

# AGENDA • SG SENATE

## 09 - 10 STUDENT GOVERNMENT



11/06/2009 | 1-3pm | SAU 1829 Room

1) Call to Order

Called to order at 1:02

2) Roll Call

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

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

3) Speak to the Senate

4) Approval of Minutes 10/30

- a. OUTspoken motion to approve, seconded by OCASA
- b. minutes pass

5) New Business

a. Voting Seats

- VP: When Academic Senate and Staff Council were voted in to sit at Senate last year they were voted in as non-voting seats. We have voting seats in their governance groups so we feel they should as well. We also have some SSO's to talk about.
- SAAC: If we are able to vote at their meetings, they should be able to vote at ours.
- OUTspoken: This is something for you to think about. We are a student body. Since they allow us to vote it would be nice for them to be allowed. Personally I believe it should just be students, we are a student body. I just want you to think about it.
- WITR: In the Academics they are allowing student input, they feel it makes their decisions better. It would be assumed that academic input would help serve the students.
- NSC: How much influence do we want the faculty to have? Generally faculty already have a lot of input. I think that maintaining the separation between academics and students is important. We are representing the students not the faculty.
- SAAC: I like what Greg and Cory had to say. I see your point, we are helping in academics by giving student input. But at the same time, when we're talking about academics its good to get their opinion. They are representing faculty with us.
- Reporter: Why is there a need for cross population between the three governance groups?

- Pres: Given that the concern has been raised from administrators, it is a healthy decision. We haven't really asked them if they want voting seats. So we can ask them to go back and discuss it. I think of it as we are the customers of the institute so I feel its weird for them to have voting seats in the customers opinions. Every voting seat you have increases the body. I think its a good conversation to have though.
- NSC: Who would you say is closer to the administration in influence? Student government or academic senate? Who is the administration more likely to listen to? Students or faculty?
- Academic: It is truly more symbolic. Its the idea of community. One extra vote isn't usually going to make a decision. It's very important everyone has a voice. The faculty has heard the president say that the students are our customers. The academic senate deals with policies and procedures for faculty.
- COLA: One thing I hear staff say is that they don't move forward with anything unless students say so. A lot won't be done unless students say so.
- VP: Josh do you want to address this?
- Staff: We haven't really discussed it. It is symbolic.
- Org Rec: I think one thing to keep in mind is that we do have a seat at the table for Staff Council and Academic Senate. To encourage them to keep giving input and to come back it would be good to give them a voting seat.
- NSC: My question isn't about voting its about influence. Faculty always have more credibility in their points than students. To balance that out is to make sure to maintain a 100% student voice. The reason I ask you about the relationship with administration is because I don't want to give more to faculty than they already have. They have a closer relationship with administration.
- SAAC: Can you pick and choose what they can vote on?
- Pres: No. They can abstain though. I have abstained from voting on HR stuff at staff council.
- SAAC: I think having the ability to vote is important. If it isn't relative to them, they can abstain. Have the ability to let them give their input. Having the ability to have their voice heard is what is important.
- KGCOE: They are here for our benefit. I believe they should have a seat. They are going to look out for our interest.
- Academic: We have an administration that is open to all of us. The idea of who has more or less power is all paradigms. If you want to have a voice and a say, you can have one.
- SCOB: The conflict I'm hearing is whether or not the governance groups will provide an adversarial vote. I don't believe its true. Giving them a seat, I believe, will give us more credibility. It might

make them think about things a little more, about bringing things to us for voting.

- VP: Based upon what has been said, is there a motion?
- NSC: We are talking about the right to vote. I have no problem with them sitting here with an opinion.
- OUTspoken motion to keep them non-voting, RHA seconded
- motion does not pass
- Pres: I would like to motion to table this and have them come back to us with input on whether they want seats.
- COLA move to table it until they can give us feedback, SAAC seconded
- motion passed
- VP: Now the SSO's CAB, WITR and Reporter.
- Reporter: If we were offered a seat we would decline as a conflict of interest.
- SAAC: As much as CAB has active members, they don't have constituents. They are not representing a group. Their opinions are just those who are in the group.
- WITR: I agree with Michelle, we don't have constituents we have members. I would be against SSO's getting voting seats.
- Greek: The people on the SSO's already have representation from someone else in this room.
- OUTspoken motion to keep SSO's non-voting, KGCOE seconded
- motion passed

b. Gambling Policy

- VP: Does everyone know what the policy is? Under students rights and responsibilities says: (reads it).
- Org Rec: What is the difference between the NY State Law on gambling and RIT rules? That is something we need cleared up.
- Reporter: Why is this brought up? Public safety has said it has never been a problem.
- Pres: For the president's alumni ball, there was gambling. I don't see why they can do it there and we can't do it here.
- SAAC: There are certain things you are allowed to do based off of NY State Law.
- VP: The main reason we brought this up is to gather feedback. The senior night Vegas Night was very popular.

c. Person of the Month

- October: Sarah Thompson

d. Myth Busters

- Pres: We are trying to figure out ways to get students aware. We are going to put up posters about myths. I would like to figure out what the myths are and put up posters about them. I would like to hear some myths you guys have heard.
- RHA: I have heard that the changing of the calendar is going to affect the co-op system.

- Academic: Is this just informational? The provost site has financial information on it.
  - Women's: Is it set in stone that we are having semesters?
  - Pres: No, next week we are having a presentation of four calendars. You guys are expected to have open forums and meetings to find out about it. Students overwhelmingly wanted to stay with quarters but they don't know about the other options.
  - Women's: I have heard it was set in stone.
  - Academic: We are encouraging our senators to have meetings so go to the meetings and get information.
  - RHA: I want to get the word out that students have a voice. They will eventually have the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- e. Senate Updates
- WITR
    1. WITR: Last week we smashed ten pumpkins for tailgating. We are currently looking at adjusting our member system. We have community members of past students and those in the community. The Facebook page Modern Music No More: Save WITR has information on this from all angels.
  - Director of Services
    1. Dir of Serv: The technology community has been discussing the my.rit.edu portal and ITS has an interest in developing an iPhone/iPod Touch application. These two topics came up at the same time. Its all stuff that you would want to do quickly. We are working with ITS to change the portal into an actual portal. In Winter quarter we plan to start working with student groups to get feedback on what they would like to see in these projects. We may work with Clipboard surveys. The idea for an Open Forum was thrown out there.
    2. Dir of Serv: Tiger Watch launched Halloween weekend. They ran five shifts. They only answered one call, an escort call. But they think once the winter starts they'll be doing more.
  - COLA
    1. COLA: Over the past week I sent out a survey to my constituents. I did get some good feedback of what I should do. I just wanted to throw it out there.
  - Graduate
    1. Grad: I went to the graduate advisory meeting and they want a student voting seat. They want every college to have a PHD and graduate student rep and from those reps have a single rep on the committee.
  - President
    1. Pres: We talked about tailgating, tuition, sustainability, campus crowding, fliers, dorm lounges, and club funding with Destler in the Cabinet meeting.

- Academic
  1. Academic: There is a Technology Task Force headed by Lynn Wildler. You should talk to them.

6) Old Business

a. Calendar System

- VP: The calendars will be going out. It is your responsibility to get the information to your constituents so they can make a real decision. If you have ideas on how to get it out, let us know.
- SAAC: One of the best ways to get the information out is through the colleges. No one really looks at the Message Center. Maybe faculty could bring it up or go through mail folders.
- COLA: One method I've seen that is successful is to have department heads send out e-mails.
- NSC: I'm not sure, but what about using Facebook polls?
- SAAC: I think Facebook is a really good idea. For SAAC and TigerDen we have our own groups. You can work through that, your own groups.
- WITR: Going through clubs might be good. Everyone has an attachment to their clubs.
- Pres: I had a dream about this and I really want to get your ideas.
- Women's: One of the Greek organizations had candy with notes. People like candy. They might put the notes in their pocket and look at it later.
- Freshman: One idea for freshman, they all have FYE. I could see if professors could bring it up. For school as a whole, people eat everyday so putting it in napkin holders might be a good idea.
- NSC: When I was younger, I remember Trix had a question for colors. We could have different color candies each representing one idea so we can count at the end to see what's left. That way we could figure out a general idea of what people want.
- RHA: As for FYE, it's unreliable to have the whole of FYE talk about one topic. But we could do hot drinks in winter to get people to talk to us.
- Greek: We used computer labs to get information out and that worked well.
- Academic: The point of all this is to have you represent our constituents. We are encouraging you to get those results for this.
- COLA: Maybe during half time at a game we could get input in a What Would You do kind of way.
- Staff: What you are really talking about here needs to be not just educating. You won't find everyone agreeing so you have to be true to that.
- SAAC: My problem with the FYE idea is that it's just freshmen. For the game thing, there isn't enough people there to get opinions.

- NSC: I don't know about you, but I have always found the hockey games is the one event that pulls the RIT community together. I think a method of promotion there is a good idea.
- Org Rec: Is it possible to do a survey in each class? Kind of like the end of quarter professor evaluations.
- SAAC: I love the fact that people feel connected at the games. The people at the games won't just be students. You have other schools and parents. We are looking for the student opinions. It does bring the community together but it isn't just students.
- Freshmen: One thing we do need to keep in mind is that we need to get the information out. We aren't looking for opinions at these games. We can use the SG website or the myrit portal to get opinions. We can have polls and such for peoples opinions. But at the games we can tell people where they can put their opinion, get people talking.

## 7) Presenters

### a. Public Safety by Chris Denninger

- Chris: I had a powerpoint but the computer isn't working. We have a 24 hour emergency phone line. There are typically 5 people on campus responding to calls. We have 3 investigators. We also have management who direct operations. We have doubled in size since I started and that requires more resources on our end. We have cameras on campus in high risk areas.
- Chris: There are several hundred card readers to help manage entry to buildings. We also have panic devices, we are working on desktop devices now as well. We had our crime statistics in the Reporter a few weeks ago. Any questions on those? No?
- Chris: Recent trends, larceny has decreased 60% compared to last year. Auto striping has gone down. We have caught a lot of people as well. Burglary is up compared to last year. The theme is they are all unlocked apartments. They are called crimes of opportunity.
- Chris: Last year there was three force-able sex offenses and one not force-able. This year there has been two. Its a lot of he says she says. Goals for this year is that react system for the panic device on the computers. We are also looking to get accredited. We hope to be done this summer, we hope to get done in two years. The second accreditation we hope to do is to get dispatch medically able to ask questions in order to help.
- Chris: Continuous improvement is important. We want to know how we can improve our service. We have a person who handles complaints, issues, and gaps that need to be handled.
- RHA: You mentioned burglaries are up. What is the break down between apartments and the dorms?
- Chris: 22 reported in 2008. 14 were in the res halls from unlocked rooms, 6 in the apartments, and 2 in the academic areas.

- Dir of Serv: Do you have any reaction to the first weekend of Tiger Watch?
  - Chris: All the feedback was positive. I did not review everything that weekend. They are all set to go, they have jackets and training.
  - NSC: Do you notice times that burglaries happen?
  - Chris: We definitely go down that road, we know one in Perkins was staged as in someone knew the person would be gone. As for times, I'm not sure.
  - NSC: I ask because maybe you could increase surveillance during those times and in those areas.
  - Chris: RA's can definitely help do that.
- b. Student Conduct by Dawn Soufleris
- Dawn: We deal with all the misconduct that happens on campus. Jackie asked me to come and talk to you about a few things. The Student Behavior Consultation Team is a team that helps someone who is in crisis and going through a hard time. We get together every week to talk about helping students who are suffering. We are seeing a significantly higher number of cases this year than last year.
  - Dawn: Last year 4 students had already taken a leave of absence but this year 19 students have taken leaves of absences. That is a significant difference. We have had a 122% increase in hospitalizations compared to last year. There is a 39% increase in cases.
  - Dawn: Only one leave of absence was involuntary and done in the students best interest. The other 18 were voluntary.
  - Donna: It's pretty unusual for the hospital to make a strong recommendation for the student to go home, that was why the one was forced upon the student.
  - Dawn: Right now we have reached out to universities to find out where they are in cases. We have gotten mixed reviews. We are investigating national training for RA's and student leaders. Some students are just lacking coping skills. Questions?
  - Reporter: Do you see a larger trend in residence halls?
  - Dawn: Mostly our cases are students who live in on-campus housing because they are seen. We have a rise in cases of people being seen in classes and in clubs however. 32% of cases are in the residence halls, 16% are apartments, 2% at the RIT Inn, and the rest off campus.
  - SCOB: Are you seeing a trend of the entering class, or is it people who have been here?
  - Dawn: 56.9% this year were first year students. Last year was 47.7%.
  - SCOB: What is being done to address this? Are we being more proactive?



- Donna: Those numbers could reflect the increase in the awareness we have gotten out there, that's not all the reason however there is an increase in issues.
- Dawn: We often don't know until the students get here if a student has had past issues. We don't know until they have an incident here.
- Donna: Even if we know ahead of time, it doesn't mean we can prevent something. They just have poor coping skills.
- Prog: Is there any information on the first years to the school or first years in credits?
- Dawn: Most of the numbers are students who hold first year status. 85% of the cases are new and have never been in the SBCT before.
- Presenter: We had 102 alcohol cases last year and this year we have had 90. Last year we had 20 drug cases and this year 16. Harassment cases are basically the same. We have had 416 cases all together this year. Women cases were 28% this year and 21% last year.
- NSC: What obligation do students have to go to SBCT? If something happens do they have to go?
- Dawn: The team meets and discusses a student who has been referred to them. If they go to the hospital they have to meet with Donna and I about it and talk about it.
- Donna: You should understand that the meeting we have every week the students are not there.
- Dr. Heath: If you have gambling questions, ask now.
- Pres: If they can fake gamble at the president's ball, can we look into doing it too?
- Dawn: Gambling isn't illegal. Our issue is there are startling statistics that show students have an increased risk for becoming addicted to gambling. We happen to live in an area where you can go down the road to a reservation and gamble. If nothing is to be lost at the president's ball and senior nights, you're right. But it's that small percentage that could get addicted. There is a broader picture there, you have to use ethics to make those decisions.

#### 8) Adjournment

- a. RHA motion to adjourn, seconded SAAC
- b. Adjourned at 2:59

#### **Announcements**

- OCASA Coffee Break Nov. 12, 2009 10 am- 1pm
- RHA Primal Scream Nov.17, 2009 11:45 pm (Gracie's Parking Lot)

#### **Next Meeting**

- November 13, 2009 1829 Room