



13th Meeting of the 2022-2023 Student Government Association Senate
November 29th, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by VP Wood.

Roll Call

Speaker Purple, Senator Jones, and Senator Batyrshina absent.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Lauren Ebersol – Ward 8 NPA

- Introduction to NPAs, Neighbourhood Planning Assemblies. NPAs are grassroots neighborhood-based organizations in each Burlington ward to encourage citizen participation. It is a lot like neighborhood advocacy groups, and you get together with people in your ward to talk about issues.
- Ward 8 is a heavily populated student area, and Ward 1 is another area with a heavy student population. Wards have monthly meetings that are places for community members to voice their needs and issues. We have had guest speakers, such as the city police who talked about public safety, votes on various things, like the bond for the new

highschool. You all live in Burlington, so we want to make sure that we are representing an important category of community members, the students of Burlington. I want you guys to get involved in a NPA, either in mine, ward 8, or a different ward where you live.

- Ward 8 and Ward 1 were previously one ward, but we have now split because Ward 8 mostly students and ward 1 is now mostly long term residents.
- Think now about the qualms you have against Burlington. I know that I have a qualm against parking, and there are also issues with Ward 8 being in close proximity to Church St. I would love to hear about any issues or concerns that you guys have. I can take questions tonight and you can also go onto the Burlington city website and look at contact info for ward representatives, or you can also show up to a meeting for your ward.
- Last night we heard in our meeting about organizing a citizen overview board for our city police. We always open up meetings to talk about anyone's concerns. We don't work directly with UVM, so if you have a problem with your dorm we can't help that exactly, but we can help with neighbor issues.

President Henson: Thank you so much for coming out. I am in Ward 6, so neither of the wards you mentioned as relevant for tonight. I was wondering what NPAs are doing for police beyond the oversight committee. Last week I had all four of my tires slashed, and the police said they couldn't really do anything, so I was wondering what the general conversation is about police involvement in the community. Also about what is being done for the homeless community and the housing situation.

- **Lauren Ebersol:** We have had the acting chief Brad come and give a presentation about the different crime issues and how they've changed over time. He also shared that the

police force has many openings, and that almost a third of them are on administrative duty. This means that they are very thin right now, but they are working on officers in training and some social workers to deal with smaller offenses, like noise complaints. Lots of people have been talking about the George Floyd murder, so getting social workers to deal with issues involving mental health. NPAs are so important because what I didn't hear in that meeting was what police are doing to repair community relations. In our ward, it was majority long term Burlington residents, so it's important that you as students in the Burlington community are represented, because you have different concerns. The citizen oversight board just got approved so they are not active yet. We are also supposed to have communications with the city council, which we don't have in Ward 8 right now. For the homeless population, there is affordable housing coming. There are pods being built which will help alleviate the problem a bit. There are a lot of conversations in the city council, so it would be beneficial to go to your NPA to talk to them about their stance on these issues so they can bring these to higher ups. There is an affordable housing crisis in Burlington right now, and it also affects students as well as the homeless population.

Senator Orr Jr: I am also in Ward 6. Are city councils usually present at the NPAs or is that not usual?

- **Lauren Ebersol:** Yes, when we had a representative in Ward 8 she did come to all our meetings.

Chair MacHarrie: There's a housing crisis, I personally know people who are going to be homeless next year. Is there anything that NPAs can especially do to remedy that, or advocate for them?

- **Lauren Ebersol:** I do think these are excellent forums to start these conversations, asking for resources about what to do for students that maybe aren't as readily apparent. The housing thing is probably one of the most important issues in Burlington right now, and many of our other issues stem from it. I think the more people talking about this the more change we will see. We need to make sure we're talking loudly about these things, and as students you have loud voices.

Chair MacHarrie: You were talking about working on parking, is there anything specifically you are doing for parking right now?

- **Lauren Ebersol:** Unfortunately I'm not working on anything specifically related to parking right now.

President Henson: Do you work with tenants unions at all?

- **Lauren Ebersol:** NPA's don't work with them directly, but the city councilors do.

Old Business

Bill Recognizing Coffee4VT

- Bill sponsored by Senator Rosegard.
- Jacob Murphy, a senior in biomedical engineering. I currently volunteer at a bunch of local food shelves on Saturdays, and I've noticed that lots of individuals often ask for coffee, and there usually isn't any, or there's only tea. I was hoping to raise either money or coffee through events at UVM with the goal of combatting this food inequality.
- Bill: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Rosegard abstained.

Emergency Business

None.

New Business

Bill recognizing National Society of Leadership and Success.

Senatorial Forum

Constitutional Amendments - Article III Section D

- **Chair Sorensen:** Do we need a better bullet point that says that the executive committee is only going to find one candidate?
 - **Senator Rooney:** The way it works is that the selection committee determines a candidate to be presented to the senate, and the senate votes on the person that is nominated. The way we wrote it technically a person could say a name randomly during the meeting but that person is unlikely to be voted for because the selection committee will have picked the best candidate possible.
- Amendment: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Rooney abstained.

Constitutional Amendments - Article IV

- **Senator Carpenter:** Can you explain how the part about nominating the judicial will work?
 - Response: The elections committee needs someone to coordinate PR for the election, so a PR member should sit on the elections committee so that line of communication is there.

- **Senator Lista:** That didn't happen that much this past election, but definitely will be useful in future for publishing election timelines and getting that information out there.
- Senator Carpenter: It's supposed to be their last term if they're on an election committee?
 - Response: I think we've clarified that is not the case, the election chair has to resign but other members of the elections committee do not have to resign.
- Amendment: **Passed** unanimously.

PR Senator Committee Assignments:

- Senator Ravaschiere is joining CSAW.
- Senator Smith is joining AA.
- Senator Schoenbrodt is joining Club Affairs.
- Senator Clark is joining Finance.

Executive Reports

Speaker Purple

- Hope everyone had a great break, and is ready to tackle the rest of the semester. So sorry I can't be there today.
- Thank you Senator Smith and Senator Rooney and the rest of the judicial committee for those amendments.
- I would love to hear feedback about how I have done this first semester as Speaker; the good, the bad, and the ugly.
- Treasurer Wigon's last meeting, thank you for everything that you do. I am going to miss our banter, and whoever your successor is, they have big shoes and long shorts to fill.

Vice President Wood

- I hope you all had a great break!
- You should find a calendar invite today for a little event for Friday about making a nice email signature or putting things into an outlook calendar.
- President Henson and I had some good meetings.
- The speaker made me think about the police public forum last year where we had a town hall type meeting where they talked about community support lesions and community support officers, which are in drug use, mental health, and New Americans. I would like to do something like that again.
- Elections are fast approaching, if you want to be on the committee let me know.
- February 23th SGA will be tabling at an event celebrating student success, if you want to volunteer please let me know.
- Treasurer Wigon, it's been a good two and a half years, you did a really great job.
- Fun Fact: It is illegal to whistle underwater VT.

President Henson

Motion to suspend the rules and close the constitution.

Motion: **Passed** unanimously.

- We had a good meeting with President Garimella yesterday. We talked about break housing, and our respective goals for the year. His goals were to continue pushing global citizenship programs with the Provost, continue working on housing issues, reduce triples, and generally engage with the community more.
- Meeting with Vice Provost Caloiero this morning, we talked about break housing, and sexual assault prevention. In a report to the Board of Trustees she mentioned the

alcoholic consent campaign that is doing really well. We basically just said we haven't seen it, and want to make sure that it is campaigned better and modulated especially for UVM. Especially for Title IX, Nick Stanton was the director of AAEO as well as campus Title IX reporter, but now the campus Title IX Coordinator and Investigator is Emily McCarthy, which is a good development. If you go to the Title IX AAEO website, there are 9 tabs on the side to submit reports. So what they are doing now is combining these tabs in a single form, and they can determine what type of incident they think it was based on one general intake form and then it can get to the right people. This streamlines the process, it's based off University of Michigan's website.

- Break housing, they basically said there is no way the fee could be waived for students wanting to stay.
- This is also looking like the last year that tuition could stay flat, and that it might rise next year. He liked our idea of donating SGA money to the student assistance fund, which can cover things like laptop breaking, or break housing fee.
- Vice Provost Caloiero was concerned about staff breaks, especially res life staff since they don't really get any time off.
- Presidents said we don't want students staying over break as it's a safety risk, because RA's don't do rounds during break.
- Transfer money to SFS fund getting started soon.
- VP Wood and I had meetings with the Deans of Grossman and CAS. Thinking about doing a School of World Languages, and the School of the Arts is going well.
- Student trustees, you all should've gotten that email, you should apply if you have two years left.

- We are running interviews to replace Treasure Wigon.
- Good meeting with Dr Bradley Bauerly.
- VP Wood and I's goals for the spring semester are continuing to evaluate course evaluations and how we can mitigate harm for bipoc, English as a second language, and women faculty members, SVAM, and working in the world of mental health.
- Fun Fact: Periodontal disease in your mouth can cause preterm labor. The earliest a fetus can survive is 22 weeks.

Treasurer Wigon

- This is my final report. I will be here for the first part of the next week to swear in the new treasurer.
- Things I am trying to push through: Vans, got that committee together.
- Budgeting, trying to create what we are going to use for a fixed budget this year. The professional staff is very busy, the office is closed from the 23rd to the 3rd. Spending closes the 9th.
- Treasurer interview process is going well (we have one candidate).

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

- Thank you everyone for voting on that amendment. If you are interested in being your committee's representative let me know.
- Senator Clark has contacted some clubs for Tiktok collaborations.

Committee on the Environment

- Working on a proposal for the Sustainable Campus Fund for Earth Week.

- Working on finding speakers for Earth Week.
- Senator Boudreau and Senator
- Senator Boudreau is working on off campus composting for next year.

Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

- Senator Daniels is setting up a meeting with the chairs of the Disabled Students Union to continue advocacy efforts.
- Senator Rai met with the Burlington schools superintendent and is waiting to hear back from the Department of Equity and the HR Department.
- SVAM is coming up, I sent out a form in teams if you are interested in working on that. If you don't want to fully be involved and on the ad hoc just contact me.
- Treasurer Wigon, we are very sad to see you go. We're going to miss the classic Wigon saunter around the office. We all appreciate you very much.

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs

- Senator Rooney dropped off all the clothes to the women's correctional facility. Thank you everyone who helped.
- Historical fact: On this day President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed someone to investigate JFK's murder.

Student Action and Well-Being Committee

- Welcome Senator Ravaschiere!
- Senator Orr senior is having a meeting on Thursday to talk about the dining survey.

Club Affairs Committee

- Super excited to welcome Nate!
- Last recognition for the semester happening next week.

Academic Affairs Committee

- Peer mentoring program, met with Dani Comey the Director of Center for Academic Success, decided to go through with the project through the learning communities, so that's the approach we're going to take.
- I met with the Faculty Senate President this afternoon and talked to him about academic resources on campus and course evaluations. He gave me some good insight and resources.
- Insane Russian Fact: I truly believe that vampires exist. The reason I believe in them comes from my babushka, who was a self proclaimed vampire hunter. The fact here is that Russians and eastern Europeans are very superstitious. She used to always rub garlic on the windowsills so that vampires couldn't sneak in at night. One of the things she brought from Russia was an imperial vampire hunting kit. So I am fully prepared to go vampire hunting, let me know if you have any vampire related issues.
 - President Henson: Are said vampires in the room with us right now?
 - Chair Meuner: So the thing is that it's said that people born on Saturdays can sense vampires, but I was born on a Sunday...

Finance Committee

- Super excited to have our resident tiktok star Senator Clark join finance!
- Tomorrow is the last day to apply for funding this semester.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Senator Siegel: Tomorrow my fraternity is doing a big event, Mr. UVM, which is the culmination of November, men's mental health month and also pancreatic cancer awareness.

One guy from each fraternity is in it, and there's a bunch of prizes and cool things.

Senator Bourgault: We're trying to get faculty to have a sport on the board of trustees. The faculty union has been trying to get someone on for three years, and last year they were really close, it passed the senate but didn't pass the house. We were hoping SGA could support this through a resolution or referendum. The original bill calls for adding four staff, so that could be some reslife and dining hall staff, and some professors. Overview of arguments; the faculty aren't represented. The biggest problem is that the board is uniformed, they aren't unwilling to hear the faculty perspective but they just don't ever hear from them. Someone from administration presents to the board right now. The administration's argument is that there is a conflict of interest, which doesn't make sense because Suresh is already on the board which is a conflict of interest. The reason it hasn't passed in the past is because UVM has a lobbyist who lobbied the state senate.. There's been a lot of changeup in the makeup of the house this year, so there's a pretty good chance that this could end up working. This is all happening through the faculty union, and their goal is to start engaging students. They're going to try to do some events with the legislature, but student support is the biggest thing that could change the tide on this issue. About the Brightspace transition, some perspective from Bradley Bauerly; he felt that the transition to Brightspace will probably take up a lot of time for professors that is essentially voluntary time, they're not getting paid for it, which is just something to consider.

Senator Smith: How many student trustees currently sit on the board?

President Henson: Two.

Senator Smith: So we'd be outnumbering student trustees with both faculty and staff.

President Henson: It's important to note that there hasn't been an undergrad student trustee in three years.

Senator Smith: I think we should keep that in mind.

Senator Bourgault: The bill from last year added more student trustees as well.

Treasurer Wigon: What would be the process for electing faculty to the board of trustees?

President Henson: I imagine it would be similar to what I do for the student trustee search, and that the President of the faculty senate would run the search, with the staff council.

Chair Sorensen: You might notice that the finance committee is a little dressed up tonight. We're celebrating the last full meeting of Treasurer Wigon, who in our eyes has not only been one of the most successful treasurers, but most successful leaders that we have had in recent memory. We want to let you know that we really appreciate all the work you have done, it's not always seen out in the open, it's a lot of behind the scenes. Sam has helped redefine the finance office and set us up for success going forward. We got you a little gift. We just want to say how much the finance committee, all of SGA, and myself personally, will miss you.

Adjournment