

AGENDA • SG SENATE

08-09 STUDENT GOVERNMENT



04/17/2009 | 1-3pm | SDC 1300

1) Call to Order

Called to order at 1:06

2) Roll Call

*President	x (late 1:36)
*Vice President	x
*Finance	x
*Programming	x
*Public Relations	
*Director of Services	
*Student Relations	x
*Organization Recognition	
*KGCoe	
*SCOB	x
*CIAS	x
*GCCIS	x
*COLA	
*COS	x
*Women's Senator	x
*Freshman	x
*Grad	
*CAST	x
*RHA	x
*NSC	x
*NTID	x
*OUTspoken	x
*ACA	x
*Global Union	
*WITR	x
*CAB	x
*Greek Council	
*OCASA	x
*Reporter	x
*SAAC	x
*Academic Senate	x
*Staff Council	x
*Dr. Heath	x
*Colette Shaw	x

3) Speak to the Senate

a. Caribbean Student Association

- We wanted to get funding for Ethnic Food events for next week. GU said we could get funding for it. We are asking for \$3200 in total so we can fund this.
- Fin: You have \$600 left over, what are you using it for?
- We have other events.
- Fin: When you first came you had 6 events totaling about \$15,000 asking for \$7,000. I don't think you didn't get extra money because you were given award. We didn't feel the need to give you an award on top of the last one. The total of these events was really high.
- VP: How much do we have for spring quarter?
- Fin: I believe its about \$10,000.
- GCCIS: Is this an official appeal?
- VP: Yes.
- GCCIS: What kind of fund raising have you done?
- We've been doing a bake sale.
- VP: So you are asking for \$686 more?
- Yes.
- VP: It's on the floor.
- RHA motion to discuss, seconded by OUTspoken
- RHA: I'm with Mehlaam I don't see what you need \$686 when you've already been given an award.
- Fin: The first issue, was that we didn't have all your numbers up front. The first budget had no food, the second budget did. A lot of the problem is they were going to go to other groups for money but they didn't get it. They are short for money, I don't want you to think they don't need it. So its just to encourage fiscal responsibility. They can't rely on other groups to give them the money. It is a good carnival.
- SAAC: You said you needed the money for two events?
- Yes.
- Fin: Are you expecting money from elsewhere?
- Yes, we are expecting to get money from other groups.
- GCCIS motion to support finance decision, RHA seconded
- Motion failed
- Colette: I'm not sure every one understands what happened
- CIAS motion to grant additional funds, NID seconded
- VP needs to break the tie, motion approved
- VP: I'll approve it but next time you need to be better prepared. Can't be asking for money a week before a major week of events.
- Motion to grant an additional \$686 to CSA approved.

4) Approval of Minutes 4/10

- a. SAAC motion to approve, RHA seconded
- b. Minutes pass

5) Presenters

a. AS Academic Affairs Report – Doug Meadows

- RHA: I'm the seat on Academic Senate for SG. Two weeks ago we had something brought up about Add/Drop. The basic consensus was that Academic Senate should bring it to us.
- Doug: The reason for this is that students who add in the second week are in trouble in the class. We thought the Add period should end at the end of the first week. We are going to suggest moving in to Sunday at 11:00PM.
- Org Rec: My question is what is the difference adding Sunday night or Monday?
- Doug: If they add late Monday they could miss the class and miss an entire block of information.
- NTID: My question is deaf students lose finance if they get under 12 credits. If they can't meet with their VR then they can't get help. Is there flexibility?
- Doug: We haven't talked about that. But maybe they could talk to the counselor over the weekend. Send me your concern in an e-mail so I can be more clear and find out about it for you.
- CIAS: Maybe a little more flexibility.
- Doug: We want to propose we move to a + or – system for grading. We will be bringing this up for the first time at Academic Senate. We polled faculty and got a 75% support for this.
- Grad: How would GPA be calculated?
- Doug: Linear distribution.
- GCCIS: Is there any reason why you are looking at + or – and not numerical?
- Doug: I think its traditional. One major opinion for not going to + or – is that it is very hard to make a distinction that fine. I feel A, B, C is very clear.
- SAAC: How will that change, B versus B+?
- Doug: Every college will have to decide where to draw the line.
- Freshman: My concern is the weighting of tests is the same for us as opposed to semesters. Will they take into account how hard it is to get an A on our quarter system with only two exams.
- Doug: We haven't thought about that as an issue but I think its important.
- RHA: The points I'm going to bring up is this would be a lot more work for our professors, having to decide where to draw the line?
- Org Rec: Did we look at other schools and the effects on GPAs.
- Doug: We looked at other schools. MIT does + or – internally but outside the grades look very different.
- Org Rec: If you took only 20 students and apply this to them and see what happens.
- Doug: It depends on who you pick. Some professors say it'll make grades go up and some say it'll go down. What will change is

looking at someones grades from the past and someone in school now.

- Pres: What about Brown who has nothing but Pass/Fail?
- Dr. Heath: I would recommend a straw vote so Phil can bring all of our concerns.
- COS: An institution on quarter system and being in premed, a field thats very challenging, would be stressful. I also think that people in an art major would have a problem because you can't really come down to a few points difference between grades.
- SCOB: When are we looking at this to happen?
- Doug: At least not a year from this fall and even then I'm not sure.
- RHA: This will never come to us again thats why its so important.
- Doug: Yes, this won't come to SG its a faculty decision.
- SAAC: Will this effect our pass grades?
- Doug: No this will start on a date and not go back.
- Straw vote: 1 for + or -.
- Colette: Can you talk to your constituents and bring it back?
- VP: Talk to your constituents and e-mail me by Wednesday so I can send it to him.
- Grad: Why are we getting this so close to your voting?
- Doug: It's not something you really are supposed to have a say in.
- VP: We can still give student input on it to the provost.
- Doug: How many of you had + or – in high school?

6) Old Business

a. MSO Guidelines Draft

- Org Rec: In taking all the feedback we talked a lot about the RSO's. These are the revised guidelines. (papers passed out and Org Rec reads directly from them)
- Org Rec: If the population has concerns of the group seeking our permissions, they can come and voice these concerns.
- RHA: Like I said last time, what if there is a GLBT student in the dorms. Who represents them?
- VP: There is going to be overlap. Between OCASA and RHA you represent the entire campus.
- RHA: Right.
- Women's: What about numbers?
- Org Rec: Like Cory had said, its hard to get concrete numbers for him because there may be some people who aren't out.
- SAAC: So you have to be an SG club before you can be an MSO.
- Org Rec: Yea.
- VP: If someone is advising the club and they want to become an MSO, I think its up to the advisor if they want to stay.
- Org Rec: The big thing we wanted was to keep someone from advising more then one MSO.

- Org Rec: (reads bullet on back of page) What else? It seems most SSO's have been around for a long time. I don't see a new one being created. In the event someone was petitioning, we need to hash out what constitutes an SSO.
 - GCCIS: I don't understand the difference between an RSO and an SSO. Other than they're huge.
 - WITR: I think a Student Magazine, Radio, and Newspaper represent a university's corner stone. I see it defined as something that represents the whole campus.
 - CIAS: An SSO should be providing information or services to all students in an attempt to enrich life for all students.
 - Org Rec: I think too there are large groups on campus like Anime Club. They have a lot of events, what if they petition?
 - WITR: I think if we took a poll of who likes anime or who likes radio it doesn't really work.
 - GU: You brought up a valid point that if a large club wants to be an MSO. But unless there is a group that wants to be an MSO for a group that isn't already represented it should be ok.
 - VP: My point was if they are an SSO they sit at senate. What would be beneficial for them to sit at senate?
 - Freshman: I think the difference is providing a service for students, not a particular interest.
- b. Resolution 0809-1 Word Change
- VP: Dr. Johnson said that censure is probably not the best word to use. So Ed thought we should change it to opposition and oppose. Is there a motion to re-approve.
 - RHA motion to approve, GCCIS seconded
 - Motion passed

7) New Business

a. Message Center

- VP: I'm sure you all go e-mails from United Way and for ImagineRIT. I think it's being abused and I wanted to bring it to you.
- Freshman: I think that's a question for who controls it? ITS?
- VP: Yes.
- Freshman: So who decides to send it?
- PR: There's a woman you send it to and she sends it out.
- VP: She's not the only one.
- PR: Once you send it out once you aren't supposed to send it again.
- SCOB: I did get that e-mail about the ImagineRIT exhibitor. At the very least that should be addressed.
- Women's: Is the issue that too many people have access? And they have different ideas of how to use it?
- Pres: Another thing is that they have a list you can subscribe to for e-mails. We have been trying to get on that list. The question is how do we pull back on the messages that go out from RIT Message

Center. For example I have about 15 a day from them when I get up at 10AM.

- Org Rec: I think publicizing the fact you don't have to get them. I agree with Rose, the administration of it and who's to say who gets on it?
- CIAS: I believe we have a university news department who decides and could see all the traffic. If theres one group it would probably work out better.
- VP: I just feel the general announcements group is too vague. I think we need more specific categories. Is there a motion to support pushing this to the ITS Committee?
- Student Relations motion to support, Organization Recognition seconded.
- Motion passes

b. Post Tenure Review Reassessment

- VP: We have an educated person who has been working on it and would like to talk about it.
- GCCIS: I have been working on this for a little while now. I've read up on how other institutions have approached this idea. What I've come up with is that we should drop this entire phrase of "post tenure". Our goals have nothing to do with this. Post tenure review is every certain years someone goes in front of a group of their peers who decides if they are or are not doing their job. At RIT we evaluate every faculty member every year. To try and develop something called post tenure review is not accurate. I think our focus should be how we should involve students in the review process. How can we reflect what students are looking for at the institute. Another part is how we can evaluate the FEEDS program. Which helps faculty take classes to better themselves if it is determined they need it or if they want it. I think we need to determine what is missing from the review process now nad how we can involve students.
- SAAC: Does it matter if you've been here a certain amount of years?
- GCCIS: It was explained to me as its the same no matter what or who you are. They look at grades, evaluations, and all that and it goes to the department head who decides how they did.
- Grad: I don't think the feedback from the evaluation forms come back in time. They just want to know how they did. They sometimes snatch the folders to see what they got, just to figure it out not to see the names.
- GCCIS: The way its set up now is when the faculty sees the forms is determined by department. I think we should look at a campus wide thing.
- SCOB: From here I would say to get someone who knows the process down pat and we can see what to do.

- GCCIS: Like I said, its different for every department. I think I'm going to get action items, research, and information for someone to sit down and look at it in the fall.
- Academic Senate: I know the people who use electronic forms get them within a week after the evaluation closes. I don't know about paper because my college doesn't use it. We try to encourage electronic copies.
- VP: One action item I think is the questions on the back, they aren't thought provoking.
- Freshman: Do they look at the evaluations?
- GCCIS: I'm not sure if every faculty member as to or does read the evaluations.
- Academic Senate: In the college of science, we have to list the numerical average for each of our courses and then summarize and address student comments. We also have to address what we did to get a complement. Comments make a tremendous difference. I like that an action item is the form because I get graded on a lab when I don't teach one and I have to carry those numbers with me.
- CIAS: I know some professors who use the computer would like to add questions.
- Org Rec: I agree, I think surveys should be addressed properly to classes, not just a generic survey.
- VP: I think another action item is that the evaluations have weight to them. I would hate to see the surveys not pertain to yearly evaluations.
- Gallery: What kind of action are we taking against professors with bad reviews?
- GCCIS: I might not be the best to ask but I know one thing they use it for is salary increases. The department chair might also outline a series of steps for the faculty member to go through such as courses to further develop. I think a lot of it is up to the department or program chair.
- Gallery: Maybe something to look at is not giving a professor who repeatedly has bad reviews the same classes. When an 8AM is overloaded and a 12PM is half empty because people don't like the professor, that says something.
- WITR: Maybe something small for students to see how good a professor is.
- CIAS: I would like to see on registration what professors are award winning.
- Pres: I don't think the Eisenhower award fully represents the good professors. Some don't have time to fill out the paperwork because they are working with students.

c. Election Results

- Adam: I just want to thank everyone who went out of their way to help us. So thank you all.

- GU: Pres: Dave Varhees, VP: Barry, Treasurer: Addatta
- RHA: Pres: Phil, VP: Collene
- OCASA: Pres: Steph, VP: Kathryn, rep: nicole
- NSC: Pres; Greg,
- OUTspoken: Pres; Cory, Prog: Patrick, Publicity: Jared
- CAST: Zied
- CIAS: Leigh
- COS: Diane
- GCCIS: Alaina
- KGCOE: nicolas
- SCOB: Dave
- Women;s Kat
- COLA: Alacia
- NTID: Zo
- President: Matt and Jackie!
- Adam: Total number of votes about 2,600.

8) Committee Reportso

a. Women's Committee

- Women's: We talked about more women faculty and one thing was a better mentoring group.

9) Cabinet Announcements

a. President

- Pres: I would like to announce Time Warner will not be introducing the tier in Rochester, NY. Also, we will be putting out the annual reports. We have been told they will install a direct pathway to crossroads. In response, Mary wants to set up a committee that deals with housing. We will fill it with students from our different housing options. Also, regardless of who wins I want you to make every effort to transition contacts and information to your successor. The most important thing is to maintain relationships on campus and continue working for the students. Please make every effort to do the transition. If you don't know the answer, forward them on to me or Matt or Colette. Thank you everyone for this year and good luck to everyone next year.
- Colette: Just a quick update, the folks are coming in early to announce the winners.

b. Vice-President

- VP: Senators you need to have another 1-on-1 with me and we will be making a binder for your predecessor.

c. Organization Recognition

- Org Rec: Thank you for all your help with the MSO guidelines. This week RIT Bass was approved as a club. I've been working on clubs and them being a financial burden and what not from all our discussions.

- d. Student Relations
 - Stu Rela: The scholarship dinner is on Tuesday. Our three winners will be there so it would be nice if you approach them and introduce yourself.
- e. Programming
 - Prog: Thank you for the help handing out pizza for the elections. As you all know Marlee is coming Sunday. I would like you all there at 5:30. We will have 5 ticket vests from CAB. Mike D will be in charge, wear you polos. We changed the set up also.

10) Senate & MSO Accomplishments

- a. RHA
 - RHA: Steph and I went to Buffalo to try out Salsarita's, it's supposed to be going into Global Village. I thought it was delicious.
- b. CAB
 - CAB: Band Expose is tonight on the Greek Lawn.
- c. Grad
 - Grad: The business cards for Graduate Students are going to be available. You can spread the word, as of next Monday staff should know.
- d. Reporter
 - Reporter: We had an issue with distribution today but it's being handled.
- e. WITR
 - WITR: New E-Board goes into effect next week.
- f. CAST
 - CAST: We should get our television soon, the money is all in the right place.
- g. OCASA
 - OCASA: OCASA is collaborating with CAB tonight for the Band Expose.
- h. NSC
 - NSC: We're preparing for Galludette this weekend.
- i. NTID
 - NTID: We've been working on the signing in public space t-shirts. Karey Pine is going to decide if we can get them or not.
- j. OUTSpoken
 - PR: Today is the Day of Silence so show your support.

11) Governance Reports

- a. Academic Senate
 - Academic Senate: We had our elections (listed new leaders).

12) Advisor Reports

13) Adjournment

- a. sWomen's motion to adjourn, seconded Grad
- b. Adjourned at 2:53

Announcements

- RIT/Gally Sports Weekend – This weekend!
- Marlee Matlin, April 19th, 7-8pm, Clark Gym (show up at 6pm)
- SG Annual Banquet – Monday, May 4th, 2009, 5:30pm SAU Cafeteria

Next Meeting

- IP Policy – Final Draft
- Policy of Policies O_o