



**11th Meeting of the 2023-2024 Student Government Association Senate**  
**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom**

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Speaker Ashleigh Clark.

**Roll Call**

Senators Carlson, Daniels, Rai, Garavan, Modun, Halvorson, Le and Wiltz not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously.

**Public Forum**

**Jennifer Payne** – Director of Orientation and Student Advancement – Discussion Surrounding Opportunities to Engage Students Before Arrival on Campus

- I just started here in May with the Office of Orientation. We recently added “and Student Advancement” so now we’re focusing on retention and student persistence.
- Making sure we have students who want to be here and stay here and supporting students to finish at UVM and get a degree.
- Communication that comes from UVM that increases over summer to arrival in the fall.
  - We are looking at that communication and thinking about ways we can enhance it and engage students before they arrive on campus.

- Trying to prevent summer melt. Convince students that their decision was right.
- Think about what communication you received, or didn't receive.
- I would love to hear your thoughts about what you liked, didn't like, or thought was missing.

**Chair Elkort:** I was very nervous to move cross country from California. We met everyone in our Orientation group on Zoom before arriving and we made a group chat that UVM set up. It was good to talk and connect with other students before arriving so you aren't completely alone when you first arrive.

- **Response:** ZeeMee is an app to do exactly that which we are in the process of purchasing. The idea is that it will be more organic and student organized rather than the university setting up Zoom calls.

**Senator Isenhour:** I think that the outreach that was best was about activities that were interesting and exciting to me, like clubs and internships. Letting people know what ways there are to learn more about those opportunities on their own. Receiving merch is fun and gets you excited, maybe that can be tied to something informational as well.

- **Response:** That's great. You're giving me ammunition to ask for a budget to do that, because it's really expensive but I want to do that.

**Senator Moody-A'ness:** Dorm facilities are very different between Learning Communities. For example, you might feel like you want to be around artistic people but living on Trinity is pretty far. Transparency about where you will be living and what that really means would be good.

**Senator Aliyev:** To give an international student perspective: We arrived early and had a separate Orientation before everyone else. Many people did that and then skipped the main Orientation with everyone, which was not a good decision.

Think about collaborating with the Office of International Education to encourage more participation and improve engagement with the general student body through Orientation. As an OL, I noticed most of my international students didn't show up and I think that is a big factor in them sticking to their own groups and not engaging with a wider group.

- **Response:** Do you feel like the International Orientation staff didn't encourage you to go to the General Orientation?

**Senator Aliyev:** We thought we already had Orientation, so why would we go to the other one.

- **Response:** We are very purposeful about how we organize groups. Intentionally keeping international groups together more, not their own separate group, but not spread out so much.

**Senator Aliyev:** When I was first here, many international students were in the same dorm, but then later we were all split up around campus and that harmed our communication and sense of community. I know there isn't really an easy solution to this, but maybe you can think about it more.

**Chair Teferra:** Utilizing Learning Communities to spread information would be good.

Orientation and the first week of school are overwhelming no matter what, but after that passes, the level of opportunities to learn about and get involved in things fade back a bit, and that's more of the time people actually start feeling settled and seek things out. Hall Council and IRA (Inter-Residence Association) can help with information throughout the year past Orientation. Showing students that there are always opportunities available, and they didn't miss out if it's just the first week.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** I was an OL this year, and something I thought was really good was that we reached out to our groups before arriving. This more individualized reaching out from

students is better received than mass emails. ActivitiesFest was super popular, getting to interact with students and learn about the University outside of administrators just telling you information. I think that's a place you could work with SGA to do more programming like that.

**Senator Carpenter:** I had a deposit at 2 different schools and I was pulled here by SESP (Summer Enrichment Scholars Program) through the MOSAIC Center. UVM definitely has a diversity problem and for students with marginalized identities, something that helps on the front end is reaching out earlier with specialized programs.

Another thing that really excited me was getting an email about jobs and seeing cool work study opportunities, so more communication about that would be great.

Until you step foot in your dorm, you have no idea what it looks like. A really easy way to get engagement is a video walkthrough or something to show you what your room could look like. Students get most excited about merch, packing, and buying new stuff for their new rooms which is hard when you don't know what your space looks like.

**Senator Jones:** I remember searching for room tours and couldn't find them. That would be very helpful and fun. A lot of melt could be students transitioning into university and experiencing struggles with lack of structure and moving away. I don't think Orientation emphasized mental health services and resources like HOPE Works to reassure students that there is a support system there. A bigger emphasis on recognizing that the transition is hard and showing that there are programs in place to help people. Physically showing students where CAPS and LivingWell physically are on campus.

- **Response:** That is part of planning for next year, OLs will take students to walk through the Health Center and other places so they know where they are.

**Senator Blessington:** I think identity and pride in school is important. Separation between freshman and upper classes. Letting incoming students know about athletics, activism, clubs, and other cool stuff so they feel engaged and proud to be a part of the community before they get here.

- **Response:** Connected to that, the survey that was sent out about what performer you want for SpringFest was also sent to the students arriving in January.
  - If you have other ideas about things like that, we would love to do that.
  - We got tons of clicks on a video from President Eisenberg over the summer. This student to student communication is clearly better, so if anyone is interested about doing a video about topics we talk about, please talk to me.

**Senator Ibinyopakaka:** When it comes to signing up for a CatCard and an email, the webpage is a little hard to parse. Maybe hire a student intern to make a video that walks you through that and make it easier on first years who don't know everything they need. Or another way to condense it better than a wall of text.

On Orientation scheduling: it can be very overwhelming to move in and then immediately say bye and go to your first orientation activity in the gym. More of a breather between that, to spend time with family or just relax from travel.

**Senator Arnone:** From a freshman perspective: I got a lot of emails this summer and it was hard to weed through what really mattered and what was fluff. Cutting down could be nice, if there's so many emails then important info can slip through.

Orientation experience: it's not taken very seriously and the culture is to just get through it. Day time activities were often skipped by many and OLs were saying some things were optional so it was hard to know what actually mattered. Night time activities were very good.

Orientation groups were pretty big which made it harder to meet people. Smaller groups can be tighter knit and easier to meet others in your group.

Get feedback from freshmen while it's in their minds soon after Orientation.

**Senator Fleming:** I'm an RA, giving us and front desk staff information about orientation before people get here would be helpful. People ask us where they need to go, and the only reason we know stuff is because we know OLs. Direct communication to students before they get here what specific services are available in their building and where to get them.

Winter Orientation has many lonely or homesick residents because the campus is so quiet and empty. Hard to combat that, but finding some way to engage them more consistently after the day's events are over.

- **Response:** Because evening activities don't run late enough?

**Senator Fleming:** I don't think there were any events the first night students arrived. Didn't feel like they connected with people because the groups were so small and there were so few people on campus.

- **Response:** Can RAs plan something for the evening?

**Senator Fleming:** It's hard to run events because we have such a small budget (\$50 a semester) and it doesn't make sense to run something when just a few people are there.

**Senator Keppel:** I'm a first year also. I noticed in the summer there were lots of Zooms which started late spring, but I was pretty busy and couldn't make those meetings. Having an option to get that in a folder or videos that you can do on your own time rather than specific meeting times.

Echo smaller student-student contacts to make you feel more comfortable with someone closer to your perspective. For example, Nursing has Links which we got a text mid-summer, direct student contact in your major. I would recommend this program for other majors.

Breaking up informational meetings during the day with more fun activities like the evening ones to draw more people to stay for the important meetings rather than skipping the whole day.

**Senator Rice:** I want to stress the importance of sending out information about different room styles. The UVM website has virtual room tours for each building, but it doesn't show all the room styles in that building. For example, in the Honors College I couldn't see what a suite double looks like, and I didn't realize there was a common room or anything.

On the first day of Orientation for people who move in later and then have to go straight to orientation that is hard. Instead of piling everyone into the gym, the first night could be more lowkey with events in the dorm you're living in.

- **Response:** Timing is hard. Can we encourage families to think about that and plan ahead? Or that wouldn't even help?

**Senator Rice:** Yeah I think it's the process of moving in and timing being too tight.

**Speaker Clark:** We've reached the end of our allotted 30 minutes, is there a motion to extend debate for 15 minutes? [Motion **passed**] Debate is extended.

**Senator Petrosyan:** Would it be useful to have OLs or a student intern to be more involved in planning to more directly include and address student ideas?

- **Response:** Yes! I'm putting 4 students in the budget for next year.

**Senator Garcia:** Getting everything up into my room took about 1.5 hrs and everything feels rushed. All of Orientation felt jam packed with no time to rest. It's a big change and it feels like

there's always something you need to do or someplace you need to be. Everyone is encouraging you to go to things and it's hard to tell what is actually important, when you can take time for yourself. Planning less things for Orientation, having a 2 hour break in the day to relax and settle in would be good.

**Senator DeGroot:** As an OL, I also noticed lots of students didn't show up because they felt overwhelmed, so incorporating more breaks to encourage independence rather than following the group all day.

**Senator Thompson:** Something that helped me was to be part of the First Scholars program. If not for that I don't know how I would be doing. During Orientation, I met other First Gen students who weren't part of that program and felt very overwhelmed not knowing where things were on campus. It was very in-depth and helpful to get all the most important information better than General Orientation. Putting people in that program or letting them know that it's a resource would be great.

- **Response:** This was the first time we did that First Gen program and it filled up really quickly, so I'm glad it was helpful and we're hoping to expand it.

**Chair Rooney:** It's expensive to spend the night in Burlington, especially when everyone is trying to be here during move-in. Letting people know ahead of time that it's going to be hectic would be good. But also having something more optional, like a movie so people can go and meet people if they want, instead of a mandatory big meeting that first day to recognize that not everyone wants to pay to stay the night.

**Senator Connors:** I'm also a first year student from California, and I have a twin sister at Bennington College which is also in Vermont. Her school had a whole page for students which



told them about how they can ship stuff which was helpful. It's stressful for those of us from far away who can't pack as much and it was hard for me to figure out how to ship things here.

- **Response:** We can definitely work on that. The bookstore has a program where you can go online and order stuff to be shipped here. I will definitely put that in future emails.

### **Old Business**

Bill Recognizing TeleMark Ski Club, Sponsored by Chair Khan

- TeleMark skiing is a combination between Alpine and Nordic skiing. It is a difficult and niche sport so we are forming this club to make it more accessible and promote the sport.
- Teaching others, going skiing together, making it more accessible, and learning about the community will be big parts of the club.

**BILL: PASSED** unanimously, Chair Khan abstained

Bill Finalizing SGA's Participation in UVM SpringFest, Sponsored by Chair Elkort

- I'm introducing this bill for Treasurer Sorensen since he can't.  
**Treasurer Sorensen:** As an appointed, unelected member of SGA, I can't actually actually introduce legislation, but I'll talk a little more about this bill.
- SGA contributes financially to SpringFest in exchange for a role in planning, this bill is finalizing that participation going forward.

**BILL: PASSED** unanimously, Chair Elkort abstained

Bill Amending Article III Section C & Article IV Section B of the SGA Constitution, Sponsored by Senator Jones

- We recently reinstated the scribe position which was originally under the purview of the Vice President.
- Through the hiring process we realized that this position more closely aligns with the Speaker's role, so this amendment officially switches the role from the Vice President to the Speaker to remove technical roadblocks in regards to communication and collaboration.

AMENDMENT: **PASSED** by two-thirds majority

### **Emergency Business**

### **New Business**

Resolution Addressing UVM's Response to the Palestinian Community

### **Senatorial Forum**

**Chair Teferra & Chair Anis** – Discussing the Recent Cancellation of Mohammed El-Kurd  
Lecture

- As you know there has been some activism around campus around this issue recently due to heightened political state of Israel and Palestine.
- There was supposed to be a speaker coming here to talk this Thursday, his name is Mohammed El-Kurd and he is a Palestinian writer, poet, and activist.
  - This event was scheduled months ago, so it's been planned for a while.
  - Obviously recent events would have been brought up, but this event was not scheduled in response to recent events.

- We want to talk about the cancellation, UVM's reasoning, what the student response looked like, and what it can look like going forward.
- The University sent the reason for cancellation in an email to event organizers. [Reading excerpt from email]
- The general reason in their words is due to security concerns.
  - However, this cancellation comes with some implications that myself and the greater UVM community has been feeling.
  - The cancellation of this event coincides with a recent rise in anti-Arab and Islamophobic sentiment throughout the country.
  - In effect Palestinian and Arab voices feel silenced by the University's actions to cancel this event.
  - The implication is that UVM doesn't support Palestinian and Arab voices which acts in contrast to the University's commitment to DEI and freedom of expression.
- Regardless of your personal feelings, it is our duty as Senators to voice the opinions and feelings of fellow students, especially those who feel silenced or unsupported by administration as so many Palestinian and Arab students do.
- There's been an email campaign going around to email those in administration who were in charge of this decision.
  - There can be security concerns, but when those aren't specified, we don't know what they are and it can hurt.
  - Palestinians are begging to be heard and that perspective is really needed because mainstream media is not providing it.

- Even if you don't agree with him politically, that isn't a reason to cancel or not listen. He is personally affected and to cancel in such a dramatic way does not put the University in a good place.
- It needs to be rectified in some way. At the least, an apology needs to be sent out.
- **Action Steps**
  - If you are passionate about this, send an email to the admin listed in the Teams. Share your feelings and discomfort about the cancellation of this event.
  - We are working on a resolution for next week and would welcome help with writing that and getting it passed.
  - Educate yourself and your peers on what is going on in the Middle East currently. Getting a full breadth of experiences and listening to learn more from different experiences.
  - Come to us with any questions or concerns that you have.
- Our resolution will make it clear that we do not stand for hate of any kind. We've specifically talked about anti-Arab sentiment and Islamophobia, but this includes antisemitism and racism of any kind.
- We stand for all students and that doesn't include being discriminatory in any way. If you see discrimination towards any group, you should feel the need to stand up and say something regardless of your political stance.
- Finally please take care of yourselves. Being on social media in the past weeks has been very hard and you should be able to take action but also have room to get off social media and focus on your own mental health as well

**Senator Aliyev:** I fully agree with you and disagree with UVM's decision. This lecture is part of the Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series. Will Miller was a well-respected professor of Philosophy at UVM for many years. UVM's decision to cancel this lecture disrespects his legacy.

This series was sponsored by CAS, especially the Sociology and English departments, and they put hard work in to bring Mohammed El-Kurd here. The Dean of CAS and professors in CAS objected to this decision. This decision created anger in the student body, disrespects faculty, students, and by extension SGA as representatives of the student body. I would like to help you with this resolution.

**Senator Siegel:** Thank you for bringing this issue up, it is a very pressing issue. In the past few days we've seen a lot on social media.

I want to first question you all on fact checking and the validity of information you've received about this cancellation. I want to question the truthfulness of the statement we've seen "UVM and the administration went against the Dean of CAS", do we know that?

I would also like to mention that El-Kurd has had a long history with Israel and the Palestinian conflict that is deeper than mine and deeper than many. Many people don't know in regard to this man, that he is extremely anti-Semitic. This is shown across extensive research by myself, by the ICC, Mohammed El-Kurd, especially in his college series talks. I don't want to mention the things he has said, but for example, in a recent tweet he said that Jews harvest and eat Palestinian organs.

The University has brought tons of amazing Palestinian and Arab voices to speak on campus, but is it wise to bring him? The Sociology and English department supported this man financially, how do we feel about that?

We all know there is a gray line between antisemitism and anti-Zionism, but we also know that free speech is not hate speech. My biggest worry with talking with my peers, with faculty, with administration is that although El-Kurd's right to speak on campus might be valid, no matter the subject, for example speaking about Palestinian voices in the news which is so important and so valid, but the things he could say on campus right now are terrible. He would bring up the issue of recent events and that could spiral.

UVM canceling this speaker is a matter of our safety, it is a matter of my safety, Senator Orr's safety, it is a matter of safety for the 20% of Jewish-identifying students on campus. I love all people, and I will reiterate as I said last week that no one side is right, we need to come together and make peace.

The situation in Gaza is extremely sad, but allowing El-Kurd to speak right now could be dangerous and violent and do more harm than good. Please think about that.

Please come to me if you have any questions, I will be more than willing to provide you with research and facts. Remember to fact check, do research, and do not stand up to hate.

**Chair Teferra:** I too have also done extensive research into Mohammed El-Kurd. When I first looked him up, there were articles calling him anti-Semitic which concerned me as a UVM student who was intending to attend that lecture. We can talk another time about that.

My main point is that UVM didn't cancel this event because he is anti-Semitic. They offered to reschedule, why would you do that to an anti-Semitic speaker? That's not the issue that they were citing. I don't believe they would knowingly offer to host an anti-Semitic speaker, they presumably did research into him as well before offering to speak.

I just want to distinguish the reasoning the University presented for cancellation.

**Senator Jones:** It's important to recognize at this moment that with recent events and the history of this conflict, the issue of Palestine from a Palestinian activist perspective and bringing awareness to this is not on the basis of religion. It is about land and occupation and the genocide of people. It would be careless if not cowardly to take the opportunity away from people to learn about this and be heard and represented in a horrible situation happening right now.

It is important to recognize the sensitivity of this topic, different groups on campus have different opinions. But it is also important to remember, as Chair Teferra mentioned, that this was not an unregulated event. This was sponsored by several departments, approved by the Dean of CAS, and as far as we know fought to defend this.

To overrule that interest and want of the student body population isn't right. We should be critical of the fact that the agents who organized this event are not careless and would not be failing to do due diligence and research, especially on such a sensitive topic.

It is important to recognize the event for what it was. And that is about the land and occupation of Palestine, advocating for the Palestinian people who are not anti-Semitic, who are not going after the state of Israel on the basis of religion, who are fighting for their lives to not be wiped out by genocide.

**Senator Aliyev:** Thank you Senator Siegel for sharing thoughts and concerns. You mention you want people to fact check. I saw the information about the Dean of CAS objecting to this decision and I talked to professors in the History department who confirmed that the Dean and several professors objected. I can fact check more and if you have more information, I would like to hear it.

**Senator Siegel:** There are things that I am allowed to say and things that I am not allowed to say because I am worried for my own safety. Without consulting the many students that I am with, I am worried about saying more, but I just want to say that is not correct.

To your point about the land and genocide, it is 100% valid and this is a long and deep history and I agree with you. But right now, my friend is captured by Hamas and I don't know when he's coming back. In terms of safety, it is not only for my safety, but for his safety as well.

From the conversations I've had, security by the people who host the Miller series, which is not directly affiliated with the University, had not before considered safety. And with the UVM campus being active on all sides, on all sorts of topics, it is in the best interest of the University to cancel this right now. For his safety, my safety, and all of your safety.

You know how liberal I am on this issue, and you know how I am all for various speakers on this campus, but this is not something that I will stand behind.

**Senator Isenhour:** I just want to make a point to back Senator Siegel that the issue of Israel and Palestine is an ill-informed issue. I think it is really important to get people in to talk about it from both sides. But the cancellation of the event I don't think is an oppression on the Palestinian voice as much as it is about keeping everyone safe here.

I have no doubt in my mind that him speaking here could lead to an escalated situation. Nobody wants to get hurt, and representing one side of this conflict right now is kind of assigning UVM to one side and could aggravate Israeli students.

**Chair Anis:** I'd like to remind you all why Chair Teferra and I are standing here before you. It is not because of our own personal opinions. We are here to voice opinions and feelings and concerns of students.



I stand here on behalf of Palestinian and Arab students who feel silenced by this act of the University. It is our duty and our prerogative as a governing student body who stands as the voice for students to the administration to voice the concerns, anger, and silencing that students feel.

It is not our place as individuals to interject our own opinions and identities on this debate. Remember why we're here and that we are serving the greater student body, not ourselves.

**Chair Teferra:** I would like to address your point, Senator Isenhour. I understand there can be concerns at such a heightened time, especially as there has been violence and escalated situations around the country. But you yourself said that it's important to bring speakers in from both sides, and I feel that those are contradictory.

When is a good time to bring in a speaker? You can't control everything. There will always be people who are upset by a decision, especially when bringing in a speaker on a very divided issue. but that's not a reason to not hear him out because we fear that people will react.

Where is the balance between safety and importance of the perspective? I don't think waiting a month would make this situation any better and Mohammed El-Kurd would no longer be a threat to bring on campus.

No matter what the reasoning is, it still has the impact of Palestinian and Arab students feeling silenced. They already don't see a lot of representation within the University and within the United States supporting them. They already feel left out of the conversation with overwhelming narrative in the media supporting Israel.

It is important to try to put yourself in their shoes. The message Palestinian and Arab students see is that UVM does not care about them, UVM has never cared about them, and they

have no voice. A lot of people feel unsafe with speaking up and saying something because they feel that the main narrative is that their identity is not valid.

I was at a vigil for Gaza last week, and several people talked about feeling invalidated in their identity. This action by the administration reaffirms that feeling that they don't belong. We need to represent everyone and make them feel heard. We might disagree on ways to do that, but that is a fundamental ideal that we need to have.

They are suffering, they are human beings, they are our neighbors, and leaving them out of the conversation in such a big way and then not providing any way to rectify the situation is completely disrespectful. I hope that everyone understands that feeling and going forward takes action steps to make everyone feel heard and that includes Palestinians who are often left out.

**Speaker Clark:** With that we are ending debate, I encourage you all to reach out to Chair Anis and Chair Teferra following this meeting and communicate with each other. Also review that resolution when it is sent out.

## **Executive Reports**

### **Speaker Clark**

- Thank you for approving the minutes and bills brought up this week alongside the Amendment to the Constitution.
- Reminder that the Constitution is still open and further Amendments should be brought up sooner rather than later or before we close it. You can also move to reopen the Constitution at any time, this doesn't have to be the last time that we touch it this year.
- In regards to Executive Committee meeting last Wednesday:

- We continued discussing the sexual violence training for club signers, which included updates on logistics.
- We also discussed the flagpole policies and seeing how they apply to this year.
- Project ideas and various initiatives.
- If you would like to see the minutes for that meeting, let me know.
- Last Friday, Senator Siegel and I met with the Board of Trustees for the Budgeting, Finance, and Investment Committee:
  - Fiscal Year 2023 audit is nearly complete. Findings are clean with no material deficiencies and no management letter which is a really positive sign.
  - Higher interest rates were felt negatively on returns, performance of short-term endowments have been underperforming. It should be noted that various reports lag in real time, and long-term outperforming index for total fund performance has been noted.
  - Executive session regarding setting tuition that lasted for over an hour with no clear resolution. So there is another anticipated session in another meeting.
- Thank you for your patience. I encourage you all to please take care of yourselves, especially when we're having conversations that are dealing with higher emotions.
- Clearly and respectfully state your points, everyone has a right to be heard. However there is also the element of productivity that I want us to all make sure we are respecting each other's time. You can also show your beliefs and how you feel by voting on resolutions.
- Please reach out to me about anything.

**Vice President Purple**

- Echoing what Speaker Clark said, this is a time when emotions can be heightened not just in the Senate but in our own lives. Please look out for yourselves and others if you can.
- Working on SGA Bulletin Board posting a little blurb about what each committee has accomplished so far this year. It will be posted on a little board outside the SGA office.
- If you need support on projects, reach out to me. My door is always open.

### **President Eisenberg**

- Take care of yourselves, and be supportive of each other.
- Working on Constant Contact, the mass email to be sent out with the strategic plan to all students. That will hopefully be done by tomorrow, might be an optimistic deadline.
- On Thursday, I'm meeting with Corinne Thompson, the Board of Trustees coordinator, about getting the student trustee selection process started. This is a long process, I believe they are appointed in February.
- Provost lunch this Sunday. I sent numbers and dietary restrictions earlier today. Thank you to everyone who RSVPed.
- In terms of carpools, it would be easiest if we do Chairs organize with everyone in your Committee. If you don't have access and need extra space or help with that, reach out to me. You don't need to be certified to drive for this event.

### **Treasurer Sorensen**

- Last week I met with the group of people who volunteered to help with UVM Staff United Resolution. It was an introductory meeting and talked about issues facing the union. Meeting again tomorrow night and Annie Valentine will be joining us.
- Thank you all for helping in passing the SpringFest bill.
- Thank you to Senator Connors for joining the planning committee.

- Met last week with Jerome Budomo, Anna Sola, and Elliot Ruggles regarding the sexual violence prevention training for all the club signers. We'll have more details about that soon.
- I'm a representative on the Board of Trustees Educational Policy and Institutional Research Committee. Last Friday passed a resolution to create a co-major program.
  - Currently if you are looking to pursue two majors in separate colleges that comes in the form of a dual degree.
  - The co-major which I believe will begin next year allows you to have two majors, one is your main major and one is your co-major.
  - It eliminates some of the requirements to allow more flexibility in pursuing multiple majors.
  - It shows up on your transcript as two majors, you get one degree in your main college, but you have the second degree on your transcript as well.

**Chair Elkort:** What's the difference between that and just having a minor?

- **Response:** It's a little more in depth than a minor and it carries more weight on your transcript. You can show people your transcript is more well rounded.

**Senator Carpenter:** The expectation is that co-majors will all be around 30 credits compared to minors which are usually less. And it shows up on your transcript as a co-major rather than just a minor.

**Treasurer Sorensen:** Motion for 5 minute recess before Committee Reports.

- Motion **passed**.

**Speaker Clark:** Motion for paper reports from all committees.

- Motion **passed**.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Public Relations Committee**

- Nothing to report.

### **Committee on the Environment**

- CoE is continuing on securing a speaker and we've gotten a good quote for Dr. Caroline Finney, just waiting to see her availability.
- We are continuing to talk with the group Social Justice in the Outdoors (SOJO) of the Outing Club as their SCF proposal overlaps with what we want to do. Their presentation is next week so that decision will guide what we do next. Stay tuned.
- Trivia night and Plant with Us are also on the agenda. More to come!

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

- Hey all, I hope everyone is having a great week. First, I'd like to thank everyone for their contributions and participation in the dialogue we had during Senatorial Forum. That was an emotional discussion, and I encourage everyone to take care of themselves.
  - If you would like to continue the conversation or help with the resolution Chair Teferra and I will be writing, please reach out to me and let's chat.
- Not much else to report today. We are all continuing to meet with Professors and administrators to progress our projects.
  - Senator Thompson is working with political groups on campus and Representatives Brian Minier and Troy Headrick to promote voter education and registration. Also, special shoutout to Senator Thompson because yesterday was her birthday, so happy belated birthday!

- Senator Joshi will be tabling to gauge student interest in an order for vehicle theft prevention locks. Dates are as follows: Nov. 6 from 2-5 pm, Nov. 7 from 2-5 pm, Nov. 8 from 2:30-4:30 pm, Nov. 9 from 2-5 pm, and Nov. 10 from 2-5 pm. If you are free for these times, please reach out to me or Senator Joshi to help table.
- Enjoy the rest of your week and have a happy Halloweekend!

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

- I hope you guys are doing well and are excited for Halloween! I have a few updates from COLCA this week.
- We had a community coalition meeting last Friday and we had one of the largest turnouts I've seen yet, so thank you to my committee members for participating.
  - I presented a brief overview of the strategic plan to the coalition and they were really receptive to student concerns. We discussed having a member of COLCA do the same presentation at each of the NPAs.
  - Many of the steering committee members that are present at the coalition were surprised to see that they shared many of the students' concerns, and thought it would be a great way to bridge the gap between students and permanent Burlington residents.
- Outside of that, I want to announce that the **Community Cleanup will be Saturday, November 4th, at 11 a.m.!** We'll have an infographic going out soon so we would appreciate everyone's help in spreading the word.
- As far as committee work goes there isn't too much to report concretely, but know that all of our senators are still pushing forward with their individual projects, and are doing some great work!

- And the highly anticipated song of the week is.... If You Ever Did Believe by Stevie Nicks!

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

- Nothing to report.

### **Club Affairs Committee**

- I hope everyone is doing well. Not much to report this week, we are all continuing on our projects and with our club confirmations.
- Please take care of yourselves, and I'm here if anyone needs anything or wants to chat.

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

- Hi all! Academic affairs doesn't have much to report. We are all working diligently on our projects.
- Senator Wiltz and Senator Degroot have the tentative date for the Career Planning event as November 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 in the Davis Center.
- Have a lovely day.

### **Finance Committee**

- Nothing to report.

### **Senatorial Comments/Announcements**

**Senator Garcia:** Cookies for CASA on 11/4 from 4:30-8:30pm at Kappa Alpha Theta's chapter facility which is 215 South Prospect Street. Tickets will be sold in the Davis Center starting 10/27, \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Each ticket purchases a small bag to be filled with a



selection of cookies. All proceeds go to our main philanthropy which is Court Appointed Special Advocates.

**Senator Ibinyopakaka:** This Saturday is Candy Shoppe. Davis Center takeover from 8-11pm entrance is free, just need your CatCard. Escape rooms and laser tag on the 4th floor, free candy, costume contest!

**Senator Daniels:** Have a fun and safe Halloweekend everyone! Take care of yourself.

**Adjournment**