Hi everyone! My name is Laura, and I'm running for SGA Senate. Here are a few things about me:

- I'm a junior, religion major, and political science minor
- I'm originally from St. Paul, MN
- I serve as the Vice President of Finance and Standards on the UVM College Panhellenic Council
- I transferred to UVM from Boston University, and it was the best decision of my life

And here is my platform

**COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic is new territory for everyone, and I am glad that UVM listened to student's concerns and provided optional Pass/Fail grading. That being said, there are aspects of this transition that have yet to be addressed. Off campus, students do not have access to many resources we rely on while on campus. Students deserve reimbursement for all services we no longer have access to. Also, the 2020 graduating class deserves an in-person commencement ceremony whenever that becomes a possibility.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Divestment:** The time to take action on climate change is now. We need to demand that UVM divest funds from fossil fuels and invest in sustainable energy.

**Compost bins:** Too much compostable waste ends up in the trash in UVM dorms. We need to add compost bins to every floor in the residence halls.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

**Attendance policies:** Rigid attendance policies serve as a barrier to the success of students with different accessibility needs. Students’ grades should not be impacted when their disabilities do not allow them to attend a class period. As we adjust to a different style of learning, we need to observe how alternative instruction styles can assist students even when we return to campus.

**Online scheduling:** A barrier many students face when trying to make appointments for student health services is the lack of alternatives to scheduling over the phone. Many students do not have time to call during business hours, especially when they remain on hold for extended periods of time. Certain health services are available for online scheduling, but we need to allow all services to be scheduled online for both Student Health Services and CAPS.

**CAPS:** When a student takes steps to seek help for their mental health, they should not be forced to wait weeks for an appointment. We need to increase funding for CAPS and hire more counselors who hold a variety of identities. It is important that students can receive support from a counselor they feel comfortable with in a reasonable time frame.
**SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**Advocacy:** At the moment, UVM only has one Campus Victim’s Advocate. Other universities have entire branches of their student health services devoted to sexual misconduct where students can find 24/7 hotlines, counseling teams devoted to helping survivors report and heal from their assault, peer group support, and campus advocacy. Sexual assault impacts every area of a person’s life, and we as a community need to do more to advocate for survivors.

**Training:** Certain organizations on campus require sexual assault prevention trainings for all students involved. However, students should be required to attend this type of training regardless of campus involvement. Other colleges and universities have instituted mandatory sexual assault response and prevention trainings for first-year students. Having a uniform training that all students must participate in ensures that all students are receiving comprehensive and uniform information.

**Safety:** Last year, the late night bus stopped running to Redstone, leaving students who live past the gym without a safe way home. We need to add the Redstone stops back to the late night bus route to ensure the safety of students.

**DIVERSITY**

**Funding:** Affinity spaces and identity based clubs provide many students with support systems they would not be able to find elsewhere. We need to increase funding to these organizations.

**History:** UVM has an embarrassing history of racial discrimination. In order to fulfill our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we need to acknowledge our community’s past and work to repair the harm. Removing Bailey’s name from the library was a start, but we also need to memorialize the victims of his work with eugenics. Another part of UVM’s history which needs to be addressed is the history of the Kake Walk. The FSL community and the UVM community as a whole need to work together to acknowledge the harm caused so we can collectively work to grow and heal.

**Religious holidays:** In 2019, 2020, and 2021 spring finals week fell (or will fall) during Ramadan. Professors are required to excuse class absences to account for religious holidays, but are not required to reschedule exams for the same reason. No student should be forced to take an exam during a religious holiday, especially one that involves the physical difficulties a student may experience while observing Ramadan.

**EDUCATION**

**Transparency:** When registering for classes, students deserve to know what they will be graded on and what materials they will need to purchase. Providing at least those two sections of the syllabus with each course description will allow students to make informed decisions and to ensure their own academic success.

**Library hours:** Many students use Howe Library for longer hours during finals week, which leads to an overcrowded and unproductive study space in the Cyber Cafe. Howe Library needs to be made accessible to students 24/7 during finals week.