Hi folks!! My name is Paige and I am running for SGA Senate.

Here’s some fun facts about me:
- I am a sophomore majoring in political science with minors in religion and speech and debate in the College of Arts and Sciences!
- I am a lifelong Vermonter!
- In high school I served on Student Government and as the Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees
- I’m a Wellness Associate at Living Well
- I’m a proud member of UVM’s Lawrence Debate Union
- Some of my passions include feminism, Vermont politics, Pod Save America, and progressive health care and education policies (also reality competition shows, but that is besides the point).

I was inspired to run after hearing about how SGA and the UVM administration failed to respond to credible accusations of sexual misconduct against a senator. In my time at UVM I have had multiple friends’ Title 9 reports go unresponded to or poorly responded to. This kind of mishandling does not only happen on SGA but across campus and it is time for us to change that.

My platform:

**Creating a uniform removal policy for club members or elected officials credibly accused of sexual misconduct:** The Title 9 is not and should not be the only body responsible for investigating sexual assault misconduct allegations against students. I believe that SGA should draft a uniform removal policy for all UVM clubs, including SGA, to follow should their members be credibly accused of sexual misconduct, against a fellow club member or student. Students accused of sexual misconduct, including club officers, will have to undergo an internal investigation within the club before proceeding. Title 9 is often ineffective and often is not able to protect victims. Many clubs, like gymnastics, Model UN, and debate, travel and it is important that we do not put students in compromising situations when they go on these trips.

**Better mental health training for RAs and RDs:** Resident Advisors and Resident Directors are responsible for the wellbeing of the students they oversee. This includes responding to care reports and assisting students in their mental health crises. RAs and RDs deserve better training to handle this. RAs report to 3 weeks of training and that time could be used more effectively. Training should prioritize mental health training in order to best support students.

**Better food options for students with restrictive diets:** Many students are unable to find healthy food that fits within their diet. Many students have more restrictive diets due to medical necessity, religious belief, or ethical viewpoint. I personally had to go on the FODMAP diet this semester due to medical reasons and found it near impossible to do. Not adhering to my diet would negatively affect me physically which would affect my academic performance. Students
deserve to be able to fuel their bodies for success. One way to do this would be by reconsidering our deal with Sodexo and possibly switching to another provider.

**Better religious literacy:** While UVM allows students to miss class for religious holidays, there is a lot more they can do to support students on campus. This year and last year finals happened during Ramadan, so many students were fasting during exam week. UVM does not allow students to move the date of their finals if it conflicts with their religious holidays and this is wrong. Students deserve to have an equal shot of excelling on their exams and they do not have that if they are not able to fuel themselves during exam week. UVM must make more accommodations for these students.

**Divestment:** The student body has made it clear that they want to divest from fossil fuels. SGA must hold the Board of Trustees accountable. I promise to work with the Student Trustee to make sure the voices of the students are heard by the Board.

**Better paid sick leave for UVM staff:** UVM’s paid sick leave policy in the wake of COVID-19 is fundamentally unjust. Faculty and staff are allowed to use up to 10 days of paid sick leave. If their contract does not allow for 10 days or they have used up all their paid time off they may go into sick leave debt. This means that if a dining hall or maintenance worker gets COVID-19 they can go up to 10 days in debt. However, this might take years to make up, so they will not get another paid sick day for years. If the employee leaves before they have made up their debt time, their debt gets taken out of their last paycheck. The people who cook our food and clean our dorms deserve more just treatment.

**Increased hours for the off campus bus:** The off campus bus starts at 6 pm, but that is not the only time students want to go downtown. The majority of upperclassmen live downtown and should have easy access to their apartments. This is especially important during the Vermont winters when students are warned not to be outside for more than 10 minutes due to the negative temperature, but must walk 30 minutes to class. Increasing off campus bus hours increases public safety among UVM students.

**Removing the pandemic clause in the housing contract:** The UVM housing contract says that in the wake of a pandemic flu or other event out of university control, students will not be refunded. Having now lived through the reality of a pandemic, we must call on the administration to remove this clause.