



# THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

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

28 People in Attendance

**Executive Council Attendees:** Jessica Bocanegra, Avery Rasmussen, Aayudh Das, Kevin Fischer, Berke Tinaz

Attendance was taken via sign-in sheet.

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

Minutes were recorded by Berke Tinaz.

*Meeting was called to order by Vice President Avery Rasmussen at 10:05 AM.*

Previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously as electronically distributed.

### Constitution and Bylaws Revisions

#### Constitution Update Article VI Section A Clause 3Current:

There was a motion to open the floor to discuss the following change to the constitution.

#### 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.

There was a motion to approve and it was approved unanimously.

### Bylaws addition Article III Section A Clause 2

There was a motion to open the floor to discuss the following change to bylaws.

### 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.

There was a motion to approve and it was approved unanimously.

### Bylaws addition Article III Section G

There was a motion to open the floor to discuss the following change to bylaws.

### 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

There was a motion to approve and it was approved unanimously.

## Executive Board Updates

### President: Jessica Bocanegra

#### Meeting with Graduate College

GSS President and Vice President had their regular meeting with the Graduate College.

Graduate College wants to collaborate with GSS to host different workshops and trainings throughout the year on how to identify and report bias incidents, students of concern, and sexual harassment. They'd work closely with Assistantship Support Committee and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Graduate College wants to collaborate with GSS to provide campus-tour videos for graduate students along with other resource-related videos as part of an orientation package. They'd work closely with the Graduate Student Life Committee.

#### Email from Dean of Students – Reporting a Concern

There is now one webpage for incident reporting! This link can also be found under resources on the GSS website. [https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents/student\\_advocacy](https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents/student_advocacy)

#### Parental Leave Policies for Graduate Students

Dean Forehand presented a set of policies to the rest of the graduate faculty at their November meeting.

### Vice President: Avery Rasmussen

#### Public Forum Recap

Vice President gave a recap of the open forum and the issues that were raised.

#### Nominations are now open for the President's Commission on Inclusive Excellence (PCIE)

Forms due to Paul Yoon by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

You can learn more at [go.uvm.edu/pcie](http://go.uvm.edu/pcie).

### Secretary: Berke Tinaz

#### Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee - Navigate

Secretary gave an update on the new advising platform and talked about the concerns that were raised over the semester by the faculty and undergraduate students. He also discussed the changes that was made to it and about the future of it.

#### GSS Pawbook

Secretary talked about the Pawbook. It has a lot of issues and needs to be updated. He discussed the next steps and received feedback/ideas from the senators. He will be working with the committees to update it. Goal is to update it with the hopes that it will be sent out to the 2020-2021 incoming first-year graduate student class.

### Treasurer Updates: Aayudh Das

#### Board of Trustees Audit Committee

Treasurer presented the updates from the committee and discussed the financial position for the fiscal year 2019.

## Grads Give Back (GGB) Updates

People who are interested in joining the GGB committee can contact Michelle DiPinto at [mdipinto@uvm.edu](mailto:mdipinto@uvm.edu). President went over the GFB opportunities.

## South Burlington Food Shelf: Volunteer Opportunities for individuals and small groups

- November 25th from 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM (4-5 people at a time).
- November 26th from 7:45 AM - 10:00 AM (4-5 people at a time).
- Wednesdays are restocking days. (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM).
- Contact Peter Carmolli for more information at [peter.carmolli@gmail.com](mailto:peter.carmolli@gmail.com).

## Barre Sort-a-thon

- Pack and sort boxes of food for older adults throughout the state!
- December 7th from 8:00 AM -12:00 PM.
- Van will leave UVM at 7:15 AM.
- Contact Michelle DiPinto at [Mdipinto@uvm.edu](mailto:Mdipinto@uvm.edu) to sign up!

## All Breeds Dog Walking

What better way to give back by dog walking to get some fresh air on Friday's (11-12)! If this sounds interesting to you and all you need is a ride, please fill out the application at [allbreeddogrescuevt.org/volunteer/](http://allbreeddogrescuevt.org/volunteer/), complete a 1-hour training and contact fellow grad student, Naomi at [Naomi.Cunningham@uvm.edu](mailto:Naomi.Cunningham@uvm.edu) to catch a ride, good conversation and lots of dog time on your future Fridays!

## Committee Updates

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Updates - Rosie Chapina (Chair)

#### Event: Multicultural Night

- When: Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM.
- Where: Jost Foundation Room - Davis Center.

### Parking and Transportation Committee Updates - Rosie Chapina (Chair)

Committee met with Mary Provost on October 29<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed that if UVM is planning on reducing parking availability, they must improve transportation services.

There is flexibility with the graduate student single use parking pass program.

UVM pays Green Mountain Transit a fair amount every year, yet UVM does not have a representative serving in the GMT board/committee.

There will be another meeting with Mary Provost and Jim Barr.

### Food Insecurity Working Group - Aarzo Grover

Email Aarzo Grover at [agrover@uvm.edu](mailto:agrover@uvm.edu) with any questions.

### Swipe Out Hunger Program (SOH)

There is a volunteer opportunity to collect meal swipes on December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Central Campus Dining Hall. Meals collected will be distributed to students in need.

Volunteers receive a free meal in the dining hall! Sign up to volunteer

at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BGOJbMEkbj849hFhEFNbpsTRxSyJSYKPsDLCsBD3xaE/edit#gid=0>.

Learn more about food insecurity at UVM: <https://www.uvm.edu/health/food-insecurity-uvm>

### Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) WARMTH Support Program

It is to help neighbors keep the heat on this winter.

#### *Additional Resources:*

- Energy Assistance: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/eap>
- Fuel Assistance: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/fuel-assistance>
- Crisis Fuel Assistance: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/crisis-fuel>
- Emergency/General Assistance: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/EA-GA>
  - Helps individuals and families meet their emergency basic needs, including:
    - Personal needs and incidentals.
    - Housing (e.g., mortgage, rent, room rent, temporary housing).
    - Fuel & utilities.
    - Medical, dental, prescriptions, medical supplies/equipment.
    - Burial cost.
- For students with children: Child Care Financial Assistance Program: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap>

### New Business – Professional Development Events (PDE) Survey

President will be sending out a survey about PDEs in order to get feedback and ideas from the senators to improve them.

*Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.*

## Appendix 1 - Senator Attendees

#	Name	Last Name	Department
1	Bijay	KC	CEE
2	Robert	Worley	CEE
3	Lindsay	Worley	CEE
4	Marcus	Weinman	CMB
5	Gepy	Bernstein	Biomedical Engineering
6	Erin	Cullen	Neuroscience
7	Scott	Vanson	CMB
8	Alexander	Daniels	Complex Systems
9	Ibne Farabi	Shibab	Computer Science
10	Rodrigo	Penide Fernandez	Mechanical Engineering
11	Bishwash	Trakuri	Chemistry
12	Jeffrey	Adams	English
13	Andy	Klem	EBE
14	Anika	Gillwald	English
15	Baxter	Worthing	Plant Biology
16	Ceres	Rafiq	MATS
17	Sandra	Nnadi	Plant Biology
18	Molly	Hurd	Pharmacology
19	Nawaf	Nazir	Electrical Engineering
20	Mathieu	Bergeron	History
21	Rosie	Chapina	Natural Resources
22	Fonda	Heenehan	Higher Education and Student Affairs
23	Rosy	Neale	NFS

**Clubs with a representative present:** EGSA, NSA, Women in Stem.