



8th Meeting of the 2022-2023 Student Government Association Senate
October 18th, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Purple.

Roll Call

Public Forum

Alex Yin - UVM Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

- Introduction to the UVM Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (name change to add to ‘Assessment’ within the last three years). Office provides the executive office and administration data.
- We don’t like just sending out surveys, we take a ‘do no harm’ approach. Asks; “How are we going to use this data to make improvements?” Data from the surveys help inform actions. Not just a data office, there are a lot of experts in various social science areas.
- Reports to the Provost and the President. Helps lines of communication between the Provost and various communities such as SGA, so that proposals from SGA are aligned with the goals and wishes of the President.
- Visit the website; (look at the menu options to see the flow of student lifestyle), for a mass of data surrounding student life. Examples include; “What do you want to do with

your degree?” “How many out of state vs in state students?” “What is the enrollment of the college by race and ethnicity?” “How many students are in a specific major?”

- Data is accessible to everybody, a lot of work we put in is about data visualization. The dashboard is the data report.
- Don't hesitate to reach out to our office for discussion and questions! We can be utilized for lots of projects.
- National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE)
- UVM is on a three year cycle, the last time we did this survey was 2020. It's a survey connected to undergraduate students, more specifically freshman and seniors.
- The survey asks for various engagement indicators. Essentially asks students how they are spending time in college and what they are gaining from college. Includes an advising module which is seven subject questions that asks students what their experience is seeking advising services. Main survey has about 40 questions. Planning and promotion for the survey is essential, we are looking for ideas about how to recruit more students. In the past we have offered gift cards, which has had a high success rate.
- Generally we receive about a 27% response rate. Provost wants about a 62% response rate.
- We are also going to be doing NSSE again in 2024 for a general education assessment.

President Henson: If you ever want dinner, go to Alex! Could you explain a little bit about the future of OIRA and talk about data lakes and data warehouses?

Response: Data lakes and data warehouses are basically a repository of data that make it easier to access and store data. When I first came to UVM we were basically working with cassette tapes, and slowly our office has been building repository files to merge information from around

campus to build a better data repository so that we can do deeper and more in-depth data analysis. We do data analysis from an asset-based mindset instead of a deficit-based mindset. Deficit-based mindset works from predictive analytics, which is based on data from past people, which can be influenced by barriers that prevented various groups from succeeding in the past. An asset-based mindset uses behavior analytics to look at students based on their behavior, first tests, or set of scores. Moving the alignment so that we can take an asset-based approach and work to remove barriers.

Senator Siegel: I was wondering if this upcoming survey could be mandatory for all students, which might help to remove bias. Would it be possible to make it mandatory?

Senator Carpenter: It's like doing mandatory testing, you have to add a punishment and follow through. Adding a punishment for data collection isn't really what we should be doing.

Response: Since it is Week of Kindness, maybe your kindness to me could be promoting and encouraging students to take this survey.

Chair Tefera: Are there any students working in your office to help to create the survey?

Response: This survey is a national survey so we don't have a student looking over it. At one point we did have a student worker, but we don't right now. In the spring I am looking at making 3 to 5 minute videos teaching people how to use our dashboard, so that is possibly an upcoming work study position or internship for a student.

Treasurer Wigon: Could we just say it's mandatory without an actual punishment out there?

Response: It's like the boy who called wolf, the other big survey that we do is the climate survey, which hasn't had a high response rate. I appreciate that you all want to make this mandatory but there

Senator Jones: Is there any way if we could allocate the funding to get a catamount community scholarship? That would incentivise it and get people's attention a bit more.

Response: This can ruin financial aid packages as it can push other things to not receive funding. It's a good thought and I want to do something like this but there are a lot of things to consider. One of the big things that this is compared to is gambling because you do a survey and then there's odds... It's not just as easy as just creating a survey there's a lot of other factors to consider.

VP Wood: Do you receive the data collected from course evaluations?

Response: No, we don't receive that data. One of the things I think about course evaluations is that there is a major retention issue for faculty of color, and studies have shown that certain groups of faculty get lower course evaluations. Maybe it's one of SGA's initiatives to remind students before they take the course evaluations to think about these things and not let their bias get in the evaluation. That's a pretty powerful statement that could lead to improvement in the retention of our faculty of color and other groups of specialized identity. Thank you again for all the civic service you all do.

Annie Valentine - Center for Health and Wellbeing, Living Well and UVM Staff United

- Thank you to Brooke and Maddie for your vision and for the Week of Kindness initiative. Amazing efforts!
- Introduction; Annie is a training and education manager for the Center for Health and Wellbeing. Living Well has transformed into a student center, and is working to meet the needs of students in both physical and mental health.

- Some of the Living Well initiatives include a Harm Reduction Space where drug testing strips and other resources are available, and working with a graduate student to put on workshops for students with chronic illnesses, neurodivergence, and other invisible disabilities. Transitions are going on in CAPS and Living Well, in our area specifically we have lost some leadership and CAPS counselors recently. Student Health, CAPS, and Living Well are all working to be here for you in the most effective way. I'm here to recognize the continued challenges about getting into CAPS, amounts of therapy sessions, and other things that cannot be provided on a college campus. Reiterating that we have invested interests and we are passionate and committed to our student body.
- UVM Staff United is the first ever Staff Union. We got our first ever contract recently. Part-time faculty is having a struggle with getting their needs met by administration, there is an upcoming rally on Thursday in front of the Library. Student Appreciation day is also coming up on Thursday, Nov. 10th. Also, Lunch and Learn about the labor movements are going to be open to students, staff, and faculty soon.

Senator Daniels: I was wondering if you could share more about the hiring timeline for the leadership positions.

Response: Most of the jobs have been posted and we are moving forward with the search process.

VP Wood: Currently Vermont has no break laws, does the UVM Staff United have anything about breaks in your contract?

Response: In our unit we have fought diligently to have both exempt and nonexempt as one unit. Those who are exempt work a salary position where we have some flexibility and we can take some time for ourselves. All staff should get two fifteen minute breaks and a half hour break.

This should be being upheld, but if it is not staff can go to their employee stewards to advocate for themselves. We are working on education surrounding what is included in our contracts and knowing our rights.

Senator Carpenter: Are UVM dining employees also a part of UVM Staff United?

Response: They are not, they are a separate entity working through SODEXO.

Senator Jones: Is there any in-progress work going on to connect with the greater Burlington mental health community. You were mentioning trying to access resources beyond what CAPS and Living Well can provide on a college campus, so looking at external resources such as Centerpoint, Powercenter, or any of those entities?

Response: Yes, we work closely with all those entities. Specifically thinking of individuals who want one on one therapy services, we look around at available clinics. We do have case managers that can help connect people to external resources out in the community. It's a tax system right now, and as college students you are struggling, we are struggling, and there are people in need. It is a hard process but I encourage people to find different spokes on the wheel, therapy is one spoke on the wheel, but there are other things that could go along with that. There is also group therapy, which can be really valuable and really rewarding. There are a multitude of ways to support each other.

Senator Anis: Could you speak more about narcan and accessing drug harm reduction resources?

Response: Tom Fontana, Michael Hill Jr, and Amy Boyd Austin make up our Drug and Alcohol team here at Living Well. They work with the Catamount Recovery Program, and data collection about what is happening in the state (specifically about cannabis). In Living Well there is the Condom Co-opt where you can access sexual health barriers, and to the left of that is a new space

with substance use resources. We are also looking at doing tabling in the Davis Center with some more educational resources.

Senator Bednarik: What can we do as a Student Government to help you? Can we volunteer somewhere or help you fill in the gaps?

Response: I appreciate the engagement, I appreciate the response, and I appreciate all the work you do. To listen to one another and to work with each other is incredibly important, and having a peer to peer impact, for you all to use your voices and be educated and engaged is essential. In the bystander intervention module we empathize using your voices and giving a shit about each other, and SGA represents speaking out and being in communication. Your efforts and support in the Union last year was essential and helped so many employees get solid contracts last year.

Senator Clarke: You spoke previously about group therapy which I think is an amazing idea. I've heard from several students on campus seeking anonymous groups for harm reduction, is this something that has been talked about and would this be possible?

Response: I think that's a great idea that I will pass along to Tom Fontana and the team, and I will be in contact with Living Well and CAPS about the viability of that idea.

President Henson: A plug in for group therapy, I was in intensive out-patient psychiatry, and I really hated the idea of group therapy, so I really agree with the anonymity thing. Group therapy is amazing, it changed my life, and I cannot recommend it enough.

Senator Elkort: I was wondering about the breakdown for how many students come into BASICS?

Response: You can come in willingly as an individual, and it is also mandatory for a second alcohol violation you do have to come into BASICS. There are also communities that come in

such as sports teams, greek life, and club sports. There are opportunities for other groups to come in.

Chair Dietrich: I wanted to clarify some of the dates for UVM Staff United?

Response: This Thursday at 12:00 march for part time faculty for various needs. Nov. 10th 11:30 to 1:00 pass out pizza and engage with students to say thank you! Nov. 17th Lunch & Learn about knowing your rights or sharing specifics of our contract.

Senator Jones: Is there any form of circumstantial protections for seeking harm reduction resources and help?

Response: MAP, the Medical Amnesty Program (located on the dean of student's website) is an avenue to report without going through the conduct process. It's created to be used once as an opportunity so that you don't have a barrier to report.

Senator Daniels: There is also the option to anonymously submit a CARE report form about another student who isn't in imminent danger, and the CARE team will check in with them.

Response: That's correct, but the important thing to note here is that a CARE report form is only for those not in imminent danger.

Chair Tefera: I have had some personal experience with the Medical Amnesty Program and the individual involved ended up not getting in trouble, but this person's parents were informed even though they were 18. This could be a potential barrier for students.

Response: There are some things that arise that would mandate parents being informed, but HIPPA does play a role here too.

Old Business

None

Emergency Business

None

New Business

- Bill Finalizing SGA Financial Policies
- Bill Recognizing Bass Fishing Club

Senatorial Forum

Senator Ward: I heard from another student that the custodial staff in the Davis Center doesn't have a designated area to take breaks, so they have to sit where the students sit. I was wondering if anyone has any ideas on how to get an area for them.

Chair Macharrie: I can ask around, because I do work here.

Linda: They do have a designated break area on the first floor in the back of the house. It's got a computer, phone, refrigerator, microwave. It's behind Brennan's, down the hall from the backdoor of Brennan's across from the service elevator.

Senator Jones: Update on transition to Brightspace. I looked through a professor's contract and accompanying documents, and there is nothing in that document that would prevent mandating professors from utilizing electronic resources. There is a clause that says chairs of departments can make and mandate new rules, so it looks like there is a gateway to make this process easier by creating a mandatory training for Brightspace or editing contracts from now on.

Executive Reports

Speaker Purple

- Introduction;
 - Carter Purple, He/Him pronouns

- Originally from Westford Massachusetts
- Sophomore, History major and Global Studies minor
- Two pets, one is a corn snake named Cob and the other is a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach named Updog
- Chapter is being started for the National Society for Leadership and Success on campus. Their mission is to develop better leaders for the future and to encourage strong leadership in our community on campus. They're looking to develop a strong chapter on UVM and it would be great to have some SGA representation. Applications are due on Friday.
- Keeping Senator Carpenters "I yield my time."
 - **Senator Jones:** How long do hissing cockroaches live and how long have you had one?
 - **Speaker Purple:** I believe the expected lifespan is about 2 to 4 years, Updog has been with us for close to 4 now. Low maintenance, cost \$12, he's great.
 - **Chair Sorensen:** Do you think you could send the application to the Teams?
 - **Speaker Purple:** I'll send it to Teams or email, I'd love everyone to take a look at it.
 - **Senator Anis:** So is the application due before the chapter gets recognized?
 - **Speaker Purple:** So it's a national chapter, and they need ten members to become recognized. I think they also want to have a board and an executive in place before they get recognized.
 - **Senator Jones:** Is there any cost with this?

- **Speaker Purple:** I don't believe there is, the person who reached out is an intern with them, and they're looking to open chapters across the country.
- **Chair MacHarrie:** Is there a grade requirement? GPA or anything?
- **Speaker Purple:** It's not GPA based, it's based on an application and an Interview I believe.
- **VP Wood:** This is also on Handshake, so you can look for it on there if you want.

Vice President Wood

- Introductions;
 - Sarah Wood, She/her pronouns
 - Junior, studying Political Science and Philosophy
 - Originally from Colorado but recently moved to Connecticut
 - Two dogs at home named Brody and Max, but first pets were African Tree Frogs named Lenny and Squeaky
 - Love coffee and matcha lattes!
- Shoutout to Chair Dietrich, Week of Kindness has been awesome!
- Midterms are going on, high stress, so please come into the office to chill
- Continuing to work on the identity centers projects, and learned that every current identity center came about via protest (yet physical protests are not accessible)
- There is still one seat open for appointment
- Fun Fact: Before joining the union VT was called New Connecticut

President Henson

- Introduction,
 - Maddie Henson, She/Her pronouns

- Senior, majoring in Neuroscience, minor in International Politics
- Born in Chicago, lived in Nashville Tennessee for 15 years, went to highschool in North Carolina
- Fun Fact: Broke nose on Harris Millis ice skating rink
- Senator Carpenter, Chair Teferra, Senator Smith, Chair Robinson all met for residence hall tabling, in contact with the Associate Director of Learning Communities.
- Halloween party coming up for SGA Next week, date TBD.
- Please fill out the form sent to you in Teams.
- VP Wood and I meeting with Provost Prelock tomorrow
- Meeting with Jennifer Dickinsen tomorrow
- Meeting with President Garimella on Monday
- Fun Fact: In one breath you get out of the uterus and into the world! Babies have to close their circulatory system, and you only have one breath to be born. The more I learn the more I realize we are all miracles. We all have a bunch of heart stems, and the circulatory system in the womb is all open, there's no arteries or anything...
 - **VP Wood:** I had a heart murmur as a baby.
 - **Chair Munier:** As far as the halloween party goes, will Senator Brown be in costume?
 - **VP Wood:** Wear costumes to senate meeting next tuesday!
 - **Senator DeGroot:** So for the costume party and dressing up for senate, are they two separate costumes?
 - **Speaker Purple:** Actually what I think we'll do is a competition by committee, winning committee gets a perk of some kind.

- **Senator Bednarik:** Do you want my extra halloween decorations?

Treasurer Wigon

- Introduction,
 - Sam Wigon
 - Senior, Accounting and Finance major, minor in Emergency Medical Services
 - From Wellesley, Massachusetts
 - Fun Fact: Graduating a semester early, so they'll be a replacement for me next semester
- Vans project is continuing
- Finance policy this week, new budeng system
- Revamping forms

Scribe's Introduction;

- Grace Garavan, She/Her pronouns
- Sophomore, majoring in Anthropology and Political Science
- Originally born in Ireland, now lives in Vermont
- Fun Fact: Has a dog named Cricket.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

- Introduction:
 - Addie, She/Her pronouns
 - Junior, Biology Science and Political Science major
 - From Washington DC

- Fun Fact: 10 city blocks away from the White House, neighbors with the President!
- Great job with the newsletter, it was a great success!
- Working on promoting week of kindness
- Meeting with Maddie White, Associate Director for Marketing and Student Life
- Senator Clark is doing a great job with the tiktok
- Senator Smith is doing great work on the website

Committee on the Environment

- Introduction:
 - Mahder Teferra, She/Her pronouns
 - Sophomore, Agroecology and Landscape Design major (possible Philosophy minor?)
 - From Massachusettes
 - Fun Fact: I grew up in Ethiopia, we also have another New Year based on the Orthodox calendar but it's in September
- Dining advising meeting on Thursday
- Senator Charles is working with Marie Bouffard who works for UVM purchasing

Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

- Introduction:
 - Taylor MacHarrie, He/Him pronouns
 - Junior, major in Natural Resources, minor in Anthropology
 - Fun Fact: I have a cat named Beast
- Working on cross-community work, updates coming.

- Senator Rai working with the greater Burlington Area High School to do work pertaining to equity in schools.
- Senator Anis is setting up an interview with the Interfaith Center.
- Currently in the process of setting up monthly meetings with all the Identity centers to establish lines of communication with them,
 - **Senator Carpenter:** Are you doing any work with FirstGen@UVM ?
 - **Chair MacHarrie:** We haven't but I would love to be in contact with them?

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs

- Introduction:
 - Olivia Eisenberg, She/Her pronouns
 - From Maryland
 - Junior studying Political Science and public policy analysis
 - Fun Fact: I do my nails watching SVU every third Thursday, and please share any theories on Taylor Swift
- Clothing drive is underway, shout out to Senator Rooney for organizing that.
- Off-campus resource fair is tomorrow at the Alumni House.
- Historical Fact: This day in 1961 West Side Story was released in American Theaters.

Student Action and Well-Being Committee

- Introduction:
 - Brooke Dietrich, She/Her pronouns
 - From the suburbs of Pennsylvania
 - Political Science major
 - Fun Fact: Four pets, three cats and a dog

- Happy week of kindness!
- Senator Stanford is doing great things with the Instagram, and working with Annie Valentine and with CAPS.
- Senator Orr is working on dining on campus and is working on a survey to put out to the student body.
- Senator Jones is working with VP Wood and Senator Daniels and the GSS President Salisbury on the student accessibility identity center.
- Senator Batyrshina is working on gym spaces and girl gains.
- Thank you all for everything you've done for the week of kindness!
 - Lots of things are coming up;
 - Started a partnership with FeelGood, "Kind-chi" sandwich collaboration.
 - More massages on Wednesday
 - Thursday there's chalk from 1 to 2 pm, smoothies in the morning, Rally Cat, special guest (sometime during the day)
 - Friday we have cupcakes for Catamounts, collaborating with King Street Center, more rocks and gratitude letters, tie-dye, and karaoke at Brennan's.
 - **VP Wood:** If we're working for Feel Good where do we go?
 - **Response:** Where it normally is in the Davis Center.
 - **VP Wood:** If you ever send a survey to the whole student body you can't just send it out, you have to show it to someone.
 - **President Henson:** Thursday 1 to 3 there is a special guest. Round of applause for all the work that has been put in! SGA is donating \$500 to \$1,000 to the KingStreet Center. They work with three different age groups, and we're going to

have a large clear bowl with notes to these students separated by age groups. Each of these notes symbolize \$1.

Club Affairs Committee

- Introduction;
 - Riley O'Hagan, She/her pronouns
 - Sophomore, Political Science and Gender Studies major (maybe Environment?)
 - From Jersey outside of Philly
 - Fun Fact: I drink a smoothie everyday
- Few new clubs coming in the next couple weeks
- Goal is to get involved with organizations more
- Chalk was a great success, and it's happening again from 1 - 2 on Thursday
 - **Senator Bednarik:** Could you post in Teams instagram handles and contact info for clubs?
 - **Senator Smith:** All info for clubs is supposed to be on the UVM club page.

Academic Affairs Committee

- Introduction:
 - Christophe Meunier
 - Senior, studying Political Science and Philosophy
 - Hometown is Burlington, but also have lived in Quebec
 - Fun Fact: Hereditary noble title German Lord Edle, if I outlive my two older brothers I will be a Graf?
 - Also: I can understand a decent amount of elvish from the Lord of the Rings because it's based on Welsh, and I speak a language closely related to Welsh.

- Sent emails to heads of the writing center and tutoring center to set up meetings.
- There is potentially an ad hoc committee for hiring bipoc faculty in the works.
- Senator Siegel and Senator DeGroot have a meeting on Friday for the current peer mentoring program.
- Russia has two New Years, January 1st, and January 14th, Old New Years, based on the Orthodox Julian calendar.

Finance Committee

- Introduction;
 - Matt Sorensen, He/Him pronouns
 - From a really small town in Vermont
 - Sophomore, majoring in Political Science with minors in Business and Community and International Development
 - Fun Fact: I have two wiener dogs
- Tabling the Bill Finalizing SGA Financial Policies, which will be the set policies for SGA going forward instead of revisiting them each year.
- Budget workshop for club is Nov. 8th
- Week of kindness is going great.
- Karaoke is being hosted 6:30 to 10:30, Friday in Brennan's, hosted by Chair O'Hagan and I (there are duets planned).
 - **President Henson:** The Provost may or may not be at karaoke.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

Senator Jones: Just a reminder to keep drinking water as it gets cold, warm drinks aren't as effective at hydrating you.

Senator Clarke: If you have any pictures from any events please send them to me on the Teams in a live photo.

Senator Hogan: Steps VT is holding a candlelight vigil tomorrow and I can send out any more information if anyone is interested.

Senator Carpenter: If anyone has key card access to various buildings across campus let me know.

President Henson: I did not sanction that.

Adjournment