

UVM Graduate Student Senate Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, Time: 7:00 pm

The meeting at 7:06 pm was called to order by Vice-President, Cara Simone

Recording Link: [Graduate Student Senate Meeting Recording](#)

In attendance

Senators: Anthony Barrows, Bren Cable, Carlos Amissah, Diego Javier-Jimenez, Emma Myric, Gift Omoruyi, Jenna Ann McDonald, Johnbosco Osuagwu, Joy Emmanuel, Matthew Breunig, M azen Elsaadany, Niara Hicks, Parisa Suchdev, Shashank Poudel, Taylor Ann Jeannette Kocian, Temitope Boriwaye, Vanessa Ballard.

Guest: Lauren Aheran, Uma Nudurupati, Kathleen Qunin, Sanish Paramadam.

Executive Council Attendees: Ijaz UI Haq, Cara Simone, Omid Sedighi, Masoumeh Khodaverdi, Yasaman Pedari

26 total number attended.

Agenda Item: Approval of previous meeting minutes

Anthony Barrows moved the motion to approve the previous minutes, it was seconded by Parisa Suchdev.

Agenda Item: GSS President Report

In response to the recent attack on three Palestinian students aged 20 near the UVM on North Prospect Street in Burlington, Ijaz UI Haq, the President of GSS and Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, expressed his deep sadness and concern. He mentioned meetings with the administration, Provost, Chief Security Officer, and Dean to discuss the situation and the fear of potential copycat attacks. He also shared his personal experience of feeling scared and emphasized the need for caution, especially considering the diverse community on campus.

He advised taking personal safety precautions. He also encouraged everyone to stay connected through safety apps and to support each other during these challenging times. He concluded with a message of unity, urging people not to let hate divide them.

Taylor Ann Jeannette Kocian moved to approve the report, it was seconded by Diego Javier-Jimenez.

Agenda Item: GSS Treasure Report

Yasaman Pedari, the treasurer of GSS, provided the senate with an update on the budget for the Fall semester. She highlighted that the budget has been utilized for various purposes, including six coffee breaks, social events, sponsorships for student organizations, and allocated stipends. Additionally, the funds will be used for upcoming expenses associated with the December hooding ceremony, photography, and flowers. As of now, the total expenditure stands at around 15K, leaving approximately \$500.00 until the entire semester's revenue is exhausted.

Yasaman emphasized that in alignment with discussions held with the Graduate College, the GSS budget was established at 16K. This indicates that GSS is on track to reach a break-even point for the semester.

Diego Javier-Jimenez moved to approve the report, it was seconded by Omid Sedighi.

Agenda Item: Renewal Club, Sustainable Development Policy, Economics, and Governance's Student Club

President: Shashank Poudel

Taylor Ann Jeannette Kocian moved to approve the renewal of the club, it was seconded by Diego Javier-Jimenez.

Agenda Item: GSS Vice-President Announcement

Cara Simone, GSS vice president shared with the Senate that there will be a Graduate Student Senate retreat on January 27th, 2024. The timing is tentatively set from 11 AM to 4 PM, and final details will be confirmed soon. The retreat is scheduled to take place in the Mansfield Room at the Davis Center.

Agenda Item: Career Mobility Committee Funding Request

Lauren Aheran, President of the Career Mobility Committee, presented a proposal for a STEM career panel to the Senate. The event is a collaboration with the Material Research Society (MRS) and focuses on bringing industry professionals from various sectors. The proposed budget is \$2140.00. They set the date for February 6th, 2024. The goal is to provide networking opportunities and insights for students seeking non-linear career paths in STEM fields. The panelists are selected from diverse industries, and the event aligns with the Career Center's networking night. The budget includes considerations for flying in a speaker and covering accommodation. The objective is to enhance student engagement, career preparation, and networking within the STEM community.

The Senate approved the funding request for \$500. Taylor Ann Jeannette Kocian moved to approve the request, it was seconded by Omid Sedighi.

New Business:

Students raised concerns about a delayed alert for the shooting incident on campus. Students were unhappy with the administration's communication and desired a clear condemnation of the incident. The discussion concluded with talks about offering feedback for communication and safety improvement, along with considering drafting a letter to express concerns and suggestions to the administration for the recent attack.

Next Meeting

Jan 27 GSS retreat, 2024, Mansfield Room at the Davis Center.

Taylor Ann Jeannette Kocian moved the Motion to adjourn, it was followed by Diego Javier-Jimenez.

Adjournment 8:08 pm