



**12th Meeting of the 2024-2025 Student Government Association Senate**  
**October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom**

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Kennedy Connors.

**Roll Call**

Chair Espejo, Senators Onorato, Quinn, Torres, Toomey, Richarson, and Chapman not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously.

**Public Forum**

**Caylin McCamp** – Providing Sustainable Campus Fund Update

- Sustainability Projects Manager in the Office of Sustainability.
- Does anyone know what the Sustainable Campus Fund is?

**Senator Purple:** My understanding is that it is a fund that students can request funding for sustainable focused projects from each year.

- Yes, great summary. I want to make sure this is on everyone's radar to get the word out.
- This came from students, in 2008 you asked to impose a fee of \$10 per student per semester. This includes graduate students and hasn't changed since then.

- The mission was expanded in 2020 to talk about sustainability more broadly, instead of just clean energy.
- The fund is operated by the Socially Responsible Investing Advisory Council (SRIAC).
  - This is a group of 12 voting members, half students, who decide what is recommended to the VP for Finance to be funded.
  - Lina is the newest member of that group.
- My role is to help students access the fund, get the word out, and facilitate meetings of the group.
- Last year applications were open on a rolling basis. We saw a drop in applications so we are back to a hard deadline in the fall and spring.
  - The fall deadline was October 13<sup>th</sup>, the spring deadline will be around Spring Break. If you have ideas for a spring proposal, get in touch early and make it happen.
- The fund can only give funding, not permission so a project has to have buy-in and approval from the whole chain before funding can be granted.
- Projects have to be related to campus sustainability, have a potential for impact, be relevant to students, and have a realistic timeline and budget.
- Budgets can range from a couple thousand dollars to support an internship to hundreds of thousands of dollars for bigger infrastructure projects.
- We encourage people to come early on in development with an idea to make sure they are on track to be eligible for the fund. I give feedback and support to put together a realistic budget and timeline, and can help identify a sponsor because students can't directly receive funding.

- Proposals are intentionally not very long, only 750 words.
- SRIAC reviews the proposals and meets to vote on which should be recommended to the VP for Finance.
- The proposals will be shared at a Public Forum on November 7<sup>th</sup>, you can come in person or on Teams to hear about these ideas.

**Senator Arnone:** Who was part of the decision making process for changing the deadline and how have you seen the numbers change with this fall compared to last fall?

- **Response:** Primarily the Chair of SRIAC, Claire Burlingham, who is also the University Controller. I created a report which showed how the proposal volume had changed and it didn't seem like it was meeting the goals. Last year, we had nine proposals and just this semester we had eight.

**Senator Lynch:** Is there a way to publicly access how the Sustainable Campus Fund is allocated?

- **Response:** Yes, all of the projects are on our website.

**Senator Arnone:** Do you have examples of proposals that have and haven't been funded so people can see what worked and what didn't when making their proposal?

- **Response:** They aren't listed anywhere publicly, that information is best gotten through meeting with me and discussing what SRIAC is looking for.

**President Teferra:** Last year, we submitted a proposal which went through to the decision-making process but didn't pass. Some of the reasoning I got was that it was too expensive for a speaker. Is that something you will communicate to people earlier in the process going forward?

- **Response:** That was a particularly surprising outcome from my perspective. I don't vote or influence the vote so I just work to guide people through the process. That outcome did also influence our decision to go back to this model to provide justifications for not funding projects. In short, yes, everything I see informs my advice for future proposals.

**Chair Surak:** When people come to you with an idea, is there a timeline you give them to go through so they know where they are in the process?

- **Response:** Now that we have a deadline there is a little bit more clarity. About a week after the deadline you will get a notice of whether your proposal is going forward to present and then you will have another week before this forum to prepare a presentation. The decisions should all come out during finals week.

**Chair Surak:** Is that schedule readily accessible online somewhere?

- **Response:** I think so, we just added information about the deadlines to the website. I'm not totally sure if the process is on there because the website is still transitioning.

**Senator York:** Are you able to fund multi-year projects or only one-time projects?

- **Response:** Unfortunately there are limitations. There is no ongoing funding available, for example to create a perpetual position. There can be multi-phased projects or up front funding to establish something that needs to find additional funding to continue.

**Chair Garcia:** Do you have an appeals process?

- **Response:** There is no process in place for an appeal, but there is an opportunity to revise and re-propose. In the committee there are often negotiations to alter proposals.

Motion for a 10 minute recess.

- Motion **passed**.

## **Old Business**

## **Emergency Business**

## **New Business**

Bill Recognizing F-Word Club

Bill Recognizing Real Estate Club

Bill Recognizing UVM Lifting Club

## **Senatorial Forum**

**Senator Esbin & Grace** – Presenting on SGA Cage Clean-up

- **Senator Esbin:** SGA oversees over 250 clubs and manages their shared belongings in the cage or storage room. It has become increasingly disorganized and less functional for clubs to use and store belongings
- **Senator Grace:** We are intending to recruit Senators and Club Signers to organize it alphabetically and clean it up. This will also be an opportunity to build more personal connections with clubs to work better together.
- **Senator Esbin:** The intended timeline has a few phases.
  - From now until November 16<sup>th</sup> we will communicate ideas and intentions with clubs who will then go into the space and label items with their names and year.
  - The week before Thanksgiving we will be emailing Club Signers with a notification that they have items in the space.

- The final stage is to fully clean out the space over a weekend. Take everything out and clean it, then put everything back in an organized manner.
- **Senator Grace:** We are hoping to team up with Club Signers and Senators because this is a big project and we will reach out to people about things that do not have labels. If nobody claims these items then they will be donated, recycled, or thrown away.

**Chair Modun:** I remember this project being planned for the summer, what caused that to not happen?

**President Teferra:** Point of Information: I started this project last year and we realized that Club Signers wouldn't be checking emails or have time to come into the office over the summer. We decided it was something that should be done during the year when people are here.

- **Response (Senator Grace):** We know this has been proposed many times and not followed through on or finished, that's why we want everyone's support in reminding Club Signers and helping out with this.

**Chair Surak:** For items that aren't labeled but are obviously for a certain club, would you reach out to them or put it in the pile?

- **Response (Senator Esbin):** We will use our best deductive reasoning but if it isn't properly labeled then it could be up for grabs.

**Vice President Bednarik:** Happy to see this getting going. This solves the problem of the mess now, but not necessarily in the future. Do you have any ideas about that, possibly relating to the Constitution or good standing?

- **Response (Senator Esbin):** We decided that it would be best to include items in club transition reports, and if an item isn't in the proper section then we will put it in the right space. We might have to go in yearly and clear things out if a club isn't using something.

**Chair Halvorson:** It would be hard to put it in good standing right now, but once it is sorted out we could have a conversation about this to discuss how to keep it clean moving forward.

**Chair Knopp:** Keeping an active itemized list of what every club has could be good in case we see something that is unlabeled to check a list and see what isn't in the proper place.

**Senator York:** Is there a plan for Senators and Club Signers to sign up for this?

- **Response (Senator Esbin):** SignUpGenius will be used.

**President Teferra:** When explaining this to Club Signers it could be good to emphasize that it's annoying but also for safety and accessibility reasons as well as wasting money by buying new things when it might already be in the cage.

- **Response (Senator Esbin):** I've already reconnected two clubs with their items that they didn't know they had and I think that will continue.
- **Response (Senator Grace):** If clubs aren't understanding, we have a long list of reasons with things behind other things, taking up too much space, dirty, gross, etc.

**Senator Talhouk:** Do you have a plan for limiting how much clubs can store?

- **Response (Senator Grace):** Yes, we don't have a specific plan but we would like to have a rule about that, especially with the size of items.

**Chair Modun:** Question from the livestream asking about communal supplies, specifically art supplies.

- **Response (Senator Esbin):** Many of these supplies are currently blocked away behind other things. We plan to keep those in a more accessible area.

**Chair Surak:** We talked last year about possibly renting out certain items to clubs, have you thought about that at all?

- **Response (Senator Esbin):** All the items are supposed to have been purchased with money from SGA so we do own them but sharing between clubs could be done by them.

**Chair Surak:** Are you planning on organizing it so that we know what everyone has with a comprehensive list?

- **Response (Senator Esbin):** Right now the plan is to have it sectioned by types of clubs, and beyond that there would be specifically printed out labels with name, year, and quantity. Integrating an excel sheet into that would be possible but might also put another burden on Club Affairs which is already doing a lot.

**Chair Halvorson:** It sounds like people have a lot of organizational ideas and conveniently you can help with this project and provide your ideas by signing up to clean it out.

## **Executive Reports**

### **Speaker Connors**

- Thank you all for dressing up and getting fun with it, shoutout to Club Affairs.
- Today was the first SVAM planning meeting which was very productive.
- Also, I had a Faculty Senate Parking Appeals Committee meeting with Senator Paquette.
- I had a Digital Collections meeting this week to talk about getting our Legislation into the Digital Collections.
- Attendance is starting to dwindle down, I do expect everyone to be here but I understand people are getting sick now. If it becomes an issue there will be a conversation.

### **Vice President Bednarik**

- Be safe on Halloween, dress warm and have a fun week.

**Senator Purple:** Could you repeat the basic details for Interim President Prelock's house?



- **Response:** We are going to her house on November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11-3. I will put a spreadsheet in the Teams to coordinate driving and carpools.

**Senator Lee:** How far away is it?

- **Response:** About 30 minutes, it's in South Hero.

**Chair Jones:** If people are not able to stay the entire time, is there a plan for an estimated lunch time to be there for the main thing and then go?

- **Response:** We usually have lunch immediately and then her husband does a magic show and then we go outside where there are go-karts, ATVs, and beach volleyball.

**President Teferra**

- This past Friday, I attended the Board of Trustees meeting. I gave a report about what we've been up to and they commended us for our work.
- I also met today with Treasurer Sorensen and Kelley O'Malley to talk about the proposed changes to Commencement.
  - Good conversation, we are looking to make an advisory committee of 6-8 people.

If you are interested, let me know, especially if you are an upperclassmen who will be immediately affected by that.

**Treasurer Sorensen**

- Nothing to report.

## **Committee Reports**

**Public Relations Committee**

- Chair Espejo lent me her polaroid. I am putting together a wall outside the office. Come find me for a picture.

- Fun Fact of the Week: Bananas are berries, but strawberries are not berries.

**Vice President Bednarik:** Would you like committees to take a group picture of costumes?

- **Response:** That would be great.

### **Committee on the Environment**

- Senator Arnone met with the president of DSU to talk about the accessible trails project.
- Liz Palchak stepped down as the Chair of SRIAC.

**Senator Grace:** What is that?

**Senator Purple:** The Socially Responsible Investing Advisory Council, what Caylin was just here talking about. The Sustainable Campus Fund is overseen by SRIAC.

**President Teferra:** She was also the Director of the Office of Sustainability. We don't know the process or timeline to hire a new person for that yet.

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

- Senator Theroux reading for Chair Espejo:
- I met with Aurora and Alex to discuss speaker ideas for MARCH!
- The meeting for SVAM went well.
- Senator York met with DSU to discuss how we can expand our relationship with them.

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

- Community Cleanup is November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- Song of the Week: That's So True by Gracie Abrams.

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

- First meeting with Blake Reilly went well, laying out expectations of what that looks like going forward.
  - I have the individual Chair meeting coming up on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

- Senator Steele is meeting with professors about accommodations around religious holidays.
- Senator Purple is speaking with the registrar about waitlisting options for classes.
- Artist of the Week: Laufey, my favorite song right now is Falling Behind.

#### **Club Affairs Committee**

- Working on individual projects and getting a lot of clubs back in good standing.
- We are all busy working on confirming a club right now.

#### **Academic Affairs Committee**

- I had a meeting with Jay which went well to explore a contract with Grammarly. I will be on Senatorial Forum to speak about that in two weeks.
- Goal for AA to talk about extended course descriptions the next few weeks. Most professors don't fill those out and we want to talk to Department Chairs to make sure those get filled out.
- Senator Toomey met with Dining, we got a lot of good feedback about why the hours are set the way that they are.
  - Also, we might be getting soft serve machines by next semester.

**President Teferra:** I'll be needing someone to sign me into the dining hall for that, thank you.

#### **Finance Committee**

- Shoutout Senators Esbin and Grace for their project. I'm excited it is getting off the ground.
- Treasurer Sorensen and I have been discussing and updating the budgeting process. If you have questions or comments, please reach out.

### **Senatorial Comments/Announcements**

**Chair Jones:** I forgot to mention this in my report. It is Halloweekend, please be safe and kind.

If you are out and celebrating, watch out for people around you. Also, as we are coming up on election week, be kind to yourself and people around you.

**Senator Purple:** First round of office tours took place, if you haven't done them yet there will be a second round coming up.

**Chair Garcia:** Kappa Alpha Theta is having Let's Taco 'Bout Casa. \$5 for tickets, talk to me, Chair Murphy, or Chair Halvorson for tickets.

**Chair Surak:** Not to brag but I'm first place in fantasy and it will stay that way.

**Senator Lynch:** When you're voting, if you don't know what the ballot is going to look like please look it up and be aware of what will be on it.

**Senator Demeo:** If you go to your online voter registration page, you can often find what's on the ballot.

### **Adjournment**