



6th Meeting of the 2024-2025 Student Government Association Senate
September 17th, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Kennedy Connors.

Roll Call

Senators Reeder, Richardson, and Zubarev not present.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Emily McCarthy & Jenny Grace – Discussing the New 2024 Title IX Regulations

- **Emily:** I am the Title IX coordinator at UVM, and also work as an investigator. We work in the Office of Equal Opportunity.
 - We respond to incidents and provide support related to bias, discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct including relationship violence and stalking.
 - My job is to coordinate the response to reports.
- **Jenny:** My role is Support Coordinator. Meet one on one with students to provide support and guidance.

- **Emily:** If you need to take a moment to step out, you are welcome to do that to take care of yourself. We will be talking more about policy and procedures.
- First talking about updates to regulations. In April 2024, the Department of Education released Title IX regulations, which are federal laws telling us how to respond to disclosures of sexual misconduct on college campuses. They were to be implemented August 1st and covered two major things
 - Scope of what Title IX covers: Last time we got regulations were in 2020 and really only pertaining to sexual misconduct, interpersonal violence, and stalking. The 2024 regulations expanded the scope to apply to discrimination and harassment based on gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The UVM discrimination and harassment policy already prohibited that conduct but now it will be officially under Title IX.
 - Second thing is portions of the procedures and steps you have to take in a Title IX investigation process.
- There was a lot of court litigation over the summer which resulted in UVM being subjected to an injunction. That means UVM has to continue to follow the 2020 regulations, not 2024.
 - You might have friends at other schools where the 2024 regulations might be in effect, for example Champlain and Middlebury. But this injunction applies to hundreds of colleges, not just us.
 - We still made some needed changes to our policies and procedures which are still compliant with 2020 and will comply with 2024 if the injunction is dropped.

- The main update to policies and procedures in a case that falls under the 2020 Title IX regulations, meaning sexual misconduct that happens on campus or in a campus-related location, has to follow a hearing process with a separate adjudicator to decide whether policy was violated.
 - The difference is for everything that doesn't meet that specific definition of Title IX. Slightly different process called an investigative conference. Instead of a separate adjudicator, the investigator invites parties to meet and final questions can be asked.
 - The current investigation process has lots of back and forth creating delay and additional times that students have to be contacted and respond which can be upsetting.
 - The new way will make the process faster, kinder, and with fewer contacts. If the injunction is dropped, these new procedures are compliant with the 2024 regulations.

Senator Grace: Why was UVM exempt from switching to the 2024 regulations?

- **Response (Emily):** A US District Court in Kansas imposed the injunction originally affecting 700 schools, more now. Plaintiffs who were members of certain advocacy groups who filed the lawsuit. So the injunctions were imposed at whatever colleges and universities they were enrolled at.

Senator Arnone: How do the new regulations or policy and procedure updates affect ongoing cases?

- **Response (Emily):** If we already sent notice of investigation, we will proceed with the procedures that students were originally given. For new cases, including reports of things

that happened in the past, we will follow these new procedures but the Title IX regulations from 2020 are still used.

- **Jenny:** What happens when a report is made, it gets sent to our office and we first evaluate for safety to see if immediate steps need to be taken. Then I email the student who has been harmed to introduce myself and offer to meet to provide support and guidance.
 - The email also has a long list of resources that students can use even if they don't want my help. If students don't respond I will wait and check in after a few weeks, it is not mandatory to respond.
- Students come to our office looking for support which is individualized to each student. Often connecting students to resources they might need like CAPS, HOPE Works, or help making or going to Student Health Services appointments.
 - Many students want to meet with police and make a safety plan.
 - We can help with changes in housing, work assignments, course assignments, help with academics or flexibility with deadlines.
 - Often students come with something in mind and I will

Chair Jones: Can you elaborate about whether there are any plans for making these presentations available to first year students? Often students don't understand their rights or how this works until it's too late.

- **Response (Jenny):** We are trying to make ourselves as visible as possible. Tabling in the Davis Center, we were at the Resource Fair. We are trying to work with ResLife to go into Residence halls and make presentations.

Treasurer Sorensen: What percentage of people respond to you about support?

- **Response (Jenny):** Most, probably 70-75%.

Chair Jones: How many reports are followed up or accompanied by a CARE form?

- **Response (Jenny):** A lot, I can't say off top of my head but I can get back to you on that.

Senator Osei: How close are you with Police Services?

- **Response (Jenny):** We work very closely and get reports from them.
- **Emily:** One of our main goals is to respect the autonomy of students and let them decide what happens next.
 - Students can get support without going through an investigation or interview.
 - We don't tell the police about reports unless a student chooses. Police are required to let us know when they receive a report. There is a federal law called Clery which has to do with statistical reporting and data collection
 - Students can request support, a UVM investigation, a police investigation, facilitated resolution or a combination.
- Facilitated resolution is process of coming to an agreement with the student who caused harm about terms and process that they will go through.
 - STARS is a new individualized education program where the student who caused harm meets with an evaluator to meet certain educational and reflection goals with education plan.
 - There can be other components to this agreement as well.

Senator Paquette: You said you wouldn't pursue a police investigation without student input. If you see an obvious threat to safety is there a process to take those steps still?

- **Response (Emily):** Yes, but we will always keep the student updated. There are certain cases where the University determines that there is a need to investigate without a student

requesting it. Often that occurs when a faculty or staff member causes harm and the student will be updated but is not required to participate in the process.

Chair Jones: How often do you find the accused to be uncooperative and how do you reduce or mitigate retaliation?

- **Response (Emily):** They are sent a formal notice of what the allegations of violations are. Says if the student who has been harmed requested facilitated resolution, that is an option.
 - They can opt in, but if not it is referred back to me to decide if it will be investigated, which is likely.
 - Jenny has initial conversations with students accused of committing harm and most often they are willing to engage.
 - There is a provision of our policy which prohibits retaliation, and students are notified upfront. Sometimes additional orders, like a No Contact Order, can help clarify or prevent retaliation.
- **Response (Jenny):** Most times they are pretty cooperative, I've been here for a year and a half and haven't had anyone say no yet.

Senator Demeo: How do you enforce no retaliation? Do you work with UVM Police in any way to make sure that is followed?

- **Response (Emily?):** It depends on what the allegations are. Our definition is compliant with what's laid out in the Title IX regulations. We may talk to police or another office of the University.

Senator Osei: You said the person who causes the harm is sent a form?

- **Response (Emily):** If we are moving forward with an investigation or facilitated resolution. In most cases when students don't request that, we won't notify them.

Senator Osei: If you send them a form and they don't reply, how do you get to them?

- **Response (Emily):** We can go through ResLife, UVM Police, CARE team, an advisor, club sports, we will figure out a connection to reach out.
- **Response (Jenny):** Start with an email, another email, text, then a call.

Senator York: The person who has suffered harm decides what process to go through?

- **Response (Emily):** Yes. I have to sign off if they want to move forward, but we give a lot of weight to their decision.

Vice Provost Erica Caloiero, Interim Dean of Students Dr. Beth Hellwig, Executive

Director of Center for Health and Wellbeing Blake Reilly – Introducing Themselves

- **Erica:** Thank you for your probing questions and an invitation to address you whenever helpful, we value your engagement and advocacy. You are a driving force of change at the University.
- Pleased to be bringing two new people today.
 - Blake Reilly is the Executive Director for the Center of Health and Wellbeing. He is bringing a new era of support designed for and with students.
 - Dr. Beth Hellwig is the Dean of Students. Her career spans many institutions
- **Dr Hellwig:** I have been here for two weeks and am only here for this year, been in higher education for 49 years and a Dean of Students for many years.
 - I have advised student government for 25 years, and from a leadership perspective, I believe in shared governance with students to partner rather than

fighting. My doctoral dissertation is on student body presidents, I can't wait to meet with you all.

- I live in University Heights South, please say hello or invite me for lunch.
- **Blake:** I'm excited to be here and hoping to figure out structures to support health and wellbeing on campus. I have talked about the vending machine with Chair Halvorson.
- I got my graduate degree to bring public health to higher education. Finished in 2019 and then pandemic came along, I had a lot to do with the Covid response for the college I was at.
 - I have focused on how to bring public health structures to higher education to support student health and wellbeing, which includes a commitment to equity and inclusion.
 - What structures are in place that are actually creating barriers? I am trying to take down barriers in small ways.
- I've been here for 7 weeks, it's been great to partner with students and professionals and hit the ground running. Our staff are such good providers and it's about providing the support to help them to thrive. Lots of support and ideas have come from Student Affairs and also now Dr. Hellwig.
- What are we about and what have I been working on?
 - Increasing access to information for students. Thinking about how we can make things easier to access and find.
 - Short-Term Acute Illness Support. That includes the Dean's note through CHWB.
 - Support for students after hours. Support for the whole student, with all phases of a student's life instead of treating each aspect separately.

- Flu clinic. We have some great advertising with CALS, drawn by students.
- First thing I noticed was that I couldn't find how to contact CHWB on the website (uvm.edu/health). I wanted to make this a lot simpler, so now we have direct information about contacting our offices right on the home page.
 - The sidebar for emergency care has our primary after hours support.
 - Thinking about making the website more accessible and as simple as possible for when you need help.
 - We had no less than 30 pages to see what services we offer, and we didn't even have everything that we offer up there. We now have everything on one page (uvm.edu/health/services) with a dropdown menu.
 - Catamount recovery resources options was also condensed to one page (uvm.edu/health/recovery). Students can opt in to recovery housing, we offer priority registration, collaborations with Student Accessibility Services, a class running, therapeutic recovery group, and connections to community supports.
 - Our health services line was getting so many calls with questions about Covid and the information was in all different places. We put it all in one place (uvm.edu/health/covid) to access an FAQ for anyone who gets sick.
 - For EEE, rather than fielding every question by phone, we made it all accessible on a page (uvm.edu/health/eastern-equine-encephalitis). We are waiting for the first hard frost of 28 degrees and they will hopefully take the warning down.
- Previously, if you needed a Dean's note the process was a tough experience. It was hard for students to notify faculty and get support for changing academics.

- Everyone cares about providing support, but there were so many notices coming in and needing everyone to call and stay on the phone through the process was difficult and time consuming. Other people who were sick couldn't get through the phone lines.
- Now we have the Short-Term Acute Illness Form, it's not to fill out if you have severe symptoms, but rather for cold, flu, or Covid symptoms that are typically treated with rest and cold medication.
- This makes it easier for us to organize information and get it out quickly to coordinate with faculty.
- **Erica:** A slow day for Dean's notes is 35, but that can increase during times when people are getting sick more frequently. The volume can really add up over the course of a week, month, or semester. We are hoping this is a good change from a user perspective and to effectively use clinical resources.
- **Blake:** I've been working on student support after hours in collaboration with Dr. Hellwig. I notice we have different support resources at the institution in different places. We are coming together with ResLife to post information more clearly on pages and on CATSafe. Thinking about student experience in viewing these support resources and how language matters is important, using examples or more specific information to show that more students could have access to this resource.
- UVM has a 24 hour crisis hotline where if you call the CAPS number and hit 2 you get an on call counselor. This is a very important resource to get help in the moment and then CAPS can reach out the next day.

- I would love a structure to work with you all in a small committee, maybe CSAW, or dinner or something.

Chair Jones: I am the Chair of CSAW, would love to look at weekly or monthly dinners. You've hit the ground running and I commend you on your work and care. After hours work is so critical. The one thing I would like to have a conversation about in the future is the suicide hotline you mentioned. I have heard student feedback which is critical about efficiency, students calling the hotline and not getting picked up or followed through on.

- **Response (Blake):** I'm not sure which hotline you are talking about. The community hotline has been having issues with staffing and calls not being picked up. If it is ours we have a direct line to talk with them and investigate any situation.

Chair Jones: It was the UVM line.

- **Response (Blake):** I would love to follow up about that. We met during the interview process, correct?

Chair Jones: Yes and I was very happy to see that you were chosen.

- **Response (Blake):** Thank you.

Treasurer Sorensen: I want to follow up on the after hours line. Last year, my understanding is that if you called the CAPS number after hours we contracted with an outside vendor to do emergency counseling with only one person on call picking up the phones. Has that changed?

- **Response (Blake):** The vendor we use is called ProtoCall, they work with a lot of colleges and are very good. We can also explore different options. They know our student population and can document calls in the medical record.

Treasurer Sorensen: So what has changed or new about that then?

- **Response (Blake):** When I have been talking to students, a lot of them don't know it exists or what it's for. This is about getting the word out. Most of the utilization of the hotline has been mental health support after hours, not specifically suicidality or evaluation process. Not necessarily a change, but awareness and pushing these resources.

Senator Talhouk: Is there a similar thing for after hours medical support which isn't an emergency?

- **Response (Blake):** The big gray hospital building is the Medical Center, not Student Health, so you will be using your own health insurance and paying an emergency room fee. Student Health is at the corner of University Green with its own entrance, at 425 Pearl Street.
 - We have an after hours section on the website with a medical line that has one of our nurses to triage the issue and provide advice.

Chair Halvorson: I had a question about the capacity of CAPS, specifically with ADHD diagnoses. Can't get on campus or in Vermont. When I called it was a year and a half out.

- **Response (Blake):** I have not asked our providers what capabilities we have. The key is not needing medication if you have a prior diagnosis. The test is a specialized and long process. I know that there is a community provider who is willing to take a few referrals for ADHD diagnoses. It does cost money and is a specialized process.

Chair Jones: There is news of a new mental health urgent care being opened and hopefully there is an opportunity to partner with UVM.

- **Response (Blake):** We have had meetings with them, it is going to be in UHC. It's not really an after hours service because it operates 9-5. It is grant-funded for the next 3 years so it's free for anyone.

Motion for 3 minute recess.

- Motion **passed**.

Old Business

Resolution Supporting Proposal to Increase the Student Activity Fee

Treasurer Sorensen: Motion to table.

- Motion **passed**.

Emergency Business

Swearing in of New Senators

- New Senators sworn in by Speaker Connors.

Swearing in Senator Jones as Chair of CSAW

- Chair Jones sworn in by Speaker Connors.

New Business

Bill Recognizing Kehillat Rodfei Tzedek

Bill Recognizing 3D Modeling and Design Club

Senatorial Forum

Vice President Bednarik – Presentation on SGA Retreat

- Welcome and congratulations to all the new Senators. For those who don't know, I'm Liv Bednarik and I'm the Vice President of SGA.

- SGA Retreat is something we do every year in the fall and spring, the fall retreat is longer and we go away. It is meant to give you information about how Senate works, get to know your Committee Chair, what being part of a committee means, and more.
- We are going to Mount Norris Scout Reservation in Eden, Vermont where we had Retreat last year. There's a huge fire pit we can all sit around, a lake with canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, and a bunch more.
- It is this weekend, from Friday to Sunday which should be perfectly timed for fall foliage. I know this is late notice for some of you, but it is mandatory so please try to go. If you have concerns or need to work something out, come talk to Mahder and me. We will be leaving at 5:30pm from the Davis Center Circle.
- It's a great time for new and old Senators to learn what it means to be on SGA. Meet Exec, fellow Senators, and learn to use the resources you have available to you as a Senator. All the information and quick access to the administration of the University, what do you do?
- Retreat is what you put into it. Going back to kindergarten basics of "Hi my name is..." It's a lot of fun, having a great time and getting to know new people. Breaking out of your circle with old Senators is also very important.
- There will be a suggestion list with what to pack and also the itinerary in the Teams and new Senators will be added to that soon. Packing list is all just suggestions, I hate packing so it's helpful to have a box that explains what I need.
 - It's kind of camping, we are in lodges but bring things you don't care too much about getting messy. It is supposed to be great weather but does get colder at night because we are further north.

- We have a sunrise hike hosted by Senator Purple on Sunday, so if you are interested in that bring hiking shoes and a headlamp.
- Bunking is on cots in the lodges, recommend sleeping bags or sheets and a blanket. If you don't have a sleeping bag don't go out and buy one, we are working with Trek and Outdoors programs to rent gear. This information will also be in the Microsoft form to know what people need.
- If you have board games, spikeball, etc please bring anything. You are more than welcome to bring homework and computer, we have a hotspot in the dining hall. I will be studying for my Italian exam.
- Schedule will be in the Teams.
 - Friday: Meeting at Davis Center at 5:30, head to campground and chill beginning with dinner, ice breakers, firepit, and downtime.
 - Saturday: Breakfast cooked by Treasurer Sorensen, he takes pride in it. After that we will do pictures to have promos for Instagram and the website. Think about something you would be ok being photographed in. Then lots of presentations, a break to play Yeehaw and have lunch, more presentations, and free time to use whatever is there to hang out and have fun. Dinner will be a barbeque, then homework and optional group activities.
 - Sunday: Sunrise hike is totally optional, you don't have to wake up at 5am. Breakfast and a little bit of committee time. We leave around 10:30 and get back by 11:45.
- I know that was so much, but I will post all of this information in the Teams. You can text me, feel free to ask for my number if you don't have it.

Chair Jones: Because it's that time of year and outdoors and with EEE, please make sure to bring bug spray and use it.

- **Response:** It should be cold at night so most of you will want to cover up anyway.

Follow health department guidelines and be mindful when packing.

Senator Bibens: How warm are the lodges?

- **Response:** There were conflicting reports last year. There are two big lodges and then little villages of a few cabins that each hold 4 people. Last year, people in the 15-person lodge were too hot and sweating. In the small cabins, people were freezing because there was no fire there.

- If you have extra blankets, sheets, sleeping bags, pants, sweatshirts, bring them.

We have space in the bus and also people driving. Probably bring a backpacking sleeping bag instead of your dorm sheets if you have that.

President Teferra: You spelled my last name wrong, it's one f, two r's. But to add on with expectations this is a school event so act in accordance. No contraband of any sort, act like you would here.

- **Response:** Don't let your personal actions affect this for everyone else.
- Microsoft Form will be in the Teams tomorrow, please fill it out by midnight tomorrow.

Treasurer Sorensen – Discussing the Student Activity Fee

- I'm here to talk about the Student Activity Fee and why the resolution was tabled.
- My role as Treasurer is to oversee SGA's financial policy, help Finance Committee, and work with administration to direct the financial future of SGA.

- For background, SGA is funded entirely by the Student Activity Fee of \$111 per semester from every undergraduate student enrolled in at least 4 credits which comes to approximately \$2.3 million a year.
 - That sounds like a lot of money, but at a major university with total assets over \$1 billion it's not that much.
 - We have 6 staff members, all clubs on campus are overseen by us, we have to insure and fund their budgets. We also fund events like SpringFest, the biggest on-campus event outside of Graduation. And many other initiatives.
 - We have a far reaching impact outside of what we work on in this space. For example Chair Halvorson is working on a sexual health vending machine. Former Senator Daniels worked to put in benches at campus shuttle stops.
- Right now the Student Activity Fee hasn't increased in the last 5 years throughout Covid.
 - During Covid we built up a reserve of money that we didn't spend while SGA and clubs weren't very active.
 - Since coming out of Covid, costs rose, clubs increased, SGA is playing a more prominent role with big projects, and staff salaries increased.
 - Cost has gone up, revenue has not. We are spending more than we bring in each year and dipping into the reserve we built up which is not financially responsible.
- The proposal I wrote is looking to raise the Student Activity Fee to fully fund the capacity of SGA.
- I've been Treasurer since December 2022 and been working on this project since then. We noticed the problem then and our first thought was to raise the Student Activity Fee.

But we were told no initially because tuition was being kept flat, so we thought of other ways to be more efficient and cut costs.

- Every club has a fundraising requirement, we usually only fund 50-60% of what they request. We raised the percentages of fundraising requirements to hopefully lessen the requests of what we are funding.
 - Last year, I started a debt forgiveness program for clubs to pay off debts from fundraising so they can spend that money rather than it coming back to us.
 - We imposed a new limit on gas spending and will likely do the same with budgets as well.
 - More strict caps with projects as well.
- These measures have been effective, but not to the scale necessary to fit our needs.
- The proposal will be submitted to Interim President Prelock, Vice Provost Erica Caloiero, and the CFO Richard Cate. President Teferra, Vice President Bednarik, and I are meeting with that group on Thursday.
 - I am looking for a \$27 increase, from \$111 to \$138. Last year the amount we went into deficit was \$480,000. The amount needed to raise to cover that is \$20.31, but to build capacity to continue to fund SGA and clubs we settled on a \$27 increase.
- I can send out the proposal to anyone who is interested which goes more in depth about the data and reasoning behind it.
- The reason to postpone the resolution, first of all, is that half of you are new and maybe just learned that SGA has funding. Also, the point of resolutions is to represent the official stance of SGA, I am trying to be more open minded going into this meeting rather than coming with a demand.

Senator Esbin: How is the additional fee paid?

- **Response:** This would be an additional fee added to tuition. We are open to other conversations about whether that comes out of somewhere else, but almost every department on campus is in a similar situation.

Senator Torres: UVM raised tuition by \$2,000 but financial aid didn't increase to match. How do you think this will affect students' financial burden?

- **Response:** Financial aid regulations from the federal government haven't changed in 40-50 years and are based on numbers from the 1980's at least which don't cover the cost of college tuition now. That number is a maximum cap, so when prices increase, aid doesn't cover it.
 - The practice in the past has been to keep this fee in pace with inflation before the 5-year freeze. When we can't supplement clubs and activities it raises the costs on every individual student through dues and out of pocket expenses.
 - Thinking about the entire university body, most students are in clubs. We directly and indirectly impact every student through events, advocacy, and campus initiatives. I am of the view that a small increase for everyone makes it more affordable for everyone.

Senator York: Do we have a plan of how to explain this to the student body, the people who are paying the tuition?

- **Response:** SGA doesn't set the fee, the Board of Trustees sets it. Administration submits their proposal of fees and the Board usually adopts that view, so hopefully we can get them to adopt our view and then the Board does as well.

- I had some voluntary informal talking sessions with club signers about this.

Asking people to pay more money is hard, so we are trying to explain it in a way that conveys that our capacity to support the student body is increasing.

Senator Grace: If it gets denied, would there be negotiations or back to square one?

- **Response:** That is a conversation we would have if we get there. I'm optimistic about it though because it has been a big project with more of a full process.
 - When I started I was very gung ho and ran to President Garimella's office, not imagining he would say no and then he said no. Now I've gotten more real about the planning.
 - We will have conversations about next steps, we have a lot of power as students and as the official undergraduate governing body.

Senator Demeo: Assuming they do adopt it, what would be the effective date?

- **Response:** Fees are set by fiscal year, which runs from July to June. So it would take effect next fall semester for fiscal year 2026. Knowing what we will have to work with next year will help us with the budgeting process to plan with organizations and campus partners.

Chair Jones: I want to encourage people to take the opportunity to read the proposal that Treasurer Sorensen sent out and introduce yourself to him and Finance at Retreat to make an informed decision.

- **Response:** This weekend we will go more in depth about what myself and Finance do because it is a lot.

Executive Reports

Speaker Connors

- Kennedy Connors, sophomore Public Communications major with a Law minor.
- Congratulations to new Senators joining us! I was so happy putting placards out and filling every spot.
- I was elected during freshman elections last year. I sit on the Club Affairs committee as well as my position as Speaker.
- You have beautiful laminated motion cards which I will go over in detail at Retreat. Placards are coming in next week, if you want a new placard let me know.
- We will talk about Judicial more at Retreat.
- I love strawberry iced tea lemonades from Hendersons, I had two today. Chair Halvorson knows I got mouth ulcers last year from having too many.

Vice President Bednarik: Are people taking the motion cards home or are we collecting them?

- **Response:** I love you all, but I do not trust you so I will be keeping them.

Vice President Bednarik

- Liv Bednarik, junior studying Political Science and Psychology. This is my third year on Senate.
- I am excited for Retreat, everything is planned and together so I just hope you all have fun now.
- Yesterday I had a meeting with Zachary Key, the Assistant Director for CAPS, who is responsible for support groups in CAPS.
 - I brought up the discussion about an RA support group meeting once a month, it existed years ago and has been asked for again so hopefully it can be brought back. As an RA I know that support is seriously lacking.

- Also talked about an abortion support group. People who experienced abortion or have gone through pregnancy and lost the child. This is often overlooked for college students despite most abortions happening during this time. It will probably be a fight, but I'm willing to do it.
- I am organizing office tours downstairs on the 3rd floor. It's important for you to know that space well. Probably not until next week or the week after.
- I love Hendersons too, not as much as Speaker Connors, but I would love to hang out. The office is also super cool.
- I'm giving Lina some time to introduce herself.
- **Lina Balcom:** Welcome to all the brand new people. I am the Director of Student Life and the Advisor to SGA. I meet weekly with Liv and Mahder, Matt almost every week informally, Kennedy most days of the week. I am eager to get to know you all.
 - My role is to support you in your role as a Senator or a Chair. Could be managing a project and you don't know where to start or who to start with. You are supported by all the people in the SGA Galaxy Space and myself in the office across the hall.
 - I will send my special bookings link out to all of you.
 - My goal is to help you be as successful as possible. I am also happy to help you with conflicts or anything that is not related to a project. As the Director of Student Life I am also here to help you outside of Senate but that is a separate conversation.

- I have been at UVM for 13 years, for 10 years I ran the Davis Center and now I am responsible for the whole Student Life team. It is my dream job getting to influence students' lives on campus.
- I don't have kids, but all of you students are sometimes in that role. I used to have a dog who was put down, let me know if you have pets. I enjoy reading, hiking, and being outside.
- I always save this to the end, my hobby is that I fly a hot air balloon. Another fun fact, Eloise and I grew up in the same hometown and I went to highschool with her parents.

Senator Bibens: Do you have specific office hours or open for drop by?

- **Response:** Official University hours are 8-4:30, mine are usually more like 7am-9pm. I am usually the first person in the building and the last car in the Jeffords lot. I have a pretty busy schedule and it might be hard to catch me with a drop in. If you really need to talk to me, your best bet is to reach out or put yourself on my calendar.

President Teferra

- Happy Tuesday!
- Mahder Teferra, senior studying Agroecology and Landscape Design.
- Nice to see new faces. Our office is usually open when not in a meeting so come say hi.
- Adding everyone to the Teams tonight so you can fill out the form Vice President Bednarik sends out.
- Last week I met with the Student Trustees on the Board who were receptive to hearing about student issues. Neither of them are undergrads so they were keen to hear about our issues.

- In future reports I will talk about Exec which meets Monday nights. We talked about Retreat, Matt's proposal, and reviewed the lovely motion cards from Speaker Connors.
- There is a harvest moon tonight, 10:44pm. I will assemble my telescope and be looking.

Treasurer Sorensen

- Matt Sorensen, senior Political Science major with minors in Business Administration and Community Development. Been on SGA for 4 years, started as a Finance Committee Senator then Chair and Treasurer ever since.
- I talked to the Syracuse SGA Comptroller which is basically my counterpart there, we geeked out about SGA funding a little bit. I am meeting soon with the UMBC Treasurer too which is cool.
- If you are looking for a project to take on, Emeritus Senator Mar Wiltz was working on a project to create an accessible Catamount Woods trail.
 - Last Friday I was talking to someone from Vermont Adaptive who works to make outdoors accessible including funding projects like this. Mar has offered to partner and help you get caught up with this.
- If you are interested in learning about SGA or finance or anything, come talk to me.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

- Merrick Modun, Chair of PR, sophomore Political Science major.
- We are a unique committee made up of one member from every other committee.
- We send out emails, manage social media, and convey the message of SGA.
- All new Senators please gather for a picture in the center after the meeting.

- Fun Fact of the Week: BBC Science Magazine says there might be a cure for evil.

Committee on the Environment

- James Surak, Chair of COE, junior Food Systems major.
- Senator Lynch has a meeting with Allie Farley from Prism about the upcycling project.
- Senator Gottfurcht is continuing a project from last year trying to create a thrift store on campus.

Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

- Rubi Espejo, Chair of CODIE, sophomore Political Science major with a Religion minor.
- I met with Ahmed Khanani, the Director of the Mosaic Center, to discuss goals for the semester. They are doing heritage month calendars, this month is Hispanic Heritage Month.
 - They are working with multiple entities on campus to spread Mosaic Center love.
 - Continuing to host Friday breakfast.
 - Starting a new program called What's the Tea, lunch on Wednesdays to tackle food insecurity on campus.
- Heritage Month of the Week: Hispanic Heritage Month! I expect a happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs

- Happy Hispanic Heritage Month everyone, it's the best month of the year.
- Emily Garcia, Chair of COLCA, sophomore Political Science major with minors in Global Studies and Spanish.
- I'm more of a Campus Perk than Hendersons girl, but reach out for coffee.
- We had a great first committee meeting.

- Big news I know everyone has been waiting for, Community Coalition is three days out. You should come this Friday 3-4:30 at the OSCR house or online. VP Bednarik, Chair Modun, Chair Knopp, me, and most of COLCA will be there.
- Song of the Week: Where the Skies Are Blue by The Lumineers.

Treasurer Sorensen: Can you tell the new Senators what OSCR is?

- **Response:** The Office of Student and Community Relations. They support off campus students a lot with move in and move out events. They do a lot of work bonding Burlington community with UVM students.
 - Community Coalition is one of those things where UVM leaders, Burlington leaders, community leaders, myself, COLCA members, and anyone else come together to talk.
 - They are our biggest fans and love the work we do. If you are ever stuck on a project they will lift you back up.

Committee on Student Action and Well-Being

- Cat Jones, Chair of CSAW, 4th year out of 5 majoring in Computer Science and Political Science with a minor in Law. From Colchester, Vermont.
- CSAW deals with all aspects of student health, sexual, nutrition, exercise, mental, emotional, safety, and all that good stuff.
- I prefer Cyber Café because I work at Howe Library.
- Song of the Week: BAD SAD AND MAD by BIBI.

Club Affairs Committee

- McKenna Halvorson, Chair of Club Affairs, junior studying Political Science and Psychology.

- Club Affairs has been incredibly busy already. If you know any club signers trying to reach us, please tell them to have patience. We have 10 clubs trying to get recognized and have to train our new Senators.
- Cats Reconnect is like ActivitiesFest for clubs that didn't get a chance to table. Tuesday and Wednesday 11-2 in the Davis Center

Academic Affairs Committee

- Lauren Knopp, Chair of Academic Affairs, junior studying Computer Science and Math.
- I am on the Short Term Absence Form Committee. If you are interested in that talk to me.
- Also on the Education of Research Technologies Faculty Senate Committee.
- I get free coupons to Campus Perk as part of my job.

Finance Committee

- Eloise Murphy, Chair of Finance, junior in 2nd year on SGA Business Administration major studying Accounting and Business Analytics.
- Great presentation coming up at retreat.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Adjournment