

AGENDA • SG SENATE

09 - 10 STUDENT GOVERNMENT



10/02/2009 | 1-3pm | SAU 1829 Room

1) Call to Order

Called to order at 1:00

2) Roll Call

President	x
Vice President	x
Finance	
Programming	
Public Relations	x
Director of Services	x
Student Relations	x
Organization Recognition	x
KGCOE	x
SCOB	x
CIAS	x
GCCIS	x
COLA	x
COS	x
Women's Senator	-
CAST	x
RHA	x
NSC	x
NTID	x
OUTspoken	x
ACA	x
Global Union	x
WITR	x
CAB	x

Greek Council	x
OCASA	
Reporter	x
SAAC	x (late)
Academic Senate	
Staff Council	x
Freshman	-
Grad	-
Dr. Heath	x
Karey Pine	x

3) Speak to the Senate

4) Approval of Minutes 9/25

- a. 17 approved
- b. Motions passed

5) Cabinet Report

a. President

- Pres: The stipend proposal is happening. It will be retro active.
- Karey: It won't get uploaded until November. Then you will get two months of back pay.
- Greek: Will it start at the beginning of the quarter?
- Pres: No, it will start in November. Say you are now at \$55 per week, with the increase you will be at \$65. You will receive the back pay from when you received \$55. The plus and minus grading conversation has begun again. We passed a resolution at the end of the year mostly due to being out of the loop. Where should we go with this? We have two reps on the committee for this. Do we still oppose? I want more information. Reach out to your constituents. One problem with it is the difference between A and a B in grading for art students and that faculty could choose whether to use the new system or not.
- KGCOE: I've gone to engineering students to get written feedback. I have one from both views so far, but I'm working to get more.
- SCOB: This was a huge discussion last year, we managed to bang out this resolution. I want to reiterate that this happened because of the lack of transparency of the whole process. Ultimately, we were left out of the loop. It is most important to keep in mind that we need more information. We need someone to come in from higher

up or Institute Council. Don't get caught up in the good or bad, we need to know what we're debating.

- RHA: I agree with Dave. Its important to get a formal presentation from the committee about this. Academic Senate going over our heads is not good. They should get our approval or disapproval.
- Pres: They don't need our approval.
- RHA: We should still ask.
- Dir of Serv: Whatever we do come to, we should not go forward as demanding to have a say. We should be courteous and polite because we don't actually have a say.
- SAAC: The theory is to talk to clubs and colleges, but how many kids get involved with that. Try a survey or opinion poll so at least we are giving everyone an option to give their opinion. I realize we don't have a decision, but the opportunity to express campus' feelings is a good idea.
- Pres: I am meeting with the provost, before then reach out to your constituents. We need more info from your constituents. Should we run a survey of the student body?
- Stu Rela: Since it passed already, my impression was that the committee was how to implement the system. Not whether or not to do it.
- Pres: I also thought it was an implementation committee. In the event of a vast majority are against it, maybe they could bring it to us.
- Org Rec: We should have a Town Hall, students could give their opinions.
- VP: the provost does have the final say. Academic Senate can approve but he ultimately decides. I don't know if he approved it yet. This is why we need to get your constituents views, we need things quickly.
- Pres: I want to hear from MSO's too.

6) Senator Report

a. SCOB

- The Student Executive Board met, we are working on 4 new initiatives.
- Getting the event calendar up is all done, we're making it pretty now.
- The club handbook is developing. The business college has clubs but they have no idea what they're doing. We're making a step by step process of what they need to do.
- The Dean has committed to holding one more event this year. The idea is that students didn't feel connected to each other. We are working on arranging for smaller social activities to bring students together. Come see me if you have ideas.

7) MSO Report

a. Reporter

- The Beer Summit received a good number of responses. Those will be getting underway shortly. It is an open interview where I buy a beer and we sit and chat.
- I will be going to Austin, Texas for a convention.
- Reporter will be Tweeting Brickcity at reportermag.com

8) New Business

a. Student Involvement

- VP: This goes back to getting students involved on campus. We want to make them satisfied. We want them to be involved in attending games. Does anyone have any ideas?
- GCCIS: RIT Events calendar needs overhaul, it should be sorted by types of events. The RSS feed should work better. People would be better informed.
- CAST: We should get a Facebook group or page of events that come up for you.
- NTID: Its important students know whats going on. Most students feel SG is general support for each other. Advertise something not only for clubs, an open forum so people know whats going on.
- Pres: I have a strong relationship with U of R. They have a strong posting policy, but to get information out campus the newspaper sends a daily e-mail of what is going on. Students could auto subscribe to something like that here. It would be something more student focused then RIT News and Events.
- COLA: Us speaking to freshman good idea. They live on campus. We should aim more to them.
- VP: Dorm storming made students happy that someone was coming to speak to them. We should work with OCASA to do things with commuter students. Its less intimidating for a few of us to dorm storm or apartment storm for events.
- NSC: we should do something with the g-mail calendar.
- Dir of Serv: We are talking about that in tech committee. Anticipate that tech committee will look at that more in the future. Contact me and I'll give you Gerry's information if you have more suggestions.
- VP: SG should have a table in the SAU of senators and MSO's for people to talk to us.

b. Senator Appointee

- VP: I conducted interviews for Women's senator and Ebony Jackson was the most qualified. Her goals are tangible, she wants to work on retention, a women better me program, and networking with upperclassmen. She can reach out to different females because she is in a sorority and the captain of the cheer leading team.
- Dir of Serv: Can you just explain why we are voting on someone.

- VP: We had someone from the election, but she resigned. The Vice President can choose someone, but I decided to do interviews and select the best. Is there a motion?
 - OUTspoken motion approve, KGCOE seconded
 - Motion passed
 - Women's: I am a 4th year biomed science major from Maryland. I am also the Vice President of NPHC.
 - OUTspoken: Can you explain your goals.
 - Women's: Every year we have the lighting the way ceremony, mainly for freshman but upperclassmen can attend too. I want to organize programs similar to that where upperclassmen help underclassmen. I want to make their connection stronger.
- c. Senate Updates
- Vice President
 1. VP: I need an updated list of who from each MSO's are a part of senate. We need to know who and when your reps are coming. Send me an e-mail. Information about the Freshman and Graduate senators positions were sent in an e-mail to freshman and graduate students. Nick is in the lead for applicants.
 2. GCCIS: Do students in the BS/MS program count as graduate?
 3. VP: Nick?
 4. KGCOE: Technically you have to be in your 6th year. SIS will show you what year you are.
 - OUTspoken
 1. OUTspoken: I will be presenting next week some images around the SAU where bulletin boards would work. Once I have an approval, I can go to places and get boards.
 - KGCOE
 1. KGCOE: Oct. 22nd is Roar Day. Please sign up.
 - Global Union
 1. GU: We have our website up and running. It is very simple right now. We have great ideas on connecting with constituents on the website. We did an on line sign up sheet for an event we are having tomorrow. The first 30 students get to go to the Mexican restaurant for free. Mexican culture and music will be explained during the event. You can still go if you are not in the first 30, you will just pay \$7.50 for anything on menu.
- d. Updates
- VP: Kyle's birthday is tomorrow. Happy birthday. Kathy, talk about the Horton speaker.
 - Kathy: Wear your polo's for the event. Sign up to help out for the day. We will send a reminder for what you signed up for. We need people for setting up and marking reserved seats. There will be an

invitation on Monday for the reception. It is 2:30 to 3:30 and you get to meet Jimmy Wales.

- Karey: For deaf and hard of hearing students, interpreters won't be confirmed unless you say you are coming to the reception.
- VP: This is an SG event, we need your help.

9) Old Business

a. Student Leader Summit

- VP: I got mixed reviews for this, about 70% enjoyed it and 30% did not. I believe the best thing to do is form a committee. More students would then be involved, so the more it will move forward and be better. How do you feel about the committee?
- Greek: The SG Retreat is for us to get to know each other. Its our time to learn about each other. The best way we can learn about each other is to have us to plan it. The committee can do that.
- VP: I will be passing around a sign up sheet for people to be apart of the Summit Committee.
- RHA: How many people do you want?
- Pres: All the MSO's.
- VP: MSO's have their own retreat anyway. Someone from each MSO should be represented.
- RHA: I think that will just be too many people, nothing will get done.
- VP: Every MSO can give feedback, bring up what goes on in their event. They will be giving information to work with and then we can move forward.
- OUTspoken: I enjoyed the Friday night portion of the Summit. It gave us the opportunity to meet other people. Saturday seemed like every other leadership thing I've ever gone to. Its just the same thing over and over.
- VP: The Friday portion was added for you to network with people you might be on a committee with. I hope you did enjoy it. We do need to practice networking skills, thats something that will be used through life.
- Karey: I want to bring up budgets real quick, we need to know how your budgets are. Today is the last day to clean out club space. Next Wednesday Dr. Heath and I will be sitting down to talk about club space and transitioning. The stuff in the public area needs a new home permanently.

10) Presenters

a. Greater Expectations by Dr. R. Doolittle

- Dir of Serv: In June, Teraisa and I went to Vermont for a conference called Greater Expectations. The school formed a team of faculty, staff, and students and sent them to a conference with goals of what they would like to change about their schools. This

provided us with access to faculty members who can advise you.
Our charge was very long compared to other schools.

- Stu Rela: We slept in the dorms at the university and met other colleges. The charge was from the provost. We were given FYE and learning communities to look at, most colleges came with just FYE. It was a lot to do in just 5 days. We had representation from every college on campus. There was a nice give and take between people. I was surprised on the collaboration. We had presentations of the changes on the campus' of other schools who had done this in the past. Dr. Doolittle is now working on our changes. The point is we made suggestions and provided a final report. We need your feedback on what we said in order to be better or more accurate.
- Dir of Serv: Dr. Doolittle is making presentations to a lot of groups. The presentation will be fast, then we will get your feedback.
- Stu Rela: He is open to e-mails, you can read the report and send him suggestions.
- Dir of Serv: The first thing we will cover is the charge. (reads from slide). This is our team (list of team members). Dr. Doolittle used to be the department chair in COS. He now has a new job.
- Dr. Doolittle: The team was a fabulous team, we did not know each other. We could have gone and talked about nothing but general education, but we had a huge number of issues to cover. We understood that input from students was very important. We were lucky to have Dave and Teraisa to keep us grounded.
- Dr. Doolittle: One thing we heard was the importance of the first 15 minutes; the students first experience. We talked with the students about that. We spoke about the summer reading book, tiger walk, and convocation. We want to evolve the summer reading book as a way to connect students, "Experience RIT". To someone in GCCIS, this should be like Picture the Impossible.
- Dr. Doolittle: It is an opportunity to create exercises and games to engage students to introduce them to RIT. Involving FYE, we want to change it to "Discovery" and "Innovation". The 2nd quarter would be multidisciplinary teams getting students to work together with people of different backgrounds.
- Dr. Doolittle: We would intentionally build in discussions on paths through RIT. They would create an e-portfolio. This would give them a digital record of what they are doing at RIT.
- Dr. Doolittle: General Education was discussed. We are not doing students favors with current approach. We need to revolutionize the way we run this. We need to role it up to the university. We would change it to "University Arts and Science". We would make a committee for general education creating categories of knowledge. The categories and themes would be open ended and not have limits. We would listen to what students have to say.

- Nicole: Writing Across the Curriculum is another thing we talked about. Most curriculum's require math and science, but not much in the form of writing. Students need a stronger skill set in this area. More practice will make you better writers, and you will have happier employers. We want to stop accepting AP credit for writing. There would be two general classes required to be a writing class. There would also be courses within the major as well for writing. This would help students with writing in their own area. An average student would want to spread these out, keeping yourself practiced over the years.
- Nicole: The next thing we discussed was Learning Communities for the first few years. We recommend additional opportunities be open to upperclassmen. We would like to combine courses to make things more interesting.
- Nicole: The Innovation Curricula would be through the new FYE courses "Discovery" and "Innovation". An Innovation council is being formed. We want your help and feedback. Visit the website for this chart, it is an important chart and very helpful. Some students have this kind of path, but it is more abnormal then normal. We want this to become more normal.
- Greek: Can you send us the powerpoint so we can bring it to our councils?
- Nicole: Sure.
- RHA: Earlier when you spoke about Learning Communities and not fixing what isn't broken, I don't agree. As a transfer, learning communities take up freshman courses and keep transfers locked out.
- Nicole: Learning Communities have decreased in some areas because of reasons like that. There are areas it is working very well, but areas it is not. The places where it is effective and working, I don't think anything is wrong.
- Dr. Doolittle: I am meeting with the Learning Community Advisory board, put that in writing and I will take that issue to them. I think it is time to look at a different model. The committee talked about transfers. On the Tiger Team Implementation Committee they are looking at trailer courses. They would be offering more courses for transfers, students shouldn't be harmed for coming in later.
- NTID: This is for a base level?
- Dr. Doolittle: I don't know what you mean.
- NTID: Basic needs students have and how they apply to cross registered students.
- Dr. Doolittle: I am speaking about that next week in order to discuss those issues. I am planning a meeting with faculty and staff of NTID before the end of October.
- SAAC: As a first year, when you get a schedule you have no say. I took a class in high school so didn't have to take it in college but

RIT put me in it because I did well. I didn't feel I needed a Learning Community and because I was in that community I couldn't really adjust my schedule even though I needed time for sports.

- Dr. Doolittle: There are a range of options and opportunities, what would you prefer?
- SAAC: After you are accepted in April, the school should ask what you're interested in so they can have a slight idea of where to put students.
- Dr. Doolittle: I agree they need better planning for what students get to take. Extending the idea of choice back to the beginning is addressing the first fifteen minutes.
- Nicole: In the early days, learning communities had more options. There was so much success, that departments decided all students would be in the communities. They need to find a balance.
- Org Rec: At the beginning, RIT asks questions about living preferences, they should piggy back that with class preferences.
- Pres: Special Interest Housing was great, but it is dying off because of clustering in dorms and Learning Communities.
- Dr. Doolittle: That is on the table for discussion. We need to create the right kind of model.

b. History of Horton by Molly McGowan

- Molly: Who knows “What is Horton?”? I was asked for a history of Horton and to address why you should care. Frank Horton was a congressman in the area for years, he was very good to RIT. He was instrumental in creating NTID. There is a scholarship for deaf and hard of hearing students in his name.
- Molly: When he passed away, RIT created the SG Horton speaker series to bring in leaders from around the world. Some former speakers are: Rudy Guliani, Robert Redford, Ben Stein, Colin Powel, and two former president's. It is a prestigious series. It is an SG event. The success involves you, we need you there.
- Molly: There are two main ways to be involved. Five years ago the speaker series moved to Brickcity in order to bring in more people. Usually we have a traditional schedule, but this year is different. The speaker begins at 11:00. Ticket takers need to be there by 9:30 to help, people will be escorting reserved seating people to their seats as well. Carol Reed is running ticket taking so report to her.
- Molly: The doors from the SLT will be locked off, so come in from the main field house doors. It is important to be on time. Doors will open by 10. You are welcome to stay through the presentation. 12:30 is your break with food in the SG office. 2:30 is the reception for students only, it is only for you. You get to ask him questions and get your picture taken with him. Any questions?
- Dr. Heath: Between the speaker and reception there is a lag time, it is a privilege to meet him. So I am asking all of you to attend the reception.

- OUTspoken: Is the reception similar to past?
- Molly: It is invite only, so it will be just you and a few club members.
- PR: Where is reception?
- Molly: Right here.

11) Adjournment

- a. RHA motion to adjourn, seconded GCCIS
- b. Adjourned at 3:01

Announcements

- Horton Speaker: Jimmy Wales (Wikipedia Founder) October 10, 2009 at 11 am (Gordon Field House)

Next Meeting

- October 9, 2009
Room Location: SDC Room 1310