



**1st Meeting of the 2024-2025 Student Government Association Senate**  
**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom**

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Ashleigh Clark.

**Emergency Business**

Swearing in of the Senate Body

- Senate Body sworn in by Speaker Clark.
- Committee Chairs sworn in by Speaker Clark.

**Speaker Clark:**

- Glad to see those who are here coming back or for the first time. You will receive a comprehensive presentation from our next Speaker at fall retreat.
  - To get on the speaking order raise your placard and I'll make eye contact with you to put you on the order.
  - To clarify a comment or provide a point of information, hold your hand up.
  - When it is your turn I will reference you by your title (Senator, Chair, etc.) and last name.
  - If you are speaking frequently that's ok but you will be lower on the speaking order to prioritize new information.

- Motion cards are on your desk, you can also talk through what you want and we will help.
- You also raise your placards to vote for things.

#### SGA Speaker Elections

- **Chair Halvorson:** I nominate Senator Connors.
- **Senator Purple:** I nominate Senator Jones.
- **Senator Isenhour:** I nominate Senator Purple.
- **Senator Connors:** I accept.
- **Senator Jones:** I accept.
- **Senator Purple:** I decline.

#### Opening statements:

- **Senator Connors:** Hello everyone, there are so many new faces this session. If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, my name is Kennedy Connors. I look forward to properly meeting each of you throughout our time together. I am a rising sophomore majoring in Public Communications, specifically concentrating in Community Media and Journalism. I'm from Los Gatos, California and have been getting accustomed to the weather slowly but surely.
  - My journey with SGA started this past fall when I luckily came across the SGA table at Activities Fest and instantly knew this was a group I wanted to play a part in. My first question was about how I can make a difference on campus even if I wasn't elected.

- After getting elected, this can-do attitude followed me through all my projects.

Whether that's looking at new safety initiatives, helping to hopefully start a campus thrift store, planning a fall market, or most recently looking to implement crosswalk art. Throughout all these projects my priority has been student wellbeing and helping to bridge the gap between administration and the student body.

- Through countless tabling events and serving on committees for Spring Fest, Sexual Violence Awareness Month, and SGA's Public Relations, I've learned the importance of showing up for our constituents and fellow Senators.

- I've served as a member of Club Affairs for this past year and witnessed the infectious passion UVM students hold. I've been fortunate enough to join numerous clubs on campus and seen firsthand the important work our organizations do.

- As Speaker, I hope to include and invite more student groups to join us on Public Forum. It's exciting that we get to hear snippets of the work being done during the club recognition process, however I don't think it should stop there. All our organizations are doing such influential things and I want to amplify these voices. Through my time on Club Affairs I've already established a network through multiple groups and understand what it's like to work one on one with club signers. With these experiences, I'm confident that I could open Public Forum to more students.

- On top of this, with the revision of the Club Constitution template, we will be consistently passing new legislation. My Club Affairs background would be very helpful during this operation as I start already understanding this process.
- As Speaker, one of my top priorities would be being an impartial, trusted leader. Throughout this year, I've learned the importance of neutrality through my work as a student journalist for both our student paper, Vermont Cynic, and Vermont Public. These experiences have taught me how to leave my beliefs at the door and I guarantee every bill, resolution, and guest would be treated with the same urgency and respect. My job isn't to impose my opinions on the Senate body and my first concern would be uplifting each of your own perspectives.
- Ultimately as Speaker, my top priority would be being an active, present member in all the wonderful work everyone in this room accomplishes.
- Just last week, we heard from the Director of OSCR about the lasting impact an SGA initiative, Rally Cat's Cupboard, has had on the student body. This is just one example of the incredible impact past Senators have had on UVM.
- The past semester has been such a success with powerful resolutions, projects, and events being held. I've been lucky enough to work on a project with a Senator from every single committee this past year and experienced how influential we are together.
- We have such a power to make a difference, and as Speaker I would support you in any way I can. I guarantee I am always accessible by having weekly office hours. Whether that's for advice, to express concerns, or even to get a strawberry iced tea lemonade from Henderson's, I'll have your back through it all.

- **Senator Jones:** Hi everyone, I'm so excited to see the faces of both returning and first time Senators and I would like to congratulate everybody on getting elected. My name is Cat Jones, I'm a rising senior majoring in Computer Science and Political Science with a minor in Law. This is my third term on SGA after having been appointed in my sophomore year by Emeritus Vice President Sarah Wood.
  - I am a big believer in leaving this place better than I found it and as a Senator I have worked to advocate for my peers and take an active role in issues around campus. Working through my communities' student government in high school and now here at UVM has fostered my relationship with leadership and allowed me to consistently learn more about myself and those I share these communities with. I am grateful to the people around me then and now who contributed to this along the way.
  - These past few years I've been on the Committee for Student Action and Wellbeing, the Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs, the Sexual Violence Awareness Month ad hoc, SGA's Judicial Committee, and the Faculty Senate's Student Affairs Committee. Looking back at all the projects and people I have worked with, I couldn't imagine having done these things when I was first appointed.
  - Coming on to SGA I was intimidated by the formality and procedural structures I found myself thrown into and felt nervous around so many accomplished leaders who seemed to feel right at home in this unfamiliar structure. I'm sure some of you are experiencing this now. I soon began to find comfort in that same structure

of Robert's Rules, partly in thanks to the Speakers who came before me, Emeritus Speaker Purple and our current Speaker Clark.

- At the beginning of last term, I ran for Speaker against Speaker Clark and I couldn't think of anyone I would rather have experienced that with. Aside from simply being an incredible person to look up to, Speaker Clark has taught me things this year which showed me that, though I was just as passionate then as I am now, I wasn't yet ready for the role. Reflecting on that this past year has allowed me to grow as a Senator, as a person, and I hope as someone who is now ready to serve this body as your Speaker.
- The role of Speaker requires neutrality and demands that you maintain the balance between running meetings and being a compassionate and trustworthy resource outside of that. Throughout my time and experiences on Senate, I've seen us have heavy conversations, I've helped advise on sensitive conduct issues, and I've seen us doing our best to represent students through some very heated topics. It's important for us not to shy away from these conversations because, though hard, they are necessary to our job as student leaders. However, the Speaker's role in these conversations is to put aside personal feelings and remain neutral so as to best guide these meetings.
- I know that this past year those of you returning are used to seeing me right in the middle of those conversations, as I believe it is my role to do so as Senator. I am confident I understand the differences between the role of Speaker and Senator and can maintain my neutrality, as my experience on the Judicial Committee can attest to.

- In my opinion, being Speaker means being a pillar to the rest of Senate. I believe that is best done by prioritizing not just neutrality, but commitments to proactive efficiency, a diligent attention to detail, transparency, and not least of all passion in our processes and actions in an equitable and unbiased manner. I will strive to represent these goals by bringing members of Faculty Senate onto Public Forum, hosting regular legislative office hours for Senators looking for guidance, sitting in on each committee's meetings on a rotational basis, and establishing a closer relationship with SGA office staff.
- Additionally, the Speaker serves as the Chair of our Judicial Committee which I have had the opportunity to serve on for the past three terms. I would like to work towards biannual reviews and confirmations of each committee's constitutional duties and obligations pending future amendments, regular judicial reviews of upcoming legislation, and more transparency and proactive conversations around conduct processes and senatorial obligations.
- As Senators we work best when we work together so we can all do what we are here to do which is serving our constituents. For the Senate to do your job, you need the Speaker to do theirs. As Speaker, I will strive to be the reliable pillar of knowledge, support, and structure needed to build the foundations of a functional Senate.

Questions:

- **Chair Modun:** You both talked about impartiality in your statements. Could you expand on how you plan to stay impartial, especially during a session when we are discussing a really passionate issue that you may have strong feelings about?

- **Senator Jones:** I mentioned serving on the Judicial Committee since I was first appointed. We have to work with the same amount of neutrality as the Speaker. I have had to have tough conversations surrounding some of the topics you have seen in the past term, and some that you may not have seen. Throughout these conversations, it's important to remember to check your biases and not have a "one side vs the other" conversation but instead an "everyone vs the problem" conversation. That is the approach I would take as Speaker from my experience with Judicial and as a Senator as well, it is also important to check your biases in this role when having tough conversations. Everyone deserves to have their side heard with the same respect, processes, and acknowledgement.
- **Senator Connors:** I've gotten to learn a lot about neutrality and the importance of it throughout this year. I specifically pointed to being a student journalist for Vermont Public and the Vermont Cynic in my opening statement. I am a Features writer which means that any piece I write cannot contain my opinion, and the first time I did this I was so puzzled because I kept wanting to put "I" in and impose my opinions on my piece. I quickly learned the importance of not doing so, and every piece I've released for both does not contain my own opinions. I would treat the Senate body the same way by not imposing my own beliefs. This looks like making sure every guest, resolution, bill, and more is treated with the same sense of urgency and respect. I do understand my role as the tiebreaker and would make sure I was knowledgeable on any topic and ready to serve that role, but until then I would not impose my own beliefs.



- **Senator Purple:** One of the most important characteristics of a good Speaker is being organized. Can you both give a time when you demonstrated good organization and explain how those skills will help you in this position?
  - **Senator Connors:** I can point to some of the leadership roles I had this year in a selection of clubs across campus, specifically with Rally Cat's Cupboard, which Senator Purple inspired me at the start of the year to become a part of. I am in charge of their social media accounts and this is really important because it's how students access this resource. That takes a lot of organization and constantly meeting with administrators to help promote it. I also have a leadership role in Feel Good. With that I have to be a Shift Lead once a week which involves constantly making sure everyone else is doing well and be ready to step up in any situation.
  - **Senator Jones:** I will start by saying that I have ADHD so organization is something I strive towards every day and has led me to find innovative or fun ways to make sure my life is organized. I also like to throw myself into every project I hear about on Senate and that requires a lot of organization running around campus every day. Making sure my schedule is updated with both a virtual calendar and a physical planner. Being a TA and working at Howe Library means I need to work with databases and can trace back through records to make sure nobody is falling behind.
- **Treasurer Sorensen:** The role of Speaker is a unique position on SGA as one of the most outward facing in terms of interacting with people who come in, everyone in Senate, and

administration. Will you talk about some of your experiences that you think will uniquely qualify you for the role of Speaker?

- **Senator Jones:** I would say first of all, going for the role is less about standing out and more about what you can do for the role. As for the outward facing nature of the role, I would work to maintain the pillar of support for Senate which looks like searching for projects and reaching into the community for Public Forum guests to come in who can aid those projects. We had a representative for OSCR come in last week and I would look to do more of that to make sure our work is relevant and current.
- **Senator Connors:** I am a member of Club Affairs so I understand meeting one on one with student club signers. I think that prepares me a lot for this role and making sure I'm putting my best foot forward. If you are coming back, you understand how much I have spoken on Senatorial Forum this year and all those projects require reaching out to administration. I could make a long list of the administrators I've talked to, just last week I met with Erica Caloiero about a new project, and I feel those connections prepare me for this role. I come in with that knowledge and am ready to reach out to those connections about any ways they can help our student body.
- **Vice President Bednarik:** The last two Speakers have shown that the role is not just responsible for running these meetings but working outside of that to make sure SGA is sustainable for the future. What is a goal you hope to accomplish by the end of your term to have a positive impact on the functionality of SGA?

- **Senator Connors:** This is something which is really important to me and I am very glad you asked this. SGA isn't SGA without our over 250 clubs on campus. There can be a gap in the relationship between SGA and club signers, and as Speaker I would hope to bridge that and give them opportunities to talk on Public Forum. I think that is really important and my experience from this role and the roles I play in many groups across campus would help that.
- **Senator Jones:** I have a lot of experience with Judicial and one of the most lasting impacts we can have is on our Constitution. I would like to look at our Constitution and make sure it still fits our current needs and obligations. As the Chair of the Judicial Committee, I would have each committee member look at their committee's constitutional obligations and make sure they are up to date and that we aren't requiring them to do anything that isn't necessary, modern, or fits with our values. Another lasting impact would be making sure I have a good relationship with Senators and Chairs to maintain a positive environment.
- **Treasurer Sorensen:** One of the most important roles as Speaker is to Chair the Judicial Committee. Do you both feel confident in your ability to handle any possible conduct issues or other those situations?
  - **Senator Jones:** I can confidently say I would be able to do that because I have done that. That has been a large part of my role which I have taken a lot of pride in. Making sure Senate relations run well and that conduct issues are handled smoothly and in the most equitable and sensitive manner which is incredibly important when you talk about issues as big as we do in this space. We all know there are hard conversations that we need to have and it's important to make sure

we are having them in equitable and safe ways and that people are checked in with. It is part of the Speaker's job to mitigate harm by making sure people are acting within Robert's Rules and maintaining decorum.

- **Senator Connors:** Last session we had a conduct issue arise in my committee and I saw firsthand the importance of keeping that private. I would make sure to treat every future conduct issue similarly and that I am keeping in touch with the entire executive branch so we are on the same page while ensuring it is kept a private matter unless it is determined that it should be shared with all of Senate.
- **Treasurer Sorensen:** Before my question I just want to say that this is your last chance to ask them questions before we deliberate and vote. I encourage you to ask anything because they will be Speaker for the next year. In looking at the Constitution and Operational Documents, are there any immediate changes you would want to make with the Judicial Committee?
  - **Senator Connors:** I was just reading through the Constitution yesterday and I saw a discrepancy in how we did elections this year. For example, the Treasurer would normally be nominated and elected into this Senate because they have to serve for 2 instead of just 1. I would make sure we are checking those and clarifying that all of our work is correct.
  - **Senator Jones:** In addition to making sure each committee's individual obligations are up to date, I have noticed discrepancies with outdated ways we used to do things that we don't do now. That includes the Treasurer not currently being required to come to Senate which we have seen the importance of with Treasurer Sorensen. I believe committees are supposed to hold office hours and

that hasn't happened while I was here. I encourage that practice, but it isn't the priority so it doesn't need to be constitutionally obligated.

- **Chair Petrosyan:** You both talked about being involved on campus and in SGA specifically. How would you balance your responsibilities and be accessible to Senators?
  - **Senator Jones:** Student Government has been a passion of mine since high school. I have prioritized SGA as my number one obligation here. I have other obligations with work, classes, and other clubs, but this is the place I found a sense of community and purpose. This is the place that I feel has served that value and I prioritize it.
  - **Senator Connors:** SGA throughout this year has been something I am always prioritizing, there was a high chance I was at any event going on. I do play a role in other clubs and am a student. I have worked a lot to create a balance and prioritize the work I am doing for SGA. If elected Speaker that would include the work each of you are doing as well to take time from my day for that.
- **Chair Knopp:** When I first joined SGA, the Speaker was one of the most accessible people and faces I could see. I am looking at the 7 empty chairs across the room from me and thinking about all the new Senators coming in the fall. How will you handle the responsibilities of fall retreat and the following events to make sure all new Senators are accustomed with SGA practices?
  - **Senator Connors:** I was elected this fall as a freshman Senator and was excited but also scared and intimidated. You walk into this room and there are so many smart, capable individuals and it can be scary. I remember how open and friendly everyone was, including Speaker Clark, and I would do the exact same thing. I

like to think of people as personal individuals, so making sure to contact each of the new Senators individually and making the time to have one on one meetings to support their transition however I can. Fall retreat is a great time to build those connections and relationships.

- **Senator Jones:** When I was first appointed, I felt very alone. It is very formal and hard to meet people outside of Senate when you are in the rigid structure. As Speaker I would push for optional monthly bonding activities to meet outside and get to know each other as individuals. I think this would also help toward doing inter-committee work. At fall retreat, I would talk about skills that help you grow as a leader, but also retreat is meant to have fun and make friends. I could talk more about legislative office hours, but for fall retreat it really comes down to making friends.

Closing statements:

- **Senator Jones:** I would like to thank everyone for considering me. This is my second time running and since last year I have had a lot of time to evaluate what this role means to me. As you can see since I'm here now, it means a lot to me. I feel very passionately about it and feel that I could do a great job and would love to give you the opportunity to see that. I believe that a lot of the positions I have held on Senate have led me to where I am now able to be that leader for you all. I think it is a matter of making sure there are policies and processes in place to help you acclimate and be the best leaders you can be. My role as Speaker would be the pillar you can lean on. You are here to represent constituents and as Speaker I'm supposed to maintain neutrality and not be here for my own politics and activism, that's my role as a Senator. For you to do your job, I need to

do mine and support you with knowledge. Making sure prior legislation is available to you. I can go through whether something will be constitutional and if we need to propose an Amendment to the Constitution or reevaluate the project. Most importantly, the support and structure is what is needed to build the foundation of a productive Senate body. From my experience and seeing it modeled to me, I think I could be that pillar for you guys to be the best Senate we can be and represent everyone how they deserve to be represented.

- **Senator Connors:** As Speaker, I can guarantee my top concerns would always be the wishes of this Senate body. Throughout this past year I have shown how determined and engaged I am through all my projects, tabling events, committees, and events I have played a role in. This commitment to SGA will never falter and I am confident in my ability to take on the role of Speaker. I prioritized building relationships with administration, clubs, and students. Most importantly, I will be an active member in all your projects and work. Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to a great year no matter what.

Motion to enter Executive Session.

- Motion **passed**.

Swearing in of SGA Speaker

- Speaker Elect Connors sworn in by Speaker Clark.

## **Roll Call**

Senators Lynch, Washko, and Richardson not present.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously.

## **Public Forum**

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

Bill Recognizing UVM Non-Traditional Students

Resolution Calling UVM to Hire a Food Justice Advocate

## **Senatorial Forum**

**Chair Halvorson:** I just met with UVM Dining to talk about Cyber Café and what they're going to do about the weird hours and everything going on to provide something more consistent and with more food options. I suggested a snack bar, like the cereal at Central, so you can make your own study Chex Mix. They pushed back on that, it wasn't feasible to store it anywhere because it's unmanned when it shuts down and the library isn't closed. They did say if I created a snack mix they could brand it as UVM Trail Mix and package it for me. I definitely want to do this, so if anyone has snack suggestions I would love input. This would have to be something that would go together, not like a cut up banana next to Chex Mix.



**Chair Espejo:** I absolutely love this idea. Catamount Trails could be a good name for this.

- **Response:** That eats.

**Chair Garcia:** How did this happen? I would love to see some chocolate in there, I'm a fan of picking out the dried fruit and chocolate in trail mix.

**Chair Murphy:** First of all, no raisins. You could do one mix with nuts, fruit, chocolate, all the classic stuff, and one without nuts for people with allergies. Maybe a couple varieties.

**Senator Keppel:** No nut version would be good, I have allergies.

**Chair Knopp:** This idea is absolutely incredible and it's so cool they are letting you do this.

Thinking about ways to use that space more and possibly having other clubs create their own mixes and present a variety.

- **Response:** That is something I talked about with them and how many we would be able to do. We could have a competition for it and that could be fun.

**President Teferra:** Competition would be cool, Culinary Showcase part two. Would it be sold by Cyber Café or out there for free?

- **Response:** Yes, it would be sold by Cyber Café. I wanted to bring about change with the food offerings there which is something they are already working towards. I gave the input of having something that is easy to eat while studying.

**Senator Rice:** I absolutely love this idea. Maybe you could do a sweet mix and a savory mix.

**Chair Garcia:** In terms of revenue if we brand it as an SGA Mix could we get some of the profits? Having SGA stake in a money making idea is good.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** First, the SGA logo should be on anything we help with. I like the idea of us receiving a portion of it. I also like the idea of it being a fundraiser for clubs with them sponsoring a mix for a week or two and getting a portion of the profit.

- **Response:** My whole idea was since Cyber Café feels underutilized that clubs could run it themselves and raise money for themselves if UVM Dining wanted to relinquish it. They do not and are looking for more stuff to put in, so this is a compromise that we came up with. I didn't come as "SGA wants to change this" but more as "I want to change this", if we get together in SGA and want to do this as a project we can discuss logos and profit.

**Senator Demeo:** Could we have a UVM dining representative here to ask them questions directly?

- **Response:** Part of the idea with projects is that they are meant to be doing things outside of Senate so not everyone has to be involved in it and then we bring things up in Senatorial Forum to get ideas and input from other people.

**Vice President Bednarik:** Usually that is how it works, but if we get this more concretely fleshed out that would be a great opportunity to bring someone from dining onto Public Forum. Since it is a new idea, it would be good to wait a bit for that.

## **Executive Reports**

### **Speaker Connors**

- Hi guys, I'm so excited. This is such an honor and I'm so excited for a productive year.
- I want to say something about the amazing Ashleigh Clark. You leave shoes that are not possible for me to ever fill. I speak for the entire Senate body when I thank you for everything you have done for us.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** Could you give a brief introduction for the new Senators.

- **Response:** My name is Kennedy Connors, I am now Speaker. I said this a bit in my speech, I am a rising sophomore. I hope you heard the thing about iced tea strawberry lemonades, please take me up on that offer. Treasurer Sorensen just had his first one and they wrote “first time” on his mug. Text me and that could be in your future.

**Chair Modun:** Emeritus Speaker Clark is watching and says you are doing a great job.

### **Vice President Bednarik**

- I'm going to break the rules and use my phone for this.
- Welcome to all the new and returning Senators, I'm so eager to get started.
- For those who don't know me, my name is Liv Bednarik. I am a rising junior majoring in Political Science and Sociology originally from New Jersey. I use she/her pronouns.
- For those who don't know, I'm serving on the Search Committee for the Executive Director for Center for Health and Wellbeing.
  - I'm responsible for holding a student panel to ask questions of our finalists. If you are interested in that, come up to me afterwards. Hoping to have this happen before the end of the semester.
- We sent out the Treasurer application which is due this Sunday by 5pm. Then President Teferra and I will hold interviews. This is an awesome opportunity, please consider applying.
- President Teferra and I have been meeting with office staff this week. I am planning SGA office tours which are incredibly helpful to learn who is there which are starting next week most likely. It will be in the Teams, this will be required for everyone.
- President Teferra and I are having a transition meeting with Erica Caloiero this Thursday to learn about her goals and how they align with our goals.

- In the corner is Lina Balcom, she will introduce herself and other pro staff at the next meeting. She is our advisor, go up to her afterwards and introduce yourself.
- I know this meeting is a lot and it feels like you were thrown in, especially with Speaker elections. Do not panic, things will become more clear soon and we will have SGA retreat in the fall spending the weekend together explaining rules and having fun.
- Contact me if you have questions. I am happy to treat you to Henderson's to get to know you.
- I told Exec to give a fun fact about themselves for everyone to get to know each other.
  - My fun fact is that I'm going through an obsession with the show Bluey. You can watch it on my Disney+ account if you don't have access to watch it.

### **President Teferra**

- Happy Tuesday! Congrats to those who were sworn in tonight.
- I'm extremely proud of everyone for taking the initiative to run. This can be very scary and I'm excited to start working with you and hear all your ideas.
- It has been a whirlwind week starting everything up, our office is usually open if you need to chat.
- We have been meeting with office staff and seeing how we can support them in their roles and they can support us.
- Yesterday I attended my first Board of Trustees meeting which was an Executive meeting. I am a non-voting member and I accidentally tried to vote twice.
  - President Garimella talked about FAFSA portal trouble, so UVM is moving the deposit deadline from May 4<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>.

- He also talked about an initiative for civil discourse to better educate community members about issues around the world.
- We're looking for a new Elections Chair so you can talk to Emeritus Chair Robinson before she graduates. This only applies if you aren't planning to return after this term.
- I'll be around all summer hoping to get the cage cleaned out and working on other projects. You aren't required to do anything over the summer, but if you need help or support I would love to hang out.
- COE has an event on Sunday, Pickup and Pickup at Virtue Field at 2pm. This is a great opportunity to attend an SGA sponsored event, meet people, and get free food.
- I realized I didn't introduce myself, my name is Mahder Teffera. I am a rising senior studying Agroecology and Landscape Design from Massachusetts. I use she/her pronouns.
- Fun fact: I used to live in Ethiopia, that's where I grew up, and can speak two other languages.

**Chair Knopp:** Can you elaborate on the cage for the new Senators?

- **Response:** In the SGA office, we have a room where a lot of clubs keep their stuff. It has gotten super messy and is not a productive space anymore. In order to reduce cost and have an organized space, I'm working on cleaning it out.

**Treasurer Sorensen**

- Someone is trying to sabotage the Finance Committee because my and Chair Murphy's mics are the only ones acting up.

- Welcome to SGA, my name is Matt Sorensen and I'm the Treasurer. I'm a rising senior majoring in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration and Community and International Development. I use he/him pronouns.
- My role is to oversee the finances of SGA, funding projects and committees as well as the over 250 clubs under our purview. I work closely with the Finance Committee to make decisions and enforce financial policies.
- Spring Fest is this Saturday, myself and Speaker Connors have been on the planning committee. You can get a free ticket if you volunteer to set up the fencing for the event from 6-8am. You can also table and help run the event for an hour if you want for a free ticket and a volunteer t-shirt.

**Chair Espejo:** Can I get a free t-shirt for fencing?

- **Response:** I'll see what I can do.

**Vice President Bednarik:** Can you give a fun fact?

- **Response:** My fun fact for three years running is that me and my brother share a birthday 2 years apart. Also I'm from a small town in Vermont with more cows than humans.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Public Relations Committee**

- Huge congratulations to Speaker Connors, new and returning Senators, and new Committee Chairs.
- My name is Merrick Modun, I'm excited to be the new Chair of the Public Relations Committee. I'm a rising sophomore majoring in Political Science from Montpelier, Vermont. I love small talk, cooking, and I'm super fun.

- Quick refresher for what Public Relations does.
  - We record the meetings and post them to Instagram so you can review them and see what was said if you missed it.
  - We also oversee social media, email, event planning, and marketing. We direct the image of SGA in a way.
  - PR has a unique structure composed of one member from each standing committee to allow us to work efficiently.
- Committees, watch out I will be busting into meetings soon so we can align our media interests.
- Fun Fact of the Week: A chicken once lived for 18 months without a head.

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

- My name is James Surak. I'm a rising junior majoring in Food Systems with 3 minors, Nutrition and Food Sciences, Community and International Development, and Astronomy from New York.
- My fun fact is that I got a mini basketball hoop for my room so anyone who walks in gets dunked on instantly. The people downstairs are not happy with me.

**President Teferra:** There's a mini basketball hoop in the P/VP office. It is a safe space, but if you come in there we might try to dunk on you.

- **Response:** I'm also starting a thing of the week because I'm a big cheese person. Cheese of the Week: actually I can't think of one.

**Chair Modun:** Can we make it cheddar?

**Chair Petrosyan:** I was going to say brie?

**Senator Laychak:** I would like to second brie.

**Chair Espejo:** I would like to second cheddar.

**Senator Keppel:** I'm going to break the tie for brie.

**Speaker Connors:** I'm going to end that now.

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

- My name is Rubi Espejo. I'm a rising sophomore majoring in Political Science with a Religion minor from Miami, Florida but raised in Connecticut. I use she/her pronouns.
- My fun fact is that I can do a bird call for the Eurasian collared dove and the mourning dove.
- I'm excited to work with my committee, SVAM is going on currently. Emeritus Chair Anis did a fantastic job planning this with the members of CODIE.
- If you want to grab coffee, it's on me.
- Blank of the Week: This week is a show, Jane the Virgin in honor of my roommate who has the show on all the time.

**Chair Surak:** Can we hear the bird calls?

- **Response:** [Demonstrates bird calls]

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

- My name is Emily Garcia. I'm a rising sophomore majoring in Political Science with minors in Global Studies and Spanish.
- I am also co-Chair of the Community Coalition which is meeting Friday 3-4:30 at OSCR house and online. Emeritus Chair Rooney will be there too.
- I am inheriting the Song of the Week: Godlight by Noah Kahan. I heard at the concert over the weekend during the 45 minutes when I was sobbing.

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



- My name is Zorianna Petrosyan. I use she/her pronouns. I'm a rising junior designing my own major in the Arts combining Film Production, Music Production, Dance, Creative Writing, and Theater and minoring in Political Science and Psychological Science from Massachusetts.
- I work in Civic Engagement and am the current Vice President of the Armenian Students Association. Next semester I will also be an RA.
- My fun fact is that I can balance 10 dice on my nose. I only discovered this a few months ago.
- I am super accessible for coffee, reach out.
- What I'm Watching this Week: The Hunger Games. I finally did it and recommend them.

#### **Club Affairs Committee**

- My name is McKenna Halvorson. I'm a rising junior majoring in Political Science and Psychology.
- My fun fact is that I played flute throughout elementary, middle, and high school.
- In terms of what Club Affairs does, we confirm all clubs on campus, all RSOs have to come through us. We have meetings before and after getting confirmed and manage their status with Ana Sola.

#### **Academic Affairs Committee**

- My name is Laura Knopp. I use she/her pronouns. I am a double major in Computer Science and Applied Math from New Hampshire. I will be a junior next year but am a first year now.
- My fun fact is that I don't know what 2/3 of 29 is and I first co-piloted a plane when I was 4 years old.

- Together Vermont is coming up on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Emeritus Senator Siegel will likely be here to talk about that next meeting.
  - It is a day of volunteering with the community across Burlington. You can talk to Senator Isenhour about anything else for more information.
  - There will be a community mixer at the end of the day.
- I will be around this summer helping President Teferra clear out the cage.
- If you want to get to know me or learn about Academic Affairs, I am available. Speaker Connors is onto something with the tea from Henderson's.
- Take care of yourself with final projects and exams.

#### **Finance Committee**

- My name is Eloise Murphy. I'm a rising junior Business major studying Accounting and Business Analytics from Connecticut. I use she/her pronouns.
- My fun fact is that I have 30 first cousins.

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

**Vice President Bednarik:** I would like to take a quick moment to introduce our Scribe, Nathan. We voted in the beginning to approve the minutes, he writes down everything we discuss and writes it up. I highly encourage you to look at it and check what is written down because it has your name attached to it. If it doesn't seem like it accurately describes what you said, let him or the Speaker know. Take the time to introduce yourself to Nathan, don't forget him just because he's in the corner.

**Chair Garcia:** I forgot to mention this in my report, I would love to get coffee with anyone. I'm a big Campus Perk girl.

**Chair Espejo:** I'm meeting with Peter VonDoepp at 1pm on Friday. We will be discussing election week activities and a potential day off for election day. I would love feedback from all of you about this.

**Chair Halvorson:** I forgot to mention my hometown is Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Chair Modun:** Please send me all the photos and videos from this meeting so I can post them.

**Adjournment**