



10th Meeting of the 2025-2026 Student Government Association Senate
October 7th, 2025 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Onorato.

Roll Call

Senator Peterson, Senator York, Senator Theroux, Senator Garcia, Senator Alaralfi

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Aimee Alexander from Civic Engagement

- We are collaborating on a project with Together Vermont and University Relations. On October 18th we are doing a Graffiti Clean Up event. Everyone who shows up will get a t-shirt, and all of the supplies required will be provided. Reach out to Aimee for the QR code for registration, it is also on the Civic Engagement Instagram account.

Blake Reilly Presenting on Center for Health and Wellbeing Updates

- I am the Executive Officer of CHWB. Last year, when I came to SGA, I made a commitment that one, we would focus on access to services and two, that I would commit to working with you on projects and initiatives. I am coming back to give everyone an update on those goals. First, CHWB stands for the Center for Health and Wellbeing. We have put posters up saying that you have healthcare on campus, student counseling, athletic medicine, and more.
- There has been confusion on campus about the health insurance and the comprehensive fee. Your health insurance is separate from the student health fee. If you are a full time student, whether you have healthcare here or not, you can opt into the health fee and get access to health care. The health fee is not health insurance.

- There is no longer a six-session limit for CAPS; every student can go every two weeks. If students need more appointments than that, we have two case managers to refer out to someone in the community
- Same-day appointments – let's talk, it is now consistent and there are more of them. Often you still have the same day or next day appointment with a let's talk. Students no longer have to call CAPS; you can schedule online, which opens up access to more students. Our help line now serves six languages. You'll get a slate of numbers to choose one.
- Through Inside UVM, we will be announcing Talk Campus. This is a self-help resource for students for managing different types of anxiety. It is a global peer support community that is open 24/7. 250 college campuses are on this app, and all of them can post. The best thing for students is having it before they need it. I want to thank CSAW for helping us promote this through the UVM flagship post about the app and the Inside UVM student appeal email.
- Students will no longer have to call Student Health Services to book appointments. They are now bookable online. If you have an emergency, students can always walk in or call. Student Health Services acts as a primary care provider; there are 150 appointment types that can be booked online.
- Last January we started the test and go clinic, which has been awesome. They have 15 minute appointments where students can get tested. They leave with any prescriptions sent in an email. This clinic has increased preventative testing. Since it has been such a great service, we have been thinking of expanding the hours students can book appointments.
- New initiative in collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs (DOSA). There is now a Basic Needs Coordinator who supports Rally Cat's Cupboard. We also now have a full-time staff member instead of it just being students, but students are still involved. We have expanded basic needs beyond food; we now help students with their structural needs. We can help students sign up for SNAP. There are also now scheduled meal pick-ups. Students can schedule a time with the Basic Needs Coordinator to pick up meals. Our Basic Needs Coordinator has gotten a small supply of household goods for students who need those items, such as items for kitchens, cleaning supplies, and clothing. We plan to canvass where UVM off-campus students live to make sure they are aware of this program. We will give them door hangers with all of this information on it.
- An update is that living well has been rebranded to the Rest-Stop, where students can take a break and get access to all of the CHWB resources. You can hang out in a massage chair and chill out with happy lights. This was an SGA initiative, so I want to thank Cameron. We worked on a project together to make the Navigate app resources more understandable. That way, if there was a student who was in a crisis moment, the potential of decisional paralysis to decide who to talk to has been reduced. In addition, on most residence hall room doors, there should be a 24/7 mental health support sticker with a counselor to call, a suicide hotline and text line, Hopework, and the talk campus code. The other person who helped us with that was Liv. Thank you to CSAW and Housing and Dining Resources.
- One of the big accomplishments was the SGA and CHWB vending machine. Halverson was a big driver, and Cat Jones. Thanks for coming up with the idea and then working with us to do it. On the vending machine SGA logo is on the front and the CHWB logo is

on the side. To support access to basic needs, we collaborated to reduce costs to health products on campus. It is cheaper than at a drug store.

- New in the rest stop studio are classes: yoga and pilates through free campus rec, we are continuing UPRAWR meetings. A potential program idea is Lattes with Latte.
- We post on Instagram once a week so follow for CHWB updates.

Questions

- **Senator Talhouk:** Thank you for coming in and for all the hard work you've done. I am wondering what the six languages are that you can get help from.
 - o **Response:** I know two: Mandarin and Spanish. I don't know the other four off the top of my head. On the app, you can switch language preferences, which translates the contents.
- **Senator Esbin:** Thank you for coming in. I had a quick comment on Rally Cat's Cupboard. I have a potential opportunity to give out a grant. I will find you after the meeting.
 - o **Response:** Don't let me forget
- **Senator Camacho:** Thank you for coming. Does the Talk Campus app also work with the Administration? Also, I had COVID 2 weeks ago, and all the tests have expired. The same thing happened freshman year. Is there any solution?
 - o **Response:** First, the FDA has tended to expand the expiration date by 1 or 2 years. If you walk in the door of Student Health, there are COVID tests there, and they might look like they are expired, but they aren't. Someone might not have removed a test that they should have removed. It is an either-or. The reason why we have free tests is that we got a grant; the ones in the pink tests should have had their expiration dates expanded. You will have to go test and or buy a test through the Rest-Stop vending machine.
 - o Anything that you are posting or using is not identifiable. CAPS will get notified if students call the help line. Talk Campus will give them a report of your name and the chief issue, which will be given to your counselor. Your CAPS counselor will ask if you want to talk or make an appointment. Students can reject that help. If something escalates to a crisis, UVM Police can be notified. At that point, CAPS would get a full report of the conversation.
- **Chair Espejo:** I have a question about the Basic Needs Coordinator. Is that between CHWB and off-campus resources, or through y'all?
 - o **Response:** Basic needs is centered specifically in CHWB. It is funded 50% by CHWB and 50% by Student Affairs
- **Senator Chen:** Thank you for coming in. As a freshman, I have been so bombarded by resources. I was wondering, I played a long game of phone tag with SAS, I missed my first exam and had to take it without accommodations because my advisor did not open the SAS website to me. I have received a lot of direction but no help. Were there improvements to SAS or psychiatry services?
 - o **Response:** I can help connect you with someone from SAS, but I am not within SAS, nor do I oversee it. You are welcome to chat with me or we can email.
- **Senator Lee:** My question has been answered, thank you for coming in
- **Senator Jones:** could you elaborate on the changes to the CARE forms?
 - o **Response:** I do not oversee CARE, but we brought in a national organization that tells us what the practices in care are. Our goal with CARE, currently is to support

students as soon and as quickly as possible. The time from CARE form submission to outreach has drastically decreased. In addition, it doesn't feel like an institutional message, someone is reaching out in a personal way.

Strategic Planning Committee Kaity Sheperd, Dean of CESS

- President Tromp brings energy and excitement, and a desire for the University to have a new strategic plan that thinks about the community 5-7 years into the future. We have 50 listening sessions scheduled between now and the middle of November and hope to have a plan reading in November/December. The plan will be voted on by the Board of Trustees in their February meeting.
- Some of the things we are working on addressing is the questioning surrounding the value of higher education, AI, the demographic cliff, how to get more people your age to come to New England, and how to bring in students of not traditional college age, as well as budget challenges.
- The plan is an opportunity to get involved in thinking about where UVM is going go. There is a first draft on our website on the president's website. We will be posting a survey on the site; there is a survey specific to their session open for 24 hours.
- The draft has a mission and vision statement – overarching who we are and where we want to go, with 4 main pillars. We are so excited. Please give us feedback and tell your friends that on October 23 there will be an undergraduate campus-wide listening session.
- The pillars are our high-level ideas. They don't touch on the how, but rather UVM's commitments and aspirations. Think about what should UVM be committed to in the mission and vision or in the pillars. Let us know what does or does not resonate.
- Mission: UVM is guided by our common ground values, and aims to serve Vermont and the world, educate students to lead boldly and ethically, produce solutions, and connect UVM with the communities we serve
- Vision: by 2032, UVM wants to strengthen Vermont and the communities we touch. Thought will become action, we will strengthen democracy, and improve lives across Vermont and the world
 - **Chair Espejo:** I'm thinking about the last sentence in the vision- I think it should expand more on advancing the well-being of democracy. We are such a great university to make a case for democracy, and we should advance those words even though we have to be kind of wary.
 - **Response:** That has been a common response to this presentation.
 - **Vice President Modun:** what is the intention for the community futures
 - **Response:** we would like it to give a sense of what makes UVM unique. We are trying to look for a tag line that describes this place. Whenever President Trump asks 'What makes this place special?' people always talk about the community here and being invested in the futures of students.
 - **Senator Wheaton:** I am curious, is the 2032 based around specific deliverables or a seven-year benchmark
 - **Response:** It is important when making this plan to aspire to something on a timeline, which gives us time but makes us work for it. Some of these things we want to do are going to be hard. You try to hit all the marks, it is an aspiration, it doesn't necessarily mean we will meet all of the goals by 2032

- o **Senator Esbin:** For the mission, I feel like it is valid to what we do currently, as a tour guide this is the stuff I preach, what is going to be shifting?
 - **Response:** A mission statement is what we do, so hearing you say that makes me think that this mission is accurately capturing us. This is not where you will see what the change is. Aspiration pieces are in the vision
 - o **Senator Paquette:** For the community futures of the university, with that specific name, I don't get it. Maybe you should replace futures with strengthening/promoting, just to make what you mean more clear, which is the strong community
- Pillar one focuses on students. Building their futures so they can embark on bold paths. All students should feel they belong here and they should have the opportunity to learn deeply.
 - o **Senator Joe:** What is the definition of excellent teaching
 - **Response:** It can look different in different disciplines: great advising, partnership, mentorship, providing feedback, and amazing lectures. It is saying we aspire that students feel like they are learning and are having experiences that have contributed to their education, and are connected to their purpose and path beyond UVM
 - o **Senator Campbell:** as a future teacher, I appreciate the life skills curriculum, which I think should be included.
 - o **Senator Jones:** Academics isn't like the industry in all disciplines, such as computer science, where those who are working have to have familiarity with industry-specific platforms that the school may not be able to expose students to. Therefore, it might be helpful to consult with industry experts.
 - o **Senator Marchant:** Given that it talks about community leadership and how the vision will impact our greater communities, and given UVM is unique in that it has a lot of out of state students, how does that interact with student community thing?
 - **Response:** Hold your question, you will see it appear in a later pillar
- Pillar 2: study what matters – values driven research, people, and faculty address real problems
 - o **Chair Espejo:** I like what this pillar is attempting to do. I think saying study what matters is a little aggressive
 - **Response:** We have heard that multiple times
 - o **Senator Esbin:** For high-impact experiences, a definition of what research looks like outside of the lab would be helpful for liberal arts students.
 - o **Senator Paquette:** Definitely expanding on those research areas in the liberal arts. In addition, expanding the availability of resources in the Howe library, there is a lot of archival data and laws that I know a lot of students don't know about or aren't inclined to look at. A lot of the things we have are in person, but increasing those capacities
- Pillar 3: open every door, access engagement and partnerships. As the land grant university widens access, strengthens engagement and partners in Vermont and beyond. Become Vermonters by choice
- Pillar 4: fostering excellence: people, system, and infrastructure. Supporting people, data foundations, and renewing spaces to allow communities to focus on what matters most.

- These pillars are just ideas, we are open what a pillar 5 might look like
 - **Senator Orik:** Thanks for coming in. About pillar 3, looking at new restrictions on DEI administration stuff, does the goal for UVM's DEI have to shift, or is it just in how we word things? How would the principles of diversity be included in that pillar
 - **Response:** It is a fine balance. What I think about is student health services, we want to support our students who need gender affirming care, that isn't changing . Things we word things might change, but we need to be UVM and support our students, faculty, staff, and the state. Many people on the campus share that goal
 - We are define access broadly, we welcome all kinds of folks, we are trying to talk about our values in different ways.
 - **Senator Camacho:** For pillars 4 and 3, a lot of students come to UVM, and it becomes a home. Especially in pillar 4 for infrastructure, in regard for the first two years living on campus, the dorms are in really poor condition. If we want to get students to stay here, we should improve the dorms now, rather than in seven years.

Riley Foye Presenting on Catamounts Against Cancer

Old Business

Bill Recognizing Forza Fitness Club

- Motion to table to the next meeting – Chair Demeo
 - Tabled with a simple majority

Emergency Business

New Business

Chair Grace: Bill recognizing UVM Thrift and UVM Indivisible

Senator Torres: Bill recognizing Indigenous Peoples club

Senatorial Forum

Executive Reports

Speaker Onorato

- I yield the gavel. I have been trying to reach out to student groups to present on public forum, direct them to me. I have scheduled my meeting with the special collections about digitizing legislation. We have decided on our first judicial committee meeting next thursday

Vice President Modun

- Hi, four updates. President Connors and I met with federal actions ad ho and talked about the best way to move forward. 2, make up retreat – fill out when to meet and see the email. 3, keep tabs on the calendar, it is pinned on the Teams; it should be editable, you can add events that are SGA related. 4, President Connors, Chair Denny and Chair Demeo met about town hall scheduling, the tentative time is November 6, 5-6:30 on the fourth floor of the Davis Center, and we are excited to get that going

President Connors

- First, the thunder sticks were officially ordered today and will be in this week or next. Kelly Campbell, who is the Chief Information Officer reached out about Brightspace focus groups. Fill that out it will be in Teams. There will be free pizza. This past week, we had meetings with Michael Shirley regarding transportation and talking about making transportation feel safer and utilized downtown, so more to come with that. I also had a meeting with Provost Chadler about the utilization of student spaces, so we will be meeting with Linna about that as well. Elliot Ruggles and the Sexual Prevention Council is starting back up and accepting nominations. The time commitment is two meetings or

one meeting a month. Talk to me if you're interested. Blake brought up the idea of SGA financially supporting Rally Cat Cupboard more since SGA started the cupboard. We are trying to figure how to continue to support them since COVID-19 funding is going away. I will be meeting with the Graduate Student Senate President to talk about ways we can partner. I am on the Strategic Planning Committee, so please share ideas with me so I can bring ideas to the entire group. The federal actions ad hoc met last Friday. We had a great team conversation with Wendy Conig about the approach we want to take as a committee, protecting SGA and students but still making an impact. If you have any ideas on how to educate without putting us in public, talk to me. SVPT is tomorrow, Ruggles asked us to speak at the start of it about why its important. Strategic Planning committee for UVM SGA is starting this week if you wanna be in that committee please talk to me. The Board of Trustees meeting is next Friday. I'm doing an oral report. Let me know if there is something you want me to include. Shout out to my mother, who is here. She is visiting from California and she made brownies

- **Senator Paquette:** President Connors is working on a proposal for the uvm bookstore for pink colored merchandise
- **Chair Grace:** where do you find the time?
 - **President Connors:** 24 hours in a day, use them all

Treasurer Murphy

- I've been busy meeting with clubs, going over financial basics. Reminder to fill out the SGA form I only have 10 responses

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee – Chair Denny

- Tabling on October 12 with Club Affairs for the open house visits. For WOK Chair Steele and I got an update from Erica, she is all in and wants to support. We are meeting on October 16. For anyone on the ad hoc committee for WOK, next week's meeting on Thursday, we will start assigning tasks. If you have preferences, if you're there, you are able to share those preferences
- **Chair Steele:** For those who are in the WOK ad hoc, please fill out the when to meet. The meeting time hasn't worked for everyone, trying to find a new time, it is important because it is coming up soon, and we need to meet weekly

Committee on the Environment – Chair Arnone

- Lots of updates with TEDx, professors have been showing it in their classes. I got a ticket registration link in Teams and Group Me. Tickets are free but will be capped at 100 people, so please register. I met with UVM Video, and am working on paying them to get it all filmed. Thrift UVM is becoming a club next week, I am meeting with Elliott and Grace, who are helping with the business pitch. Senator Forrest is pivoting her project. We are working on making Spring Fest sustainable, and there will be a certification for that, which will fit well with UVM branding. Everyone is working on their projects.

Committee on Our Common Ground Values – Chair Espejo

- Beginning planning bi-weekly for MARCH with Aurora Herd and Alex Rouge who is the Graduate Student Assistant. Senator Camacho met with OIE and has another meeting with them this week. Ally is working with First Gen for a tabling collab to help them with visibility. Leah is meeting with Gen Action president tomorrow to discuss the

reproductive rights council. We also have a meeting with Elliot about how we can help visibility for alumni, athletics, and SGA.

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs – Chair Laychak

- Working hard on our projects. Community cleanups have been completed. I plan to show the rounds at the senatorial forum. Senator Talhouk attended the Ward 3 MPA meeting about the public safety plan EVT 2050. If you have an interest, talk to Senator Talhouk

Committee on Student Action and Well-Being – Chair Steele

- SGA x athletics ad hoc meeting occurred. We are sending out follow-up emails to coaches. We got feedback last night from Chris about following up on our follow-up emails. We had a successful meeting with SAC. We presented to them and are looking forward to working with them. Senator Brito Del Valle had a meeting with Civic Engagement, Governor Phil Scott, and President Connors, which was successful

Club Affairs Committee – Chairs Demeo and Grace

- We are cooking on new clubs and reactivations. We have Payton, who is working on UVM indivisible. SVPT is tomorrow 6-8, in the Grand Maple Ballroom. It is genuinely educational, so show up, lock in, and listen. We have two more weeks until new clubs and reactivation applications are closed, which will be on October 24. After that date, we will only be reviewing applications.
- **Senator Esbin:** If hypothetically I have something during SVPT, when can I expect to hear about makeups
 - New definitive dates will be after the training

Academic Affairs Committee – Chair Carroll-Millins

- Today I had my final meeting about academic resources. Everyone is excited to work with SGA. The work is split among all of us on the committee. We are getting started on the mid-semester scavenger hunt, reaching out to resources and faculty to get the word out, which will be in mid to late October. Working on individual projects

Finance Committee – Chair Rice

- Continuing weekly supplementals

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Senator Paquette: One, I am making an Instagram for UVM Indivisible. On October 18, I am organizing for UVM students to meet outside of the 3rd floor of Davis to walk down to No Kings Day down at City Hall Park. You should join us.

Chain Arnome: the volleyball team has been made. If you want to be added, come talk to me or Maddie and send me your email. If I do add you, you have to accept the team invitation. We will be playing on Mondays at 10 pm

Senator Camacho: Yesterday, Eco-Reps met with the RAs. December 1, all of the students will need an app for free bus rides to downtown. I'll send the link in Teams.

Senator Esbin: This Friday at 7 pm, they are giving me back my horn privileges at men's hockey games.

Adjournment