



17th Meeting of the 2022-2023 Student Government Association Senate
February 7th, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Speaker Purple.

Roll Call

Senator Carpenter, Chair Dietrich, and Senator Jones absent.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved.

Public Forum

None.

Old Business

Bill Recognizing Foosball Club

- Bill sponsored by Senator Khan
- Clubsigner: I have always grown up playing foosball, and I wanted to bring it to UVM to bring people together, make new friends. Anyone who actually knows how to play, or anyone who just wants to have a good time!
- Bill: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Khan abstained

Bill Recognizing UVM Herbalism Club

- Bill sponsored by Senator Hogan
- Clubsingers: Hi everyone, we are Grace, Kat, and EJ. We started the Herbalism club last semester after taking a plant based medicine course, and we wanted to take the opportunity to keep it going at UVM.
 - **VP Wood:** Do you know when your meeting time is yet?
 - **Response:** We are set to have it Tuesdays in Jeffords, but we might switch to an alternating Tuesday/Thursday.
- Bill: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Hogan abstained

Emergency Business

Swearing in of New Senators:

Senator Ranallo

Senator Kennedy

Senator Kasmer

Senator Fleming

Senator Moody A'ness

Senator Isenhour

Senator Ibinyopakaka

Senator Ruhland

Congratulations to our new senators!

New Business

Bill recognizing Student Made.

Resolution supporting faculty efforts to democratize UVM Board of Trustees.

Senatorial Forum

Senators Orr & Kerin - Elections Recap

- Welcome new senators! You all worked really hard and put in the hours to get your platforms in and attend meetings, so thank you for that.
- Breakdown by class and by school: Most students were CAS and Freshmen.
- A variety of majors represented in our new senators.
- There were nine people who put in platforms.
 - **VP Wood:** Do you know how many total people voted?
 - **Senator Orr:** 476 people voted. There were 1,718 total votes.
 - **President Henson:** Can you clarify the difference between those two numbers?
 - **Senator Orr:** There were 476 people who voted, each person had eight votes to put in, so 1,718 is the total number of votes.

Senator Bourgault: Democratizing the Board of Trustees

- This has been my big project for the year – trying to get some faculty representation on the UVM Board of Trustees. The process has started to pick up, there's a legislative action day coming up in two weeks, and they're probably going to introduce the bill to the Vermont legislature soon.

- Shared governance is the process of democratizing. Improves institution trust and morale, promotes transparency, and diversifies experience.
- This won't cost anything, there are 25 members on the Board of Trustees right now and by adding two seats it won't change the outcome of any critical votes, it is only to get people's voices heard.
- 96% of the faculty support it. In the past, the UVM administration has actively opposed them, citing a conflict of interest. It is not really a conflict of interest, the University President votes on the Board of Trustees.
- Text me if you want to come to Montpelier in a few weeks when this hopefully passes!
- I am a senator for students not for faculty, and I think this can actually have a few benefits for students as well. Faculty shouldn't have to worry about transparency, and I have also heard of a lack of communication between the faculty and the administration. I have been working with a union of faculty which have been devoted to this process, most likely spending more time on this than their classes.
- Being able to learn about this process and how the board makes decisions that impact faculty and students is helpful for constructive steps forward for the student trustees and any future changes.
 - **Senator Smith:** Have you done any research so far about comparing similar institutions and how their Board of Trustees are made up?
 - **Senator Bourgault:** I did do some research a couple months ago. 15% to 20% of Universities in the US have faculty represented on their Board of Trustees.

- **President Henson:** Thank you for presenting this, and for all your hard work. I have two more seats in my car if anyone wants to come. I am also happy to answer any questions about the student trustee selection process.
- **Senator Clark:** What is the selection process for the faculty trustees?
- **Senator Bourgault:** I'm pretty sure it'll be by a vote of the faculty senate. So it will be kind of equivalent to us picking the student trustee.
- **Co-Election Chair Orr:** You talked about transparency, what kind of information is withheld from faculty now?
- **Senator Bourgault:** The board of trustees goes into executive session when they meet, and the faculty feels that they are getting cut out of a lot of decisions. The board of trustees does a lot of strategic planning for where the university is headed overall, and faculty feel they should have a place in that conversation.
- **Senator Smith:** Have you had any discussions about ensuring that all the colleges are represented? Because the views of faculty will definitely vary from college to college.
- **Senator Bourgault:** I haven't heard of any of that yet, but I will definitely bring that up at the meeting next Monday.

Executive Reports

Speaker Purple

- Hello everyone, my name is Carter Purple, I use he/him pronouns, I am studying history and global studies, and am very involved in the spike ball club (event tonight from 11 to 12!)

- This past week in exec we talked about the future of the SGA space, because at the end of the day it is our office. We also recapped the exec retreat and planned the upcoming retreat.
- I wanted to have the new placards in, but we don't have any more of the cardstock – hopefully next Tuesday but no promises.
- Looking to find a meeting time for the judicial committee.
 - **Treasurer Sorensen:** Can you explain the speaking order for new senators?
 - **Speaker Purple:** Raise your placards for questions, raise your hand for a point of information.

Vice President Wood

- Welcome new senators! My name is Sarah, I am studying Philosophy and Political Science, I'm a junior and my favorite color is pink.
- Senator's retreat is this Saturday at Brennans pub! Bring a water bottle, a notebook, and a pen. Reach out to Speaker Purple with dietary restrictions.
- Fill out the sweatshirt form by 9:00am on Friday.
- If you want to help with lowering the cost of books or the Burlington police department public forum, please stick around after senate. For the public forum, we bring in community support officers instead of police officers.
- President Henson and I had our February meeting with President Garimella last Friday, and he was really in support of lowering the cost of books and the Week of Kindness. We also talked about the ad hoc, he was okay with that.
- VT Fun Fact: In 1903 a doctor from VT named Horatio Nelson Jackson became the first person to cross the country in a car, and it took him 63 days.

President Henson:

- Welcome new senators! I'm so excited for you all to be here. You should have all received an email from me wanting to hang out. Maddie Henson, use she/her pronouns, Neuroscience major and International business, my favorite color is olive drab.
- Sexual Violence Awareness Month, Chair MacHarrie is working heavily on that. We decided to do nightcap scrunchies and stickers. You take the scrunchie and you can put it over the top of your drink at a bar, there's a spot for a straw. For stickers we have received co-sponsorship from Vice Provost Caloiero and Mike Schirling, and I am meeting with the company tomorrow to talk about logistics.
- Senator Daniels and I attended the first presentation for the new clinical professorship for sexual violence research in the college of Nursing and Health Sciences. It went okay.
- Ad Hoc meetings (strategic planning for SGA to set our long-term mission) with Professor Jennifer Strickler and Alex Yin.
- Vice Provost Caloiero and Vice Provost Ahmed reached out to me about Includifi and how we could retrofit that for clubs and make it more accessible. If you want to be in the loop and come to this meeting please let me know.
- Finding new projects for senators who need projects.
- Pregnancy Fact: Kaiser Wilhelm the Second suffered a traumatic birth where his brain was depleted of oxygen and this indirectly started WWI.

Treasurer Sorensen

- Hi everyone, Matt Sorensen, Sophomore majoring in Political Science, and my favorite color is baby blue.
- Reviewed all the budgets this Saturday.

- Looking for a springfest committee representative with me. Helps to determine the chill zone, merch, food, etc.
- Looking for donations at Rally Cat's Cupboard, non perishables.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

- Addie, she/her pronouns, Biological Science and Political Science major, from Washington DC, favorite color is pink.
- We had our first new PR meeting last Friday, working on doing updates to the website and some other projects.
- SGA valentines day! Hoping to give away some valentines to the student body.
- New senators please fill out the form so we can do some highlights.
- Planning a SGA retreat takeover!

Committee on the Environment

- Mahder Teferra, Sophomore majoring in Agroecology and Landscape Design, I'm from Massachusetts, I always say different things for my favorite color but right now its brown.
- Senator Boudreau has the Sustainable Campus Fund presentation on Thursday.
- Earth Week committee meeting on Friday.

Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

- Taylor MacHarrie, I use he/him pronouns, major in Natural Resources, minor in Anthropology, I'm from Massachusetts, and my favorite color is yellow.
- Senator Daniels is meeting with AVA outreach coordinator.

- Senator Rai has the first meeting with the planning committee for the Women of Color leadership retreat.
- Also just had our first SVAM meeting.
- Celebrating Leaders in Gender Equity meeting tomorrow with Aaron Adams.

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs

- Happy Tuesday, shoutout to our new senators. Oliva, Political Science major, Junior, I use she/her pronouns, favorite color is purple (ages 4 to 7 I only wore purple!)
- Great job to Senator Bourgault on his work.
- Senator Rooney has been working on facilitating a town hall here on February 27th.
- I've been working on the ad hoc as President Henson said, getting the format down.
- Taylor Swift Fact: Taylor swift was born in Pennsylvania on a Christmas tree farm, and she moved to Nashville when she was 13.

Committee on Student Action and Well-Being

- Chair Dietrich is unfortunately sick.
- Congregations to our newly elected senators.
- Senator Sanford is working on a vending machine to store Plan B and pregnancy tests at Living Well.
- Senator Orr is meeting with Annie Valentine to discuss logistics and next steps for creating a mental health class.
- Senator Batyrshina met with President Henson and Treasurer Sorensen about a potential SGA and wellness environment fundraiser for the 420 5k.
- Senator Orr is working on spreading awareness for dining employee appreciation week.

- Senator Jones has been working with President Henson and Mike Schirling to offset the costs of date rape kits.
- Week of Kindness updates: slight change in schedule for the Week of Kindness, it is now March 20th to 24th to get the most student engagement. We are rolling with the no catamounts left behind theme. Monday is self care, Tuesday is looking out for our peers, Wednesday is faculty and staff appreciation day, Thursday is taking care of our campus, and Friday is our community day. If you want to get involved please reach out!

Club Affairs Committee

- Riley, Sophomore studying Political Science, Gender Studies, and Environmental Studies, from New Jersey, and my favorite color is pink.
- Welcome our new senator!
- Club recognitions going great as usual.
- We have senators working on SVPM and Week of Kindness, and the gender and equity summit, and we're thinking of planning a better club outreach system.

Academic Affairs Committee

- Christophe, I study Political Science and Philosophy, my hometown is here, my favorite color is the rainbow.
- Liv and Sidney had a meeting about course evals last week, and it wasn't the most productive meeting of all time. Making a presentation for the student affairs committee and faculty senate, and we're sending an email to Ann Barlow about coming into public forum.
- Eli has been coming up with some great ideas about getting some representative academic feedback from the student body.

- Shoutout to Treasurer Sorensen, Senator Clark, and Senator Carpenter for stopping by our committee meeting.
- Trying to work on a bunch of different projects.
- Rather Intriguing French Facts: French people do love snails. They eat approximately 441 million snails a year, but are only third in the world behind Spain and Morocco. Italy is fourth, and those four countries account for 69% of all snail consumption.

Finance Committee

- Chloe Elkort, Sophomore, uses she/her pronouns, majoring in Political Science, and minor in Business and Law and Society, from California, favorite color is gray.
- Very happy to have our new senator!
- Did budgeting this past weekend, nearly done but still working on club sports (had a skydiving debacle).
- Hope to have finalized budgets by spring break time, which I will present in a bill to the senate body.
- Senator Clark took over hearings and Senator Russel and Senator Orr took over gas allowance, thank you for that.
- Spring Fest Committee, reach out if you want to be involved.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Senator Orr: make sure you sign up for UVM dinings first newsletter called The Dish. It's actually cool, there's news and menu updates. Additionally, UVM said to email dining@uvm.edu if you want to see anything added to the newsletter.

Senator Khan: Quizbowl club has new meeting times, on Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm

VP Wood: Where do they meet?

Senator Khan: L&L third floor.

Adjournment