



8th Meeting of the 2025-2026 Student Government Association Senate
September 30th, 2025 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Lily Onorato.

Roll Call

Senators Alarafi, Ranallo, Rob, Wheaton, not present.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Aurora Hurd Presenting on WAGE

- The WAGE Center cultivates connection, student success initiatives, collaboration, and community-focused building for faculty, staff, and students.
- Current and future events: welcome back party, partner with Mosaic center, coming in the spring: March: leaders of gender equity celebrate folks within the UVM community doing gender related work
- Advancing gender equity: men and masculinity programs, advisory council, Evan does a lot of work on student leadership, violence prevention, expanding outreach to masculine folks to retain them within UVM.

- Programs and collaborations
 - o One arm is focused on community building, the other is focused on gender equity (infused through everything)
- The WAGE Center thinks of itself as a soft place to land for students, staff, and faculty. The organization aims to make things homier with a full kitchen, living room, a rental private space (appointments and interviews), food pantry, snack cart, free printing (color, as well as black and white), gender neutral bathroom, safe sex supplies, free menstrual products, work study jobs (expanding to internships), and craft supplies
- Mental health resources: Lets talk, satellite advising, meet and greet at the career center, holding space – times where the house smells nice with a relaxing atmosphere with care team drop in hours in October, book club, film screenings, teaching people how to use the pin maker, book club in partnership with mosaic center, family dinner at the end of the semester
- Keep in contact with students through a Newsletter, social media
- Closing statement: come to wage to hang out, we are always here for you

Annie Stevens and Fran Cohen Presenting on Indivisible Chapter

- Retired from working at UVM, and now volunteers at Indivisible
- Local organization with a mission to preserve our federal government and oppose its dismantling, and to preserve democracy
- All volunteer-based organizations
- Started Champlian Valley Indivisible

- o 500 local community members, more neighborhood issues focused, we are focused on Shelburne, South Burlington, Charlotte, St. Albans
- Burlington has Queen City indivisible
- The national chapter of Indivisible was started by two Senate staffers who wanted to raise attention about democracy
- We hold big and small events such as No Kings 2 in Burlington, South Burlington, and Williston that we host, all are welcome to those rallies
- Non-violent, peaceful organization, we bring joy to supporting our democracy
 - o Doing it in a very First Amendment free speech way
- One million rising community conversations held at local libraries, which focus on the questions of how do we talk to one another and how do we figure out what is going on
- If you wanna get involved in issues around our federal government, we work on elections, postcard writing, and social media
 - o These are open to all of you to get the word out that these community events are happening. We want students to join us
- Fran is a member of Queen City Indivisible
- There are several chapters because they are neighborhood-based, they are popping up and growing, now there are 12 in Vermont
- Fran is here to talk about what they are doing in Queen City, they started in the fall
 - o Community and political action
 - o We are working on another action on no kings 2, we are putting together a march that they want to gather people to walk down to city hall from the university

- o There will be music and encouragement to buy stuff to honor Burlington and the struggle that they've been experiencing
- o They want a contingent of students, meet at City Hall Park at noon on Saturday, October 18
- o Really feel like it is important that all people are represented, acknowledge that young people are busy
- o There are so many issues that you could represent going down to City Hall, such as the environment, unions, or healthcare

Questions

Chair Demeo: I canvassed for VPIRG and people mentioned this organization all the time. We would be happy to connect with some of the political clubs on campus and help you start a club for a chapter on campus to connect you with students

Vice President Modun: What methods have you been using to grow your membership

- **Response** Email for the local community, front porch forum. CFor Champlain Valley Indivisible it started with honk and waves. We started with a Tesla takedown rally; from there, people started to join us. Our members would forward the weekly newsletter to a friend, which has been spreading like wildfire.
- For Queen City, we are doing much of the same thing, but we felt like we needed a young person to do social media. The organization got someone to do that, and we noticed people talking about an Instagram account

Senator Lee: Some recommendations or ideas: you should talk to the UVM Civic Engagement office, Aimee Alexander. Through student life, you could look at Davis Center tabling (which might be more difficult as an external person)

President Connors: You can email Will Sullivan to schedule for Davis Center tabling

President Connors: I am curious about what current student participation looks like

- Response: Our organization is a lot of retired people, student participation right now is about 0. We will attend high schools as well, the idea of a student club that then partners with the chapter would be fantastic, and grants can come in from the national chapter. We want to partner – what do you need and what are we trying to do and how do we do that together.

Senator Saddiqui: What kind of safety and security would you be providing for international students?

Response: We partner with Migrant Justice to fight back on what ICE is doing, and we support local community members when they need safety and assistance. As far as being out in public, we can't promise anyone safety. We do have marshals that are trained in de-escalation for our events and Zoom meetings to talk about what to do if something happens. We do our best to educate folks on how to keep themselves safe. We are very non-violent, and we don't engage, which is one of this organization's tenets. We de-escalate whenever we can, but there is no guarantee

Senator York: Have you guys spoken with groups at Champlain College and Saint Michael's?

We do have a lot of other passionate people in the area

Response: We are in contact with the Vice President at Champlain College, but the people at Saint Michael's haven't gotten back to me.

Senator Laychak: I would reach out to Civic Engagement and I encourage you to come to a community coalition meeting, which are once a month Friday 3-4:30 pm. A collection of UVM

officials and local leaders, and MPA leaders will be there. Our next one is October 17 from 3-4:30 at 12 Colchester Ave.

Senator Camacho: In order to reach out to students, you might talk to Residential Life in order to put up posters in residential halls, that way you can reach the student body without having a group of students that aren't already involved

Chair Arnone: Are there any specific action items that you hope to accomplish?

- **Response:** We are just trying to grow the understanding of what is happening right now. If you have 3.5% of the US population that wants to make change, things start to turn around in our country and federal government. We are trying to get a larger mass of people in the organization in case we have to do mass boycotts. The more people we have, the more engaged people are at the local level, the more likely that for mass events, people will be there for us. We also hope to educate. The organization isn't the top up telling you what to do, it is figuring out what works for your community. We want people to be seen, writing postcards about elections, partnering with other organizations. There are so many different directions, and we are open to all of your ideas.

Vice Provost Amer Ahmed, James Ross, and Erika Lala Presenting on the Intercultural Centers

- James Ross, director of the Intercultural and Interfaith Center
- **Erika Lala:** I came to this body at the end of the last academic year to talk about the climate survey
 - o Intergroup dialogue: pedagogical model of talking across groups
- Within the division, the things that are most visible are the Intercultural Centers

- o Interfaith: We promote religious pluralism and ensure that UVM is a place where everyone can practice, experience, or learn about religions of their choice
 - Creating literal and figurative (religious accommodation, especially around holidays and observances) space for people
 - Try to engage conversations about religion
- o Mosaic Intercultural Center: student lounge, food pantry, kitchen, drop-in counseling, Friday Breakfast, community dinner, welcome back barbecue, graduation brunch, work with affiliated clubs recognized by SGA
- o Prism Intercultural Center includes WAGE and Prism. It focuses on campus equity, engagement, and the men and masculinity programs.
- o Centers and programs exist to advance student success across the reality of their experience here at UVM
- o Men and masculinity: doing work that is now held within a single program led by a program director, working on new important projects, creating an advisory committee for Prism, the first meeting of that will be happening within the month

- **Questions**

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Old Business

Bill Recognizing Lemons Club

- **Sponsored by Senator Torres**
- Aims to provide an accessible experiential learning experience for engineering students and students with an interest in auto racing

- Vote: passed with a unanimous vote; Senator Torres abstained

Bill Recognizing HackySlack Club

- **Senator Grace is standing in for Senator Alarafi**
- It is hacky sack with slack lines
- Providing a welcoming community for students who like hack slack and or slack lining
- **Vote:** passed with a unanimous vote; Senator Grace abstained

Emergency Business

- Confirming judicial committee members
 - o Passed with over a 2/3 majority

New Business

Chair Demeo: Bill recognizing Forza Fitness Club

Senatorial Forum

Executive Reports

Speaker Onorato

- Thank you for bearing with technological issues. I want to bring attention to the attendance policy. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences; if you have an issue with attendance, please let me know. I will be putting my number in the Teams. We are going to be switching back to two public forum guests going forward. We have updated the website with legislation and meeting minutes, and are working on digitizing prior legislation. I am super excited to work with everyone confirmed into the Judicial

Committee. I want to meet and talk with everyone. Let me know if you want to grab coffee.

Vice President Modun

- Three updates from the past week. The installation events for Dr. Marlene Tromp went well. I was honored to be at those events. The second update is the soccer game that happened on Saturday. I was pleased to see President Connor win that game. Third update, working on the make-up retreat is ongoing, those who missed will be getting an email with details and scheduling information

President Connors

- First off I got declared President of the Green this weekend, it has been the biggest honor yet. The strategic planning committee is meeting on Friday, and they will be coming in next week on public forum to get student feedback. The first SGA pop-up event went well, thank you to everyone who came. If you couldn't join us this month, please join us next month. UPRAWR came for the first time last month. They will be coming in bimonthly. The Care team will be coming in once a month, starting this Friday from 12 to 2. Our piece in the Cynic about SGA updates is being published tomorrow, we are under news and then SGA updates. The installation was great. Thank you to the SGA members who came out for that. I am buying Thundersticks for sports games with the SGA logo. The Board of Trustees meeting is in three weeks. I will be giving a presentation, so let me know if there is anything you want me to add. I am going to a safety meeting about downtown Burlington safety, so let me know if you have any student concerns that I can bring up.

Treasurer Murphy

- The Spring Fest planning committee has started so I am looking for one other student representative to join the committee with me. This is not for choosing the artist but for planning. They meet bimonthly this semester and biweekly next semester.
- Club pickleball – joint meeting with them on October 19 as an effort to reach out to the club committees, it will be super chill. We will also be meeting with the Jewelry Club.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee – Chair Denny

- We met with Meg today and updated the website, which will continue to be worked on.
Chair Steele and I are having another WOK meeting

Committee on the Environment – Chair Arnone

- We are in the full swing of outreach for the Title X event, emails came out, and posts on Instagram. We are emailing professors to get the slides posted, talking about it in our classes to get the word out. I can send you the slide that you can send to your professors. I have been in contact with UVM video so they can record the event and reached out to Rubenstein
- Senator Forrest has prioritized the forestry project
- Meeting on Friday with Nina from UPB to work on scream fest
- Senator Wheaton is working on an environmental film screening
- Starting the club recognition process for UVM thrift
 - Looking for a Business student to take on the lead for a business proposal and pitch

Committee on Our Common Ground Values – Chair Espejo

- Senator Camacho is holding a meeting to introduce his mentorship program to the Office of International Education
- We are meeting Kevin Horning, who works in the UVM Foundation, to discuss the athletics project to get alumni acknowledgement of the great stuff that is happening here for our students, and understand how SGA can best help
- I am continuing my resource sticker project, putting resource stickers in the bars downtown in Burlington with local and national resources, and codes linking to each university. I am meeting with Tom Fontana, and I have met with reps from Champlain and Saint Michael's
- I have been asked to sit on the Intercultural Centers committee in October
- **Senator Esbin:** Last year, we had talked about the stickers going into residential halls. Is that also in the works?
 - **Response:** Not currently, but I will add that to my list
- **Senator Orin:** Is that being brought to the safety committee meeting next week?
 - **Response:** It is not, but I will put that on my calendar

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs – Chair Laychak

- Senator Lee is working on the winter parents' weekend
- Senator Talhouk is collecting pots and pans from outgoing exchange students to give to incoming ones
- Senator Oreck is working on getting more art for the galaxy space
- We are meeting with Civic Engagement about the clean-up
- Putting on your radar: graffiti clean up hosted by Civic Engagement, October 17, 3 pm-4:30. Community coalition meeting, you should come to it because it is beneficial for

senators to learn about things going on in Burlington and help out on a project. There will be more information on Teams, but let me know if you have questions

Committee on Student Action and Well-Being – Chair Steele

- We are having meetings with the SGA athletics ad hoc, working on the thunder sticks with the SGA logo, and divvying up people to different teams to work with them to best understand how we can help them.
- With the partnership with CHWB, we are sending out an all-school email for why people should download Talk on Campus. We get a little blurb in the email, and I have the opportunity to write out why students should download the app and that our committee endorses the use of this app
- Senator Brito Del Valle is working with Together Vermont on the Graffiti clean-up on October 18th at 10 am
 - If you are interested in joining Together Vermont they are trying to get an RSO
- Senator Marchant is joining the Dining Advisory Board meeting on Thursday at 4:30

Club Affairs Committee – Chairs Demeo and Grace

- Sexual prevention training is done on October 8 in the Grand Maple Ballroom. This training has required attendance, and it is in conjunction with Ruggles. Additional training in the works about sexual violence in the digital age with MCAP on November 6 from 5-6:30 in the Billings lecture hall. There will be catering for the first 200 people
- We are having the first finance x club meeting, and we are at the beginning of Clubbies planning, which will be better than last year, in April.
- **Castañeda:** What was the date for the sexual prevention training?
 - **Response:** October 8 (Wednesday) 6-8 pm in Grand Maple

- **Chair Grace:** There is an online training for make-ups, but it is inconvenient, so you should come to it if you don't have a conflict
- We break out into SGA teams, have really good conversations, and discuss how to be better at achieving those goals
- **Senator York:** can you repeat the time for the sexual violence prevention training 2.0
 - **Response:** November 6 from 5-6:30 pm, Billings lecture hall
- **Chair Laychek:** will that have no make-up?
 - **Response:** There is, but I don't know what it is yet
- **Senator Chen:** Could you put the dates in Teams?
 - I'll put it in the calendar
- **Senator Marchant:** If there is a conflict, who should we tell?
 - **Response:** You can either get in touch with one of us, but if you don't say anything, we will see that you didn't go and reach out.

Academic Affairs Committee – Chair Carroll-Millins

- Next week, I am wrapping up my meetings with the Dean about academic resources
- We are starting our planning for the midterm scavenger hunt for academic resources
- Getting started on personal projects, which we will keep you guys updated on

Finance Committee – Chair Rice

- The financial requirements for club signers is posted on the financial policies on the website

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

- **Chair Demeo:** VPIRG club is having a chalk walk this Wednesday from 6:30-7:30, decorating the sidewalk in front of the Davis Center

- **Senator Forrest:** after retreat we thought it would be a good idea to start an intramural volleyball team we are looking for 4-5 new people
- **Senator Esbin:** There will be tickets for the men's hockey game to be won at Trivia.
- **Treasurer Murphy:** we have a charity event on Saturday, it is in collaboration with Alpha Gamma Rho for breast cancer awareness.
- **Senator Brito Del Valle:** Together Vermont and I are looking for more people. Please come to clean up
- **Senator Camacho:** International Student Club is collaborating with IOE to create a Cultural Kitchen from 5-7. Please come
- **Chair Steele:** We have our first home women's hockey game against Penn State on the 3rd and 4th of October

Adjournment