



**9th Meeting of the 2024-2025 Student Government Association Senate**  
**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom**

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Kennedy Connors.

**Roll Call**

Senators Forrest, Purple, Torres, and Richardson not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously.

**Public Forum**

**Dr. Elliot Ruggles & Dr. Beth Hellwig** – Discussing Sexual Violence Prevention

- **Dr. Hellwig:** We are here to talk about an important issue that means a lot to this community. In 1972, Title IX was passed in my freshman year of college, I was the Vice President of Women Students. The number one issue for us then was to create a Rape Crisis Center because people didn't know where to go. We have made so many improvements but always have a way to go. I talked with Vice Provost Caloiero, and she said that if not for student leaders on campus we wouldn't necessarily have a position for Dr. Ruggles. Think about anyone you know who has gone through sexual violence. Without you helping to make this difference our efforts wouldn't be possible.

- **Dr. Ruggles:** I started here in February 2022 following some bigger pieces of activism, my previous position at Brown University followed student activism as well. I see the place for student activism and making your voices heard.
- The way I look at sexual violence and violence prevention is through the socioecological model. It looks at our relationships to ourselves, communities, institutions, and society.
  - Institutions include official spaces like UVM, hospitals, or law enforcement.
  - Our individual actions impact people and all the other layers have impacts on each of us too. Individual acts of violence create ripple effects in the community, knowing someone who is affected can have an impact on us and using our voices can have an impact on institutions.
- For a long time in public health there has been an idea of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. I am trying to move away from these as it can be a little confusing.
  - Primary is directing sexual violence prevention efforts before violence starts. Talking about healthy relationships, sexual expression, how we are approaching consent in our daily lives.
  - Early intervention are things that aim to change the trajectory, some people who are at higher risk to experience or perpetrate violence.
  - The response piece is supporting survivors and holding perpetrators accountable.
  - Sometimes we think of response and prevention as very different things, but working with all of these together and recovery services is important.
- As I got to know UVM's campus, it feels like we have a lot of different subcommunities: Athletics, Greek life, hacky sack, whatever else it might be. Thinking about safety and

prevention as layers of swiss cheese, this graphic was sometimes used for Covid 19 prevention: wearing a mask, good air flow, open windows, etc.

- We can think about all these layers where you can have different students interact with different prevention methods in different ways or at times and at some point we will get to everyone.
- The scale of the problem is big: 25% of cisgender women, 16% of cisgender men, and 25% of trans and gender non-conforming student are experiencing sexual violence.
  - Students of color, with disabilities, Indigenous women, and bisexual women are higher risk categories as well.
  - 11% of UVM undergraduate students have experienced harm before arriving.
- We have to address things in a large way due to the scope of the problem.
  - Vector trainings for students before coming to UVM and during their time here.
  - Orientation programming and talking to small groups.
  - Athletic teams talking about it with MCSR (Men Can Stop Rape).
  - Personal violence programs through PIVOT and training for staff.
  - At a larger scale working with SGA on Sexual Violence Awareness Month, bathroom signs, club signer training, and drink cover programs.
  - Some programs that hit the institutional level and might not be readily apparent day-to-day: PIVOT is doing a Needs Assessment to see where to focus efforts, Sexual Violence Prevention Council, date rape drug screening, and working on Title IX process changes.
- We are hoping to offer many things that appeal to different students depending on their involvement on campus to get to everyone and reach people throughout the year.

- Over the summer we are running the online trainings. In the fall with Orientation programming, MCSR, and Men and Masculinities programs.
- We're working on getting Empowerment Self Defense up and running.
- Valentine's Day programming and talking with parents before students get here are possible things we are looking at.
- I want to highlight one program in particular. The Culture of Respect Evaluation is a national standard to benchmark what colleges and universities should be doing to respond to this issue in a holistic way.
  - In year one we are forming a campus team, perform a 200+ point evaluation, submit the results to Culture of Respect, and then receive recommendations. Then in year two we will implement the recommendations.
  - This will be good to get a broad view to see how we stack up with other colleges.
- Another program starting soon is card decks made by Recognize Violence Create Change. They have different games you can play with a group of friends or browse on your own to think about healthy relationships, scenario games, or building skills.
  - These are available at LivingWell, Prism, Interfaith, Mosaic, and WAGE. If you want to see them in other places let us know, the idea is like a lending library to check them out and engage with.
- We are looking for more students to join the Sexual Violence Prevention Council, this is a great opportunity for leadership in the next few weeks.

**Chair Jones:** Thank you for coming in, I appreciate you taking the time to do this. In the past we have talked about initiatives you presented to mitigate the date rape and roofying situation, can you talk about any progress beyond drink covers?

- **Response:** We have some limitations and stumbling blocks, Student Health Services in their open hours during the daytime can offer DFSA (Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault) screenings. If you think you consumed something without your consent, they can do the lab testing and you can then choose to move forward with that.
  - Currently at the UVM ER, any person who says they might have consumed a drug without their knowledge and might have experienced sexual harm can take a forensic exam. But in Vermont, if you don't suspect that you experienced sexual harm you are automatically disqualified from that full examination by law.
  - I am trying to work with UVM Rescue to potentially have them do that drug testing during off hours. In the meantime, let folks know that if you consumed a drug without your consent and are not sure if you experienced a sexual health risk you can go to the ER.

**Chair Jones:** Last year we saw legislation in the Statehouse surrounding sexual violence on campus with large institutions and there was pushback from UVM. Can you talk about what those conversations look like in administrative spaces?

- **Response:** There is so much regulation as far as Title IX, and sometimes folks can see doing something at the state level as overlapping unnecessarily. There are also questions about confidentiality on college campuses. It is an ongoing conversation.
  - We want to make sure we have enough confidential resources, working with HOPE Works. I advocate for more resources, especially confidential resources.

**Chair Jones:** You touched on some ongoing work with Orientation programming, I haven't heard anything as an upperclassman. Is there programming teaching about medical amnesty?

- **Response:** We worked with an organization called Speak About It who go to college campuses and did a presentation for all incoming students. Definitely try to plug that to incoming students as Orientation Leaders because you have influence and they do great work.
  - I wasn't as involved with medical amnesty, but I think that was part of what the Center for Health and Wellbeing was talking about. I think that is very important and good for students to know that they won't experience a policy violation.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** Motion to extend debate

- Motion **passed**.

**Vice President Bednarik:** How many Support Coordinators does the Title IX office have?

- **Response:** Two currently.

**Vice President Bednarik:** Has anyone been looking at the possibility of expanding those current roles? If I wanted to reach out with someone, especially as a person of color on a predominantly white campus, it might be helpful to have someone who looks like me.

- **Response:** I have to admit my bias as a confidential advocate on a campus previously. The Support Coordinators do offer great support but they have to be more neutral when it comes to fact finding, a confidential advocate on the other hand is there for someone who experienced harm to take their story at face value. I would advocate for more of that on our campus.

**Senator Talhouk:** Regarding the Vector trainings, how do you enforce people doing them?

- **Response:** We ask all students to complete them, but we don't have a mechanism of enforcement at the moment. At a previous institution we had a registration hold for

classes, we have talked about a room selection hold as well. I am open to ideas and encourage you all to use your voices on this issue.

**Senator Esbin:** I was an Orientation Leader, from my perspective we were not provided the proper resources and support to engage with such a difficult topic. What can we do?

- **Response:** In the future I am hoping to have a conversation structure that all Orientation Leaders would have. I'm talking with the PIVOT program to have them come in to facilitate these conversations. Students already know the Orientation Leader but having an expert in the room can help navigate the hard conversations well.
  - I am talking with Orientation to have a committee that looks at consent and sexual assault prevention programming within that.

**Senator Keppel:** How can off-campus students get this information about resources?

- **Response:** I have worked with OSCR to make sure different resources are in the newsletter that they send out. I think there is more we could do in collaboration, maybe the card decks could be available at OSCR too.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** For senators who weren't here last year, can you talk about the Sexual Violence Prevention Training with club signers?

- **Response:** This is a training I put together for all of our club signers, last spring was the first one, November is next. The first training was to think about what impact these leaders in clubs have, if harm is happening what are leaders doing and saying about it. How can we contribute to a community of care and consent culture?
  - We are moving towards the next training focusing on how to support a friend, concrete tools to respond to these situations. We will review bystander intervention skills that we looked at last year.

- We would love to have concentrated trainings with executive boards or club leaders who have an influence beyond the club signers.

**Chair Espejo:** When I was doing the Vector modules it kept logging me out and it took a long time. Is there any other program that other universities might be using?

- **Response:** I was on the receiving end of that helping students through IT troubleshooting. I think the content is good but sometimes the tech doesn't roll out as smoothly. We did an evaluation and there are companies that offer trainings which are good and might work better.
  - We are currently in a two year contract and if those problems aren't resolved we would need to look at them
- **Dr. Hellwig:** I think we are very lucky to have Dr. Ruggles. Being new I am looking to meet with all of you, fraternities, sororities, residence halls, athletic teams, and anyone else to learn about your issues.

**Kelley O'Malley – Sharing 2025 Commencement Details**

- I am the Senior Coordinator of Presidential Events and Protocol, Commencement is one of the events I run. Been at UVM for 16 years and planning Commencement for about 13 so I recognize the importance of this event.
  - We want to continue the tradition of making a memorable and meaningful Commencement, but numerous factors have led us to look at a new model.
  - 2024 Commencement was a beautiful day but we have serious constraints with our Commencement model and change is happening because it must.

- We have concerns about the difference between some of our graduates' experiences. We are behind the national trends to adopt technology to make our Commencement experience efficient, professional, and personal to students.
  - We are committed to making our ceremonies accessible and many places on campus make this difficult.
- The weather in May is all over the place, 10 years ago we worried about snow, now it is consistently hot. We have been lucky not to have thunderstorms at Commencement but it is a definite possibility.
  - In the event of severe weather, the ceremony would become live streamed as there are no venues on campus to host Commencement indoors and it is not acceptable to reduce the number of tickets available for students.
- I attend the North American Association of Commencement Officers conference every year and I hear about the challenges every institution has and what they are implementing to make successes.
  - I learned that there is a national trend of making or considering changes to these models and many institutions are moving outdoor ceremonies to indoor venues whenever possible due to weather, health, or other safety concerns.
  - UC Davis moved their ceremony to Sacramento after canceling a ceremony due to heat in 2022.
- What is important to graduates and their families are receiving diplomas, hearing their names called, crossing the stage, celebrating with friends and family, celebrating with their colleges, and seeing students wearing the regalia.

- The top amenities that are important to people are length of ceremony, parking close to the venue, air conditioning, and concessions.
- Considering our constraints and the feedback we received, we put together a proposal that is very different from what we do now but will allow our communities to gather and celebrate in a meaningful way.
  - In addition to hosting events on campus on Friday, we will be moving college ceremonies to Champlain Valley Expo and no longer have a main Commencement ceremony.
- Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> we will have all events on campus with open houses to showcase learning spaces and faculty, staff, and administrators to celebrate. The plan is to use campus buildings for these events from 2:30-4:30 on that Friday.
  - Tours, meet and greets, lab tours, many ideas. It is clear that students want photo opportunities and we are encouraging colleges to be available for that.
  - There will be a Food Truck Festival on the Davis Center Green 4:30-6:30.
  - Followed by a parade to University Green with a twilight celebration to bookmark that moment on the green from Convocation.
  - We would have some of the smaller ceremonies like the Honors College as well.
- Saturday and Sunday Commencement ceremonies at the Expo with a focus on diploma distribution, giving the diploma on stage with people walking across and having their name read.
  - We want to incorporate technology to ensure a streamlined experience. There are companies that can give us cards with a QR code that has people professionally

reading your name while your name is displayed on the screen as you walk across.

- We would likely have remarks from Deans. Faculty are of course welcome to participate. The President will be present at every ceremony to confer degrees.
- There will be 6 tickets guaranteed for each student at their ceremony, with the potential to request more.
- CAS would have 3 ceremonies separated by program.
- At the Champlain Valley Expo, there are two event spaces with dedicated parking right outside. The seating capacity is 3,800 which is more than our largest space, Patrick Gym, at 3,200.
  - It is fully air conditioned with concessions, restrooms, water fountains and other amenities built into the space. It is fully accessible with only one flat level and ramps going up to the stage.
- This is a big change, but it is necessary. We can work together to create a memorable last experience for graduates on campus.
- You can reach out to me any time outside of this with more questions or ideas.

**Chair Halvorson:** Thank you for putting in all this hard work, your presentation was amazing. The plan sounds amazing, as someone who might be graduating in the spring this sounds well thought through and a great opportunity to have a great Commencement ceremony.

**Chair Espejo:** Have you thought about doing the twilight ceremony exactly like Convocation gathered by the Learning Community?

- **Response:** No, this would be more informal with Graduate and Medical students invited to the food truck event as well. We haven't gotten too far into the details, but it is important to go back there and recommit ourselves to Our Common Ground.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** So there will not be a whole class Commencement?

- **Response:** No.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** Have you thought about it being challenging with driving to and from different places?

- **Response:** We understand challenges and will make sure we have extra time and buses for people without cars. This is a Friday, Saturday, Sunday thing so we would potentially expand the on-campus housing for families at University Heights for more affordable housing.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** I have been looking forward to a Commencement because many of my friends are not in the same college and part of what is so special is to be together as a graduating class and that is an important experience.

- **Response:** It won't look exactly the same. That is part of what the twilight on the University Green is for. One challenge for the two years after Covid is that the main ceremony is very poorly attended. Last year's Commencement was different because those were students who didn't have a high school graduation.
  - People want to go across the stage and the main ceremony didn't offer that so we were seeing really poor attendance.
  - Obviously some people will be disappointed by this. It is difficult to plan and then it might not happen with severe weather events. Seeing the weather this summer, I am very nervous. I have been in the middle of something being taken away from

students and we can do better. We have to make a plan to ensure that it doesn't happen.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** You mentioned wanting to make sure our last moments on campus were important but this new location is not on campus and people don't have a tie to it. The University Green with Old Mill and Waterman is what you think of when picturing UVM, Old Mill was the picture on the logo for a long time. Having that last moment at the Champlain Valley Expo feels very weird.

- **Response:** Many colleges have their ceremonies off campus already, that is why we are trying to make Friday very special. You can still come to campus Saturday and Sunday. I am making sure that the event is good even though it is not the same.

**Chair Knopp:** Thank you for thinking this through. I have concerns with turnover, some families will want to take photos in these spaces. How are you planning turnover and traffic flow?

- **Response:** There is a lot of time in between ceremonies, more than an hour and a half. The Expo has seasoned veterans, the entrance and exit are different ways. We understand this and will do it better than we do on campus.

**Senator York:** How are you ensuring uniformity across the different CAS graduations? And will double majors go to both ceremonies?

- **Response:** It will be essentially a replicated ceremony with the same structure. Double majors essentially have to choose, but could maybe come to both. There are students who are in dual-degree programs in different colleges and could go to both.

**Vice President Bednarik:** In the past, the SGA President has spoken at the main ceremony every year. How will that work in this structure?

- **Response:** That might be at the twilight event or at their school's ceremony. Right now we are working on the shell and then will branch out into the details from there.

**Chair Jones:** As a senior I agree that the connection to campus is important. Is there a possibility to use the waterfront as an outside venue, it could be a great outside venue. The Champlain Expo could be kept as a rainy day possibility. Even the backdrop of the lake could mean a lot to students.

- **Response:** The waterfront is sort of the same as the University Green. With thunder, lightning, or high wind it still gets canceled. It would be very difficult to move all these people to an indoor location which doesn't seat that capacity of 8,000-12,000 people. There are real logistical issues with any outdoor ceremony. The weather has been cooperative so far, but we are concerned about what could happen.

**Senator Toomey:** Thank you for thinking about accessibility with people navigating hills or outdoors in wheelchairs, with canes, or other accessibility issues.

- **Response:** We have gotten feedback about heat being outside, UVM Rescue is called in every year.

**Senator Arnone:** What student input did you get about this?

- **Response:** We asked graduates and their families last year after Commencement. We heard back from 800 people and got consistent feedback.

**Senator Arnone:** Was that about the specific new plan?

- **Response:** No, it was very general.

**Senator Arnone:** Did you get any student input about breaking up Commencement then?

- **Response:** I am here now.

**Senator Arnone:** Will there be any main Commencement speaker?

- **Response:** No, each college will have them. Nobody missed it last year.
- I think this campus is really creative and Commencement evokes a lot of feelings.

Faculty and staff feel very passionate about this too. I am passionate that students get a great experience and their families too. It is hard to not be micro with this, my job is to be macro and look at the big picture with everyone's experience. This month will be big, if you feel really strongly, please reach out to me.

### **Old Business**

Bill Recognizing Mansfield Forum, sponsored by Senator Grace

- The Mansfield Forum is a platform for students to talk about current issues. It is a publication like other newspapers on campus. Anyone is welcome to join and contribute with art or longer form philosophical articles.

BILL: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Grace abstained

Bill Recognizing Philosophy Society, sponsored by Senator Demeo

- Attempt to establish a formal club of philosophy on campus. A Different Voice is an unofficial club which is a different thing.

BILL: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Demeo abstained

Bill Recognizing UVM Club Pickleball, sponsored by Senator Demeo

- Pickleball is a fast growing sport in the US. Adding this team is important, I know we have many fans in the audience.

BILL: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Demeo abstained

Bill Recognizing UVM OSTEM, sponsored by Senator Paquette

- OSTEM stands for Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. This club would provide support and community for LGBTQ+ people in STEM majors.

BILL: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Paquette

Resolution Calling UVM to Support Building Emissions Reduction Ordinance

**Senator Paquette:** Motion to table in hopes that a final draft of this ordinance is released. With information from City Councilor, the bills main goals will stay the same, most of what remains to be added relates to funding. I added an amendment to the resolution regarding funding.

- Motion **passed**.

### **Emergency Business**

### **New Business**

Bill Recognizing UVM Herp

### **Senatorial Forum**

**Senator Demeo** – Presenting on Possible SGA Town Halls

- I would like to propose a project of town halls to increase our legitimacy and connect with students. At the moment we are facing dual crises of legitimacy and visibility, students don't know what we do and campaign platforms consistently refer to increasing visibility but not much changes.

- Town halls can be the most accessible form of government that we can have. They are easy to implement, easy to attend, and a great way to connect with people.
- Currently we have a Public Forum which is not designed for us to answer student questions and many students don't know about it.
- SGA organizes Burlington Mayoral Debates, this is an interesting and engaging way to get close and ask questions of mayoral candidates. They are framed as debates but include many elements of a town hall with questions from the audience.
- Students would be able to ask questions in a format designed to facilitate them. Ideally a group between five and ten Senators formed from most committees open to hearing and responding to questions. Ideally on a weekday evening biweekly or monthly.
- Historically it has been a challenge to get people interested in things like this. I was inspired to do this because people hear about my role and barrage me with questions.
- Right now I am working on the schedule and mechanics, the next step would be to publicize it and get the word out. I think this could be a collaboration with PR including town halls in event marketing with the newsletter and social media. I would like to get it up and running by next semester and revisit to make changes or expand next year.
- As SGA our job is to represent the student body, this format allows students to ask questions and have the best format to receive the best answers.

**Senator Talhouk:** Have you considered talking to someone at the Cynic to get people interested?

- **Response:** I would love to get connected with them but don't want to push it.

**Chair Modun:** Thank you for talking about this, it sounds like a great idea to get students involved. In my experience, the problem with planning events is getting students to care and

come to events, turnout has been a challenge at most things we host. One way to think about this could be to have fewer town halls related to a specific issue or theme and try to promote them a lot to narrow it down. Make sure to plan them out and get good turnout.

- **Response:** My main goal is to make SGA more visible, when people picture us they think of procedural business which isn't very engaging. Town halls can center students and lead to a positive change in how people view what we do.

**Senator Lee:** Vermont is one of the only states with town meetings and direct democracy, I think this is a good way to implement this at the university level. My only concern with doing it biweekly or monthly is committing to something and still not getting turnout. I like the idea of narrowing it down to once or twice a semester.

- **Response:** It is of paramount importance that we have people actually go to these so people aren't committing valuable time for nothing.

**President Teferra:** This is a great idea. Once it is up and running and there is more interest, monthly could make more sense. Potentially live streaming it would be good, the Davis Center has resources for that. Having the ability to submit questions ahead of time or online in the chat. Refreshments could be a good incentive to get people to come.

- **Response:** Thank you.

**Vice President Bednarik:** I second the refreshments idea. I love this idea. I also know we struggle with off-campus students and community members valuing us. It is critical to reach out to community members as well. We are a governing body so looking at how we could work with OSCR and City Council members to get people to engage with us could be good to get more different people. I respectfully disagree with Chair Modun's point about starting with less frequent meetings. I think having a consistent basis of routinely showing up for students even if

only a few people show up. Having one to two a month with consistency shows that we care, it will make Senators have to give up time and effort but that is our job here.

- **Response:** I see the value of both viewpoints. I like the idea of doing something with more frequency so that students can see that it is something happening often. Opening it up to community members is a good idea as well since our decisions impact people beyond here.

**Senator York:** I love this idea. With PR specifically, it could be a good idea to have training on answering questions for the Senators who would be involved with this expanding on what we did in Retreat. I want to put emphasis on making these events as accessible as possible relating to students with disabilities.

- **Response:** I would love to facilitate training or meeting beforehand with people to make sure they know about the depth of issues they might face and can deal rationally and calmly with someone who is angry. I agree that having a livestream and being in an accessible space is very important.

**Senator Paquette:** I can bring this up with the Cynic and could get an article out if we go forward with this idea. We could also be passing more resolutions which is a main way that SGA can get our message out. This is a good way to show students that we are representing them.

- **Response:** I am hearing some positive feedback, so reaching out to the Cynic could be good. I think this smaller format can get feedback and ideas which allow us to consider what students want us to pass resolutions about.

**Senator Laychak:** I would like to echo the Vice President's point to more frequency rather than less, I have heard that people feel we are up on a hill making decisions without them. Are you envisioning these town halls as voluntary or in a Senator's Constitutional duties?

- **Response:** It would definitely start as voluntary, ideally with a rotating group of Senators, but if it is very popular we could think about that in the future.

**Senator Esbin:** I love this idea. Have you thought about working with other student representatives on campus like the Graduate Student Senate or Inter-Residence Association?

- **Response:** Absolutely that could be good to have some of them join for aspects of this. I do think it is first an SGA visibility thing but could definitely be expanded.

**President Teferra:** The Inter-Residence Association doesn't really exist anymore.

**Vice President Bednarik:** That is true, but they are bringing it back under a new name.

**Chair Modun:** How do you plan to re-engage with students afterwards or get feedback?

- **Response:** I would love to get an answer to questions right away, but there is a crucial piece in publicizing what we do referencing back to how we were inspired. We can naturally exchange information at these events to reach back out afterwards.

**Chair Jones:** It is also important to get students to engage with the spaces where we already are like the live stream or coming into the office. One thing to consider is adding more structure with specific themes to give a starting point for a discussion, especially using areas that we already know students are concerned about.

- **Response:** A key part in reducing fear is changing the layout where we are the ones answering questions and in the spotlight rather than them. This could be a way to get direct feedback and explain our impact to people.

**Chair Jones:** Motion for 5 minute recess.

- Motion **failed**.

**Senator Talhouk:** If you feel that a classroom is stuffy or you are getting lightheaded, please let me know so we can get it tested for CO levels. I was in a class where we tested the levels and it was in the “very dangerous” zone. Please come talk to me.

## **Executive Reports**

### **Speaker Connors**

- Touching base on some things Elliot Ruggles talked about. I serve on the Culture of Respect and Sexual Violence Prevention Council so let me know if you have any questions about that.
- I am also in the PIVOT program, they want to host a focus group within SGA to determine new programming. If you are interested in this please reach out to your Chair by tomorrow.
- The Judicial Committee is meeting on Teams this Thursday.
- I met with Campus Programming today about some exciting events coming up.

### **Vice President Bednarik**

- Thanks for dressing your best for the Presidential Dinner tonight.
- I want to remind people that passing notes and getting up or sitting down can be very distracting so please try to limit that.
  - I understand wanting to follow guests out and discuss with them afterwards, please be very critical of whether that could be a follow up email instead.
  - Also try to wait for breaks or transitions between speakers when needing to get up for the bathroom or anything else.

- I want to mention a reminder that make-up Retreat is this Thursday. I haven't heard of anyone who can't make it, so assuming everyone will be there.
- I had a meeting with a CAPS Counselor about the RA Support Group. We have the first meeting date set and it will be implemented for the full year.
- President Teferra and I met with the Interim President, it went well and we are looking forward to a great relationship. Reach out if you have questions about that.
- We will be going to Interim President Prelock's house November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Still working out the times but will send more information soon, we will work out carpools.

### **President Teferra**

- Happy Tuesday!
- The Presidential Search Advisory Committee is looking for our input. It is an anonymous input form which was sent out by email. There will potentially be a session with SGA coming up.
- Please check the Teams daily, especially on weekdays. We only meet once a week so that is an avenue to follow up and talk to each other.
- Lina is restarting the Davis Center Advisory Committee and looking for students to be on that. If you are interested let me know.

### **Treasurer Sorensen**

- The Student Activity Fee closed last week and I have some results.
  - 60% of respondents were in favor of the proposal, 17% said maybe. We got 780 responses, broken down by class and by club or non-club all had majorities supporting it.

- I sent this data to Interim President Patty Prelock, Vice Provost Erica Caloiero, and CFO Richard Cate and they will come back to us with their final proposal that will be submitted to the Board before we decide if we present a separate proposal.
- I will be meeting with the University of Delaware and University of Virginia this week about this project.
- Beginning prep work for budgeting with Chair Murphy and Bethany.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** Motion for paper reports.

- Motion **passed**.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Public Relations Committee**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Committee on the Environment**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity**

- I am having a meeting with Elliot Ruggles to continue to discuss some SVAM planning and to map out what we want SVAM to look like. So if anyone has suggestions, please feel free to reach out!
- Senator Theroux and I have a meeting with WAGE to discuss MARCH! A Celebration of Leaders in Gender Equity on Monday and we're meeting with Aurora (the person who came in a couple of weeks ago). We're both very excited about that!

- Senator Petracek got a response from Professor VonDoepp about her election information posters, and they got printed out so be on the lookout for some election-related information for your specific state (depending on where you're from).
- I had a very productive meeting with Jaime Smith, the Director of Transportation and Parking Services. As of today all of the bus benches are installed! Shout out to Emeritus Senator Sydney Daniels on all her hard work!
  - We also discussed Chair Garcia and my Safe Rides project and got some great feedback. We are really looking forward to partnering with him.
- Finally, we have.... THE WORD OF THE WEEK! This week's word is... Philosophy!

#### **Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs**

- Community Coalition is next Friday 3-4:30 so get excited!
- Community Cleanup will be November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, with more info to come.
- Song of the Week: Amsterdam by Gregory Alan Isakov.

#### **Committee on Student Action and Well-Being**

- I am excited to announce the new biweekly check-ins set up between CSAW and Blake Reilly, the Executive Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing. I hope this partnership is something that will continue on for many years to come.
- I was also invited onto the search committee for the new CHWB Assistant Director for Student Engagement, which I can expand on more if anyone is interested!
- Some members of CSAW, including myself, are interested in sponsoring a resolution supporting the implementation of placing registration holds on students who don't complete their Vector modules by the deadline, as was discussed on Public Forum. If

you're interested in working with us on this, please reach out or book some time to meet with me.

- Senator Bibens planned to say this on Senatorial Forum, but had to step out, so I'm including it here:
  - "Last week there was an article posted by the VT Cynic discussing lesbian culture on campus, specifically "evil lesbians." Due to some of the ideas and representations made, this article sparked a lot of controversy and frustration, especially among the lesbian and LGBTQ+ communities. If you or anyone you know are interested in expressing your feelings and/or making any comments about this, you're encouraged to send a letter to the Cynic. Thank you."
- Last but not least, Senator Keppel is moving forward on a project related to approaching healthcare through music, as well as meeting with the Student Nurse Association to look into potentially helping boost some of their initiatives.
- Artist of the Week: COIN. I recommend starting with Talk Too Much, Cemetery, and Crash My Car.

### **Club Affairs Committee**

- Major shoutouts to Senators Demeo and Grace for contacting and confirming so many organizations. This committee would not be operating as smoothly without them. Thank you both.
- Shoutout to Senator Paquette for jumping right into Senate with a resolution within his first month! WOW!! On a similar note, Senator Demeo had an outstanding presentation on SGA Town Halls and I cannot wait for that to kick off.

- I am currently working on SGA good standing and club signer Sexual Violence Prevention Training. If you hear a friend or classmate that finds out they are in bad standing, their first contact should be [sgaclubs@uvm.edu](mailto:sgaclubs@uvm.edu). I can help them get back on track.
  - Additionally, if you have suggestions from last year's club signer Sexual Violence Prevention Training please reach out as I am meeting with Ana and Elliot to plan this event and would love suggestions. We met today and plan on meeting in two weeks again once we have more information and plans.
- The Club Affairs Committee is all getting trained to be on the Student Organization Accountability panel. Myself, Senator Grace, and Senator Demeo all got trained this week and others will soon!
- Have a great week, reach out if you need anything!

#### **Academic Affairs Committee**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Finance Committee**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Senatorial Comments/Announcements**

**President Teferra:** When Kelley O'Malley was up there I didn't say anything because I think I would start crying if I did. Obviously this affects everyone, but me and Matt are thinking about this a lot as seniors. If you have any opinions or comments please reach out over email. It sounds like it is in the final stages, but it is not finalized. Commencement is a great time to be with friends and classmates who aren't in your school.

**Senator Laychak:** Two days ago I met with Nicole Reilly, she had a survey to plug about food insecurity which will be in the Teams.

**Senator Demeo:** Thank you for incredible comments and feedback on Senatorial Forum, I will be meeting with Lina to move this forward. If you want to get involved, let me know.

**Senator Paquette:** Next Monday, Climate Action Collective is doing a group interview with the Director of Sustainability at the Burlington Friends Meeting House.

**Chair Knopp:** I am meeting about wifi issues on campus tomorrow morning, let me know if you have anything I should bring up.

**Senator Lynch:** It is important to have the student body at this CAC meeting. Tomorrow at 6pm at the Prism Center there will be an epic t-shirt tote bag making event.

**Vice President Bednarik:** I know a lot of you live in dorms, they are doing Health and Safety Inspections on Monday night so tell your friends. Normally these happen during Thanksgiving and Winter Break. All of you should have a safety rail on your bed, despite the level it is at. If you don't have one, we have to contact the State because it's the law. Reach out to your RAs with questions.

**Senator Keppel:** Are they coming into your room?

**Vice President Bednarik:** Yes.

**Senator Grace:** Is this information published anywhere?

**Vice President Bednarik:** You should get an email, but that is subject to the AC.

**Senator York:** So we should put the rail back on the beds?

**Vice President Bednarik:** Yes.

**Adjournment**