THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Graduate Student Senate

Meeting of the Whole

December 3rd, 2020

35 People in attendance

Executive Council Attendees: Aayudh Das, Jaspreet Nagi, Michael Hoaglund and Rosie Chapina

Attendance was taken via online participation.

Senator attendees and clubs that had a representative present can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

Minutes were recorded by Michael Hoaglund.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Aayudh Das at 4:30pm.

Minutes from the last Senate Meeting on November 16th, 2020, were approved unanimously and will be released on GSS website.

Executive Board Updates:

Vice President: Aayudh Das

- Academic Reorganization
- Senator Calls for Spring
- Speakers for Spring semester
- Event suggestions for Spring semester

Reach out to me at aadas@uvm.edu

Communications Director: Rosie Chapina

- GSS Video showcasing senators and E-board
- Please submit a picture of yourself and short "fun" bio to rchapina@uvm.edu
- 4 senators have submitted a pic/bio

Committee Updates:

Parking and Transportation Committee (Colin Giles)

- Met with Jim Barr from Transportation and Parking Services about:
  - Shuttle and bus service over winter break
  - Parking enforcement over winter break
    - Note: Campus will be closed December 19th – January 3rd and so there will be no parking enforcement during those times.
  - The short term temporary parking permits (i.e., the $2/day parking permits available to everyone)

Housing Committee (Mohamed Khalife)

- Complete lack of cooperation from UVM's administration
- The administration has no plan for Graduate housing
- We are working on a survey that will be shared with GSS before sending it out to graduate students
- We plan to meet with the international office in setting up a group of students that can assist newly accepted students with housing
- We plan to participate in the City Council meeting to discuss housing issues
- Transitional 7-day housing for incoming graduate students coming to campus for the first time

Club Recognitions:

Renewals-

EGSA- renewal approved unanimously.

Discussion with Ron E. Lumbra:

Ron E. Lumbra, Chair, Board of Trustees

Opening Remarks

- Explained function of the UVM Board of Trustees
  - Governance and "to look around corners"
- Discussion of who makes up the UVM Board of Trustees
- Talked about UVM's land grant mission

Q & A with Students

- Example of Question Asked:
  "The current minimum graduate student stipend at UVM is thousands of dollars less than what is considered a "living wage", meaning it does not cover the most basic cost of living in the

Burlington area. In fact, stipends are so low at UVM that the average graduate stipend is below a living wage. The consequences of this are quite grim. For instance, 20% of graduate students at UVM report experiencing food insecurity. With this in mind, my two questions are:
1) Do you feel that it is ethical and responsible for UVM to deny its graduate students a living wage?
2) Why do you think compensation for graduate students at UVM remains insufficient and uncompetitive?"

Lead to Discussion About:

- How low graduate student stipends are compared to the National Average
- The lack of transparency of student fees coming out of graduate student stipends before enrolling at UVM
- Graduate Student housing and how the University sold off multiple Graduate Student Housing buildings in recent years
- The added barriers international students face at UVM i.e. they are left to fend for their own when they first arrive at UVM
- Talked about how these are all problems and how they should be addressed before expanding Graduate Student enrollment for the land grant mission

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.

Appendix 1 – Senator Attendees

#	Full Name	Programs
1	Andrew Nadeau	**Physical Therapy**
2	Marcus Weinman	**CMB**
3	Jayita Barua	**CMB**
4	Montana Lara	**Neuroscience**
6	Irfan Tahir	**Mechanical Engineering**
7	Kamruzzaman Khan	**Civil and Environmental Engineering**
8	Bijay K C	**Civil and Environmental Engineering**
9	Cameron Bauserman	**English**
10	Mohamad Rabieh Khalifeh Khalife	**Neuroscience**
11	Erin Mcbride	**Complex Systems and Data Science**
12	Mari Tomanelli	**Medical Laboratory Sciences**
13	Anna Lam	**Classics**
14	Crystal Hutchinson	**Counseling**
15	Berke Tinaz	**Plant Biology**
16	Anniey Michelson	**Nursing Practice**
17	Collin Mitchell	**Accountancy**
18	Alison Hall	**Biology**
19	Abigail Rec	**Natural Resources**
20	Liana Redmond	**Counseling**
21	Colin Giles	**Mathematics**
22	Jimmy Huynh	**Higher Education & Student Affairs**
23	Patrick Payne	**Public Health**

Clubs with a representative present: SACNAS, EGSA, CMC, NSA, Women in STEM, RGSA, DPT Club