



AGENDA

9th Meeting of the 2023-2024 Student Government Association Senate
October 10th, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Ashleigh Clark.

Roll Call

Senators Fleming, Daniels, Orr, Bednarik, and Wiltz not present.

Public Forum

Brooke Dietrich – Project Planning 101 Presentation

Importance

- Best way to make what you want, to achieve a vision to reality, great way to communicate.
- Three C's: Constructive, Collaborative, Compassionate.
- The importance of time management, organization, and interpersonal communication.

Generate ideas

- A great way to start is to ask yourself what you're passionate about. What sparks joy and how that can impact others. What are problems you see on campus and in the wider community and how you can solve that.

- Look at past projects from UVM and other SGAs and talk to your Committee Chair.
- Think outside the box and be creative.
- Elevate and refine your ideas: think about how interests can intersect.
- Example: If you're passionate about community building, meditation, food, making a meditation workshop.
- Create goals: how do you want this to impact, what is your goal? Think both long and short term. Follow your purpose!

Strategies

- Create a timeline: determine how much time you want to invest (short term, long term, cross committee work)
- Plan backwards: think about what your end date is and see when you need to achieve intermediate goals to meet the final goal.
- Keep notebooks or mind maps, keep notes for meetings, utilize outlook calendar and sharing.
- Building your network:
 - You're often working with faculty or admin, get their info from your Chair or the Executive Committee.
 - Engaging with students is very important because they are usually the ones impacted by what we do (send out forms or surveys to a wider network, not just your friends).
- Determine needs and resources:

- Utilize Senatorial Forum to see if there is feedback or other people can help.
- Determine if you need money (check in with Finance and Chairs).
- Don't be afraid to ask for help!
- Cross Committee work is super important and valuable! Communicating with clubs is great too, we have so many.
- Projects don't have to be super big.
- Have confidence in yourself, you were elected and are here for a reason. Be kind to yourself, it's not easy work and you have a lot to do.
- Remember that there is a support system, and make sure you support others' projects to uplift everyone.

Old Business

Bill Recognizing DragonVale Club, Sponsored by Senator Modun

- We are a group of friends who started playing the mobile game DragonVale and would like to have an official club to meet up and play and talk about the game.
- We made an Instagram account for our friends, and had multiple people DM us asking if they could join so thought it would be cool to set up a club that could meet bi-weekly.

Treasurer Sorensen: How many people have reached out?

- **Response:** 5 people who we didn't previously know reached out through Instagram, and there have been others in our classes as well.

BILL: PASSED unanimously, Senator Modun abstained

Bill Recognizing Armenian Students Association, Sponsored by Senator Connors

- The Armenian Students Association (ASA for short) is meant to provide a space for Armenians at UVM and advocate for our cause.
- Lots of people don't know much or anything about what is going on in Armenia. There are 120,000 displaced Armenians seeking refuge and there is not a lot of media coverage of that. This club will be advocating for that cause.

BILL: PASSED unanimously, Senator Connors abstained

Emergency Business

New Business

Bill Finalizing SGA in Springfest

Bill Recognizing Jewish Student Union

Motion to Open Constitution for Amendment

Senatorial Forum

Chair Teferra - Narcan in Bars

- More formalized coming soon, talked to Troy Hendrick and someone else, interested in writing bill which requires businesses especially bars to carry and administer narcan, problem is bad with overdose, if anyone is interested or has ideas please reach out

Treasurer Sorensen: In the meantime you could look at a community project to get more access to Narcan.

Senator Carpenter: I believe the Center for Health and Wellbeing has done this in some bars, you could also talk to them.

Senator Keppel: I agree with the idea of more distribution sites because many people don't know where to get narcan. It's also hard to access as students who live on campus, do you have a plan to make that more accessible as well?

- **Response:** I know Living Well has some, but don't know what their supply is. A good thing to investigate and make sure students know about.

Senator Siegel: Great idea, I'll echo Living Well is a good resource. I know fraternities and sororities have trainings about Narcan as well. Ketamine testing strips are also available at Living Well.

President Eisenberg: Living Well is a great resource, but the state has more money and continuity to make a more long term solution.

Senator Aliyev: Could UVM Rescue put Narcan around UVM dorms?

Senator Connors - Student Safety Presentation

- Project proposal about the future of safety as student safety is very important.
- Graphs recently published by BPD show an increase in crime recently, projected to be the highest in 5 years, both monthly and annually. 2023 expected 20% increase.
- The DOJ surveyed colleges. There was a blue light phone system at 97% of Public Universities of our size in 2007 (admittedly old data, but comparisons showed minimal change if not increase). UVM is very rare for not having such a system.
- Reached out to places that have blue lights again after removing them (UC Davis, CU Boulder, UN Lincoln). Students didn't feel protected without lights (only app) as apps didn't work well. Don't think blue light is perfect, looking for a different system.

- ROAR is a panic button company. Weatherproof: survives rain and cold, 3 year battery life, very small (comparison to AirTag), can attach to keys. Unfortunately I don't have a physical copy to show off, but it will be here next week.
- They could possibly be attached to dorm keys given at the beginning of the year and returned at the end of the year for maintenance.
- False activation is very hard, 3 seconds and hard push, calls 911 sends location and continuous gps tracking after activation. Better than blue light which is stationary and can't keep tracking you if you keep running.
- Smart beacons can be used in dead zones like Marche where there isn't service. Crimes are more likely to occur in dead zones anyway so this is important.
- ROAR app works with smart beacons to provide coverage everywhere. It still works if your phone dies, unlike the LiveSafe app. The button can also connect through a phone near you if you don't have yours on you. The location is very precise, down to the specific dorm.
- Multifunctional: buttons can also be used to protect staff as well from workplace violence.
- UVM Annual Safety Report showed 11 sexual assaults and 7 domestic violence cases so this is an important step to combat that.

Senator Moody-A'ness: As someone who loses everything, including my key on the second day of the year, what happens if you lose the button? Is it free for students to replace?

- **Response:** Currently if you lose a key it's \$50, so this would be maybe \$20 to replace.

Senator DeGroot: How would it work for off campus students? Would they receive one?

- **Response:** Yes all students would be included. I don't know how distribution would work yet though.

Senator Carpenter: Is the \$20 based on unit price, how much would this cost?

- **Response:** Price per unit is around \$20, so this would be a costly investment. 12,000 units at \$20 is \$240,000 overall.

Senator Jones: I like the personal device and discrete aspect, but blue lights also have a deterrence effect. Could ROAR go in tandem with a reduced blue light system?

- **Response:** From talking to Texas A&M, it is a powerful tool for deterrence. But replacing blue lights is expensive and they would all need to be replaced within the next 10 years and knowing that everyone has this ROAR button could serve as a deterrent as well.

Senator Siegel: Can the app be modified for school specifically, with tracking and request a ride like LiveSafe?

- **Response:** Haven't asked about that yet so don't know, but I agree that's a good tool.

Chair Teferra: Can it go on a keychain?

- **Response:** Yes, it has the same little hole as keys.

Chair Teferra: Have you gone through reviews and other university experiences for this product?

- **Response:** Yes, I've seen great reviews from working with major hotels like Hyatt and Marriott. Texas A&M has panic buttons in specific rooms, which are very popular and people keep asking for more, but they aren't portable. No university currently has portable panic buttons like this.

Senator Petrosan: Have you talked to people in the division of safety?

- **Response:** Not yet, but next steps would be to contact that office. I wanted to bring it up for SGA first.

Senator Moody-A'ness: Would the bigger buttons also be an option? Some people don't bring their keys with them.

- **Response:** This company doesn't do that, but the app also has a panic feature which you can use if you don't have the button.

Treasurer Sorensen: You could maybe have panic buttons available to check out at dorm front desks or in a box outside Waterman.

Senator Rice: How sensitive to the touch are these? I'm worried about accidental activation if it's in my pocket.

- **Response:** That's a very valid concern. It's supposed to be hard to activate it accidentally.

Chair Rooney: Would it call UVM Police or BPD?

- **Response:** You can customize who is called in the app, so it can be the nearest 911 or specifically UVM police.

Senator Wiltz: The safety office pointed out that it's instinct to run, hide, and fight. You want to be able to travel or get away, not go to a stationary place like the blue lights, so this is good.

Senator Aliyev: It could be distributed upon request, and some people can use the app instead of giving everyone a button to reduce cost.

Senator Ranallo: You said the battery life is 3 years, can they be recharged? Or do they need to be replaced after that time?

- **Response:** The battery is not rechargeable, so it has to be replaced, but the actual button doesn't need to be replaced.

Senator Joshi: What would the overall cost be?

- **Response:** The total cost with app, buttons, and smart beacons would likely be between \$500,000-\$750,000.

Treasurer Sorensen: The stationary larger buttons would be inside?

- **Response:** Yes, they are usually meant for an armed shooter situation so they would be in classrooms.

Senator Arnone: You mentioned hotels using these buttons, who else currently uses them?

- **Response:** They are also used in hospitals.

Senator [...]: A university could be the largest implementation for these buttons. Do we know if it works at our scale?

- **Response:** I don't know if there has been any research into that.

Senator Rooney: Could there maybe be a pilot program, so there is a smaller initial investment

- **Response:** Yes, Chair Khan proposed half and half to test effectiveness. But once you're already at that point, it's not too much more to cover everyone.

Executive Reports

Speaker Clark

- Welcome to our new Scribe, Nathan, I'm looking forward to having minutes going forward. Please check your email and read through them for approval.
- Looking forward to opening the constitution and making mindful progress.
- Congrats to Senators Modun and Connors for having their first bills recognized.
- Tomorrow the Judicial Committee will review constitution materials.
- Please reach out to me with any questions about bills, resolutions, or anything else.

Vice President Purple

- Make-up fall retreat for those who missed it is this Thursday.
- Link to sign up for office tours will be sent out. All new senators are expected to sign up for this. It's important for everyone in SGA to understand how everything works in the office.
- I'm serving on a search committee for the Center for Health and Wellbeing so that's exciting.
- We have 5 senators leaving for study abroad, please let me know if you are planning to do that and haven't let me know yet. If there are 6 or more, then we need to run midterm elections.

President Eisenberg

- Elliot Ruggles, who was here with Vice Provost Caloiero, reached out looking for a new vendor for the sexual violence module. We are looking for senators to help out in finding this. If you're interested there are 4 times to meet for this: Wednesday 10/11 from 1-2pm, Monday 10/16 from 10-11am, Wednesday 10/25 from 1-2pm, and Wednesday 11/1 from 12:30-1:30pm.
- Please RSVP in the Google form I sent out for lunch with Provost, even if you aren't planning to go. There's a place to put dietary restrictions as well. If you can drive please reach out to me directly so we can set up car pools.
- It's Sunday 10/29 starting at 1pm going until 4 or 5.

Treasurer Sorensen

- That lunch was a highlight last year, good food, house on water, highly recommended.
- SGA annually contributes to SpringFest and in return we get some say in planning. I am part of planning this year. There is a bill coming up to finalize the contribution this year.

- If you are interested in being on that committee, fill out a form by midnight on Thursday.
- I have organized a group from SGA to write a resolution supporting UVM Staff United (staff union on campus). I will be meeting with Annie Valentine (President of Staff United) to discuss how SGA can best support them regarding Kronos (timesheet software the University is trying to implement) and other challenges they are facing.
- Working on projects for SGA Finances.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

- Hi Everyone! I hope you are having a great week! I had my first committee meeting today and I'm looking forward to working with all of the amazing senators on my committee. If you are free tomorrow from 6:00 to 7:30, I'm still looking for some help with the tabling I've posted in the teams. I heard a rumor that they've been handing out pizza at the end of the night, which sounds pretty nice if you ask me. Thanks to those who have volunteered already! Looking ahead, I'd love some input on SGA freebies. So text me if there is anything you want to see. Hopefully, I'll see everyone soon! Addie

Committee on the Environment

- We're looking for Earth Week speakers and would welcome any recommendations.
- Senator Moody-A'ness is continuing work on the Student Ambassador program with the Office of Student and Community Relations.
- Senator Kasmer is continuing work on food waste.

- Senator Arnone is working on reducing end-of-year clothing and electronic waste which is just dumped outside dorms and then trashed. Ideas include a yard sale, thrift store plan, offering to off campus students.

Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

- Senator Daniels' project is moving along, looks like implementation soon.
- Senator Joshi will be tabling for trans awareness. Everyone is encouraged to show up. Also working on a car theft on campus project.
- Senator Rai is working on a developing a class on issues for sexual violence. Looking for student help, you will receive credit by the hour, talk to her after if you're interested.
- Bar of the week from 2 Chainz: "I'm in the kitchen, yams everywhere"

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs

- Monthly meetings starting in January to touch base about important things in the statehouse that students should know.
- Community cleanup is Saturday 11/4, time not set yet.
- Senator Jones is doing research on a resolution with Ruggles and others.
- Senator Reeder is working on uses of the sustainability fund.
- Senator Garcia is working on the designated driver initiative.
- Senator Blessington is working on a proposal on a timeline for the sustainability case.
- Song of the week: West Coast by Lana Del Rey

Committee on Student Action and Well-Being

- Senator Richardson is reading for Chair Bednarik today due to a concussion.
- Senator Richardson had a good meeting with Zykkihria Rhoden surrounding resources for low income students.

- We are all moving forward with our other projects.

Club Affairs Committee

- Congrats to Senators Modun and Connors.
- Treasure Sorensen and I are meeting with Ruggles about sexual violence.
- Ask an Admin starts Thursday 10/12 from 10-11am. It is a panel event where members of administration are invited to stand at a table with refreshments and students can ask questions. It's a great opportunity to put a face to the name.

Academic Affairs Committee

- Senators Wiltz and DeGroot are meeting with the career center.
- Senator Wiltz took on a project about different state laws and possession of testing strips being illegal in different places.

Senator Siegel - Together Vermont

- Represents an annual day of service to foster unity and create a lasting impact. Our pitch is for sometime in the spring.
- Admin, students, and the broader community participate in a day of service reaching out to non-profits. 4 projects will be selected where people will be sent to different non-profits to do work.
- There are disconnects, admin to students and UVM to Burlington and broader Vermont. This is intended to bridge that gap.
- Please get involved and help me with this. Also looking for campus partners that aren't in SGA.

Finance Committee

- Continuing personal projects.

- Myself and Chair Khan met with the person in charge of the SGA website, Sean, to create a club FAQ that is linked directly on the clubs site. This will be a hub of information so clubsigners who have questions will have an easily accessible resource if they get confused or don't know how to do something.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Senator Siegel:

Good evening. I write you this message, not as a senator, but as a worried friend. Before I share with you my short message, I want to take a moment to recognize the 1,500+ lives lost of Israeli and Palestinian women, children, and men in the span of 72 hours. I would also like to take a brief moment of silence for my friend, who was heroically killed in battle last night, and all the people who tragically lost their lives. Their lives will forever be a blessing.

Across social media, across the news, and across the globe, we have heard numerous accounts and opinions of people of all different backgrounds and as a Jewish student on campus, I want to provide a sense of perspective, a sense of clarity on how I and some of my peers feel.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an issue that has been around for many many years, this is a deep-rooted issue, and one that frankly has no right one-sided right answer.

Without getting too much into political detail, no matter what side you may be on, I want to emphasize an undeniable fact, a mantra which many of you have heard before, this being "hate has no home here".

As someone who has been to Israel 6 times, has crossed the border into the West Bank and met with individuals on both sides of the conflict, has hosted, for a year, an Israeli who I now consider to be a part of my family, as Jewish student leader at UVM, I come to you with the importance of reaffirming this statement across the student body.

With our collective hard work last year, we have seen massive improvements in ridding our campus of the plague that is antisemitism, but there is still work to be done, and support for all voices needs to be heard.

It is a fact that Hamas is not the majority of Palestinian innocent citizens, rather a terrorist organization whose goal is to rid the earth of not only Israel, but the 16 million, 0.2%, of the 8 billion worldwide population that Jews reside. I stand in solidarity with my family in Israel and with the innocent civilians across the lines in the Gaza Strip and a part of the West Bank. It is completely understandable that each side has done wrong, it is also completely valid to voice your opinion on the subject. But for anyone to deny what has been occurring to my family over the past weekend, as something of retaliation or a “fight for freedom” is misunderstood of the history, wrong to speak for all Palestinians, and is a form of anti semitism.

I want to make it clear tonight, that we will not give up. We will not stand for hatred, or bigotry and we will continue to stay strong as a community in the wake of evil, and I can assure you, we will come out stronger from this.

To quote President of Israel Isaac Herzog “This is a sad sad day and sad week for Israel. It is one of the worst moments in Israel’s history and we cannot shy away from it. Since the Holocaust this is the day that the most Jews have been massacred, so now,” he said, “we unite together, we are ready to see the best of Israel, the spirit of Israel, we get up as lions, and fight back”.

And finally, to quote my Rabbi, who spoke so well last night “We bring so many emotions into this space this evening, anger, fear, vulnerability, sadness, helplessness, and most importantly a deep deep concern for innocent lives, and thus it is so important to gather together as friends and allies. We gather this evening to mourn, and pray, and to find strength, and to

express our love and support for those abroad, and most importantly we do this all together, how comforting, and how powerful that is”.

aleinu lihiyot ha`shinui she`anu rotsim lir-ot ba`olam, Be the change you want to see in the world.

Thank you and I love you all.

Senator Aliyev: Thank you for that expression. As someone who lost their friend, seeing conflict can be very traumatic. I understand you and I feel you.

Adjournment