



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Graduate Student Senate Meeting of the Whole February 12th, 2020

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 4:32pm.

Previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously as electronically distributed.

Executive Board Updates

President: Jessica Bocanegra

General Updates

There is a need for a graduate student representative to serve on the Student Research Conference Committee.

Grand opening of Rally Cat's Cupboard was on February 24th at 4:30pm in Hills 016.

Election Committee

Election Committee has been selected: Andy Klem and Fonda Heenehan.

Chief of Police Interview

Interim chief of police Tim Bilodeau interviewed for Chief of Police on Feb 18th and GSS representatives met with him.

Pawbook

Pawbook update has a timeline.

Pawbook Updates Timeline

- **End of February** - Each committee submits an outline to Jessica Bocanegra with what their committees would like to include in the Pawbook.
- **End of March** - Rough draft of 1-3 pages with relevant information from each committee to include in the Pawbook.
- **Beginning of April** – Executive council puts together the first draft of the Pawbook in its entirety for the senate to review.
- **End of April** - Final draft is sent to the Graduate College for review.
- **May** - Pawbook is posted on the GSS website and sent out to current and new grad students.

Vice President: Avery Rasmussen

GSS Events

GSS Winter retreat took place on Saturday, February 22nd in Davis Center

GSS Public Forum will take place on Monday, March 2nd between 4:00-6:00pm in the Davis Center in Sugar Maple Ballroom.

Bryn Geffert – Dean of Libraries

Dean Geffert talked about UVM's subscription contract for ScienceDirect with the publishing company Elsevier. He explained the cost issues.

Grads Give Back (GGB) Updates – Michelle DiPinto

Spring 2020

Are you a UVM Grad Student? Do you give back? This semester we are changing the GSS Grads Give Back program so you can show us what you do to give back! How? Take a photo of you and at least one other graduate student when you are giving back! Then submit the photo, the name of the location you volunteered at in addition to what you did (quantifiables and all) to <mailto:gss@uvm.edu>. With every volunteer activity you document you will receive an entry to win some cool gear at the end of the semester! When? Now through May 2nd, 2020 (Earn those City Market hours while also getting credit in the Grad student realm!).

Upcoming Opportunities to Give Back

Events you can sign up for with a larger group:

Vermont Food Bank Sort-a-thon: April 18th. 6 spots available. Sign up by contacting <mailto:mdipinto@uvm.edu>. Ride will be provided from the Davis Center.

Events you can sign up for on your own:

Rally Cat's Cupboard: Sign up via the [Rallycat's Cupboard Sign up link](#).

All Breeds Rescue: Fridays 11am-12pm.

Committee Updates

Graduate Student Engagement Committee – Marcus Weinman (Chair)

Committee developed survey for newsletter/website, pending E-board approval, to facilitate GSS awareness and outreach.

Committee is refining student spotlight idea, pending E-board approval.

Committee is working to identify departments without GSS representation.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee – Rosie Chapina (Chair)

Committee has set goals for Spring 2020 semester:

- 1) Co-facilitate an event/workshop that focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion with a program coordinator (e.g., Mosaic Center, UVM Women's Center).
- 2) Do a diversity Survey.
- 3) Create a diversity tab/section for the GSS website.

Parking and Transportation Committee – Rosie Chapina (Chair)

Graduate student parking pilot program is up and running.

Communications Director Kevin has met with the Mobility Safety Committee/

A meeting will be hosted by Transportation and Parking Services where updates will be shared with the public.

Senators are highly encouraged to attend this meeting.

Representative updates

Board of Trustees, Educational Policy & Institutional Resources (EPIR)

Committee Updates Kenna Rewcastle, (Representative)

Provost is launching an initiative to review and revise the Academic Success Goals with three main priority areas: student access and success, research profile, land grant mission; as part of this, seeking to double research revenue (currently \$140 million annually) and achieve R1 status.

Many departments, with the help of the Faculty Senate, are beginning the process of terminating programs (undergraduate majors and minors) that have had no enrollment for several years; resolution under consideration to create a "de-active" status for programs that want to pause enrollment while they reinvent programs as opposed to eliminating programs entirely.

New Club Recognition – UVM Department of Physical Therapy Club

There was a motion to vote to recognize UVM Department of Physical Therapy Club and a second for the vote. It was approved with 17 yes, 2 no and 0 abstention.

New Business – Divestment Resolution

Resolution was sponsored by senator Rosie Chapina and read by Rigo Melgar-Melgar. It can be found in the [divestment resolution link](#).

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Appendix 1 - Senator Attendees

#	Name	Last Name	Department
1	Roberta	Molokandov	CDAE
2	Christopher	Halsted	Natural Resources
3	Marcus	Weinman	CMB
4	Gepy	Bernstein	Biomedical Engineering
5	Erin	Cullen	Neuroscience
6	Scott	Vanson	CMB
7	Bijay	K C	CEE
8	Rodrigo	Penide Fernandez	Mechanical Engineering
9	Jennifer	Chamberlin	Nursing Practice
10	Andy	Klem	EBE
11	Michael	Hoaglund	Medical Science
12	Baxter	Worthing	Plant Biology
13	Amelia	Trello	Public Health
14	Biswash	Thakuri	Chemistry
15	Ashma	Chakrawarti	Animal, Nutrition and Food Sciences
16	Suraj	Bhattarai	Animal, Nutrition and Food Sciences
17	Sandra	Nnadi	Plant Biology
18	Ibne Farabi	Shihab	Computer Science
19	Naomi	Cunningham	CDAE
20	Lauren	Bass	SIMBA
21	Joy	Solomon	Special Edication
22	Montana	Lara	Neuroscience
23	Rosie	Chapina	Natural Resources

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