My name is Chris Harrell, and for my last year here in Vermont, I want to serve the UVM community as one of your Senators.

I'm a Junior Political Science major, and a double minor in Psychology and Sociology. I'm originally from Baltimore, Maryland and went to Baltimore County Public Schools.

I'm a climate activist here at UVM and in the Burlington Community. I have helped lead Organize, the club dedicated to making UVM divest from fossil fuel fuels, for the past year, and serve as Local Action Leader for the Sunrise Movement. In this position, I planned, organized and led the Sunrise Movement’s action at the January Board of Trustees meeting that helped to force UVM to create the Sustainability Work Group currently assigned to look at divestment.

I worked as Campaign Co-Manager for Jane Stromberg’s victorious Ward 8 Burlington City Council campaign that unseated an incumbent City Councilor, even though we were outspent and had zero paid staff. I also served as Campus Coordinator for Zoraya Hightower’s victorious Ward 1 City Council campaign, where she also unseated an incumbent to become the first woman of color in Burlington City Council history.

Since Spring 2019, I've been an Opinion Section Staff Writer at the Vermont Cynic, focusing largely on Local Politics and Labor.

I want to use the experience I've gained in my three years at UVM to give back to my community for my last year. I have big plans to make SGA more democratic, hold the University administration accountable, and uplift student activists doing the work to make UVM a better place. Together, we will:

- Force the University to Divest from Fossil Fuels by continuing the activism that has been proven to be successful, and make it easier for students to organize on campus. This includes lowering the barriers to forming clubs and club fundraising, allowing clubs to fundraise on Venmo. I will also pledge to use my position to protect activists from university sanctions.
- Make SGA more democratic in the short term by using my office to elevate the voices of students, and creating Student Forums where students can voice the issues that they are facing to Student Government leaders and UVM Administration. And in the long term, move SGA towards a Student Union, which would serve as a center for student power and an instrument of collective bargaining on behalf of the student body.
- Drastically expand and improve CAPS mental health services for every student. No more month long waits for counseling, and no more limits on the amount of appointments per month each student can have. And make UVM pay for it, rather than putting the burden on student fees.
- Promote transparency in SGA and in the UVM administration. Students deserve to know how their money is being spent, to have a say in important University decisions like tuition and housing policy, and what the University is doing with their private data.

If you have any questions about my platform, or want to talk about an issue that is affecting you as a student, please reach out to me by emailing chharrel@uvm.edu. I hope that I’ve earned your vote, and together, we can take on the power structure here at UVM to improve the lives of every student!