

Greetings students of UVM,

I am Cody Smart and I am hoping to be the next SGA President and become the president that will make history, especially in diversity in leadership. I am currently a Junior, studying statistics and mathematics. I have had the greatest opportunity to study what I love and what I have always excelled at. Many people have considered me to be a leader of anything math, and that was when they have realized that numbers never lie and neither would I. Throughout my three years, I have had the honor to be part of a select list of clubs and organizations such as, Alternative Energy Racing Organization (AERO), Green Mountain Veggies, UVM Pep Band and more. I have always wanted to be able to lead a group of students and these clubs for greater success and make change for our students at UVM and beyond our campus. Thus, I have joined SGA in Spring 2018 and successfully returned a month ago to provide my service with projects to make significant change that would more than satisfy our students. To honor your amazing support, I vow to push innovation and accountability to the next level no matter the issue that is facing our community today.

Throughout my two terms, I have individually taken part of three SGA committees and experienced in four the fields of those said committees. The exception is that I was the Director of Public Relations in the L/L Hall Council for the Fall 2019 semester. This was where I took notes in hall council meetings and organized our events to make sure we were as inclusive as possible. First in Club Affairs, I was able to dive into the process of club recognitions of what is now over 200 clubs, including She's The First which was one of the clubs that I have had the honor to recognize. After a semester, I went onto the Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs (COLCA) where I have taken part of initiatives throughout our community from our campus and beyond. I have created strong relationships with city councilors and community members and teamed up with them to take on issues such as restorative practices in schools and landlord tenant relations. Lastly, I have joined and now part of the Committee of Student Action and Wellbeing. In that committee, I have worked on preparing UPB for Springfest and conducted research on partisanship on campus.

In general, taking the honor of SGA President wouldn't be taken lightly. Characteristics of a SGA President shall be non partisan with sheer determination and to motivate and innovate our representatives and the entire undergraduate population in a respectable way to better the student experience. A SGA President shall empower student life, transparency and accountability to every member of the campus and the community and for the entire SGA to enforce what we value so dearly to. If elected as SGA President, regardless of who will be the Vice President, I shall exceed the expectations of what a person as SGA President shall do to benefit all of us in every aspect. I shall successfully serve, using my great experience and impressive versatility. I am certainly willing to be the leading voice on the behalf of the entire undergraduate population.

Warm Regards,

Cody Smart  
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# Official SGA Presidential Platform

This is a set of categories of goals that shall be accomplished as we continue to thrive as students here at UVM.

- Diversity and Literacy
- Wellbeing of Students
- Academic Accountability
- COVID-19 Immediate Action
- Sustainability and the Environment
  - Clubs and Organizations
    - Student Life
    - Public Relations
- Community Integration Initiative

## Diversity and Literacy

It is currently known that our University is one of the more diverse schools across America, but there are some holes in our reputation that needs to be filled that only I will be able to accomplish for if I am elected. We must continue the reputation of promoting initiatives made by student groups that represent marginalized identities. I want an increased effort to meet and exceed all demands coming from groups like NoNamesForJustice. I also want to increase cooperation from diversity clubs and other groups throughout Burlington. It is critical to gather resources across the area and continue to add the pressure to all UVM staff to meet and exceed these demands for a more inclusive campus which shall promote equity. I also want to increase the amount of resources provided in places such as the Women's Center. With greater demand for equity and restorative practices, it is time to increase the amount of diversity training everywhere and make sure everyone is meeting the diversity course requirements. However, there is a greater challenge that lies with diversity and that is its literacy. There seems to be an underlying issue on how we educate our students with literacy in diversity studies. Even the director of the religion center has proposed religious literacy to be an issue. In order to have people realize about how people with different religions worship and life their lives. The number one initiative that shall be done is to reshape how we educate religion. It has come to the attention of the SGA that religious studies has been taught as a social sciences class, but not enough diversity studies. I demand for our resources and our senate to retrain our professors to balance religious studies so the students would be able to know and accept all religions. This would remove all biases against any religion without getting the proper education.

## Wellbeing of Students

The most important thing that a student needs to keep in check in order to become successful in our classrooms and beyond is their mental health. As the SGA President, I shall not only maintain our continued initiatives to help with the mental health of the students but also increase resources on and off campus, especially resources that will advocate our students. Since students should work as a team to solve our issues, we should learn how to advocate at the worst of times. Either if it's someone with an alcohol issue or a sexual assault victim, I want us to be able to advocate for ourselves to our students in need of assistance of our mental health. Therefore, one of my main goals is to fully establish a student program or organization where students help other students with these problems for we could connect with others the best. I want to see this program be done through group conversations or one on ones with people who have had the same story to share. This group could also be utilized for simple advice on mental health. For any issue on mental health in anyway possible, we shall construct a program where students are able to have their own voices heard for others to relate. I also want other programs on and off campus like student accessibility services (SAS) to give more resources to help students with mental health issues. Connecting the dots with program leaders throughout campus shall get the job done and continuously work on it for it's important for everyone to take care of themselves. This is why I also want to promote advertisements across campus to remind everyone to have self care. No matter what we do as students on or off campus, we seem to forget to remind ourselves to have some time of your own to relax. That's what I want to push this message no matter who you are to have more resources to take care of ourselves. It's not your UVM without your best self and we need to set it forth!

### Academic Accountability

In our classrooms, we deserve to have the greatest quality of education from every field of study. Our professors and faculty has done so much for us and we really appreciate what they do. Unfortunately, there have been some incidents lately that we all could relate to. This doesn't only cause disruption in the classroom, but it significantly affects the mental health and academic performance from all students in the given class. Thus, I demand that all professors and faculty will be accountable for all actions in the classroom, just like the students. We will no longer face the consequences for any faculty who are abusing their power or not doing enough to help us succeed. I want a full out re-evaluation of not only the accountability of the faculty but also one on all departments of study throughout campus. We shall begin a process of improving all academic and behavioral issues on their end instead of the blame to come on us if we have never deserved it in the first place. Also, I want to push the staff to provide peer advising for all colleges for those who want it. The faculty senate plays a huge role in everything I have mentioned to improve our academics to make sure all of our courses offered at UVM will be the best there's ever been! It's time to improve how we learn in the classroom to bring our performance to our peak! Let the greatest talent of all time shine with success!

### COVID-19 Immediate Action

Right now, we are about to face the greatest academic challenge that our generation as ever seen and I have a set of initiatives that the SGA needs to have done as soon as possible so our

students can have the greatest experience at UVM at the comfort of your home, no matter where you are. Due to COVID-19, the pandemic has affected how we are going to learn and work as a community. The situation has gone so badly, that I was willing to hold a press conference about what we need to do in a community that is separated due to the virus. This will bring up numerous issues such as food insecurity. We need to work together as students and faculty and as the people of Burlington. We need to stick together and wash our hands and practice social distancing. I approve what UVM has done for us so far to be safe, but there are still issues that are occurring right now that we need to do right now. I want an immediate push on composting bins in dorm rooms and compost bin delivery across off campus housing with assistance from resources such as the UVM Eco reps. Everyone should have the chance to compost wherever they are to help with the environment. I also want the financial committee to tirelessly work with our staff to make sure that UVM isn't hit with an economic downfall just like the stock market. Most importantly, I want to make online remote learning as smooth as possible. I want learning to become digitized for the time being to be able to recover ourselves academically as quick as possible. This is a grand opportunity to innovate on how students are being taught and how our professors teach. There are much more initiatives that shall be done as soon as possible. We need to prepare for the scenario that this will go long term. Academic success shall never be postponed!

### Sustainability and the Environment

For the past few decades, we have become one of the most sustainable campuses our country has seen. Yet, we are still behind in significant initiatives where we would need limit braking progress to accomplish. We are expected to have a net zero carbon emissions by 2025 with even more expectations to be accomplished by 2030. This is the decade of an environmental comeback and as the SGA President, it will happen with full force. One major step to accomplish this is energy divestment. We are obligated as students to push as much as we need to force the staff and officials to comply with energy demands proposed by our student groups and by the city of Burlington. The most efficient way to do so is to make our investors contact companies that are energy efficient and invest in them instead so the value and revenue would never decrease. With my experience in community affairs and club affairs, we shall integrate information to push all energy initiatives to the city. Innovation shall happen when we all do our part because we all need to learn about environmental accountability. This is the root to the lead way of all major change for environmental and sustainability movements. Environmental accountability begins in our community, on or off by distributing compost bins to dorm rooms and trash bins, recycle bins and composting bins outdoors all over campus and even off campus. This shall reinforce the education on composting, thus an effective way to maintain environmental accountability. If we start there, we'll grow our own flower to the limit braking expectations. Innovation of the environment starts with the staff fully complying to divestment and we'll do it with the forever increasing force of the student voice! Another major issue on sustainability on campus is our food. We need to not only provide more whole foods on campus, but also we need to provide more options such as gluten free options and options that advocate peoples' religious practices. We are going toward the right direction with at least 25 percent of all foods being whole and natural. However, with the

assistance from dining committees, we could push for more whole foods on campus that will be deemed sustainable.

### Clubs and Organizations

According to the latest data, about 80% of all students take part of at least one club or organization, and with over 200 SGA recognized clubs, we need to advocate our clubs whenever necessary. Therefore, it's time to make life much easier for our 200+ clubs! The first initiative that needs to be done is to allow money transactions via Vimeo and PayPal. In part of this, we shall make it easier for clubs to fill out online forms for fundraisers and tickets, especially for the big ticket events. A system shall be set with the SGA treasury to form a decent front on online transactions, therefore finally making it acceptable for Clubs to report such transactions using Vimeo and PayPal. Increasing the communication amongst clubs would also be a goal to meet for every club has different needs and it's not really fair to penalize a set of clubs for not meeting some of the expectations that would be deemed more unrealistic to meet. Therefore, the system for club recognitions shall have a new section where clubs are allowed to state what they're good with and what they're not while following the same set of rules. Lastly, I want to mention something about our major events for they are a part of what UVM is. For major events like Fallfest and Springfest, we shall have a long term plan set with the UPB and other organizations to make sure that our processes and yearly allocations easier and quicker. Thus, it would push us to exceed expectations for all major events.

### Student Life

At UVM, one of the best ways to express student life is to get to know what life on and off campus is. We want everyone to define as the best experience they have ever had, either that's in a dorm room or in an apartment, we shall advocate for all! I want to innovate the way we set our students in our rooms and dorms every year and who their roommate should be based on an extended survey. The housing meal contract isn't really informative on helping our students get the right roommates and prevent conflicts that we may not realize. Therefore, this shall be effective so everyone can be paired up with the right people that they can trust for the four years that they'll be in college for. I also want to see a vast increase amount of resources for students off campus. For example, I would extend the hours for the off campus bus into early morning hours and on weekends so everyone can get more access on and off campus. I also want students to learn what their place off campus entails before moving in before signing the lease. For instance, creating more specific descriptions on landlords across Burlington using the [ratemylandlord.com](http://ratemylandlord.com) website. I want to also mention about Greek Life in the conversation of student life for they bring a positive influence on and off campus. There is a common issue that is occurring in all houses and that's a particular tax that seems to be a burden to the people living in those houses. Thus, I'll work with community members to decrease or entirely remove the tax so everyone will no longer have to worry about an unneeded tax every year.

### Public Relations

In SGA, there has been a recent struggle with our students not knowing what SGA is and their views are usually not the greatest. After gathering experience as the Director of Public

Relations in hall council, I have more than the appropriate amount of skills needed to reshape the entire committee. In the past, they have done many events such as SGA to you, and Senator Spotlight. Their consistency is a total lack and I want to turn that around completely. If I am elected, I'll be proposing for the same events plus more that would promote the SGA much more effectively than ever before. I would appreciate much more tabling from our leaders and advertise with the great potential that we have. I want to see more resources published by the SGA by having individual senator reports on what they have been up to in SGA to make our experience at UVM better. This would accurately help us get to know our people and that could make elections much more competitive than ever before. I also have seen the biggest mistake that the SGA has made in recent memory. Before I returned to SGA, the senate opened up the constitution to change the amount of signatures from 500 to 250 in the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections and 150 to 50 in Senatorial elections. This only proved one thing and that's the opposite of what the Public Relations committee is supposed to do in the first place. I want to fix this brutal mistake so our senators can be able to connect to even more students than before. Thus, proving that we are NOT afraid of our students and we will promote their voices on their behalf.

#### Community Integration Initiative

It's a known fact or statistic that the student population represents a good percentage of the entire Burlington population. Since there has been an increasing demand for more student representation in governments beyond our own, it's time to not only build strong bonds with all the wards across Burlington but to also gather their resources and provide them to students on and off campus. This will go in multiple phases and would help us with so many initiatives such as those with the environment and on mental health. The first phase of the grand initiative is to get connected with representatives from all wards and connect them with UVM. Leadership always work with other members of leadership. Becoming non partisan is most crucial when approaching at the same goals and expectations. Building stronger bonds with our people across the city will be the first step of assisting them on what they need and vice versa. Thus, complying with their request in more student representation in the city government in the future. Our bright minds shall be used now and we'll use them here! The second phase will be the implementation of projects being kicked up a notch for we would have an increased amount of resources to take care of issues revolving our community, including our campus. We shall integrate resources to our students on and off campus so we can boost our progress in our own projects to benefit the student experience locally. The resources that would we receive would help everyone get projects done quicker and more efficiently. We already have the College Democrats and College Progressives assisting the parties across the wards of Burlington. Why not take our step in student leadership to bring our voice forward, no matter where you live! Any issue you may have, the community is now your oyster and resources we have such as OSCR shall assist us in solving our issues on top of achieving goals by the city as well!