

OUR community. OUR campus. OUR future.

**LANA AL-NAMEE & PETER LALLY
FOR UVM SGA PRESIDENT & VP
PLATFORM**



Hey Catamounts! We are Lana Al-Namee (she/her) and Peter Lally (he/him) and we are running to be the next President and Vice President of the Student Government Association here at UVM. We are two students looking to make real change at UVM, not empty promises, and we have the experience to do it. We have served on the SGA as Senators for the past 2 years. We are ready to provide a much needed fresh perspective of leadership and advocacy for our student body with your help.

Lana is from South Burlington, VT studying Global Business Administration and minoring in Economics. She served on the Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs and the Finance Committee during her tenure. In these roles, she has been able to work on improving campus/community relations and help manage SGA's multimillion-dollar budget that funds countless student activities. She is also a member of Women in Business and is a Student Analyst for the Catamount Innovation Fund.

Peter is from Mansfield, MA studying Public Communications and minoring in Political Science and Speech & Debate. He served on the Public Relations Committee during his tenure and Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Food Pantry. In these roles, he has worked on increasing the amount of outreach of SGA to the student body and helping open UVM's new on-campus food pantry, Rally Cat's Cupboard. He is also a member of the UVM Debate Team and occasionally writes for the Water Tower.

We hope to have your support on March 26th and 27th

General Overview

- First off, we value your opinion and would love to hear directly from you what you would like SGA to take action on based on your experience at UVM. We are always open to new ideas and want to be adaptable to problems as they arise. Contact us by email at either ana.anamee@uvm.edu or peter.lally@uvm.edu or by Instagram DM @lana.peter4uvm
- We are dedicated to making a platform of realistic plans and initiatives. The main sections covered in this platform will be **COVID-19 Concerns, Student Safety & Wellbeing, Our Environment, Finances/Club Affairs, Academic Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion, and Housing/ResLife.**

COVID-19 Concerns

- **We want to do everything we can to encourage the administration to provide some type of reimbursement/refund to students.** Now that classes are being taken remotely, students are losing out on quality of education, dining points/meal plans, and money we have paid for on-campus housing. We deserve some type of compensation for this loss, especially as UVM no longer has to pay for as many goods and services it usually provides during this time. One student started a petition to show support for this, and we encourage you to sign it as well if this is something you would like to see.
<https://www.change.org/p/university-of-vermont-uvm-students-demand-partial-tuition-and-housing-reimbursement>

Student Safety and Wellbeing

- **Sexual Assault and Harassment is a problem on our campus. We can be doing more.** We want to do everything we can to increase the amount of campus victims advocates on campus as we currently only have one. We also want to expand on existing programs directed at UVM fraternity chapters in regards to sexual assault prevention such as

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requiring more sexual assault prevention workshops and increased percentages of members required to attend these workshops. We also want to look into alternative systems to aid the Blue Light system, such as the LiveSafe application that can report your location and if you feel unsafe to local authorities. Title IX is notoriously underreported to by victims on our campus, as well as nation-wide. The current systems in place to report cases of sexual violence are not as helpful and healing for survivors as they should be, and we want to improve them. We must ensure the safety and well-being of students, including survivors who choose all types of paths in how they heal and grieve. Our administration would plan on engaging in strong advocacy efforts to support survivors, such as the creation of Sexual Violence Awareness Month (April) and a partnership with It's On Us. www.itsonus.org

- **CAPS is clearly at capacity and needs to be improved. Let's help our students.** CAPS is supposed to provide mental health counseling to our students through our tuition dollars. CAPS is not as effective as it should be when you may need to wait for months to get an appointment. We want to increase funding and staff for CAPS so that they can do their job and serve all students who want or need their services. To fill in the gaps as CAPS grows to help all students effectively, we want to bring mental health resources from the surrounding communities to campus and make these other resources more well-known and accessible to students.
- **We need better labeling of food in dining halls and options.** When something is listed as vegan, but then a dining employee writes in "eggs" in marker in the ingredients list without crossing off vegan, that is unacceptable as it can go unnoticed by many. We also need more options for those with food sensitivities and allergies, such as gluten. Also, we need more options for students with religious dietary restrictions. This could include adding more kosher food options in dining halls, for example. We will have someone working directly with UVM dining to address these concerns.
- **We want to begin conversations with the administration about serving alcohol at Springfest and UVM sporting events.** When certain specific events are "substance-free," they are really "substance hidden." We should follow the national trend

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of colleges serving alcohol at events such as SpringFest for those aged 21+. It will make a safer, more controlled environment and cut down on this misuse and abuse of alcohol by students before and during these events. This will lead to fewer alcohol-related incidents and injuries, as shown by other schools that have implemented similar policies.

- **Create more weekend programming on campus in spaces like the Davis Center that students want to attend.** We want to better utilize the Davis Center space on the weekends with more programming. We pay for the Davis Center space through our tuition dollars, let's take advantage of it. We do not do enough as a school to provide activities for students who may feel bored on the weekends or do not always want to go downtown, but want to attend a fun variety of activities and meet new people. These could include movie nights, game nights, art activities, and more with the help of clubs who want to get involved in this.
- **Increase the amount of community monitoring at events on campus to reduce the need for UVM police/security presence.** Many students in vulnerable populations feel very uncomfortable in the presence of police, and it affects their ability to enjoy events. Community monitors would be trained members of certain clubs and groups on campus that would look out for everyone's safety, handle situations, and report to official authorities when necessary. This will make for a more comfortable space and welcoming environment for many.
- **Ensure the success and continual growth of our new on-campus food pantry, Rally Cat's Cupboard.** — 1 in 5 students has experienced food insecurity at some point during their time at UVM. The food pantry's presence is excellent, and it is serving students well. Still, the creation of the food pantry demonstrates the systemic gaps our University needs to address in order to ensure that no student goes hungry. We will continue to lobby the administration to ensure that dining plans and budgeting can improve in order to reduce the number of students in our community who are food insecure. We need to continue to grow this pantry with resources like a fridge, adding fresh fruits and vegetables, and hold cooking classes here for all students who want them. We want to

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continue to encourage the Swipe Out for Hunger program and make students more aware of how to use it.

- **There should be free menstrual products in as many bathrooms on campus as possible, regardless of whether the bathroom is gendered or not.** We are striving to provide these products in as many bathrooms on campus as possible, from residence halls to academic buildings. We also want to encourage the addition of gender inclusive bathrooms in both newer and older buildings on campus.
- **Increase mental health training for UVM police and security.** In times of mental health crises, the UVM police can be the first to respond to such matters. Let's make sure that we are supporting the UVM Police Force in making sure they are equipped to help our community in all types of ways.
- **Make Campus more accessible for students with disabilities/injuries.** We need to make sure that faculty are aware of how to not "out" students' disabilities in the classroom. If a student has accommodations to use a laptop, for example, the professor should not discuss the accommodations in front of the entire class. We want to fix the disconnect between what faculty are expected to do and what Student Accessibility Services require them to do.
- **Make an annual Campus Safety Summit to inform students about all the safety related resources we have, and what we are doing as a school each year to improve**

Our Environment

- **We need to do everything in our power to support Organize and other groups in their efforts to encourage the Board of Trustees to DIVEST from fossil fuels.** It has been too long since these efforts began for nothing to have happened. Now is the time for activism and change on this issue. We want to provide Organize with the resources they need to maintain a presence on campus and continue their great work with the SGA's help.
- **Expand composting on campus and downtown AND ensure that it is ACTUALLY being composted.** There should be composting bins on every residential floor on

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campus. There should be more composting bins in buildings besides the Davis Center. There should be more options and availability for composting for students living off-campus. We also need to hold UVM accountable that they are actually composting what is put in these bins.

- **Trash/Recycling/Compost Cans Outside.** UVM has the resources to put some trash and recycling cans outside. This is something students have wanted for years so that they do not have to hold trash with them throughout campus and potentially litter. Although this project has struggled to gain traction in the past, with the recent shift in administration, we feel more confident that this is something we will be able to get done.
- **Support the transition of the Clean Energy Fund to the Sustainable Campus Fund** Originally only limited to projects revolving around clean energy, expanding this fund will allow for your money to be able to be used for a wider variety of things to promote sustainability on campus. We have done much of what we can already for “clean energy” within the boundaries of the fund. The transition of the fund will help your money that is dedicated to sustainability make even more of a difference.
- **Continue to support the Committee on the Environment’s current initiatives such as supporting the transition of UVM’s vehicle fleet to consist of more electric vehicles, lessen one-use plastics on campus, promoting the use of sustainable goods/giveaways, etc.**

Finances / Club Affairs

- **Clubs want more frequent and transparent communication with the SGA.** We need to increase the level of interaction with clubs until they are satisfied. SGA funds and serves these clubs, it is the least we can do. They deserve to have a say in SGA policies that directly affect them and their events.
- **Make it easier to use online payment forms for fundraisers and tickets and to use cash for tickets at certain events in addition to the Lynx.** We need to have every necessary conversation to make the exchange of money as easy as possible for teams and clubs using these platforms. When clubs like the Celtic Cats have \$5 tickets for their

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shows, why shouldn't someone be able to pay cash instead of using the Lynx, which takes more time and adds a \$1.25 "service fee"? Venmo is a hard situation to get around as it is challenging for money to be tracked and is a legal liability for UVM. We would like to have the necessary conversations, and we believe we have the creative solutions to fix the problem of Venmo currently not being allowed. We will look at all possible alternatives to provide the most straightforward situation for clubs that collect money.

- **We need to set up funding for UPB's Springfest with a LONG TERM resolution, not a yearly one.** SGA uses your tuition dollars to help fund club events, trips, tournaments, and other events on campus. Not every student participates in a club and receives these benefits to the same extent as others. Springfest may take a lot of money to fund, but it is worth it to bring solid talent to UVM for an event that benefits all students who wish to attend. SGA manages your money. Music, entertainment, and community building are some of the best parts of UVM culture, and we want to make this even better and more sustainable. UPB can more effectively do their job with this consistent funding we wish to provide instead of not knowing how much money they are going to get from SGA to help fund it

Academic Affairs

- **Students deserve more information about classes before they register for them.** This includes continuing to advocate for full or partial syllabi to become available to students during registration, and information regarding what textbooks are needed, and other useful information to make informed decisions about what classes you take.
- **Advocate for the College of Arts and Sciences so that they do not lose more funding.** The College of Arts and Sciences is one of the largest at UVM. It provides students with an education that is just as important as other colleges but is continuing to see reductions in funding, faculty, and other resources. These cuts are not necessary, and the IBB budget model is flawed. We will do everything in our power to make sure CAS does not see any more cuts to their funding.

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- **Limiting the amount of classwork, events, and meetings on religious holidays.** We should be doing more to make professors and faculty more aware of the religious holidays that affect students' ability to do work. We will provide a comprehensive list to professors before each semester of these holidays and make sure they do what they can to limit out of class work on those days and make a statement to students at the beginning of the semester so students can let them know ahead of time if necessary. Nobody should have to compromise religious beliefs and practices for classwork; there should be alternatives.
- **Advocate for student data privacy.** We use so many third-party platforms online for our academics such as Blackboard and Navigate that hold student grades, demographics, specific trends in courses, and more. We need to begin to question these platforms more deeply to ensure that our data is our own and is not being used for profit by these companies.
- **Continuing to advocate for current projects such as 24/7 library hours during finals weeks, and more access to academic buildings in your college.**

Diversity and Inclusion

- **We should be doing more to support identity centers on campus.** These identity centers provide a sense of belonging for many students at UVM and enhance the student experience for all students with their presence. We want to do what we can to make funding more accessible for them and increase the level of communication SGA has with them as they are vital to our campus' wellbeing. Although the Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity meets with the Identity Centers throughout the year, a greater intentional relationship needs to be formed with these communities. SGA must make itself more available to include a diverse set of identities into our decision making.
- **We are uniquely positioned students who understand what many students in minority groups go through on our campus.** We do not want promoting diversity and inclusion to just be another platform point. This is important to us, and our own identities have helped shape this platform and our goals going forward. Our campus is kinder, more

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understanding, and more empathetic when we interact with everyone and uplift the voices of those who are marginalized. Being a student representative is a privilege and it is our responsibility to make sure that we are taking advantage of this privilege to best serve those of marginalized identities.

- **Advocating for a permanent Prism Center space.** The time is long overdue for the Prism Center to have a space to call its own. We will do everything we can to ensure that the Prism Center has a permanent location.
- **Making the Diversity Enhancement Fund and other supplemental funds more easily accessible to all students who wish to bring diversity initiatives, projects, and events to campus.** We must do a better job at advertising these funds for students with great ideas, and getting students inspired and excited to take on initiatives and get everyone thinking about how we can improve our campus community. More student input and projects lead to more change!
- **Supporting current efforts by Senator Maddie Henson to create a plaque in front of the Howe Library in remembrance of the lives lost and hurt as a result of the UVM Eugenics Movement.**

Housing/ResLife

- **Advocating for more in-depth questions regarding personal identities on random housing questionnaires.** The current form is too basic, which can lead to roommates who have conflicts over a variety of things. Issues can include prejudices around identities and lead to more inconvenience and more trading spaces requests. We want to reevaluate these questions and add more specific ones to cut down on the number of students who end up having to move rooms or feel uncomfortable or unsafe in their space.
- **We need to make it easier for students in dorms to be able to stay over breaks if they need to.** It is too expensive to stay in your dorm over a break for people who might live too far away to go home, or any other reason. We will do everything we can to make housing over breaks more accessible to those who need it.

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- **UVM and the City of Burlington are about to enter housing negotiations.** We want to ensure that students are a part of these negotiations that will be directly impacting all of us, and future UVM students.
- **We want to make resources more available to off-campus students about their rights as tenants and make it easier to find apartments and homes.** We need to increase the amount of information students have easy access to about renting in Burlington. This includes promoting the use of services such as *reviewmylandlord.com* so that students do not have to stress about finding an excellent place to live that meets their specific needs. As students who had to go through the process of finding an apartment for next year, we know what it is like and want to make it easier for everyone going forward, whether it be finding a place or finding a subletter or roommate.

VOTE FOR LANA & PETER MARCH 26 / 27 AT

UVM.EDU/CLUBS

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