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

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 1st.
You can learn more at 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. 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.

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 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/, complete a 1-hour training and contact fellow grad student, Naomi at 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 5th 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 29th. 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 - Aarzoo Grover
Email Aarzoo Grover at agrover@uvm.edu with any questions.
Swipe Out Hunger Program (SOH)
There is a volunteer opportunity to collect meal swipes on December 3rd or 4th 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/1BGOJbMEkbi849hFhEFNbpsTRxSyJSYKPsDLCsBD3xaE/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
  - 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bijay</td>
<td>KC</td>
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<td>Robert</td>
<td>Worley</td>
<td>CEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lindsay</td>
<td>Worley</td>
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<td>Weinman</td>
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<td>Bernstein</td>
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<td>Cullen</td>
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<td>Daniels</td>
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<td>Ibne Farabi</td>
<td>Shibab</td>
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<td>Rodrigo</td>
<td>Penide Fernandez</td>
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<td>Bishwash</td>
<td>Trakuri</td>
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<td>Heenehan</td>
<td>Higher Education and Student Affairs</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Rosy</td>
<td>Neale</td>
<td>NFS</td>
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Clubs with a representative present: EGSA, NSA, Women in Stem.