SGA Minutes: 9/25/2016

I. Attendance
All senators present except Senator Pesqueira who sent a proxy and Senator Boyle who arrived five minutes late to the meeting.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes
Speaker Lantigua: Motion to accept the minutes from the previous week.
Motion seconded.
(16-0-0)
All in favor of accepting the minutes.

III. New Business
Announcements postponed so Colin Mackintosh, the Student Liaison to the SGA on Endowment Affairs, so he can prepare for his meeting at 8 with the student body.

Colin Mackintosh: I’m Colin, I’m the SLSGA on Endowment Affairs. I was voted last year to this position by the SGA, you can also impeach me, and I’m here to introduce, and expand, the details of my position. I meet with the Investment Committee who handles the endowment and I hold three meetings with the student body during the semester to give an overview on the endowment and any student input. Tonight, I’ll be hosting a meeting at 8 in Axinn to introduce myself. So pretty much, I plan on meeting with the Board of Trustees soon and hopefully will be sending out something to you all (the SGA) by next meeting but I will have to wait for the treasurer to proofread it for confidentiality. I will repeat this process every time I meet with the board. So, any questions or input?

Senator Pustejovsky: When are the official meetings?
Colin: Friday, but they’re hard to get into contact with.
Senator Aaron: Will you be sending out what you learn?
Colin: Yeah, so I will type up the notes of everything I learned and talked about in the meetings and then when it is cleared for confidentiality then I will send it to the SGA, but that could possibly take two weeks.

President Toy: So, is it just for Senate or for all of the student body.
Colin believes it is fine for the whole student body but he will ask just to make sure.
No more questions from the Senators and Colin is dismissed so is the Presidential Cabinet.

IV. Announcements
President Toy yields to Andrew Smith for the announcement on elections.
Andrew: Yeah so, Elections begin when the pools open at noon tomorrow and close Tuesday at noon. There are six first years, four sophomores, and one Feb representative running for the position. Are there any questions?
No questions from the Senators.

V. Old Business

President Toy: So this year's Committee members are all set and need to be ratified. The list of the 2016 Committee members is shown to the Senators.

President Toy: Are there question on any of them?

There is a question about the limit of committees one can be on.

President Toy: So the limit is three for everyone.

Senator Aaron: These positions are for the whole year?

President Toy: Yeah these positions are for the whole year. We will ratify the Dining Committee next week and then the Finance Committee, as well.

Motion to ratify the members of these committees by President Toy.

(16-0-0)

All in favor of ratifying the members of these committees.

On Dining Hall changes, Senator Aaron will speak on 4 o'clock proctor first.

Senator Aaron: I have had a lot of people ask me about two things: 4 o’clock proc and the same menus in the dining halls. (Senator Aaron contacted the head of the Dining Halls) He responded by stating that last year we wasted a lot of food with 4 o’clock proc.

However, Senator Aaron is confused by his statement because 4 o’clock proc does not serve hot food. He also stated that the menus are the same to lower the prices but also lower the volume and they are trying to get all the ingredients, recipes, and nutritional facts into the system and he stated that he hopes this will help the traffic flow. Senator Aaron brings up an idea about staggering hours of the dining hall might work with possibly having Proctor open from 4-7 while Ross stays open 5-8. However, the Senator does no know about the policy of the actual dining hall staff.

President Toy: Dan (the head of the Dining Hall committee) is hopefully going to talk about this more when he comes into the meeting and is trying to be more transparent. He told me that opening at 4:30 with cold food works better for the staff because it gives them more time to set up.

Senator Duran I think we should atleast put up somewhere (in Proctor) that this time change has happened because people think it’s not opening anymore. So we should be clear and tell people to stick around until 4:30.

Senator McCormick brings up the topic of athletes that have a sport’s practice at 4:30 who were getting food at 4 no longer have that option.

Senator Boyle brings up the topic about possibly changing the dining hall hours which might help with flow of the traffic but will also expand the dining hall options for all students.

Senator Pustejovsky: Also, they took away the gluten free section and I know they are trying to make the main hot food more gluten friendly but it was an amazing option to have that plain food.
Senator McCarthy: Yeah, if you have a certain allergy it seems to be getting harder to get a quality option. Also with the gluten free section there are not a lot of meatless options and you can’t go to another dining hall to get another option because they have the same menus.

Senator Wright brings up the fees for the dining halls that have gone up and he was bothered by that because there just seems to be no explanation. He also reiterates the sentiment that different options have become less accessible.

Speaker Lantigua disagrees with the statement by Senator Boyle that changing the times of the dining halls will help with traffic flow because it’s restricted in terms of food options and limitations.

Senator Aaron: I believe this is just a temporary step until they fully get the recipes and everything into the system. Also, being a vegetarian is very difficult.

Senator Boyle brings up the idea of 10 o’clock Ross which expanded the Dining Hall hours and it would be easy to change the hours but it would be harder to expand the hours.

Senator Duran: MSA also wanted me to bring up the lack of halal foods in the dining halls and that there’s only one time a week where they have halal food too. So, there is no option for that too.

Senator Aaron: So what do we think about possibly changing the hours?

Senator Pustejovsky: I don't think the hours are the main concern right now but rather what they are serving and how this is affecting people’s allergies and food restrictions.

Senator Cohen: I agree. I think we should also work on the hours, too. People didn’t care about the cold food during 4 o’clock proc anyways.

Senator Pustejovsky brings up the point about a fruit stand out for people so there is some sort of snacks for people who want them.

President Toy: So, now I believe we should move towards action and what to do. I’m going to email Dan and tell him our concerns. Also, we could have a resolution and state all this information we talked about today.

Speaker Lantigua: Should the student body push to go back to the old dining system? I mean I was abroad but now go/noms is not even a thing anymore. Maybe we should look at how we can come together as a student body and work on the way that student body can come together and work on the flow of traffic.

Senator Boyle agrees with the statement about emailing Dan but also believes that we should push the hours and deal with the flow and talk about the hours and menu options.

Senator McCarthy: I have two questions. Can we send out a survey to possibly get student input and put numbers to this? Also, is the dining hall on an eleven day system?

The dining hall is on an eleven day system

Senator Toy: Yeah that’s fine. You should make a survey but let’s lead away from doing an all SGA survey because people won’t really pay attention.

Senator Wright: We should really open up the conversation and have this conversation be accessible and ignite comments.
Senator Pustejovsky reiterates that we should not start with just the hours because people won’t be totally satisfied. Students are more concerned about options.

Senator Ou: Shifting the hours, to make Ross later and Proc early, could possibly not work too well and become a hot mess. Especially because it would work too well by the end of the day.

Senator McCormick: I think we should ask why these changes are being made, too. This transition to the new system we should get more information on this.

Senator Aaron: So the survey we should send should include 4 o’clock proc and the hours questions. Also we should have a focus on options and times that work best for athletes. Also, let's make sure we send an email to Dan so he can answer all these questions.

Senator Cohen: So, we should write a short survey and get people’s responses and then have a conversation to present Dan with some data.

President Toy: Let’s take responsibility for creating a survey and sending it out so we can collect data to talk about it.

Senator McCarthy will make a survey after this with about 5 questions to ask about the current system and then we will talk about this next time.

**Motion to table discussion by Senator Pustejovsky.**

**Seconded by Senator Cohen.**

(16-0-0)

**Motion passes.**

Senator Cohen: UVM put a Black Lives Matter flag sponsored by the SGA and a lot of people have been talking about Middlebury College doing this. I thought it would be interesting to present the idea and to maybe write a resolution to respond to this and put up a Black Lives Matter flag on the flag pole.

Senator McCormick brings up information about the flag being stolen from UVM and that possibly we should see how this plays out at UBM.

Senator Duran speaks about the BSU at UVM and how they are sponsoring a “blackout” in front of it. He also brings up the point about talking to the President about this topic.

Senator McCarthy agrees with the letter of support and brings up the idea of possibly having it as a student initiated thing, too.

President Toy: So, this can’t happen tonight and who wants to write a letter of support that would totally be “gucci” but we should at least set up an agenda and see how it plays out. It’s important to let the administration know but also make sure we have the backing of the community. If some people want to write a letter or have an event… it’s totally up to you guys what you want to do.

Senator Cohen: If the SGA just does a letter of support as their only response there could be some backlash.

Senator Pustejovsky agrees with Senator Cohen and urges to wait to see about the UVM flag.
Senator Lantigua talks about the Black Lives Matter movement itself and how it is against catering to the man. So, we should talk about how activism plays a role in the SGA and not whitewash important events.

Senator McCormick: So, possibly a letter that states we might do something.

Senator Boyle brings up the SGA’s responsibility of last year and how we can serve the administration and activism too. He states “we do not want to be controlling activism on campus.”

President Toy motions to table the conversation.
Seconded.
(15-0-1)
Abstained by Senator Wright.
Motion passes and the conversation is tabled.
President Toy thanks the interim Senators, Perez and Manges.
Motion to adjourn by Senator Pustejovsky.
Seconded.
(16-0-0)
Motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.