



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Graduate Student Senate Meeting of the Whole October 18th, 2019

39 People in Attendance

Executive Council Attendees: Jessica Bocanegra, Avery Rasmussen, Aayudh Das

Senator attendees and clubs that had a representative present can be found in [Appendix 1](#) at end of this document.

Minutes were recorded by Jessica Bocanegra.

Attendance was taken via sign-in sheet.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Avery Rasmussen at 4:06 pm

Previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously as electronically distributed.

Executive Board Updates

Vice President: Avery Rasmussen

Discussed the results of the campus climate survey (CSS).

- **13.2 %** of graduate students' respondents (N = 255) reported being somewhat or very ***dissatisfied with their non-academic experience at UVM***
- **10.9 %** graduate student respondents (N = 255) reported being somewhat or very ***dissatisfied with their social life experience at UVM***
- **10.9 %** of master's candidate respondents (N = 174) reported somewhat or strongly ***disagreeing that they can safely express themselves at UVM with regard to their cultural identity***
- **13.4 %** of graduate student respondents (N=145) reported somewhat or strongly ***disagreeing that they can safely express themselves at UVM with regard to their disability***
- **29 %** of graduate student respondents (N = 181) reported ***NOT being confident that they could easily find the answer, if they had a question regarding a disability or requesting an accommodation***
- **21.9 %** of graduate students respondents (N = 266) reported somewhat or strongly ***disagreeing that UVM provides the resources they need in order to thrive in a diverse environment***
- **46.5 %** of graduate student respondents (N = 210) reported ***NOT being aware of the protocol for reporting a bias incident at UVM***
- **69.6 %** of graduate student respondents (255) reported ***experiencing bias in their time at UVM*** (33 % Seldom, 25.6 % Occasionally, 10.9 % Regularly)
 - **61%** of graduate student respondents reported another student as the source of the bias they experienced
 - **46.9 %** of graduate student respondents reported a faculty member as the source of the bias they experienced
- **21.9 %** of graduate student respondents (N = 206) reported ***feeling somewhat or very unsafe in the community surrounding UVM at nighttime***

GSS plans on utilizing the CCS data for the first GSS Inclusive Excellence Action Plan.

GSS will be holding a public forum:

GSS Public Forum

- November 7th, 5-7pm, Davis Center Mildred Livak Ballroom

- Goal: Gauge graduate student perspectives on what should be the top priorities for the GSS Inclusive Excellence Action Plan

Member-At-Large Grads Give Back (GGB) Coordinator: Michell DiPinto

Discussed GGB program and asked for suggestions on events. Asked to form small committee.

Suggestions were made;

- Vans for community service events
- Keeping people with mobility issues in mind

President Jessica added that senators need to attend one GGB event during the academic year to count towards attendance at the end of the year banquet.

Committee Updates

Student Mental Health Promotion Committee: Brandon Ackley (Chair) & Mickey Schuster (Vice Chair)

- **Short term goal:** Spread awareness of existing CAPS resources available to graduate students, determine graduate student participation in Swipe Out Hunger, develop survey for graduate students to gauge need in student body.
- **Long term goal:** Develop workshops (in conjunction with CAPS) based on needs identified in the survey, as well as to spread awareness of mental illness, and to assist SGA in implementing a student Food Bank.
- They are *looking for feedback on the questionnaire*, please direct feedback to backley@uvm.edu or Michaela.Schuster@uvm.edu. The draft of the questionnaire can be found at: <https://forms.gle/R7bwK3yTqhD3dc267>

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI): Rosie Chapina (Chair) & Baxter Worthing (Vice Chair)

- Promote the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion in GSS and in our departments.
- Ensure that all students feel included in the UVM committee.
- Work with administration on DEI trainings for TA's.
- Organize some events such as speakers, workshops, and social gatherings (all related to DEI).
- Maintain last year's connections with identity groups on campus

- Identify challenges and strengths in achieving DEI goals; and make recommendations to the President regarding ways to achieve DEI goals.

Housing Committee Updates - Alexander Daniels (Chair)

- The Community vs University Dialogue
- What does the university say?
 - Community Relations: Lisa Kingsbury (ex)
- What does the community say?
 - SGA (combining forces)
 - City Council
 - The 60/40 Issue
- **Action:** Responsibly voice facts in key venues.
- **Future:** Meet and unify with others on our team VIA, SGA, Tenants Union, Senator Debbie Ingram (director of VIA), City Council.
[\(https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CityCouncil/\)](https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CityCouncil/)
- (Monday evening Nov 4th or 11th)
- Availability: 6pm/7pm Nov 11th

Club Recognitions

Renewal

Material Research Society (MRS)

- There was a motion and a second to open the floor for discussion.
- GSS treasurer Aayudh Das made a statement about settled financial deficits
- Renewal approved unanimously.

Diwali 2019 – Indian Student Association (ISA)

- Overview was given by ISA representatives.
- It will take place on October 27th, 2019 at 5:00pm in Grand Maple Ballroom in the Davis Center.
- There was a motion and a second to open the floor for discussion. Senate unanimously approved ISA's funding request of \$800 support to Diwali for subsidized graduate student tickets.

- Tickets are available at the UVM bookstore or through ticket.uvm.edu.

New Business

1. President Jessica mentioned the new format for the Board of Trustees meeting which will include a Q & A panel with the Governance Leaders.
 - Topic will be “How does your group contribute to the student experience and/or student success?”
 - Committee of the Whole will be Oct. 25th at 8am in Silver Maple Ballroom in the Davis Center.

2. Brandon Ackley presented proposed changes and additions to the bylaws.

Constitution Update Article VI Section A Clause 3

- Current:

The standing members of the Executive Council may appoint up to two (2) Members-At-Large to the Executive Council at the nomination of the President and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate

- Proposed:

The standing members of the Executive Council may appoint up to two (2) Members-At-Large to the Executive Council as specified in the Bylaws.

- Why:

Operational details belong in the Bylaws, not the Constitution

Bylaws addition Article III Section A Clause 2

- Current:

N/A

- Proposed:

Clause 2: The President may nominate up to two (2) Members-At-Large to the Executive Council. The Members-At-Large must be approved by the Senate with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

- Why:

Moved this information from Constitution to Bylaws.

Bylaws addition Article III Section G

- Current:

N/A

- Proposed:

Section G – Member-At-Large

Clause 1 – The Member-At-Large (MAL) shall be responsible for the duty which was given to them as identified by the President and approved by the Senate as outlined in Bylaws Article III Section A Clause 2.

Clause 2 – The MAL is a non-voting member of the Executive Council, yet retains the right to vote in Senate if the MAL is an elected Senator. Being appointed a MAL does not grant the right to vote in Senate.

Clause 3 – The MAL is not required to attend all Executive Council meetings, yet must be present at said meetings when requested by the Executive Council.

- Why:

To structure the MAL position.

3. There was a request for slides to be sent out before senate meetings. If the committee chairs can submit notes a little earlier, then Vice President Avery can send out the slides sooner.
 - Committee chairs agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.

Appendix 1 - Senator Attendees

#	Name	Last Name	Department
1	Brandon	Ackley	Chemistry
2	Mara	Hintz	History
3	Bijay	KC	CEE
4	Robert	Worley	CEE
5	Lindsay	Worley	CEE
6	Marcus	Weinman	CMB
7	Gepy	Bernstein	Biomedical Engineering
8	Michelle	DiPinto	Chemistry
9	Erin	Cullen	Neuroscience
10	Bharat	Proudel	Material Science
11	Madeline	Hunter	History
12	Scott	Vanson	CMB
13	Alexander	Daniels	Complex Systems
14	Ibne Farabi	Shibab	Computer Science
15	Amelia	Trello	Public Health
16	Rodrigo	Penide Fernandez	Mechanical Engineering
17	Aarzo	Grover	Chemistry
18	Ashma	Chakrawarti	Animal, Nutrition and Food Sciences
19	Bishwash	Trakuri	Chemistry
20	Jeffrey	Adams	English
21	Andy	Klem	EBE
22	Anika	Gillwald	English
23	Baxter	Worthing	Plant Biology
24	Joy	Solomon	Special Education

25	Rosy	Neale	NFS
26	Kirtika	Chatri	Pharmacology
27	Jennifer	Chamberlin	Nursing Practice
28	Trevor	Wolf	CMB
29	John	Coffin	Social Work
30	Ceres	Rafiq	MATS
31	Sandra	Nnadi	Plant Biology
32	Naomi	Cunningham	CDAE
33	Anoob	Prakash	Plant Biology
34	Montana	Lara	Neuroscience
35	Nicholas	Adler	English
36	Jessa	Murphy-Gibbons	Accounting

Clubs with a representative present: CMC, EGSA, GNA, ISA, NSA, MRS, Women in Stem.