



**12th Meeting of the 2022-2023 Student Government Association Senate**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Purple.

**Roll Call**

Senator Hogan and Senator Batyrshina not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously.

**Public Forum**

**Greg Genco** - Generation Conscious Zero Waste Hygiene Equity Program

- Founder of Generation Conscious. Background, I am first generation Trinidad and Chinese, grew up in Jamaica, Queens, in New York City. At the time in Jamaica, Queens, there were nine waste transfer facilities, and all the waste in the city went through these parts of NYC, which were some of the lowest-income black and brown communities. What was a cataclysmic moment for me in starting Generation Conscious was reading the previous IPCC report, which comes out every five years and extrapolates weather data and helps coastal communities prepares for rising water levels Many of my family members are at risk of displacement due to climate change, the same thing that is going

on in many countries in the equatorial region due to rising water levels. Most rich countries unfortunately don't have to bear the burden of their consumption. Started to really critically think about the system we are participating in. About 75% of material waste in the US comes from fast-moving consumer goods. For the most part, zero waste is eco-classist. If we wanted to actually eliminate waste, those products are about three to four times more expensive than what you would get at Dollar General or at Walmart. We wanted to create a solution that addresses this systemically, the accessibility, affordability, and equity issues around zero waste, and we developed these eco-stations.

- One of the most important things was intergenerational conversations with my mom and her friends, from Iran and India, and talking about liquid-less soap products created in Iran in 1978 during the revolution when there was no access to soap. The government imposed fat onto cellulose and cut and perforated them, so that three inches of post-it note sized soap would function with the same amount of washes as bar soap with 75% less volume. When you go to the store you see these huge containers filled with products, things like tide pods. Companies are continuing to utilize single-use plastic with bright colors and familiar labels to create an emotional connection with customers as they walk down the aisle. The idea of Generation Consciousness was how to infuse culture and design into an zero-waste product, that is predominantly designed, marketed, and priced at to middle class Americans to create a culture change around zero-waste, and around equity, and around waste.
- Today we have about 17 university partners, UVM is one of them, and when we install the eco-stations on campuses we hire about four to six first generation or low income students to maintain and service these eco-station, and pay them \$20 an hour. When

they've worked with us for a couple months we also give them an opportunity to launch their own self-directed fellowships that intersect with climate justice. Over the last 12 months we've paid 91 first generation students. Some examples of the self-directed fellowships, one group of students is creating a graphic climate sci-fi novel, and another group of students is creating an environmental justice magazine that flips the idea of celebrity culture and celebrates and tells stories of environmental justice advocates using vogue-type layouts and high design.

- The main reason why I am here is to give an overview of who we are and what we're doing, and also to let you know that for your eco-station in the Davis Center, we have actually paid for over 300 students to get access to these stations. We need help marketing this program so that all students can utilize this machine. It's about \$10 for a subscription, and it's about 15% cheaper than tide pods from Amazon. In most of our other schools it's actually free for our students to access.
- After this I would like to have a conversation with the student government about expanding this service outside of the Davis center. Thank you for having me.

**Senator Boudreau:** Thank you for coming in. Do we know how many students of the 300 who get it for free have used this, or how many in general have used this? How well is it being utilized right now?

- **Greg Genco:** The memberships will launch in the spring, so they haven't used them yet. As of right now, about 10,000 of the 15,000 sheets have been utilized. Starting in the spring semester we will start a new platform where students start an account, either a free account or a membership, and then we will have more specific data on the amount of students utilizing the service.

**Senator Jones:** I was wondering about the accessibility of the service in the Davis center right now.

- **Greg Genco:** Currently the machine is in the Davis Center and all you have to do is tap the screen. One of the things we will start in the spring is having new software that will tell students the available inventory. The student center is really just meant for students who live off campus, and we will work to get the eco-stations in the residential halls at some point. We could also collaborate on some social media posts to raise awareness about the service.

**Senator Carpenter:** Has there been any consideration about putting it in the dorms? Has that conversation been started?

- **Greg Genco:** The conversation about putting it in the dorms would revolve around putting it in the first year dorms where students are just building those habits.
- **Caylin McCamp:** It's just funding that is the gap there. This is the pilot year in the Davis Center, and we will be monitoring to see how well utilized it is this year. The ideal situation would be having it in the residential halls, probably in the bigger ones first. If this is successful we will roll things out in that way.

**Caylin McCamp - Campus Sustainability Fund**

- Caylin, Sustainable Projects Manager in the Office of Sustainability. I am here to tell you about the sustainable campus fund. Does anyone want to take stab at explaining what it is?
  - **Senator Smith:** My understanding is that you use your fund to help support student organized sustainable projects around campus.

- That is primarily it. Two quickie announcements; our office runs the EcoReps program, and we are hiring next semester, so please spread the word. There is also a new carpooling resource on campus, it is on Teams. It replaces Wheelie, which went out of business during Covid. It's a homegrown alternative for carpooling and returning home for breaks. There is an incentive for drivers, and if you drive you are entered into a raffle for a gift card. There are a lot of people wanting rides and not as many drivers.
- Switching gears; the sustainable campus fund has been around since 2008. It used to be called the Clean Energy fund, but a SGA effort changed it to the Sustainable Campus Fund to broaden the scope and move away from energy projects, which are very technical and hard for students to put forward. Part of the transition was to have a more holistic view of sustainability, instead of just focusing on the environment piece, but also things like environmental justice. You all are paying \$10 per semester to fund these projects from students, about 250,000 a year available to give to these projects.
- There is a council behind the group that actually makes the decision, and the primary seat on the fund is an undergraduate student, since you all are paying into the fund.
- The best proposals have great, clear ideas where the only missing piece is money. There is a clear connection to sustainability on campus, you're addressing an existing problem, and the impact is clear. Students are either directly engaged in the project or there is strong student support. There is a realistic timeline for completing the project, with a carefully considered budget.
- Some examples of past proposals; we sort of have two tracks. There is an infrastructure track and an academic/co-curricular track. Infrastructure involves things such as landscaping equipment, bike parking, lighting, etc. Infrastructure projects, because there

are more complicated, require another level of review. These proposals go in front of an infrastructure committee who confirm that these projects will actually work. Academic and co-curriculars are often internship proposals, where students would work to execute something. There is also a third track for research, mostly summer research internships, but this is managed very separately.

- Video example of successful project on campus; new equipment that uses software to determine how much salt is needed in an area. Utilizes geotracking to figure out where salt is needed. Salt is corrosive and detrimental to the environment. Also created was a salt-mitigation task force. An example of students, faculty, and staff working together on a proposal.
- There is a ton of support for the proposal process. It can be intimidating to submit a grant proposal. Our office doesn't get to make any decisions in what is funded, but we are there to support the proposal process. Students can reach out with the idea of what they want to see on campus, and we help with feedback and advice. SRIAC (socially responsible investing advisory council) gets final say in what gets funded. The proposal is presented to the group, and you hear back. We've moved to a rolling proposal process, so you can submit a proposal at any time, which we did in response to student feedback. We'll have an info session and workshop in the spring for anyone who is interested. CoE has been taking advantage of the fund for a while and has been really successful.

**Senator Carpenter:** Were the election bikes come from you all, and was the initial funding from you? How did that fall through?

- **Caylin McCamp:** That was a regional effort, and UVM was just one of the partners. Some of the funding did come from the sustainability fund. But what happened there was

the company that ran the bikes was sold, and the company who bought it then went bankrupt.

**Senator Carpenter:** How do multi-year funding schemes work for the fund?

- **Caylin McCamp:** You can see some examples of proposals on our website. Sometimes people come back for multiple phases. Proposals can definitely build on themselves, but aren't meant to exist in perpetuity. For the bikes specially, it was just an upfront cost.

**Chair Teferra:** Do the students who submit the proposal estimate how much money they need or is that a later process?

- **Caylin McCamp:** Yes, the proposal has to include a budget, and our office helps support the development of that.

**Chair Teferra:** Do you ever allocate less than the proposal?

- **Caylin McCamp:** There are often multiple options for funding, especially if something you are putting forward is really ambitious. The group definitely can fund less than asked for, but it really depends on the proposal and the project.

**Senator Carpenter:** What happens to the funding that does not get used every year?

- **Caylin McCamp:** It rolls over, and does not get used for anything else other than this. There's about \$250,00 a year that gets generated depending on enrollment, and we really want to see it get used.

## **Old Business**

Bill Recognizing Fresh Music (FM)

- Bill sponsored by Senator Poland

- Introduction: Jordan, freshman, she/her pronouns. This is a club that I had the idea for within the first few weeks of being here because I was looking for clubs with my friend where we could talk about music, and there really wasn't anything.
- We are starting this club primarily to talk about new music, and we are looking to meet every two weeks. It's not a super demanding club, you don't have to come every time or bring anything but yourself.
  - **Senator Jones:** Earlier in the semester we had another group come in starting in a music label, which would be a cool collaboration.
  - **Response:** Definitely, I think that would be a really cool collaboration. I know a good amount of people who are a part of the label.
- Bill: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Poland abstained.

#### Bill Recognizing Students Demand Action

- Bill sponsored by Senator Lista
- **Name,** he/they pronouns. Students Demand Action is a club that is hoping to do work on organizing and supporting survivors of gun violence. All our work focuses on ending gun violence. We know that gun violence is an epidemic; we can all remember our first lockdown drills and the trauma that caused us. Vermont has okay gun laws, but gun laws are only as strong as the state with the weakest laws. Burlington especially is having its own gun violence epidemic right now.
- We are a nonpartisan organization that works on supporting survivors and advocating for common-sense gun laws. We do a lot of lobbying, but we also provide workshops and resources for survivors of gun violence, we do voter registration as well.



- **President Henson:** Thank you so much for doing this, it sounds like a great club. What bills are going before the VT legislature this next legislative session regarding gun laws?
- **Response:** I will know a lot more when the legislative session starts and we get through this election season. We need to keep our common-sense majority in the house for gun violence prevention. We passed our first amazing gun regulation resolution for the first time in 20 years this summer. In VT, we are looking at a lot of safe storage education and school safety stuff.
- **Senator Jones:** How would someone look to get involved? As a club who does a lot of lobbying, have you looked at taking a trip to Montpieler, and how that might work for students who need assistance taking transportation there?
- **Response:** A lot of our organizing happens online to have that accessibility for everyone. As a club we will upfront all costs for any trips we take. The first week of February is National gun violence survivor week, so that will be an educational week where we are active in the community. Our organizing here is reflective of what's happening in the VT legislature and the federal legislature where we hope to see change. We had a trip to DC in June of this year, and that trip was entirely paid for. Students were flown or bussed up to DC and also given money for food, so if we take trips this year I assume that will happen again.
- **Chair MacHarrie:** Are you planning to work with other clubs on campus and do some collaborations?
- **Response:** Yes definitely. Gun violence is intersectional, and so we definitely will be collaborating with other clubs because we cannot go it alone. It's not

inclusive activism if we go it alone. We've done a lot of partnering in Philadelphia with communities who are at risk of gun violence and experiencing gun violence epidemics so that we can learn what is most helpful for these communities, and they know what will be the most helpful for them.

- **Bill: Passed** unanimously, Senator Lista abstained.

#### Bill Recognizing Take One Theater Company

- Bill sponsored by Senator Rosegard.
- Introduction, Bella and Mikayla. Take One is an all inclusive club for anyone who wants to take part in musical theater outside of the strict musical theater major or the UVM Players club. It's audition free, there's always a part for anyone.
  - **Senator Smith:** Are you guys familiar with U Players, how much are you collaborating with them or sharing talent?
  - **Response:** We have followed U Players, I am a part of them as well, but they mostly perform dramas and only do one play every two years. We wanted to create a club where there were less restrictions, and there are no requirements for how often you have to participate. We are welcome to anyone, and welcome to people coming from U Players, but we are definitely not requiring those people to come to our rehearsals and miss those rehearsals.
  - **Response:** The idea sparked from the shared interest of doing musical theater at UVM, but did not see a space for us to do that without a huge time commitment, or one that was focused on musical theater. Our demographic is a little bit different, it's for people who don't have time for an entire play, or who want to

sing but can't get into an acapella group because those are very limited, so it's a different group of people.

- **Bill: Passed** unanimously, Senator Rosegard.

### **Emergency Business**

None

### **New Business**

Bill Recognizing Coffee for Vermont

### **Senatorial Forum**

**Senator Smith:** Motion to open the constitution.

- Motion **passed**.

**Senator Smith:** I'll be talking about one of our amendments regarding article 4, which has to do with committees. Especially regarding the PR committee, we would like the PR committee to be composed of one senator from each of the other committees. Either immediately afterwards or waiting until January, there would be a nomination process outlined in the bill that would nominate one person from each committee for the new PR committee. The ultimate goal is to have one cohesive voice for SGA.

**Senator Rooney:** The other amendment is section 3 of the constitution that deals with the nomination of the Treasurer position, which will provide clarity for the nomination process.

**President Henson:** Motion to go into executive session.

- Motion **passed**.

**Senator Jones:** This is likely our first snow of the season, so I wanted to remind everyone to be safe, and do your part to look out for other people. As temperatures drop, if people are inebriated and are left outside that can be dangerous very fast. We are looking at raising awareness about this issue, and potentially looking at a bill surrounding that issue.

**Senator Bednarik:** Annie and I just came from a Sedexo meeting, as many of you know the stickering got moved and is now canceled. One of the clauses of the neutrality agreement is that technically customers or purchasers of Sedexo can't actually show support. We were talking about a resolution to support Sodexo workers from SGA and students, separate from the labor organizers. If you're interested in that please let Annie and I know.

- **Chair Teferra:** The sticker thing, can we still do that without the help of the labor organizers? Because we have nothing to do with the neutrality agreement.
- **Senator Bednarik:** The only thing with that is that it is considered a disruption of Sedexo workers jobs, if that makes sense, so technically no. However there are other Sodexo workers at other local colleges who are not a part of that neutrality agreement that also deserve support so if we wanted to work with them that is totally fine.

**Chair Teferra:** I hope everyone is doing well, and continuing to take care of yourselves. I posted something in the teams about raising money for the GoFundMe for the Patrick Munn scholarship fund. SGA can't donate money but I thought it would still be nice to show our support. So my venmo is there and I will donate it under members of SGA.

- **Senator Poland:** I went to venmo, and I was looking at the venmo history, and the last thing shown was from 2019 so I got worried it was the wrong one.
- **Chair Teferra:** It's the right one, I got your venmo.

## Executive Reports

### **Speaker Purple**

- I am really excited about the amendments for next week, I think that will be really good.
- New placards! Very happy to finally have those.
- We only have two meetings after this one until the end of the semester.
- I hope you have an amazing break.

**Chair Teferra:** These placards are really nice, I wonder who did them.

**Speaker Purple:** That was so rude of me, Chair Teferra did them, everyone thank her.

**Senator Orr Jr:** Will there be an SGA meeting during finals week?

**Speaker Purple:** There will not. There also will not be one that first week we come back because we come back on a Tuesday. Also the Public Forum schedule is updated through to Spring Semester.

### **Vice President Wood**

- Glad to be back!
- I rescheduled the bullet journaling event, it's now tomorrow from 12 to 2.
- I only have 25 responses on the sweatshirt sizing form.
- Living well community affinity space on Thursday.

- Elections are not happening this semester, they'll be happening the first two weeks of spring semester.

### **President Henson**

- VP Wood and I had a good meeting yesterday with Provost Prelock where we talked about the continued reevaluation of D1 and D2 courses, specifically about adding Jewish studies. She is considering adding funding for a visiting scholar on Jewish studies rather than doing a tenure track just so we can see what we're doing. Fun fact, D1 and D2 courses have not been reevaluated in 15 years, so they're being fast tracked for this fall. We also talked about bipoc faculty retention. She is looking to have 20% to 25% of the faculty be bipoc within the next five years. We also talked about faculty culture and what we do when faculty of color don't feel comfortable in their space. It's great that we get them here but how are we retaining them? She also said she will not approve new faculty requests for departments that have a history of not-inclusive behavior and have not made any attempts to fix it. She is also looking at being cognizant about assigning bipoc faculty to courses, having it be based on scholarships, rather than assigning the only faculty of color to the race and racism course just because they happen to a person of color. VP Wood and I are happy to talk more about that.
- Senator Kerin and I attended the graduate student committee meeting about housing in Burlington. School transportation going beyond the current route, going down to the waterfront and maybe to Winooski. Also, they are finally developing the pit and turning it into affordable housing units.
- Student trustees, I have most of the committee together and the email to the student body will go out by Friday. You all who have two years left at the university can apply for this.

- VP Wood and I are doing Dean check-ins, Tomorrow meeting with the Dean of Grossman and Thursday meeting with the Dean of CAS. If you have anything for either of those meetings let me know.
- Meeting with the Vice Provost J Dickinson tomorrow.
- Met with Mike Schirling, Chief Safety and Compliance Officer, talked about training for faculty and staff for stopping active shooters. The FBI was here yesterday doing some training at Waterman.
- Senator Bourgault and I are meeting with Professor Bradley Bauerly about getting a faculty member onto the Board of Trustees.
- Fun fact: Average weight gain during pregnancy is 27.5 pounds, so eating for two is a myth, you only need to eat 300 more calories per day for healthy development.
- Good luck with course registration this week.

**Senator Carpenter:** Were there any updates about University Place?

**President Henson:** University Place should be done now, but there is a bit more to do. It's owned by the city but once it is done it will be given to the UVM so we will own that.

**Senator Bourgault:** Are there departments that do have a history of not being inclusive?

**President Henson:** I don't know any specific departments, but we were looking at the statistics of where bipoc are represented well and doing well.

### **Treasurer Wigon**

- Second last meeting, getting ready to be dethroned.

- Van committee is being run by Meg, the office coordinator. We are pushing forward with either expanding or replacing the fleet
- Break housing, we're trying to do a last hail mary pass and get funding to student financial services by tomorrow.
- Trying to put a physical budget together for future treasures to understand where all our money flows.
- Treasurer application is being sent out tomorrow morning.
- VP Wood really wants graphs, very colorful, very easy to read.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Public Relations Committee**

- Acknowledge all the great work everyone is doing.
- Senator Ravaschiere did great work on the newsletter.
- Senator Clark is evaluating the tiktok page and looking at our engagement.
- Senator Smith finished the minutes archive, so that is up and running.
- Anyone who was at the community cleanup send me any pictures.

**Speaker Purple:** With the amendment coming up after break, are you going to continue giving weekly reports?

**Chair Robinson:** We will continue with updates.

### **Committee on the Environment**

- Senator Johnson has written a draft for the campus sustainability fund for composting, the proposal is being edited for submission right now.



- Senator Boudreau is hoping to acquire more funding for off campus composting because the pilot this semester went really well.
- We're starting to think about Earth Week, working on getting a speaker here who is focused on reusing over recycling, and possibly presenting a documentary he's made.

### **Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity**

- Continuing with our various projects.
- Every year we put on SVAM, Sexual Violence Awareness Month, which happens in April. If anyone is interested in getting involved I will be putting something out soon.

### **Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs**

- Thank you to everyone who came to community cleanup, it was really fun and it was great to get out and help our neighborhoods.
- Senator Rooney is dropping clothes off to the correctional facility tomorrow.
- Senator Kerin met with members of GSS about the off campus bus route.
- Senator Bourgault met about bipoc faculty retention.
- Community Coalition meeting happened on Friday, and COLCA is focused on getting off campus resources to students who are second semester Freshmen. We're also reinstating an online course that helped teach you about your rights as a tenant.
- Fun Fact: Microsoft released the Xbox on this day in 2001.

**President Henson:** The creator of Xbox is Otto Berkes, an alumni and also on our Board of Trustees.

**VP Wood:** He also did Kaboom, the real company like Parks and Rec.

### **Student Action and Well-Being Committee**

- Making good progress on various projects.

- Senator Orr is working on a dining survey.
- Senator Sanford working on Plan B and pregnancy tests at Living Well.
- Senator Batyrshina working on collaborations with living well and fitness opportunities.
- Senator Jones working on the disability identity center and disabled student union.
- Mindfulness workshop date coming up soon.

### **Club Affairs Committee**

- Congrats to Senator Rosegard for his first club recognition.
- I had a productive meeting with Jerome last week, updates to come.

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

- Still chugging along on projects.
- Got a response from the faculty senate, in the process of talking with the president about a potential meeting with him and the senate as a whole to share our projects.
- Meeting with J Dickinson next Thursday.
- Potentially getting coding to set up an algorithm to match mentors and mentees for the tutoring center.
- Senator Siegel talked to AdvoCats.
- Senator Bednarik and Senator Le have an upcoming meeting with Alex Yin because he offered them free dinner.
- Russia Fact: The village of (?) is the coldest perpetually habited town in the world, coldest recorded temperature -184 degrees.

### **Finance Committee**

- Break housing is having some difficulty with a few admin, but what we are doing right now is allocating some funds into a scholarship that res life runs already, and increase its capacity so that we can fund more people.
- Working on the vans with Treasurer Wigon.

**Treasurer Wigon:** I forgot to mention, which really annoyed me, the meeting that was scheduled with admin to talk about break housing was scheduled for December 16th, the very last day of finals, which is not enough time to find a solution for break housing which annoyed me very much.

**Chair Sorenson:** It was last Tuesday that we talked with said admin, and it would be six weeks after the fact that they wanted to meet about this right before everyone going on break again, and would have everyone pay again for housing which seems really convenient to me.

**Senator Carpenter:** Some of the international students are trying to crowdsource a mix of funding and housing to cover next week, if anyone off campus has a random couch they want to offer next week please let me know.

### **Senatorial Comments/Announcements**

**President Henson:** If you are going to be here next week, let me know, maybe we can grab some food because I'll be here all week.

**Senator Rooney:** A reminder for anyone who has cars here, it might snow tonight. Remember to put your wipers up,

**Chair Munier:** I'll be here over break. I never leave, I'm always around.

**Senator Smith:** Apologies for not bringing this up in Senatorial Forum but I'd like to set up a meeting with reslife to talk about the barrier between residents and RAs when we make RAs serve in disciplinary roles. If you are an RA or an interested party please come up to me after the meeting.

**Adjournment**