

***Tuesday, September 25th, 2012***  
***SEVENTH MEETING OF THE 2012-2013 SENATE***

**Roll Call** (0:00:00) 7:00pm

Finance- Senator Guerrero excused  
Public Relations- All present  
Student Activities- All present  
COLA- Senator Goodrich unexcused.  
Academic Affairs- All present  
Student Action- All present  
CODEEE- Senator Crane excused

-Approval of the Minutes-- Approved.

**Public Forum**

None

**Old Business**

None

**Emergency Business** (0:03:00)

Swearing in of new Chairs Conlon and Redell.

Bill supporting the confirmation of Henry Sinkula to the SGA .....**Passes**  
Bill supporting the confirmation of Sam Ghazey to the SGA .....**Passes**  
Bill supporting the confirmation of Azure Pope-McGraw to the SGA .....**Passes**  
Bill supporting the confirmation of Rebecca Foley to the SGA.....**Passes**  
Bill supporting the confirmation of Maha Akkeh to the SGA .....**Passes**  
Bill supporting the confirmation of Alisha McNally to the SGA .....**Passes**  
Bill supporting the confirmation of Thomas Hilzinger to the SGA .....**Passes**

Swearing in of the senators: Hilzinger (Student Activities), McNally (Student Activities), and Akkeh (COLA).

Appointment of the Speaker in the Senate

Nomination of Senator Heffrin - Declined

Nomination of Senator Ducharme- Accepted

Nomination of Senator Edelman- Accepted

Nomination of every Senator- Senator Lott Accepted, Senator Mathews Declined, every other senator declined.

Senator Edelman- First I want to talk about why I would be an excellent candidate for the Speaker position. What does a speaker do? Familiar with Robert's Rules through experience at FIJI fraternity. On Fraternity Council. In high school, served on student senate. I run a photography business, so I consider myself quite organized. I'm very reachable- I check my e-mail multiple times a day. Maintaining the Constitution: 1964 FIJI Constitution was re-formed by myself and a team of fraternity brothers. Things I want to change: we spend too much time quarreling about the rules. I would like to modify the constitution to make it more streamline.

Questions for Senator Edelman:

Chair Kaufman- Being on finance committee is a huge commitment. How do you plan to make time for being the Speaker and Senator on Finance committee?

Edelman- If elected, I will step down as the Chief Justice of IFC. I spoke to Chair Dougherty, I will remain on the committee, however at a lesser extent. I will attend all committee meetings.

Senator Cantell- How are you going to make sure you can fulfill the weekend e-mail duties associated with being the Speaker?

Edelman- Obviously, if I am need to respond to an e-mail, I will do so. I've found that I receive a lot of e-mails through my UVM email that can wait until Monday, and that is why I don't check until Monday.

Senator Mathews- How can you justify making changes to the Constitution?

Edelman- I would work with my constitution committee, sit down with three highlights, and work through the entire document. Finding what we need, want to fix, and discard.

Senator Lott- My name is Jon Lott, I'm a Junior at the University of Vermont. This is my second time I've been on SGA and one of the things that I want to do as Speaker is I want to change the way we look at some of the rules and really deconstruct and kind of re-vamp the way SGA works. As you all saw here, we had to sit through all those bills for each individual senator and that was agonizingly slow and the process took forever, this should've been taken care of much faster. No offense to Speaker Osef or previous Speaker Monteforte, but I don't agree with many of their rules. For one, I think we should be able to eat during Public Forum, I think Public forum should for as long as the speaker wants to speak for. We're here to listen. Secondly, I think you should be encouraged to dress as casually as possible and this includes hats, because I think as senators, we're supposed to represent the students. We can't connect to the student body when we look all fancy with all these regulations. A student comes in here to sit through a senate meeting and gets turned off by all of our sticky procedures. And they don't care anymore- that's why we don't have many likes of Facebook, that's why we don't have many followers on Twitter: because they don't care. And they don't care because we have so many rules. The students don't want this hoity-toity nonsense, they want us to get down to the stuff that really matters! Isn't that right? We don't want to be caught up in procedure or words, round and round. People want things done! If you don't like some of my rules, I'm down to change them. Let's get back to basics, and let's just get shit done.

Questions for Senator Lott:

Chair Dougherty- Since you've already left the Senate once, what makes you inspired to stay this time around?

Lott- Well, I'd be getting paid. Speaker receives a stipend of \$55 dollars a week, isn't that correct? That's an incentive in its self.

Senator Mathews- What would you do specifically do if elected as Speaker?

Lott- I would be willing to do anything that the student body actually wants. I don't want to dictate anything.

Chair Conlon- Is getting paid your only incentive to be speaker?

Lott- Of course not, but it is certainly an incentive to maintain the position.

Chair Redell- How do you plan on being efficient in senate with no rules?

Lott- We'd still be maintaining the same boundaries that we have now, we'd have the same order. But we're going to be less strict about it.

Senator Macias- How do you plan to keep SGA running professionally in the eyes of the student body?

Lott- Through a strong public relations committee. A general reputation change of SGA to one that deeply considers the concerns of the students 24/7.

Chair Kaufman- Have you ever read the Constitution?

Lott- Once.

Chair Conlon- Do you expect a lot of students coming to you asking to change the rules of SGA?

Lott- I expect some student to voice some concerns. But, I don't think that those concerns will be supported by the body.

Senator Mathews- I think that what you're saying is a senator position not for Speaker.

Lott- Was that a question?

Senator Ducharme- I had given much thought about taking on the Speaker role, but I was approached by many of my peers encouraging me to take on the position. I've been think more about the role, and I think it would be something that I would enjoy taking on. For those of you who do not know, I was the IRA president last year, and I did function as a speaker. I would very much like an open-door policy

Senator Cantell- What other obligations do you have?

Ducharme- Right now my obligations are 17 credits. I'm a part of the Alumni association. I'm on PR committee. The only thing I do currently is write Connor Daley's e-mail. That takes about 2 hours out of my work week.

Senator Crane- How would you deal with a situation in which a guest speaker came in that had something to that was offensive? How would you address the guest speaker?

Ducharme- I would let them speak their piece. I hope that any senators who would have a problem would feel comfortable addressing the issue.

Senator Mathews- As President of IRA, did you have experience with live-Constitutions?

Ducharme- IRA itself has a constitution, I was chair of the constitution review committee. I headed a committee with Chair Redell and would made amendments to that constitution.

--Motion to go into Executive Session--

--Return from Executive Session--

\*Voting Results:

Jonathan Lott.....Removed from running.

Alex Edelman.....Too close

Knight Ducharme.....Too close

**Questions:**

Chair Dougherty- How will you approach Public Forum?

Senator Edelman- I would keep it the way it is. I would allow people to request an extenuation of time if that is what they wish.

Senator Ducharme- I think the currency policy is fine. I side with Senator Edelman regarding requesting

Senator Martinez- How involved would you remain in SGA in terms of the constitution if you were not elected Speaker?

Senator Ducharme- If I was not elected Speaker, I would not play a very active role in the revision of the constitution, unless there was something that I felt very strongly about.

Senator Edelman- I would remain active as much as I could be.

Senator Heffrin- Motions to suspend the rules have been over-used. Would you all create a proactive solution to revise the protocol to reduce the suspension of the rules?

Senator Edelman- I think we do suspend the rules too much. It's not hard to write a document that allows you to function how you want to function. We spend too much time worrying about how to run the meeting as opposed to actually doing our job.

Senator Ducharme- I am very open to hear any changes that folks may want for the constitution or policy of speaking. If it is in the interest of the body, I would more than happy with a committee to work it into the document regarding the suspension of the rules.

Chair Keyes- I was wondering what your plan was to have a more efficient way to correct and advise the Constitution.

Senator Ducharme- I think with something like grammatical errors, it should be quickly and efficiently, so that we may focus more heavily on the content of the constitution.

Senator Edelman- I'd take three highlights and three people would go through the constitution and fix what needs to fix. What we would do, literally, is every Thanksgiving fix all grammatical errors as we go through it.

Senator Cantell- What makes you better than your opponent?

Senator Edelman- I'm blunt, I don't let people get away with anything. I have the experience with Robert's Rules. I have the time and motivation. I wasn't originally interested in the job, .. Maybe I'll buy you all drinks if you're 21.

Senator Ducharme- I have a low tolerance for bullshit as well. I'm forward thinking. While I don't have the experience that Senator Edelman has.

Senator Mathews- How much effort have you already put into the position?

Senator Ducharme- To date, not very much. But I'm willing to work my ass off to get the job done and learn the ropes of the position.

Senator Edelman- I read the constitution twice.

--Motion to move into executive session--

--Return from executive session-- (3:21:44)

Senator Knight Ducharme has been elected as the SGA's new Speaker

Speaker-elect Ducharme recites Oath of Office

## **New Business** (3:28:31)

## **Executive Reports** (3:28:45)

Speaker Ducharme- Thank you all for

VP Holland- We still have eight open positions on Senate. Davis Center Advisory committee is still looking. Athletic Advisory committee is looking for someone. We're planning another semi-retreat.

President Daley- Welcome to the new Speaker. I will be spending out my report.

## **Committee Reports** (3:32:25)

Finance- Heard many supplementals this week.

Public Relations- E-mailing out report

Student Activities- Club workshops on Saturday.

COLA- Community coalition.

Academic Affairs- E-mailing out report.

Student Action- E-mailing out report.

CODEEEE- E-mailing out report

## **Senatorial Forum** (3:34:14)

Chair Keyes- We tabled on Monday. The attendance from senate was quite disappointing.

Chair Dougherty- Great discussion tonight.

**Senatorial Comments and Announcements** (3:35:17)

**Roll Call** (3:35:50)

Finance- Senator Guerera excused

Public Relations- Senator Lott excused

Student Activities- All present

COLA- Senator Goodrich excused.

Academic Affairs- All present

Student Action- All present

CODEEE- All Present

10:36pm Adjourn