a lot of resistance in our culture, generally about providing additional services for men, many people may say, well hey the whole university is here for men. But that's a very one-dimensional way of thinking about it. Men are multi-dimensional, have problems, need support, just as women do. We have a Women's Center on campus, that's great, and everyone seems to think that's a norm, we promote it and endorse it. But when it comes to men's issues, there's a lot of resistance, and I think anger at men, and I understand that anger, but what I would say around is that that anger, much of our anger at men is based on a small percentage of men that do really horrific things. But the larger percentage of men who don't do these things, are sort of lost in the cracks, and are not provided any sort of support, resources, encouragement to be different, to do different, and to be leaders in this area. That's some of what I would like and hope to give by creating a Men's Center.

Ducharme: Questions, starting with Chair Redell.

Redell: This question is for Christian. I'm hoping that you can talk a little bit about the part of your opinion article where you say men have enough privilege, and if you could expand on that a little bit about what you meant there.

Matthews: Privilege is basically, from what I understand, is something that you have based on who you are, and how society sees you, not things you've actually done. So for me as a man, my privilege means that on average I will make more than a woman in her lifetime, you know I can feel safe at night, I'm not always worried about being sexually assaulted or attacked, the opportunities for jobs, I can take these positions doing hard labor and not have to worry about people judging me. But the opposite of that is the opposite privilege, that men are required, if you don't act how society wants you, you're seen as a girl, you're seen as not heterosexual, you're insulted, you're friends insult you, and you're seen as an outsider, and that's what I think a Men's Center is gonna try to help those people who don't meet the expectations of society, that they are not outsiders, they're just an equal, like everyone else. I think that's what we need to promote. Does that answer your question?

Redell: Yeah, thank you.

Smith: I'd like to follow up by briefly saying that you can think of privilege as unearned benefits, that you get based on your race, gender, or sexual orientation. And many of the privileges are invisible, we just accept them as being norm. We accept for some reason, I think a good example is just until recently, the military allowing only men to go into war, and all the benefits and downsides of that was not much of a consideration. And so for men, there was that privilege of being able to serve your country in the way that

you wanted to. Until recently, and things are beginning to change. Some of the benefits are obvious, and the other piece is that with all privileges, there's always a downside that's rarely acknowledged or discussed.

Ducharme: Senator Gachette.

Gachette: I just want to thank you all for coming in. You mention the Men's Center can offer educational resources, etc., and just seeing as the university has finite resources, I was wondering if you elaborate as to why we need to put resources into things like substance abuse, and developmental concerns just for men. I certainly understand sexual and mental health being specifically gender-based.

Smith: Well, I would say that men are the one who are primarily abusing substances. Unfortunately, I as a counselor... the majority of folks coming in getting help around these issues are primarily women. So, the piece of having something specifically for men, is because it's a different mode to address the needs of men, than the needs of women. And the system, the education I got, it was primarily about addressing the needs of white women. And so, for men, it's a very different need. So, if I'm trained only to be looking for the way women experience abuse, or substance use and abuse, than I might be missing all the men who may need to come in and I may not even think "So how much alcohol do you drink?", and so I might not even be trained to look for those things. The idea of creating a men's center is to get us to shift our focus and realize that men have very different expressions of challenges and benefits that generally the culture does not look at. We make assumptions that men are okay. I hope that helps.

Matthews: Our university, for men's health and issues, they tell you to go to primary care. The only thing is that studies show that men are the least likely people to go to the doctor, so it's kind of a catch-22. The university wants you to go somewhere that you don't go. It's a lot easier to go to a men's center, and not have to schedule an appointment. You go in and talk to someone for five minutes, "Hey! I think I might be having a problem. I'm feeling a little depressed and I'm drinking more.", than having to go to the doctor, and having to tell them that. It's easier to talk to someone in a personal setting about, "Hey! I'm having sexual performs issues," rather than having to go to a doctor and get naked in front of someone in a doctor setting. I think it's just the personality and the fact that men just don't go to these other places.

Ducharme: Senator Auchinclosse.

Auchinclosse: You said that you're 100 page research papers are available, where is it?

Smith: It's not online available, but I can make it available if you'd like to see it. And I was saying in the last five or so years, I've written 100 pages, in attempt to explore the idea of what a men's center would be and I've cranked it down to about five pages, but if you want to see the larger one I'd be more than happy to send it to you.

Ducharme: Senator Longyear.

Longyear: I was wondering if you had any statistics or anything on how likely men are to go to therapy or counseling and have a conversation about that and how likely they are to open up to a stranger about any problems they're having, or to seek information.

Smith: I would say at UVM, the percentage of students going to the counseling center, is probably about 75-80 percent female. So men, generally are increasing, and I think some of that has been about me putting myself out there creating relationships with athletics, with other key people on the university

saying, there is a guy here who specifically works with men around these issues. I'm not taking full credit for it, but I think I have at least brought this issue, to the awareness of UVM where it's the Center of Student Standards and Ethics and other departments have collaborated to raise awareness. Sometimes, I might go to a class and speak about men's issues, and it may be about six months sometimes a year later, that a guy would show up at my office, and say I spoke at that class, and I have some things I wanted to talk about. So again, I go back to some of what you have addressed, it's a very different approach to get men to get help. We as men are socialized to not go and seek help. So, if you want men to begin to access these services, you have to direct things at them specifically or you have to go and talk to them and say this is for you specifically. You have to have a different approach. As Christian said, men don't generally access services whether it's counseling, or medical services, unless they're really falling off the creek, they're generally not gonna come.

Campbell: Also, if I may, we can speak to the percent of men that come and visit, but we can't speak to the percent of men that would benefit from coming to visit, and the fact that we have that disconnect, that percent of men who could use the services and don't, because of the male socialization and stigma against seeking help. That's why the men's center would be necessary. It's not just to help these men, but to create an environment of outreach and education where that stigma would no longer be present in the UVM campus.

Matthew: For men who are physically or sexually assaulted, 70 percent of men don't know where to go.

Ducharme: Senator Cantell.

Cantell: I was just wondering how many other colleges and universities have men's centers, and how many students utilize those services?

Smith: Very few. I don't have the exact numbers but very few. When I first started researching this, that's what stuck out, that there are literally no men's centers around the country, there are a few, I think St. John's is one place that has a men's center, but they're very few. So, I can't really answer that for you exactly.

Matthews: From my research, I believe it's the University of Minnesota that had the first men's center in 2002 I believe. And, from what I've seen, there's less than twenty.

Ducharme: Senator Gachette.

Gachette: How do you intend to attract men to come in to use the services, in ways that might not be used for women as well. How explicitly do you think are ways to reach out to men? Because if the issue at hand is that men don't reach out for the help they need, why would a men's center, erradicate that issue also because it's still the issue that it's help they need to seek out.

Smith: I think some of that is like this. Having forums to talk about it. I think getting key members on campus involved like the Dean of Students Office, Athletic Directors, the Greek community, to really begin to educate them about this is what we're doing, here's what we hope to achieve by it, and here's gonna be the benefits of it. I'm kinda confused as to what you said about making women angry, I understand that there is a lot of anger and mistrust toward men and part of that process would also be collaborating and building trust so that women would see the benefit of this. One of my supporters in this idea is Graham Bromley, who is the director of the women's center, he's very supportive of this idea.

Ducharme: Chair Redell.

Redell: Are you doing anything at the dismantling rape culture conference?

Smith: I haven't decided yet. I did participate last semester, I actually offered a workshop that was focused on males as survivors of sexual assault and rape.. so back to your question, that's a way to show me that I've been building trust with dismantling rape, and I'm there focusing on men, and so it's that building relationships with constituents and also educating them that these are important issues too, and although the workshop was packed, it was primarily women, so I do do it, It's just a matter of whether I have time.

Redell: Follow up?

Ducharme: Granted.

Redell: Does your group plan on addressing any issues on masculinity and rape culture?

Smith: And rape culture?

Redell: Yes.

Smith: Here's my theory. Rape culture is the result of silence of men who are not the ones participating, but the ones who see it going on and say nothing. I think some of that has to do with teaching skills of how to intervene effectively, what does leadership look like? What's my responsibility to this community, and to the women in this community? That's something that's not necessarily natural, you'd have to train and teach people to utilize those skills to step in if they see something going on that's sketchy. It also has to do with educating women about these issues as well. Not simply about putting all the responsibility on one or the other, but it's a balance of how do you work together to reduce this happening on college campus. In essence, there are people on this campus who don't even believe, that rape happens on UVM campus. I've had students in front of me say, "Well, I didn't even think rape happened at UVM." Men and women. So some of this is educating both about these issues, and then you can begin to train them about bystander behavior, about intervening effectively without causing a raucous, or trouble. Whether it's getting together and showing concern, strategizing, and stepping in, etc. That's some of the skills I see a men's center doing, teaching skills, and allowing men to step out of the man box.

Ducharme: Chair Keyes.

Chair Keyes: Just so we can get it straight in the minds of everyone here. This is a recommendation that was made to the university, for the betterment of the student body, correct?

Matthews: There were actually nine recommendations made. One of them was the full funding of this Dismantling Rape Culture Conference, which already happened. Another was a full review of the Greek Life system, that's happened also.

Chair Keyes: Thank you.

Ducharme: Further questions for Keith, Tom, or Christian? Seen none, I'd like to thank them for their

time. Would anyone else like to speak on public forum for five minutes? Seen no one else, we will now move on to old business.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Allocating Funds to Club Gymnastics - Bill Passes: \$5000 to Club Gymnastics

Questions by Chair Keyes, Senator Cantell

Motion to suspend rules seconded, vote to suspend rules passes

Rules Suspended

Senator Dolph sworn in

Motion to reinstate rules seconded, vote to reinstate rules passes

Resolution to Board of Trustees For Divestment From Fossil Fuel Holdings

Presented by Senator Ghazey, and Chair Al-Namee, Dan from Student Climate Culture

Effect of climate change on health and financial security in third-world countries explained

Effect on local businesses, volatility of fuel/oil economy explained

Money towards scholarships not from endowment directly, comes from student tuition

Benefit/risk of divested/non-divested accounts discussed

Investments on alternative energy sources by accounts discussed

Escrow accounts for university divestment discussed

Questions by Chair Conlon, Senators Matthews, Pope-McGraw

Bill called to question, call to vote passes, bill read

Resolution passes 20 in favor, 9 opposed, 3 abstentions

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Speaker Ducharme - Questions during discussion of bill should be on actual bill only. Limit on time allowed for bill discussion needed.

VP Holland - Pennies for giveaway order, \$7000 spent on order. Student volunteers from SGA needed for giveaway at game, appointments to come for vacant seats on Senate. People from each committee needed for appointment committee. More emphasis on tabling required. Letter from Director of Living & Learning asking for donations for Carnival from SGA, \$700 dollars donated from diversity fund. More information to come, event to be held on April 27th.

President Daley - Meal plan restructuring discussed with Sodexo. Relationship between Fraternity-Sorority relations discussed with Greek life councils. Discussions on school curriculum with various faculty. Senator of the Week Award to Senator Ghazey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE - 4 Supplemental hearings this week. Club Volleyball for tournament down in Texas. Budgets

were due on Friday. Total requested amount to be given next week.

PR - UVM Voice going well. Tabling required, help from other committees needed. Low representation from other committees. Signup sheet sent around for volunteering.

SAC - New senators up to speed, new liaisons for clubs assigned. Club recognition materials dispersed. Liaisons to be put up tonight. New liaison check-in forms to come, at request of Treasurer Juairé.

COLA - Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly this week. SGA speaking for five minutes at Greek Orthodox Church, senators welcome to come. Contact Chair Redell if interested. Emma Lee running for City Council, inviting people to lunch at Stone Soup. Question by Chair Al-Namee. Answer: Schedule for Statehouse released at beginning of week, so hard to plan around agenda.

AA - Substance-free housing discussed. A and A+ quality points discussed.

SA - Men's center being worked out, UVM Voice submissions being read through, strongest submissions to be discussed at meetings. Water bottles being given out Friday.

CODEEE - Voice submission about beverage choices in vending machines, beverage choices considered unhealthy by some now with removal of plain bottled water.

SENATORIAL FORUM

Chair Redell: We are a representative body, however we do not need to find every constituent's idea, we are elected and appointed to make decisions in place of the student body.

Chair Keyes: Opinion of student body is one of the most important things SGA can do. We should be polling and asking students for their opinions more often.

Senator Foley: Student Climate Culture did well by going out and getting petition, followed-through with SGA request.

Chair Colon: People who do not understand a proxy vote need to understand the definition before voting on a bill containing the phrase in its context.

Senator Ghazey: Resolution sent out week in advance. Senators need to read bills and make sure they understand all of its phrasings prior to Senate meetings.

Senator Sinkula: Entrepreneurship Competition to come, contact Sinkula for information if interested. Great opportunity.

Senator Gonzalez: UVMx this Wednesday. Come and discuss! This week's discussion on Time Management.

SENATORIAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL ROLL CALL

Finance - All present

PR - All present

SAC - Senators Hilzinger, Heffrin, Apicella excused, Senator Dowling unexcused

COLA - Senator Riley excused

AA - All present

SA - All present

CODEEE - Senator Auchinclosse excused.

Adjourned, 9:32 PM