

Platform

Greetings,

My name is **Owen Doherty** and I am asking for your support for President of the UVM Student Government Association. I am a Junior studying Political Science & History. Outside of coursework I am involved with College Democrats, College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Advisory Board, Pi Kappa Alpha, an Advocat Tour Guide, and is the Vice President of Standards for the InterFraternity Council. I am excited for the opportunity to make life just a little bit easier for all students and to create a UVM for everyone.



I have served on the Public Relations Committee since my election to SGA in my first weeks here at UVM, and as the Chair of this committee from 2018-2019. In this role I helped to rebrand how SGA communicates with students. This last year, I have served as your Vice President, in this role I advocated that the University divest from fossil fuels, helped open the first on-campus food pantry for all students, worked to redesign the SGA Galaxy Space to make it inclusive to all students, pushed UVM to invest \$20 million into green bonds, and kept the Student Activities fee at its current level.

Getting to know all of our incredible student leaders gives me a unique perspective on how SGA can better support students, and that perspective is one of the reasons I know I am best prepared to take SGA in a new direction: *yours*.

As President of the Student Government, my job would be to advocate for the success of all students and student leaders to the administration. To ensure that no students are falling through the cracks and that everyone at UVM, regardless of how long they have been here, feel as though their voice is being heard and that they have the opportunity and privilege to call UVM their home. Too often basic services at UVM don't work in the best interests of students. I commit to working hard each day to advocate for every student and create services that work for everyone.

I am grateful to be running with my good friend, **Grace Parker**, for President and Vice President. Grace has worked hard to serve our clubs and organizations here at UVM and I am excited to see what she can do as Vice President. Together we look forward to advocating for the needs of all students.

While it is long and ambitious, these issues are important, and if we can make a difference for even just a few students, then it was worth it.

Best,

Owen Doherty



YOUR Environment

We need to continue to make important strides to make sure the University is doing everything it can to be sustainable for the long term. This means holding the University accountable for its actions and emissions. We need to not only continue to push the University to divest from fossil fuels but also invest in more sustainable options on campus.

- **Continue to push the University aggressively towards divestment from fossil fuels and push the Board of Trustees Sustainability Committee to develop clear goals and timelines for it and share it with the UVM community.**
- **Work with the Office of International Education to off-set carbon for students who travel abroad via airplane.**
- **Advocate for an increased number of electric CATS Buses.**
- **Advocate for electric bikes included in GreenRide Bikeshare.**
- **Increase the use of motion activated LED lighting across campus, so that we can reduce energy use across campus.**
- **Continue to advocate for a transition away from single use plastic bags in the bookstore and around the UVM Campus.**
- **Work with Athletics to develop more sustainable giveaways, that still increase and promote student engagement on campus.**
- **Create bike lanes in high traffic areas of campus.** To encourage the use of bikes and keep pedestrians and bikers safe.
- **Work with the University to continue to ban the sale of plastic bottles across campus, especially those high in sugar content.**
- **Work with the Office of Sustainability to better fund sustainable transportation and Transportation and Parking Services to increase the parking pass buyback program for staff and faculty.**
- **Work with departments that travel often by car or plane to develop and implement carbon off-set programs.**
- **Work with Residential Life, Physical Plant, and the Clean Energy Fun to weatherize older residence halls to be more energy efficient and economical.**



YOUR Academics

As we all know too well the cost of higher education continues to grow higher and higher. Even with the new tuition freeze, UVM remains inaccessible to many students. We must be doing everything we can to bring down costs of academics.

- **Set up an SGA textbook exchange to lower the costs for used books.** At the end of every semester students would be able to log their textbook into the SGA textbook directory for an agreed upon price. Then when another student needs the textbook, they directly pay the original owner for it.
- **Push back final exam start times 1 hour**, because no student should be taking an exam at 7:30am.
- **No internship or research should go unfunded, we will advocate for University funds to be used to fund unfunded and underfunded opportunities for students.** To push this further, **SGA will commit money for students to apply for to fund these experiences.**
- **24/7 access to your academic buildings.** Study and group work space is few and far between on campus. Many colleges already allow students to swipe into their buildings after hours to study or do group work, it's time to expand this to all students.
- **Syllabi available before course registration.** When you are registering for courses, it's ridiculous to not know what you are signing up for.
- **Work with professors to list textbook prices on the syllabus.**
- **Increase study spaces during peak times.** During finals and midterm weeks students shouldn't struggle to find quiet spaces on campus, we need to extend Davis Center hours and bring back 24/7 library hours during these times.
- **Encourage the use of course reserve.** So that students that may only need a textbook once during the semester have access to it, without buying them.
- **Make printing affordable by looking into options for the SGA to supplement the cost of printing in the library.**
- **Set up an I-Clicker rental system**, so students aren't paying alot for one time use.
- **Advocate at the State House for sales tax exemption for university textbooks.**
- **Advocate at the State House for increased funding for UVM.**
- **Officially change the language of Undeclared students to exploratory majors.**
- **Work with faculty to limit the number of classes using online material and expensive access codes.**
- **Create an anonymous bias reporting form for faculty and staff.** So when a professor crosses a line, they can be held accountable.
- **Advocate for increased masters and doctoral programs within the humanities and social sciences.**



- **Require consistent and uniform training for all TA's.** So that expectations are clear across the board.

YOUR Health & Safety

When you come to UVM it becomes your home, and it should feel that way. No one on campus should be worried about getting home safe or not having access to adequate mental and physical health resources.

- **Online or phone hotline for the Campus Victims Advocate.** Sexual Assault doesn't happen during business hours, that's why we need someone for students to reach past 5pm.
- **Place mental health hotline and other important numbers on the back of student IDs.** Because when you need help, it shouldn't take long to find it.
- **Work with Student Conduct and Residential Life to create a first-time offender's program for marijuana and alcohol use that centers more on education and less on punitive sanctions for first-time offenders.** Because you learn nothing from punitive sanctions.
- **Advocate for more funding and increased staffing in CAPS.** Because too often, too many students, wait too long for appointments.
- **Create more FREE campus affordable cooking classes for students.** This both prepares students for life off campus and battles food insecurity by educating students about cost effective ways to shop and cook.
- **Mandate casual conversations between RAs and first year students about mental health and the resources available on campus and off.** Because the conversation around mental health should be a priority.
- **Mandate Alcohol Edu and Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduate Students training not just for first years but also after two years as a reminder and refresher on how to stay safe on campus and off.**
- **Work with CAPS to supplement transportation costs for students who need to take Lyft or Uber to counseling appointments downtown.**
- **Continue partnerships with the Peer Aid Network to have more peer to peer support around mental health.**
- **Improve RA training for times of crisis or emergency, including training in using naran.**
- **Increase funding for the Catamount Recovery Program,** so all students have access to substance free programming at all times and not just during high risk weekends.



YOUR SGA

Too many SGA policies and procedures are archaic, we need to revamp how the SGA operates and interacts with students. As representatives of the undergraduate student body we should be just that, representative of not only the SGA population but also your wants and needs.

- **On our website create a public way to track SGA initiatives.** This holds us accountable to all students.
- **Create weekly updates on the President & Vice President's work** for all students to see.
- **Provide an updated Student Activities fee breakdown on the website,** so you know exactly where your money is going.
- **Create a student services liaison,** so when students have trouble navigating the administration or finding the right answers they have someone to advocate for them.
- **Increase the number of coffee hours, public forums, Facebook Q&As and overall engagement of the President and Vice President.** As well as the rest of SGA, so no student is left in the dark or with unanswered questions.
- **Look into adding another Student Trustee on the board by popular vote of the students.** Our Board should be more reflective of the student body, the only way we can accomplish this is by the student body itself.
- **Create a public appointment process for student representatives on every one of the University's committees.**
- **Revamp the Vermont Student Opinion Poll,** so SGA actually knows what students are supportive of.
- **Expand the election timeline,** so students can meet candidates and form educated opinions on them.
- **Create an SGA cabinet,** so that students outside of SGA have more say in the process.
- **Add senator seats to SGA for every college based on size,** so that SGA can become more representative of students.

YOUR Campus

When you come to UVM it becomes your home and it should feel that way. Absolutely no student should face any barriers to accessing resources across campus.

- **Create real late night dining,** 7 days a week and throughout campus, not just in Harris-Millis.



- **Find a permanent public place on campus for UVM to recognize their role in eugenics and the Kake Walk.**
- **Find the Prism Center an adequate and permanent space to reside.**
- **Work with UVM Alumni, current students, and community members to house international students and students from far away for thanksgiving and other holiday breaks.** No student should be left alone for a Thanksgiving meal.
- **Create accommodating hours during religious observances in the dining halls.**
- **Advocate for increased funding for underfunded departments that support international students.** Too often these departments face budget cuts due to their size rather than their important impacts.
- **Update the notice for religious observations to within two weeks of the holiday** rather than the first two weeks of the semester.
- **Reevaluate the class absence policies** to make them inclusive for emergency situations, especially when involving mental health.
- **Allow students to rent graduation gowns or create a buy back program.** Because you shouldn't pay \$72 for one time use.
- **Design a parking payment plan** so you don't have to pay for expensive parking passes all at once.
- **Create more accessible websites across all departments by being able to translate them.** Especially within student support sites and admissions.
- **Create a prayer space on the central campus for students who need it,** that is accessible to them at all times.
- **Create a "Food for Fines" program** where parking and transportation waives parking tickets for students who donate to the on-campus food pantry.
- **Expand the hours of retail locations across campus,** so students on the points plan can still access food before their early morning classes start.

YOUR Community

UVM is Burlington, and Burlington is UVM. We need to work to ensure that all students living on and off campus are able to be successful. Too often UVM let's off-campus students slip through the cracks.

- **Continue to work with UVM and Burlington to advocate for more affordable on-campus housing and safe off-campus housing.**



- **Create a polling place on campus for students.** Because students should have no barriers to having their voices heard.
- **Reevaluate the campus political activities policies.** Because if you aren't going to enforce a policy, why have it.
- **Create a rate my landlord system for students** to review their landlord and for future students to evaluate their future homes.
- Work with transportation and parking services and the City of Burlington to **improve transportation options for students off-campus.** Including a morning off-campus bus.
- **Expand the number of bikeshare hubs in student neighborhoods.**

YOUR Clubs & Organizations

One of the greatest strengths of SGA, are the over 200 student run clubs and organizations that bring so many opportunities for students to get involved across campus and continue to enrich the UVM experience for others. We need to lower the barriers for clubs and expand opportunities for growth.

- **Find more space for Club Sports to store equipment on campus.** So club sport athletes aren't storing equipment in residence halls.
- **Advocate for University funding for our largest clubs and organizations.** Because if the University is going to promote them, they should pay for them.
- **Re-evaluate the way SGA funds clubs and organizations.** Allowing for clubs to grow rather than continue to receive the same funding every year.
- **Work with the Division of Finance to find a way to allow Venmo or another way to fundraise easily online for student groups.** Because just saying no isn't enough.
- **Establish implicit bias training for all organizations and groups across campus.**
- **Clarify policies surrounding Fraternity and Sorority Life punishments around violations, clearly track this process and explain timelines.**
- **Continue to advocate for the return of property tax exemption for Fraternities and Sororities with houses.**
- **Create and define a permanent relationship between UPB and the SGA regarding Spring Fest funding and responsibilities.**
- **Create and support proper leadership training opportunities for all students, not just elected student leaders in FSL, SGA and RSO's.**



YOUR First Year Experience

Everyone can relate to the difficult experience that your first semester of college can be, we want to work to address this head on and ensure that every student at UVM has the easiest transition as possible.

- **Increase time for students to choose courses at Orientation.** As well as give more information on why certain courses are locked in and how these are chosen.
- **Increase the number of transfer and spring start students in suite style living.** This will allow students to not only connect with one roommate but many.
- **Offer an opt in orientation in August before class begins,** for students who have to fly across the country or internationally for orientation this creates quite a barrier, especially when cost is a major factor in your higher education.
- **We need to do more to support Spring Start Students.** Too often they fall through the cracks and don't receive the first year experience they are deserving of.
- **Continue programming throughout student's first years to ease the transition to college and orient students to everything UVM has to offer.**

Thank you for taking the time to read our platform. We are running to create YOUR UVM, a UVM by everyone, for everyone. But, we can't do this alone, feel free to reach out, ask questions and have discussions. Together, we can build a better and brighter UVM, one that doesn't let students slip through the cracks and invests in services that work for all students.

You can connect with us via social media or our contact information below.

Vote

Owen Doherty & Grace Parker for YOUR UVM

on March 26th & 27th!

Best,
Owen & Grace

Owen.A.Doherty@uvm.edu

857-939-8326

Grace.E.Parker@uvm.edu

307-413-9178