

AGENDA • SG SENATE

09 - 10 STUDENT GOVERNMENT



1/08/10 | 1-3pm | SAU 1829 Room

1) Call to Order

Called to order at 1:00

2) Roll Call

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

WITR	X (late)
CAB	X
Greek Council	X (late)
OCASA	X
Reporter	X (late)
SAAC	X
Academic Senate	X (late)
Staff Council	X
Freshman	X
Grad	X
Dr. Heath	
Karey Pine	X (late)

3) Speak to the Senate

4) Approval of Minutes

- a. Motion to approve by RHA, seconded by CAST
- b. Motion passes

5) Cabinet Appointee

- a. VP: Marissa will be voted on to be the PR Director.
- b. Motion to appoint Marissa as PR Director by OUTspoken, seconded by RHA
- c. Motion passes

6) Senator Appointee

- a. VP: We need to vote to approve Crystal as COLA senator.
- b. Motion to approve by SAAC, seconded by CIAS
- c. Motion passes

7) Presenters

- a. Housing Updates *by Mary Niedermaier & Carla DiLella*
 - Mary: Global Village is still moving along. We are still on track but the track is shifted. Housing selection is on the way, once completed we will then have information sessions to talk to them in

more detail about moving in. We are making plans for if the building is not ready.

- Mary: Housing has been moving along, Star Res is ready to go live this coming week. It should be seamless. It's a huge step on the back end, however. The lounge debate is coming to closer. We will begin converting the rooms back to lounges. It is going to have some impact on how we do assignments and will impact the upper-class assignment in the dorms. At the start of spring quarter, you will start to see some new furniture arriving.
- Mary: It did take a while to get this underway but we feel we did it the right way. I did confirm to Phil that the lighting in the residence rooms is still on our radar. We will have options coming up and maybe have some test locations. Kurt will be talking to you about furniture in Global Village.
- Kurt: (Using a PowerPoint for images) I want to show you some concepts. As you have heard, there will be different themes. There will be different colors of finishes in different areas. Our intent was to get student feedback and one thing we have gotten was to use walls in the rooms for storage.
- Kurt: The desk will be able to fit multiple monitors. The beds are very cool, they have storage under them with drawers. We wanted to leave space to put a TV in the room.
- Mary: The flooring is not tile, it is carpet.
- Kurt: We are a month and a half away from making a final decision so send me feedback.
- RHA: What size bed is it?
- Kurt: It is a twin.
- Mary: How much space is between the bed and the wall? Will people's pillows fall between the walls?
- Kurt: I don't think so.
- RHA: Is the bed mobile?
- Kurt: It is, but it is really heavy. There is central air and heating. You could take an 8 hour shower and not run out of heat.
- VP: Are there any questions?
- Stu Rela: Are all the rooms' singles?
- Kurt: The suits have three singles and one double mostly.
- OCASA: Is there a community kitchen?
- Kurt: There are suits with kitchens and suits without. There are common kitchens on floors in which suits do not have kitchens.
- OUTspoken: What is the priority for Global Village?
- Mary: Freshman are prioritized their second year for any options. There is some space set aside for the entrepreneurship program. We are talking to Riverknoll residence, not all of them want Global Village. Riverknoll will be around for one other year. It won't be all second year students but will most likely be most second year students.

- Grad: Grad students face a problem that many can't get on campus housing. Is there anything working on that?
- Mary: RIT does not prioritize grad students. The Province is interested in grad students. There is no initiative on RIT's parts to prioritize or initialize grad housing.
- SAAC: A lot of athletic students come in during August. How does that affect them in Global Village?
- Mary: Once we know who is assigned, we will hold sessions and talk about their specific needs. We will find out what we need to work out with them. It may mean that they are inconvenienced that first year.
- SAAC: So if you have athletics and OA's moving in, will they be pushed to the inn?
- Mary: It may depend. If it's a few days you may be in the res halls. If it's a few weeks, you may be in the inn. It depends on when Global Village will be done.
- NTID: I'm confused because last April we were talking about Global Village being for international students. But now it seems different.
- Mary: It has never been for international students. It is for students going abroad or coming back from abroad to share their experiences.

b. Calendar Experience *by Brennan Coon*

- Pres: We're going to start diving into this calendar stuff. We have Brennan Coon here to talk to us. Brennan has experienced the transition before at his school so he will talk to us.
- Brennan: Thanks for having me. Hopefully I can give you insight. We did have that experience of transitioning from quarters to semesters. Initially when we changed, we didn't really like it. We didn't feel comfortable. But once we changed over, we got the sense that students liked semesters better. We were given the "Transition Handbook", it outlined what would happen.
- Brennan: Their goal was to help us through the transition. We went from three classes for one credit each, to four classes for four credits each. I never felt like I was losing anything in the transition. By the time I was a senior I really liked it. It really worked out for me and it lined up a lot better athletically with other schools.
- VP: Questions?
- RHA: What was your major and what was your school catered towards?
- Brennan: I was a history major.
- Karey: Hobart is a very different college from RIT.
- Brennan: Hobart was about 2,000 students and RIT is 17,000. It's a liberal arts school. They have a big science basis.
- Karey: There are processes that exist that have worked on college campuses. Some conversion pieces may have been easier but we

- can't assume that. What will impact the students has models. I don't want us to get lost in the fact that it's not the same kind of school.
- Brennan: I'm sure it was a much bigger change behind the scenes than anything students saw.
 - Org Rec: Did you have internships or co-ops?
 - Brennan: I don't believe we had co-ops as they are here. There were a lot of internships, we had a lot of students go abroad and work there. There was no specialized co-op program.
 - OCASA: What was the length change? Going from a short quarter to a long semester?
 - Brennan: I think that was one of our major concerns. But when you're doing it, it didn't seem that different. I didn't run into many classes I didn't like. For student teaching and education classes where we had to do field experience it worked out well. You were able to get more experience. It was definitely a change and you needed to get used to it but it wasn't that bad.
 - Stu Rela: I heard that when schools changed their retention dropped. Did any of your friends leave from the change?
 - Brennan: No, I didn't see any friends leave or anyone in athletics leave. It was small enough that you know a lot of people and I didn't see anyone leave.
 - CAST: How was your last two years?
 - Brennan: We worked with advisors to see where we were and what we needed. I didn't need to take extra classes to make up. It was a case by case thing.
 - SAAC: For athletics you didn't experience a huge different. Is there anything you did notice?
 - Brennan: I think it was more behind the scenes. My senior year we went to playoffs, instead of having a period where we played and finished our season, it seemed to mesh with other schools better. Some of the games were earlier some were later. They moved things around. As for the length of the season it wasn't that different.
 - NSC: What system do you feel prepared you better for the work force?
 - Brennan: I think both had advantages. The quarter system is much faster paced and you need to be on the ball, but the semester system let us digest things better. I can't say one was better for preparing me for real life. I have had experience in both and both applied to what I've done since I graduated.
 - SAAC: It seems the athletic departs are more for semesters, and the teams want quarters. Were your athletes complaining more and how did they feel after?
 - Brennan: It's not something that really came up. There was no huge debate, they told us we were switching and we just moved on. I can

understand not wanting to change, but I think it's more of a fear of the unknown.

- SCOB: You mentioned that it just seemed better with athletics. Did you see something similar with other events and clubs?
- Brennan: Events moved around a bit, but we still had the same ones. It didn't disrupt events we had; we were just getting out earlier.
- SCOB: You wouldn't say it helped or was negative?
- Brennan: I didn't see anything negative; I didn't see a huge change. Though I wasn't really involved in that area, it may have been more behind the scenes.

8) New Business

a. Calendar Options

- Pres: I did some number crunching. The upperclassmen were a little underrepresented. So we're talking about what we want for RIT in the future. There are a few arguments I want to avoid. No bad professor arguments, I don't want that to come up today. I also want to avoid the "I survived" argument for surviving quarter systems. I want everyone who has a seat at the table to sit at the table. I want to avoid personal anecdotal over stuff. I don't want to hear about experiences over breaks. Represent your constituents. Last, we will only vote today if you are ready. We can vote next week. However, I do need those pro's and con's sheets. No conversations between two reps, discussion points should be made to the senate as a whole. Only talk when called on.
- VP: Does everyone have a packet?
- Pres: Share if you can. Staff Council already voted so Josh will give us an overview.
- Josh: First off we had a lively and focused discussion. Our representatives were very clear that the split winter effected students learning. There was a consensus that the split winter quarter was out. There was a preference to remain with quarters. However, Staff Council supports the semester calendar. Essentially, we feel that the amount of students we are losing shows that something is wrong. Also, students were not retaining information after finals. We felt the "surviving quarters" argument was like hazing. Semester help work with students in the need.
- Josh: Semester would allow students to be more involved. Missing a week for illness does not allow students to complete that quarter. Semester would also make athletics run easier. Students and faculty would feel more comfortable by spending more time together. Semester would result who fewer hiring cycles. There would also be less probation and grading cycles which take time. We believe there would be a savings on textbooks as well.
- Josh: 29 voted for A, two for B, no one for C and one abstained.

- Eileen: I need to quantify that we will discuss this matter further. Each college was given five minutes to discuss their stance. The big concerns had to do with some of the programs that existed and were successful in quarters. People are very concerned with their own areas. Faculty had concerns about turnover time. There were concerns about reduction in enrollment. This will be a transition that will take three years. There will be no mixing of the two. The preparation and time seemed to be a concern. Dr. Destler talked about how he came to RIT to make it a better university. He must answer to the trustees. He is responsible, so a lot of fears can't happen. The cost is \$1 million per year. The schools that have experienced a dip in enrollment have bounced back.
- Eileen: We will need a new SIS system which will cost \$10 million. There is a need to look at the calendar because of the split winter. Everything we talked about came up; most colleges felt that younger faculty looked forward to revising courses. We will again talk about some of the issues next week, CAST has a vote to take yet and NTID has a vote to take.
- OUTspoken: Would you mind telling us the colleges who favored quarters?
- Eileen: Engineering and CAST.
- Pres: We'll begin our discussion, voting seats only please.
- Grad: Grad students feel a semester system will work better for them. They are not able to meet well with professors or research enough. They need more interaction. For international students, I feel semesters would be better.
- COLA: Liberal arts students feel semesters would help them when writing their papers. For some constituents in the department of communications because they can gather more material and their co-ops work out better. A lot of them like the semester systems because of longer vacation time.
- CAST: For CAST, everyone is pro-quarter. Everyone likes the current setup, they like more classes. For engineering tech, students can take more electives and try more. Some students felt it brought up time management skills. In co-ops, students felt their bosses were impressed with them getting work done faster than semester students. Another response was that there was more vacation time and therefore less stressful.
- Pres: I also want to avoid the lazy semester student comments.
- GU: The only thing international student's felt was that they would like more vacation in order to travel back home to their countries.
- KGCOE: For engineering students, the unanimous decision is quarters. They feel co-ops will be affected. Students are worried about flexibility. Going on semester would limit the amount of electives they could take and experience new things.

- RHA: From the polls I have done, the residence halls are 80% quarters.
- CIAS: CIAS was overwhelmingly quarters. A lot of students didn't mind the split winter. Art careers tend to be demanding and they feel quarters help them prepare.
- OCASA: OCASA went to the bus stop and talked to students and the majority said quarters. They came here for that reason.
- OUTspoken: I may be biased quarters, because I am an engineering student and my e-board is technical.
- Greek: Greek Council voted for the quarter system. However, in discussions, semesters make sense for Greeks. Everything we do is based in a semester world. Talking to my e-board after, I believe that there is a general fear about change. I believe we're all afraid of the switch. In the Greek world, semesters are the best options.
- COS: My constituents seem to be able to go either way. Quarters let them take more classes, but they don't remember anything after finals.
- SAAC: It was close between semesters and quarters, when I talked to my committee they felt it was better to stay quarters. That was why they came. But the department feels semesters are better. The students are for quarters but the department is for semester.
- Freshman: I have heard from freshman they want quarters. However, after talking to students a lot of them changed their minds. So that makes me realize, that the more information they have the more towards semesters they lean. A lot of students don't like change. The numbers don't lie, but we need to look at it in a factual base as well as an emotional base.
- NSC: NTID has unanimously decided they want quarters. I can't say that they fear change. They have their opinions and will stick with them. At NTID, they have to go through five different stages to get to writing seminar. I believe it will be more beneficial to stay in quarters for that reason. We are providing funds and services at a quarter level, so it would take time for those changes to take place. I believe students like the feeling of starting fresh more often. I believe it promotes the innovation this institution loves so much.
- NTID: Talking with friends and people through e-mail, they prefer quarters. It has been RIT policy. The majority I have talked to prefer quarters.
- SCOB: The SCOB students seem to be in favor of quarters to a large degree. I have tried to present it in terms of pro's and con's. Doing it that way, students seemed to have shifted to being more open. When reading responses it seemed mostly students were afraid. I think a lot of decisions were made on the wrong basis.
- GCCIS: I have to go with quarters, because that is what the majority have voted. I heard that it makes specialization and variety easier.

They enjoy the variety of classes with quarters and that they can try new things.

- Women's: It was very split when talking to women. I will say that while it wasn't unanimous, it was overwhelmingly quarters.
- ACA: I talked to different years and majors, most were pro-quarters. They preferred the fast pace and how things moved here.
- Pres: We'll open it up to points now.
- SAAC: When talking, it seemed when it came to quarters the new options were hated. I think in general it is a fear of change. When sitting with the department, they still feel semesters are better. Even though our constituents are favoring quarters I believe it is out of fear. I think it's something we all need to think about.
- Eileen: Can you tell me where the facts about co-ops came from Nick?
- KGCOE: I met with department heads and the mechanical and electrical departments were most concerned. The mechanical department head used information from surveys over years.
- Eileen: Where did you get your information came from Lee?
- CIAS: Students.
- Eileen: All of our votes are only information to the president. Dr. Destler makes the ultimate decision.
- SCOB: When considering the multiple options on the table, if I ask the question directly I get one answer. When I ask differently, the responses support semesters. So when I ask myself if I am voting for their opinions or voting to solve other problems that they have that would be addressed with semesters.
- WITR: There are 900 students who don't feel informed. If they were more informed it could go either way.
- NSC: My comment is more a question, Josh you mentioned that retention is 2/3. Where do you come up with the conclusion that the quarter system is related to that?
- Josh: There is no way to conclude that it is quarters. Students have challenges that can be addressed with semesters.
- NSC: So we can't really conclude that its quarters. I would prefer concrete evidence.
- Pres: You can't get concrete evidence. They have tried to fix it in different ways but the only thing that hasn't been done yet is this.
- KGCOE: When students, alumni, and employers ask what's important about RIT the first response is co-op. They give a strategic advantage is the diversity that quarters allows. We can break it up into more co-ops. What engineers value more than facts is problem solving.
- CAST: I have a question about the 30% increase in D's, W's, and F's. Is that through campus?
- Eileen: Yes, through winter.

- CAST: Maybe students don't want to come to class because of the weather.
- Fin: I know co-ops are important for engineers. The other side is that employers train students for 5 weeks and by the time they get working it's time to leave so they prefer a double block with RIT students.
- Pres: I want to avoid conversations. Manny said we will have a top rated co-op program on both calendar. So let's move on.
- GCCIS: There are valid points for semesters. A lot of things I have heard about for semesters is that transfers from semester schools felt they had better relationships with their professors and better group work. More time to connect is very important for students to learn more and get letters of recommendation.
- Pres: I'd like a motion for either more discussion or to vote.
- OUTspoken motions to vote, SCOB seconded
- Motion passes
- Pres: So you all feel you have enough information? We all use a template. This will be your constituent vote and later we will do a personal vote.
- SAAC: Does this get published?
- Karey: I don't think we should publish the personal vote.
- Pres: We'll publish the constituent vote only.
- VP: If it is voted to go on a quarter system, which do you prefer? A, B, or C.
- GU abstains.
- 18 for A.
- VP: If there is semesters, which do you prefer? 4 for 4 or the 5 for 3
- Greek abstains.
- 18 for 4 for 4.
- VP: Of the preferred quarter and preferred semester, which do you prefer? Quarters and semesters?
- Quarters: COLA, CAST, KGCOE, RHA, CIAS, OCASA, Greek, COS, SAAC, Freshman, NSC, NTID, GCCIS, Women
- Semesters: Grad, OUTspoken, SCOB, ACA.
- Pres: People at the table, how do you feel?
- RHA motion to close meeting, SAAC seconded
- 15 yes, motion passed
- Straw vote for personal opinions.
- Meeting reopened.

b. SG Updates

c. Midyear Finance Report

- Fin: (Using a PowerPoint) This is the midyear report from finance committee. This year has been a little slow. The majority of funds have been done by AFAF. We have had in the last 14 weeks 45 applications and 8 denials. We have given out 3 loans. We have also begun small gifts. We are currently working on putting the

funding request forms online. We would like to establish deadlines according to event sizes and award amounts. Kaity is working on sports guidelines.

- Reporter: What sort of oversight would be involved in small gifts?
- Fin: The SG bylaws already have a clause saying that I can award funding under \$500.
- Greek: This is the first I've heard of loans. Can you explain?
- Fin: Basically, when organizations make money on events and have no money before, they can get money from us and be expected to pay it back.
- Greek: What if their event doesn't make enough?
- Fin: We have discussed this. We have talked about making it a gift. Typically, when we give it out they assure us on past experience that they make enough.
- Greek: I saw Phi Beta Sigma, they are not supposed to receive any funding.
- Fin: This was from Fall.

d. Committee Updates

9) Old Business

10) Adjournment

- a. SCOB motion to adjourn, seconded SAAC
- b. Adjourned at 3:01

Announcements

- **OCASA**
 - **Event: PIZZA BOMB**
 - **Date: January 14, 2010**
 - **Time: 6-9pm**
 - **Location: OCASA 03-2010**
- **NSC**
 - **Event: Pulse Happy Hour**
 - **Date: January 9, 2010**
 - **Time: 4pm-6pm**
- **NSC**
 - **Event: Winter Wonderland**
 - **Time: 9pm-1am**

Next Meeting

- **January 15, 2010 1-3 pm SAU 1829 Room**