Hey Everyone,

My name is Noel Desmarais and I am running for a seat in the SGA senate. I am from Bedford, New Hampshire and I am a first year studying Business Administration with a minor in Public Policy Analysis and Computer Science.

In high school, I held the position of Class President for three years where I worked to increase communication and transparency between student council and the student body as well as foster relationships with the administration. I created new channels of communication through increased use of social media and the creation of a website so that all students could receive important information. Additionally, I had to work to raise money and manage tens of thousands of dollars for various events.

I was also chosen to serve as the sole student voice on a board comprised of school and district administrators, parents, and teachers that worked to change district policies on bullying and assault so that more students would feel comfortable reporting incidents. I believe that this knowledge and these policies could be scaled and applied to help at our university.

At UVM, I served as President of Marsh Austin Tupper’s Hall Council, but I wanted to expand my reach. I wanted to be able to be the voice of more people and represent them in a more impactful way. I realize that serving on the senate at the university level is a much bigger challenge than high school or Hall Council, but I look forward to taking on that challenge. In the next few pages, you will find my platform and why I am asking for your vote on April 8th and 9th.

Thank you,

Noel Desmarais
MY PLATFORM

INCREASE CAPS SERVICES — According to a 2019 SGA Presentation, the average wait time is 10.65 days to get an initial appointment with CAPS. This is significantly too long especially considering its importance to so many students. I want to work with the university to get funding for CAPS increased so that more students can have access to this essential service.

ADD COMPOST BINS TO EVERY FLOOR OF EVERY RESIDENCE HALL —

Composting in our dining halls is a great start, but so much waste is created in our dorm rooms that could be composted. Although there are ways to compost in dorm buildings, they need to be expanded to make it easier and more convenient for all students to do it.

MAKE DINING HALL MENUS MORE ACCURATE — Too many times have I checked the menu for the dining hall and gotten excited for what was on the menu only to be disappointed once I arrived there. Students with limited swipes may only be going to the dining hall for specific things and if those aren’t there then it was a waste of a swipe. Even if the food is there, sometimes the ingredients listed on the label are incorrect which can pose a problem for those with dietary restrictions. I want to work with UVM dining to improve the accuracy of the menus and labels.

SMART WASHERS AND DRYERS — It is extremely inconvenient currently for students to have to guess when a washer or dryer might be free. Many schools have it so you can be notified on your phone when there is one available. I want to bring that technology to UVM.
REDUCE WELLNESS SUBSTANCE CONSEQUENCES — After talking with both residents and RA’s of the Wellness Learning Community, it has become apparent that students are so afraid of getting removed from their dorm that to the extent where it is more dangerous. I want to work with Dr. Hudziak to modify the repercussions of getting caught with substances so that students aren’t afraid to reach out for help if they’re in a situation where they need to.

REQUIRE THAT SYLLABI AND REQUIRED PURCHASES BE POSTED PRIOR TO COURSE REGISTRATION — When registering for courses, it should be clear what that course will entail and how much the required materials will cost. By posting the syllabi prior to course registration, students will be able to make more informed decisions about the classes they want to take. The required purchases (i.e. Textbooks, access codes, software, etc.) should be listed on those syllabi so that students know what costs they will incur by registering for that class.

ALLOW CLUBS TO USE VENMO — While this may seem like a no-brainer, Venmo is a liability due to the inability to track the amount organizations are collecting through it. I believe that we can find a way to track and verify how much money if being collected through the service so that clubs and organizations can once again use it. This will make it much easier for clubs to raise funds.

MOST IMPORTANTLY — LISTEN TO YOU — These are just some of the ideas that I think will improve our school. If you elect me, you are doing so so that I can represent you. I want to hear from you. I want to know what is important to you. Together we can shape this university to what we want it to be.