



# THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

## Graduate Student Senate Meeting of the Whole March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

26 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 4:39pm.*

Previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously as electronically distributed.

### Executive Board Updates

President: Jessica Bocanegra

Executive Board Call for Nominations

Executive Board Call for Nominations will go out March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Elections will take place April 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

If you are considering nominating yourself for a position, you should seriously consider reaching out to the current e-board member in that position to find out what the position entails aside from what is listed in our bylaws

### [Pawbook updates](#)

Thank you to the committee chairs for submitting your Pawbook revamp outlines.

First draft of the sections is due at the end of March.

### [Vice President: Avery Rasmussen](#)

#### [General Updates](#)

Vice President Avery Rasmussen recapped the GSS open forum held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There will be a new senator orientation guide. Input can be provided using the [New Senator Orientation Guide link](#).

### [Communications Director: Kevin Fischer](#)

#### [Graduate Student Spotlight](#)

Spotlight seeks to showcase not only the hard work that UVM's graduate students do every day, but also to highlight the more human side of being in grad school. This spotlight would consist of a 30-minute sit-down interview with the Student Engagement Committee to help us get to know the graduate student community better. We'd be interested in knowing things such as:

- What department/lab are you in?
- What type of work are you doing in grad school? (Elevator Pitch)
- What motivated you to enroll in grad school in the first place?
- What are the tough parts of being in graduate school?
- Where do you see your career heading?
- Do you have advice for anyone considering graduate school?
- Other stuff that naturally comes up during the interview.

### [Treasurer: Aayudh Das](#)

#### [Board of Trustees: Audit Committee Updates](#)

Treasurer gave updates from the previous Audit Committee.

### [Grads Give Back \(GGB\) Updates – Michelle DiPinto](#)

#### [Rally Cat's Cupboard](#)

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

## Committee Updates

### Graduate Student Life Committee – Andy Klem (Chair)

New committee chair is Andy Klem since previous Chair and Vice Chair had to step down. Committee is welcoming new members if anyone wants to join and they can reach out to [andrew.klem@uvm.edu](mailto:andrew.klem@uvm.edu).

Future goals include assisting the executive committee with planning of future social events and contributing to the Pawbook.

### Student Research Conference Committee Updates – Mike Hoaglund (Representative)

Committee met with UVM Office of Fellowships, Opportunities, and Undergraduate Research.

Deadline to sign up for the conference is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Please share with graduate students doing research. There are no limitations on the type of research.

We need 5 moderators. Duties include making sure small room presentations run smoothly, proctoring Q&A sessions after a presentation and being available to help the day off. Benefits include free t-shirt, free lunch and learning about research going on at UVM. Commitment is about 2-3 hours on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. If interested, please contact [michael.hoaglund@uvm.edu](mailto:michael.hoaglund@uvm.edu).

### Compensation and Benefits Committee Updates – Jaspreet Singh Nagi (Chair)

Committee needs approval on Stipend Survey results document from the executive committee and the senate. Document can be found on the [Stipend Survey results link](#). Once it is approved, the document can be shared with the Graduate College.

### Assistantship Support Committee – Jaspreet Singh Nagi (Chair)

Committee needs suggestions and approval for the TA survey. Survey can be found on the [TA survey link](#).

## Board of Trustees Updates – Berke Tinaz (Trustee)

Trustee Berke Tinaz pointed out a resolution that the UVM Board of Trustees recently passed forming a Sustainability Work Group.

## Divestment Resolution

Senate discussed the [divestment resolution](#). There was a motion to vote and a second. Senate has passed the resolution with 17 yes, 1 no and 2 abstentions.

*Meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.*

## Appendix 1 - Senator Attendees

#	Name	Last Name	Department
1	Christopher	Halsted	Natural Resources
2	Gepy	Bernstein	Biomedical Engineering
3	Erin	Cullen	Neuroscience
4	Bijay	K C	CEE
5	Rodrigo	Penide Fernandez	Mechanical Engineering
6	Jennifer	Chamberlin	Nursing Practice
7	Michael	Hoaglund	Medical Science
8	Biswash	Thakuri	Chemistry
9	Lindsay	Worley	CEE
10	Ibne Farabi	Shihab	Computer Science
11	Naomi	Cunningham	CDAE
12	Baxter	Worthing	Plant Biology
13	Joy	Solomon	Special Edication
14	Anoob	Prakash	Plant Biology
15	Rosie	Chapina	Natural Resources
16	Alexander	Daniels	Complex Systems
17	Andy	Klem	EBE
18	Nawaf	Nazir	Electrical Engineering
19	Jaspreet	Nagi	Biomedical Engineering
20	Aarzo	Grover	Chemistry
21	Sanish	Paramadam	Material Science

**Clubs with a representative present:** NSA, GNA, CMC, ISA, RGSA, OSTEM, Women in Stem