

AGENDA • SG SENATE

09 - 10 STUDENT GOVERNMENT



12/04/09 | 1-3pm | SAU 1829

1) Call to Order

Called to order at 1:06

2) Roll Call

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

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

3) Speak to the Senate

4) Approval of Minutes 11/30

a. minutes pass

5) Presenters

a. +/- Updates and Feedback by Dr. Jeremy Haefner

- Haefner: I was going to talk a little more generally just to update you. I want to spend the bulk of the time talking and listening about the +/- system. I wanted to quickly give you the broad picture. I want to reiterate the vision and priorities we've identified. While I was here I wanted to engage you in a conversation about education internationally.
- Haefner: RIT is engaged in being an international school. It's a fundamental anchor to move forward. Rather than talk about goals Dr. Destler focuses on, I like to focus on priorities that we should keep an eye on. Student Success, equity plurality and inclusivity, research scholarship and creative works, innovation, international education, academic operations, academic program excellence, and faculty success.
- Haefner: I want to tell you about a bunch of initiatives we have underway. We have: changes to our tenure policy, develop and implement statement of expectations for pre-tenure, develop academic program review framework, develop +/- grading system implementation, implement tiger team recommendations, faculty mentoring system, review and revise honors program, develop institute writing program, review and revise teaching evaluations, salary benchmarking process, calendar, develop new framework for general education, advance greater expectations dialog, explore cross-fertilization of teaching, programs and research, enhance promotion to full professor process, simplify and enhance faculty titles in E6.0, and calibrate faculty workloads.

- Haefner: That's not all of the issues, those are just some highlights. Many of you know Academic Senate passed this +/- grading system in the spring. Right now the proposal comes to the table with adding +/- marks as well as how they would relate to the GPA. It would be voluntary as is the rest of the grading policy is to the faculty. I formed a small task force for this. One important issue is the effect on scholarships. The others are the effects on academic probation, prerequisite grades, and multi-section courses being graded consistently.
- Haefner: Some ideas were to use the +/- grading system for the next academic year but calculate the GPA as we do now, set consistency across multi-section courses, and prerequisites set at C- or higher. What do you think?
- SAAC: I like that it allows RIT to move forward but I think a lot of students would rather take the C over a C+ if it gave them a B over a C-.
- Haefner: We know in some disciplines it's hard to get down to the details that the +/- grading system gets to. In the disciplines it does work for it does make a good difference. Why keep it separate? Well the GPA thing would be for just one year so we could get an understanding of how it would effect scholarships and GPA. It would show on transcripts however.
- Stu Rela: I know faculty can decide which one, but will that show on the transcripts. Will it show on the transcripts that some professors used a different scale if they chose not to use it?
- Haefner: That's a good point. What we'll have to do is include a note as to how the GPA was calculated. It will also have to say that faculty have different ways of assessing students.
- Org Rec: How can you have a voluntary system? I feel it creates a problem with when students select a professor.
- Haefner: Hopefully you make choices on the professor rather than their grading system. Right now faculty have a lot of leeway on their grading. That will also have to be true in the +/- system. Some faculty in the arts will find it hard to be so subjective on the grading that they will choose not to use the new system. I believe every syllabus will have to say if the professor is using the system or not.
- Org Rec: It seems like schools either do +/- or they do not. I can see it if an college like the art school chooses to use it or not, not a professor decision.
- Haefner: I think you have to understand that when you are a faculty member, you're going to have the ability to choose what is an A or a B. It's those decision points a faculty member will have, where the cut off is between those different grades.
- RHA: One topic that came up last year, is if they can choose to only use + or only use -. Can they do that?

- Haefner: Yes.
- RHA: If we do this next year and everyone absolutely hates it, can we go back? And if they love it can we change the GPA to count it?
- Haefner: It won't be based on if we like it or not. It'll be based on how students do. It's an assessment tool. None the less, your point is good. What if we find there is a huge ramification with financial aid or academic probation? That would be enough to go back to Academic Senate and look at it over again. So yes we could go back.
- SCOB: When you do evaluate the happenings, will there be consistent reports back to all the governance groups? Will we be involved in the decision?
- Haefner: We will absolutely bring back the data and reports. You have my word we'll present the results. You have my word if we see an adverse reaction I will bring it back to Academic Senate. But it will ultimately be my decision with information from President Senator.
- Freshman: The inconsistency bothers me. If you have some grades that are +/- it could make the classes that don't use it less important. But what are the policies for the other 85% of schools that have it for art schools?
- Haefner: They do it the same. They let professors make the decision. I appreciate your concerns when I say it'll be up to faculty but its up to faculty now as it is for how they grade. At the end of the day, the way we ask faculty to use the new system will be no different then how we ask them to use the current system.
- Pres: I appreciate you coming to use today. My one last concern is if on a transcript a student has a B+ and a bunch of B's and it looks as if they didn't do as well but really the professors didn't choose to use that system.
- Haefner: No matter what, we can put in a disclaimer saying not all courses utilize the +/- system. It would be nice to mark it by grade however. As we pull this task force together again I'm going to bring that up.
- Greek: My issue is say I work with Matt on a project for a class but we're in different sections. We get an 89, he gets a B+ and I get a B. That's not fair, an 89 should be an 89.
- Haefner: I agree, multiple sections should be graded the same.

6) New Business

a. Emergency Alert System

- VP: How many of you know what the emergency alert system is? How many are set up on it? The reason I'm bringing it is because we found only 45% of students are on the system. We want to get feedback.

- OUTspoken: When there was that threat before break I got two text messages, two voice messages, an e-mail, and my mom got a message. Since I signed up first year I haven't heard anything about it. I think people would sign up if they heard about it.
 - Freshman: I agree. I didn't know I was signed up for it and I got a text message. I never heard about it until I got a text message.
 - VP: You go to SIS to sign up for it. It's under the address information link.
 - NSC: I agree, I think for a system like this it should be automatic through RIT e-mail.
 - VP: It is default for e-mail. But getting people's numbers is what we need in case of power outage with computers.
 - Pres: I think it would be beneficial to know what you all think this is priority wise. What level of support should we work on this?
 - RHA: I think the Did You Know campaign would be suitable. Just getting the word out is important.
 - SAAC: With the Did You Know campaign, it would be good like put on posters that you would get notified of snow days. I know I did last year.
 - VP: I know some students said it was too much with the issue before break. What do you think?
 - Stu Rela: Since nothing came of the one before break I believe everyone will find it to be a lot.
 - VP: I'll bring it back to the next senate meeting what comes of my meeting.
- b. Student Government Holiday Party
- VP: The party is December 13th from 4 – 6. Everyone is invited. We'll meet in the office and take an SG van. We will send out an e-mail with information. We'll leave here at 3:30.
- c. SG Updates

7) Old Business

- a. Calendar Changes
- Pres: We did two types of fortune cookies. One version says RIT will change to semesters and one says it will stay quarters. We ordered 2,000 and will have it available at food services. We're also working on the Myth Busters campaign. We're working to get the website up. How are you reaching out to your constituents that isn't a mass survey?
 - SAAC: We went to coaches and talked to them. I think talking to professors for everyone else. But I'm definitely getting feedback and e-mails all the time.
 - Pres: You know how at Roar Day they have cardboard cutouts of Ritchie that says donate? I thought we could have senators in your college with papers saying “come see me about the calendar”.
 - SAAC: I think they'll be destroyed. I can see it getting drawn on.

- VP: Has anyone actually done anything? Like what you said you were going to do? Did anything work or not work? Giving ideas will help others.
- NSC: I did have the dialog with the some groups, the main concern was based on students not wanting semesters. Most students felt option C was the best transition to semesters. Many students felt the winter quarter blocks would help with more time for co-ops.
- CIAS: Are there any fliers for the Open Forum?
- VP: They're coming.
- SAAC: I also talked at my committee meeting today. In our group C was hated. Besides what we have now, semesters was favored. It would allow us to be in sync with everyone else. Most of the concern is with co-ops.
- NSC: I'm also interested in finding out how faculty will adapt o the semester system. I'm concerned with the extra time they won't spread it out, they'll just pile on more and increase our stress. I would like to know how they will work with it.
- Pres: They have a three year transition. Three years to re-write all of the curriculum. I think we can trust in the leadership of school and re-write all of our courses.

b. Student Government Open Forum

- Stu Rela: The open forum has been moved to Monday of week 3 at the same time. We'll be passing out iClickers to gather information. We need you to be there to help, we understand if you have class. We'll have pizza. At the end we're going to say meet your senators if they are out there so they can voice their opinion or ask questions. It's in Ingle. So far the agenda is you passing out iClickers, Matt will introduce th calendar history, the provost will talk about the options, we have 7 panelist to discuss the certain issues with the change, and then it will open up for discussion. We will have two pro-semester pro-quarters people come up on stage. The iClickers will allow us to poll the people to come.
- Pres: I think we should pick our students for the two teams consisting of students, faculty, and staff. We need a quarters person and a semesters person. You need to do research.
- RHA: Can I nominate Nick for semesters?
- Pres: Do you accept?
- KGCoe: Yes.
- SAAC: I can go semesters or quarters.
- Pres: Is everyone ok with Nick for semesters? Ok. Is everyone ok with Phil being quarters? Then we just need getting the word out.
- Staff Council: How long will the debate be?
- Pres: About 40 minutes?

c. Mural Day

- Prog: I want to remind you all that the mural painting is tomorrow. I will be there 10 – 5. OCASA is bringing breakfast and pizza is coming at 1:30.
- OUTspoken: If you haven't sketched your mural yet, one of my e-board members should be bringing one so you can still come.
- VP: Chocolate on Ice is tomorrow night.

8) Adjournment

- a. CIAS motion to adjourn, seconded OUTspoken
- b. Adjourned at 2:22

Announcements

Next Meeting

- December 11, 2009 SAU 1829