



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Graduate Student Senate Meeting of the Whole December 6th, 2019

32 People in Attendance

Executive Council Attendees: Jessica Bocanegra, 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 President Jessica Bocanegra at 4:06 PM.

Previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously as electronically distributed.

Simon Ananou – Chief Information Officer

Simon Ananou talked about “Framing the 2020 Vision for the Use of Information Technology to Advance the Mission of UVM 2018-2023”. He also talked about the strategic imperatives which are;

1. Help develop the Teaching & Learning Environment of the Future
2. Support Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities
3. Support and Improve Administrative Processes

4. Promote Information Security and Protection of Digital Assets
5. Improve Operational Efficiencies
6. Enable the Oneness of IT at UVM

Executive Board Updates

President: [Jessica Bocanegra](#)

General Updates

GSS President sent out memo with GSS Action Plan.

GSS President met with Christa Hagan-Howe, Diversity Educator in HR. There will be a three-part workshop/training for bias incident identifying and reporting in Spring 2020.

President Garimella and Provost Prelock are launching a national search for the next Dean of CNHS. GSS nominated one graduate student from a program within in CNHS as stated in the University Manual and requested by Provost Prelock.

GSS President suggested “Imposter Syndrome/Funny Grad School Stories Professors’ Panel” as a Spring 2020 GSS event. Nominations of a professor can be sent to her at jbocaneg@uvm.edu. This will be a part of Graduate/Professional Student Appreciation Week between April 6th – 10th 2020.

Parental Leave Policies for Graduate Students

The draft policies have made their way up to Provost Prelock. They are under review. If approved, a finalized version of the policies will be created and released to the public.

Additionally, Staff Council has announced that two new nursing mothers’ pods will be appearing on campus along with updates to existing pods are underway.

GSS Spring 2020 Schedule

GSS Winter Retreat will be on Saturday, February 8th, 2020 in the Livak Ballroom. There will be workshops and dedicated committee time.

Senate will meet in the following dates in the Sugar Maple Ballroom:

- Wednesday, January 15th, 2020 at 4:30pm
- Wednesday, February 12th, 2020 at 4:30pm
- Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 at 4:30pm
- Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020 at 4:30pm

If there are any spring 2020 Open Forum ideas, they can be emailed to Vice President Avery at aerasmus@uvm.edu.

Secretary: [Berke Tinaz](#)

Board of Trustees Educational Policies and Institutional Resources (EPIR) Meeting

Highest retention and graduation rates for undergraduates were recorded in 2019. Lots of discussion surrounding if these are still the right metrics to be pursuing.

Courses are being developed in the “**non-credit**” **space** to diversify revenue streams by providing skills that can aid in professional development (data analysis, remote sensing, others)

Progress towards Risk #15: Student Mental Health Needs was discussed.

- Growth in demand outpaces growth in enrollment. 28% increase in demand for services to only 5% growth in enrollment.
- CAPS is responding by adding counselors, adding staff in identity centers, expanding drop-in opportunities, offering more group counselling options, offering evening counseling hours on Redstone Campus (designed with graduate students in mind), and increasing education for “mental health first aid”.

NECHE (New England Commission for Higher Education) self-study for accreditation was a great tool to inform academic progress. In some cases, was the first time programs had been evaluated according to their strategic plans.

New Club Recognition – UVM SACNAS (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science) Chapter

There was a motion to vote to recognize UVM SACNAS and a second for the vote. It was approved with 25 yes, 0 no and 1 abstention.

Committee Updates

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

Multicultural Night was success.

Parking and Transportation Committee Updates - Rosie Chapina (Chair)

Committee met with Mary Provost and Jim Barr

Graduate Student Single Pass Parking Program will begin in spring semester as a pilot program. It will be 10 daily parking passes for Spring and Fall Semesters. It will be unlimited daily parking permits during the summer. Students will be parking at the Gutterson Garage parking lot on designated levels. Senate voted to support it unanimously.

UVM pays Green Mountain Transit between \$350,000 - \$380,000 every year. However, UVM does not have a representative serving in the GMT board/committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Appendix 1 - Senator Attendees

#	Name	Last Name	Department
1	Robert	Worley	CEE
2	Lindsay	Worley	CEE
3	Marcus	Weinman	CMB
4	Gepy	Bernstein	Biomedical Engineering
5	Erin	Cullen	Neuroscience
6	Scott	Vanson	CMB
7	Alexander	Daniels	Complex Systems
8	Rodrigo	Penide Fernandez	Mechanical Engineering
9	Jeffrey	Adams	English
10	Andy	Klem	EBE
11	Anika	Gillwald	English
12	Baxter	Worthing	Plant Biology
13	Sandra	Nnadi	Plant Biology
14	Molly	Hurd	Pharmacology
15	Rosie	Chapina	Natural Resources
16	Fonda	Heenehan	Higher Education and Student Affairs
17	Rosy	Neale	NFS
18	Jennifer	Chamberlin	Nursing Practice
19	Mara	Hintz	History
20	Naomi	Cunningham	CDAE
21	Roberta	Molokandov	CDAE
22	Scott	Vanson	CMB
23	Nicholas	Adler	English
24	Joy	Solomon	Special Education

25	Jessa	Murphy-Gibbons	Accounting
26	Montana	Lara	Neuroscience
27	Anoob	Prakash	Plant Biology

Clubs with a representative present: Women in Stem, GNA, EGSA, CMC