Hi everybody! My name is Carter Purple. I’m a current sophomore here at the University of Vermont, and I am super excited to announce my intention to run for Vice President of the Student Government Association, or SGA. I’m in year two of my time with the Student Government Association, and I’m so proud of the work and accomplishments the group has made over the past few years. I want to run for Vice President to further the accomplishments we’ve already made, while continuing to spearhead making change at the university.

So… what exactly has SGA, as a whole, accomplished? It’s a fair question. One of the things that we are always trying to work on as your representative body is expanding our communications and transparency as far as what’s going on with us. Here’s a few things that have made me proud to see as a senator:

- Successful community events, including Week of Kindness, ActivitiesFest, SVAM, Earth Week events, and more
- Advocating for not only students but also faculty and staff, such as supporting UVM Staff United’s efforts to unionize last spring and lobbying for legislation to be passed at the State House to further democratize UVM’s Board of Trustees
- Recognizing tons of new clubs and organizations, who have been thriving since recognition!
- Last year, watching the formation and evolution of Rally Cat’s Cupboard, UVM’s on-campus food pantry - such a great resource that I encourage any and all to go use.
- And so much more! All 45 of us on SGA are always working on some sort of project to improve the school - don’t hesitate to reach out to your senators and ask what they’re working on 😊

The accomplishments of my peers through these past two years have really inspired me. Last spring, I ran for the Speaker position, for which I was honored to be elected to by my fellow senators. I’ve been serving in the role ever since, and it’s been an incredible experience. As Speaker, I run the meetings - determining the speaking order, inviting guests, archiving and disseminating important documents, and running the Judicial Committee within the senate. As Speaker, you are the one member of the senate who must remain impartial and only speak objectively during senate meetings. I’ve learned so much and done so much in this position, but there have been many times where I wanted to chime in and take a more involved role in the discussions and project work! The Vice President role would enable me to do just that, which is a big part of why I’ve decided to run for this new leadership position.

While being Speaker has dominated my SGA experience, here’s a few other things I’ve personally accomplished while on senate:

- Recognized over ten new clubs over two years - including Warhammer Club, Ethical Fashion Collective, Surf Club, Jump Rope Club, and more!
- Helped to organize a public forum with Burlington PD on ways to
- Hired a scribe and re-introduced the recording of minutes to the senate process: You can find the minutes to all of our meetings from this year here
- I joined the SOJO Council (Social Justice in the Outdoors) for the Outing Club in an effort to expand accessibility to the outdoors for all students - I only just recently joined them, but I’m excited to see our partnership continue to develop!

Though I am inspired and proud of all the change and action we’ve made happen during my time on SGA, I am not oblivious to the glaring issues that face our university. To put it bluntly, we are facing many. The stress of not one, but two classes that broke the record for largest in UVM’s history, has been visible in many ways across the university. The efforts of staff - without whom our university simply would cease to exist - to advocate for themselves and improve their own working conditions is an incredibly important issue to me. And at an individual level, we need to listen to the concerns and needs of the individual students more, and do whatever is within our capabilities to alleviate those issues and improve this school for all.

If you elect me as your Vice President, I guarantee you I will put all of my passion and efforts into improving these situations. Already, we as SGA have had some important conversations with members of not only admin and staff but even legislative representatives for the state of Vermont on these issues. I hope to continue to build on the relationships I’ve established with members of administration, faculty, staff, the greater Burlington community, and especially the students. I am confident in my abilities as a leader, a communicator, an organizer, and as a friend, all traits that I would want in my Vice President. I feel equipped to continue the effort to make this school and this community as a whole a better place for all!
If you’ve read to this point, I appreciate you taking your time to do so. I’m so excited about what the future holds for the Student Government Association, and it would be such an honor to be able to take a lead role in that. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or just want to meet me, feel free to reach out to me by email at cpurple@uvm.edu or by phone at 978-846-0759. Last but not least, please be sure to check out the platform of my running mate Olivia Eisenberg, who is running to be your Student Government Association president! She is a strong leader with so much passion for this type of work and I’m so excited to be running with her.

Thanks so much for your time, Catamounts! Let’s continue to make change happen here in Vermont, both big and small. When election time comes around - vote Purple!