



Graduate Student Senate Meeting of the Whole–November 2nd, 2018

21 People in Attendance

Executive Council Attendees: Joey Campbell, Jessica Bocanegra, Aayudh Das, Mahafuza Aktar, and Kenna Rewcastle

Senator Attendees: Jeffrey Adams, Rosie Chapina, Jessica Cotton (by proxy via Kevin Fischer, Erin Cullen, Kevin Fischer, Tatiana Gladkikh, Johnny Gonzalez, Mara Hintz, Molly Hurd, Jaspreet Singh Nagi, Rosy Neale, Sanish Paramadam, Bharat Poudel, Josiah Taylor, Alissa White, Lindsay Worley

Representative Attendees: Michelle DiPinto, Camille Marcotte

GSS Recognized Club Attendees: ISA, UVMSPG, RGSA

Attendance was taken via sign-in sheet during the meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jessica Bocanegra at 11:00 AM.

Minutes from the last Senate Meeting on October 3rd, 2018, were approved unanimously and will be released on the GSS Website.

Announcements

- The GSS Winter Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 19th from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM in the Davis Center Livak Ballroom. All senators and representatives are invited to attend, and only those who *cannot* attend should notify Jessica Bocanegra.

President Tom Sullivan

Graduate Student Housing:

- A master plan for graduate student housing has been in the works since last spring; infrastructure present on Trinity Campus is incompatible with the needs of graduate students, and a more suitable option is being developed.
- A graduate student representative will be placed on the committee for the University Master Plan.
- The current plan for a long-term solution to graduate housing is currently in the early development stages. Dewey Hall has historically been home to the Psychology Department; this department will be moved to the new research building on the Medical Center Campus. Dewey will then be repurposed and the two historic houses next to it will also be moved to create space for graduate housing to be built in this location.
 - Time-scale for this project is 2-3 years at the very earliest, likely 5 years due to the intensive zoning and building permitting process in Burlington.

Parking:

- Dean Forehand has begun working closely with the Parking Services Department to make parking for graduate students a priority.
- President Sullivan has begun working with Parking Services to think about better use of the parking next to the soccer practice fields at the back of the Double Tree Hotel parking lot. This space could be used as parking at the periphery at campus with shuttles transporting more people to central campus (UVM already owns this part of the parking lot).

Graduate Student Stipends:

- A review of graduate stipends will be initiated by Dean Forehand in collaboration with Deans of all schools and colleges, scheduled for December.
- Compared to other universities, we sit at the median of graduate student stipends across the country among peer institutions. These metrics that evaluate the fairness of graduate stipends take into account variation in the cost of living across the country.
- The Graduate Student Senate Fee will be evaluated by the Board of Trustees at the May meeting. The other components of our student fees will be discussed at the February Board of Trustees meeting.

Other Discussion Points with President Sullivan:

- A question was asked regarding who to contact to arrange for the use of alcohol as part of research studies on the effect of alcohol consumption. President Sullivan recommended contacting Brian Prindle, Executive Director for Research Administration and Integrity (Brian.Prindle@uvm.edu).
- Maternity and Family Leave Question: Would the [Vermont Paid Family Leave Bill that](#) would leverage an income tax to offer paid parental leave to state residents apply to graduate students? President Sullivan said that this would be unlikely because graduate

students are classified first and foremost as students and do not receive the same benefits package as university employees, but perhaps we could be allowed to pay into this pool and receive these same benefits while retaining our student status. President Sullivan recommended including Wanda Heading-Grant who is in charge of HR for the entire university in all discussions concerning extending maternity and family leave benefits to graduate students at UVM.

Old Business

- The electronically distributed minutes were unanimously approved.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

- Bylaws amendment proposed to no longer allow executive board members to vote during senate meetings.
 - The amendment was approved unanimously.
- Two other amendments were tabled for discussion at our next meeting.
 - This motion was unanimously approved.
- Bylaws amendment proposed to allow unlimited use of proxies by Senators, and to allow notification for use of proxies to be sent to VP instead of President.
 - Unanimously approved.
- Proposed removal of Bylaws Article IX because the purpose of this clause was to establish a process for ratifying the constitution and bylaws. Because this has already been accomplished, this clause is no longer necessary.
 - Unanimously approved.
- All approved amendments are listed in full in Appendix A follow these minutes.

Stipend Committee

- Discussion took place to evaluate a proposed list of questions to be administered as part of the graduate student stipend survey.
- Survey will be distributed to Senators electronically to allow direct feedback from Senators to stipend committee.

Diversity Committee

- The Diversity Committee drafted a resolution in response to the mass shooting that took place at the Tree of Life Synagogue.
- This resolution will be distributed to senators to review and discuss with our graduate student constituents to gauge student support.
- The Committee has suggested distributing the resolution to constituents with a statement that we will assume support from the entire department unless an individual reaches out with an issue.
- The resolution is listed in Appendix B following these minutes.

Other Committee Updates

- Time did not allow for other committee updates, but all other committee updates, including committee updates from the Board of Trustees meetings that took place on October 26th-28th, will be included in this meeting's minutes in Appendix C.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Appendix A | Approved Amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution

Constitution Article V Section B:

“The four (4) regularly scheduled Senate meetings shall be ordinarily open to the public. The Senate may hold additional meetings that may, or may not, be open to the public, **Only Senators and the Treasurer, Secretary, and Communications Director may vote in Senate meetings.** The Vice President shall vote in the case of a tie and serve as tiebreaker.”

Change to: “The four (4) regularly scheduled Senate meetings shall be ordinarily open to the public. The Senate may hold additional meetings that may, or may not, be open to the public. **Only Senators may vote in Senate meetings.** The Vice President shall vote in the case of a tie and serve as tiebreaker.”

Bylaws Article I Section B Clause 6:

“Senators that are unable to attend a Senate meeting may designate a proxy member to attend with all rights and privileges delegated to the Senator. **Proxy representation must be designated in writing to the President before the scheduled meeting and shall be limited to two (2) meetings per semester.**”

Change to: “Senators that are unable to attend a Senate meeting may designate a proxy member to attend with all rights and privileges delegated to the Senator. **Proxy representation must be designated in writing to the Vice-President before the scheduled meeting.**”

Removal of Bylaws Article IX

Article IX - Ratification of the Constitution and Bylaws

Section A Administrative Approval

Section B Referendum Vote by the Graduate Student Body

Appendix B | Resolution in Response to the Tree of Life Synagogue Violence

Whereas, atrocious hate crimes and violence against members of the Tree of Life Synagogue occurred in Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018 and against members of the Frist Baptist Church of Jeffersontown, Kentucky on October 24, 2018;

Whereas, the university nondiscrimination policy protects against any form of anti-Semitism, discrimination, or hate at UVM;

Whereas, human diversity as defined in the university nondiscrimination policy as race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or gender identity;

Whereas, diversity exists within the expansive domains of higher education;

Whereas, all humans possess unique, rich cultural histories, backgrounds and personal experiences deserving of universal respect, acceptance, and celebration;

Whereas, greater diversity enriches higher education and brings innovation and creativity to learning;

Whereas, inherent dignity and worth of every person should be respected.

Therefore, let it be:

Expressed, the Graduate Student Senate extends their deepest sympathies to those affected by the events at the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting, the Frist Baptist Church shooting, and any similar hate crime,

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Senate be vigilant and active in combating hate and discrimination on campus whenever and wherever possible,

Further resolved, that the Graduate Student Senate remain committed to creating a space for diversity and inclusion of all people regardless of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, socio-economic status or gender identity.

Appendix C | Committee Updates

Board of Trustees Committees

Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee: Michelle DiPinto, Joey Campbell

- Summer Session Tuition- increase 28%, and out of state 66%
- GGP:
 - 120 international students, fall 87
 - Summer tuition set at same rate
 - Non-credit courses, were \$7,000 being moved to \$7,500
 - Decrease applying and enrolling. There has been a decrease in international students.
- Room and board increase (3.7/3.5% increases) residential learning communities
 - Housing complexes, take a class and engage in wellness, or seven other themes → retention rates have increased by 3%, first times in ROCs

Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee: Kenna Rewcastle and Jessica Bocanegra

- Provost is interested in working towards climate literacy certificate for all undergraduates at UVM.
- Career Center has improved post-graduation employment and job satisfaction rates among undergraduates, these numbers are all above the national average.
- The University is moving forward with the building of a multi-purpose athletic facility.
- Faculty Senate representative reported on the evaluation process for terminating degree programs that have no students enrolled in them.
- Division of Human Resources, Diversity, and Multicultural affairs has worked to establish an onboarding process for new faculty/staff, will be administering a Campus Climate Survey to assess the inclusivity of the UVM community.
- Academic Excellence Goal 8: Grow the graduate community at UVM.
 - Most growth in enrollment over past two years has been largely from professional programs and accelerated masters programs.
 - 25% increase in PhD “yield” over the course of a single year.
 - UVM has received 3 new large, interdisciplinary graduate program training grants.
 - National political climate is driving a decline in international student enrollment as well as enrollment in the pre-masters program aimed at allowing academically-qualified individuals to improve their English language skills before graduate school.

Faculty Senate Committees

Financial and Physical Planning Committee: Jackie Gillen

- An issue the FPPC has taken up is a proposal to establish residential communities as 1 credit hour or to weigh the credits the same.

- Provost discussed this issue at length with our committee. Andrew Barnaby, chair of FPPC, said going forward this conversation should be discussed with the President, and Barnaby believes that this will be hard for the next president coming in to deal with.
- Another agenda item that was emphasized in this meeting was trying to find a particular role for the FPPC. Right now, there is little guidance what specific tasks this committee has. An idea to do an annual cost of instruction calculation for each college unit, may be something the FPPC will do in the future. Barnaby mentioned that the instruction costs are performed by a lot of self-reporting and that the numbers that are being used are from 2012, which strikes him as problematic. In addition, it was recommended that we as a committee present some important financial matters to the faculty senate, because it will spark more conversation than administrators doing so.

Student Affairs Committee: Aarzo Grover

- **Faculty Senate Course Evaluation Resolution Update:** There is a draft RFP for course evolutions that has been completed. The Faculty Senate did not like the language in the proposal as presented, however they edited and approved new language.
- **Residential Learning Communities:** Process and expectations of WE dorm, impact of course credit for majors and minors, restriction of certain disciplines due to inability to accommodate 3-credit course.
- **Student right statement first draft:** SGA and Kenneth Allen prepared a draft on student rights which are even in the GSS list, including right to know how tuition, fees and other charges are determined or justified, right to be informed about the number, type and amount of each fee charged, right to protection from the misuse of time, right to protection from policies which racially, ethnically, or socioeconomically segregate, Right to fair grading in accordance with the course syllabus, right to a student centered educational environment, right to free educational and professional guidance, counseling, tutoring and monitoring for subsidized students, right to information on criteria used to evaluate the quality of academic classes and programs. So, if there are any more of the suggestions on what else can be included in the list!!
- Larsson (1974) found that a student who completed degree requirements prescribed by an academic advisor was entitled to a degree on the basis that this was an implied contract. An advisor should, thus, be considered an official source of information. Brian Reed would like to work with both SAC and CAC around these policies. For this, they have asked 5 to 10 students to attend the next SAC meeting.
- **New business:** If there should be more representation of students on the SAC.

Administrative Committees

Campus Master Plan Advisory Committee: Tatiana Gladkikh

- Project 1. New building construction between Given and HSRF for labs and labs support spaces. This new construction will take away 90 parking spaces (the parking crossing the Beamont Ave.) One potential solution to the loss of parking is to take back parking spaces UVM currently leases to the Hospital.

- Project 2. Some minor changes to the Music Hall (Redstone Campus).
- Project 3. A plan for gaining 9 parking spaces by Torrey Hall
- Project 4. Some renovations with the Votey building
- Project 5. Renovations in Fleming museum, including reconstruction of the historic stairs from the pieces of the original stairs. Potentially, installing glass doors to provide the view of the interior from the outside.

Graduate Student Senate Committees

Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee: Brandon Ackley

- Discussed policies relating to committees, drafting proposed amendments.
- Met with Joey Campbell to discuss details of the constitution and clarify the interpretation of certain clauses.

Parking Committee: Bob Worley and Bharat Poudel

10/17/18

- Revised GSS Graduate Student Parking Committee Survey originally completed by Sakil.
- Sent survey to Jessica for distribution to graduate student body.

10/24/18

- Draft introductory email and request for meeting to UVM Parking Services
- Review results of GSS Parking Committee Survey.
 - 32 respondents
 - Most people drive (51.61%) followed by walking (35.48%)
 - 45% of respondents have a parking permit
 - Can you come by walking? (19 yes out of 32)
 - How satisfied with your commute to UVM are you? (5 = very and 1 = not very)
 - 5(9.38%) 4(34.5%) 3(31.25%) 2(18.75%) 1(3.13%)
 - 84% of people would drive if they could
 - 38.7% affected by parking permit radius
 - If carpooling was an option to get a parking spot 55% would not car pool/share

Maternity and Family Leave Action Committee: Molly Hurd and Kayla Johnson

- Meeting in preparation for November 5th Meeting with Dean Forehand to discuss points to be included in a parental and family policy.
- Possible Inclusions Discussed
 - 12 Weeks of Paid Parental and Family Leave for the care of a newborn, adopted child or relative with a debilitating condition.
 - Continuation of Access to Health Care-possibly through the use of a Continuing Education override for those wishing to take parental or family leave.
 - An extended timeline for graduating-so that students are not penalized for their leave. This extension would preferably be two years.
 - Preferential consideration for university sponsored childcare e.g. daycare services
 - Preferential parking (a green pass) for those with children under the age of four.

- An expansion of services for new mothers-namely the addition of breast feeding rooms to multiple buildings
- For Funded Grad Students: Eligibility for a 1-2-year part-time assistantship and Guarantee that student status and job status will be maintained while student is on leave and will be there when student returns from leave.
- Other Facets to be Discussed: Funding-possible government tax or redistribution of student fees or fringe benefits
- For more information please email Molly (mchurd@uvm.edu) or Kayla (Kayla.L.Johnson@uvm.edu)
- Next Meeting Set for November 12, 2018- Jeffords 325 @11am

Campus and Community Engagement Committee: Mara Hintz

- Rough Outline for Graduate Student Orientation → to discuss with Dean Forehand
 - Friday Night: Getting to know grads (downtown/karaoke)
 - Saturday: Scavenger Hunt Tour/Resource Fair Raffle
 - Sunday: Brunch with Grad College
- Grads Give Back Event Ideas
 - Pick one or two organizations
 - Weekend???- Animal Shelter Adoptions, Ronald McDonald House, King Street Center, Sarah Holbrook Center
 - Walkathons, Dance-athons
 - 2 Per Semester?

Student Fees Committee: Kevin Fischer and Avery Rasmussen

- Met with Richard Cate (VP of Finance) and Alberto Citarella (Director of Financial Analysis and Budgeting)
- Fees more transparent (including more specific breakdown) and accessible to graduate students → they agreed
- Addition of services relevant for graduate students (for example, Adobe software) → very open to the idea
- Committee will be working with relevant personnel to make addition to student financial services website