

AGENDA • SG SENATE

09 - 10 STUDENT GOVERNMENT



02/12/10 | 1-3pm | SAU 1829

1) Call to Order

Called to order at 1:01

2) Roll Call

President	x
Vice President	x
Finance	
Programming	x
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	x
CAST	x
RHA	x
NSC	x
NTID	x
OUTspoken	x
ACA	x (late)
Global Union	x
WITR	x
CAB	x
Greek Council	x

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

3) Speak to the Senate

- a. VP: I know there are some people here to speak to the Senate. You have two minutes max.
- b. Matt Jackson: I'm a first year student here to speak about the decision to switch to semesters. I was wondering, I know the President has been quoted as a President for the students, and I know the students want to stay quarters. I think it's a bad move to change to semesters. You get 30 less hours with your professor. That's why I'm here today.
- c. Dr. Destler: There has been some misunderstanding. One, why did I ignore the opinions of the students? I did look at the student survey, I found students were in favor of semesters two to one. There were two semester options I was looking at. The four by four was preferred but I picked the five by three. What I decided on was two fifteen week semesters. There will be four three credit classes and one four credit. That's 16 credit hours for 30 weeks. So the numbers are almost exactly the same, we will not sacrifice academic rigor. Another question brought up was, right now if you take quarters you take three quarters for 48 classes. If you take five by three you get forty. So students say they're going to lose variety and I was concerned about that. So I looked at it again to find the actual impact, I gave you the example of math. What will happen is, instead of using three intro classes for math you use two. Same for physics. When all is said and done, the total classes available for specializing will be about the same. I really was wary of these issues. Some of these issues seem so convincing. There are two sides to this question, I am increasingly concerned with RIT's isolation. I did take into consideration your same concerns. We will be quite flexible. We'll honor the pledge that students will not lose progress. We will err on your side to make sure nothing bad happens. I don't want you to think I don't care about the students.
- d. VP: I thought speak to the senate was going to be a lot longer. So are there any questions from us?
- e. Dr. Destler: We're going to delay implementation of plus minus grading because of all this.

- f. ACA: It came out that students seem to think we didn't get their opinion. People have a lot of wrong information.
- g. VP: I would like SG to think about how we can be proactive. Students will be unhappy and I think SG should work on helping them through this. The decision is made. If people come to you with questions, bring them into the SG office and they can make an appointment with Matt.
- h. Stu Rela: I think we should try to get a newsletter out to let students know what we do. I think students are confused about what we actually do. There are other things SG is working on so if they want to help they can. Maybe we can solicit their interest in something besides negative.
- i. NTID: Maybe you all feel you don't want to ask Dr. Destler questions because he is the president. Is the real reason we're switching to align with other universities or for the future of RIT?
- j. Dr. Destler: My decision was based on what I feel is the long term best interest for RIT. There were many reasons though, not just one. It was a difficult decision. Now that the decision is made, I believe we should move forward. There are other important items on the agenda. It wasn't to save money, or for staffing, and there was no hidden agenda.
- k. Freshman: I know the decision was made two days ago, but what are your plans to inform students applying to the school? My constituents are going to experience the change and their concern is the transition.
- l. Dr. Destler: We're going to have to be very forward with it. We need to let them know this is happening. The outcome will be the same, classes wise. Having a central communication point is very important. The message must be very clear. Applications are up a lot this year, but there could be some hesitancy.
- m. Dr. Haefner: One important thing is to have in-depth advisory meetings with students to let them know how it will affect them.
- n. Pres: I think it's important that this student body needs to know this is a good strategic move for the school. We need to get students informed as to what is going to happen. Maybe we can have a brainstorming session in order to be as transparent as possible.
- o. NSC: Right now my internal dilemma is, what is going to happen? It's clear that the student majority wants quarters. What will happen with the backlash? When students ask is SG really representing what they want? Should we support the decision? I agree with that. I'm concerned with how students will see us representing them.
- p. Pres: I think we play a role representing students. I have found that students are more open to the idea once I spoke to them. We play the balance between representation and interest. It's our job to help with the transition and get students open to the idea.
- q. Student: (can't hear)
- r. Dr. Destler: You get some benefits from becoming like them, sporting events line up more and other things. I was concerned with our isolation. If other quarter system schools weren't dropping like rocks, I wouldn't worry. Employers are happy that we changed.

- s. CAB: I think there is a pretty deep gap between students and us. If we can't get them to vote how will we inform them? They feel like they weren't represented. I want to see the gap closed.
- t. Dr. Cooper: It appears that our decision is done and the hard part is over. But actually it's just begun. I think we should reach out to start dialogue with the freshman class. I had the opportunity this morning to talk to Reporter. Some things I'm hearing is there was a lot of work to get information out and I don't know if all our constituents need to know what happened. The fact is you have the opportunity as leaders to be exposed to more information than your constituents. Leadership is a funny thing. It is not just one person. This is your chance to think about what you might do for the students you work for. I think there is some need to just let people be angry. We need to collectively think about what we are going to do about this. Let's remind people about what we did and what we're going to do next. You have a responsibility and I think you will do that.
- u. Org Rec: In this whole calendar discussion we feel we did our best. But, we sat through hours of meetings and it's hard to get that information to them through e-mails. We need to stay solidified and put our best foot forward. This is what the institute decided. Maybe we should do the myth-busters thing again.
- v. GCCIS: Students will probably protest and throw petitions your way. What will be your response?
- w. Dr. Destler: I don't know. I have gotten chain e-mails and the Ask the President button on the website has received some hits. I even got a long e-mail from an alum. We are going to need to do a better job to get these facts out. People are entitled to their opinion however. We just need to make sure students are not misinformed. I have a meeting with my team on Monday to talk about all of this.
- x. CAB: Everyone keeps saying everyone in the room voted for semesters but that is just one vote in your college. You voted on behalf of your constituents and it was ignored.
- y. Pres: We did the two votes for a reason. We wanted a constituent opinion and an educated individual opinion. If I was asked what students voted for it was quarters, but if I was asked what the leaders wanted I'd say they mostly wanted semesters. We need to get into a defensive stance. The decision is made. Now we need to focus on educating people.

4) Approval of Minutes 2/5

- a. Motion by Freshman, seconded by Greek
- b. Minutes pass

5) Presenters

- a. Chief Diversity Officer by Kevin McDonald
 - Kevin: It's a pleasure to be here. I won't take up too much of your time. I have been asked to provide some assistance to the university to work on inclusion efforts. My first order of business

is to aid and develop framework for the universities inclusion. As I think about a framework, I am basing it off of four aspects of institutional function: the institute's infrastructure, their education and scholarship. Secondly, something I think that's important is the development of principles in the community. What drives who we are. What I am thinking about is charging work of soliciting opinions and input. Lastly is the defining of the organization of diversity officer. As I share thoughts regarding organizational structure that makes sense regarding depth, I will share those with President Destler. With that, are there any questions?

- RHA: Have you approached any of the special interest houses who already support diversity?
- Kevin: I spoke to Unity House to solicit input from them, from Global Union, and others about programming and other initiatives we could collaborate on. I look to explore that further.
- Greek: I would offer NPC and other Greek councils who focus on certain groups of the Greek community.
- Kevin: Yes. I'm really excited to work with all of those. I look forward to that.

b. Club Sports by Kaity Werner and Ryan Giglia

- Org Rec: I'm here to talk about Club Sports. We are here to talk about the guidelines I have been working on. Between myself and Alvin we have been working on figuring out what is going on with club sports. Club sports don't have the available resources for money and space. Because of that we wanted to re-evaluate how we look at sports. The reason for this is to familiarize you with this so you know what is going on before we bring you by-law changes. The review process is based mostly off of Virginia Tech and after analyzing them and other schools, Ryan Giglia and others decided we should move forward with a new model. So this is it. We want to differentiate from club sports and competitive club sports. We currently have 15 sports clubs that are competitive.
- Alvin: When we say competitive we mean there is extensive traveling for competitions and such.
- Org Rec: (reading the definition from the packet) Basically what the purpose of this is is to differentiate between them and create a new review board for them. We will be creating the Competitive Sports Clubs Federation. It will be similar to Club Review Board but with more in-depth sports knowledge. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss issues. Recently we have stopped doing the segmented club meetings. So this will serve as a place to inform these sports teams on specific rules. There will be an annual recognition packet.
- Alvin: It is similar to the one we have, but with more information for sports. We also have a post season report to get an idea of what they are doing and how they did in their competitions. They do represent RIT formally. The forms are pretty straight forward.

- Org Rec: They're basically the same as the old forms but with more relevant information. To be a member you will have to do certain requirements (reading from packet).
- Alvin: Overall, you need to know the goal is to streamline the process. There will be guidelines in order to keep them recognized. If they do not do these things the federation will review their qualifications.
- Org Rec: The biggest change is budgeting. We want to segment off a certain cap of funding for these sports teams. We want all clubs to have the same opportunity to funding. We capped it at 17 clubs. Basically, this will take all the sports clubs currently in it and have the opportunity for growth. We'll work out by-law changes.
- Pres: Why 17?
- Org Rec: We looked at budgets and felt this amount was the best.
- ACA: So is there like a women's and men's team?
- Alvin: No this is completely separate from varsity. These are clubs.
- ACA: So they have to apply every year?
- Org Rec: Once you're a team, you're a team unless you stop participating.
- Alvin: The federation could then decide to remove them and open the spot for someone else. As long as you do what you need to do.
- Org Rec: This is just saying as long as you are doing what you're supposed to, you'll be fine.
- Pres: I see a lot of eyes glazing over. I don't know if people are not paying attention or don't understand. We ran into lots of problems with sports clubs so that's why a lot of this stuff is happening. We are adding some red tape.
- Alvin: This is just to add some structure. They don't have regulations and guidelines that varsity teams have. They have been flying under the radar while I've been here. There are conduct expectations of them and such.
- Reporter: I was wondering about your choice for federation?
- Org Rec: It sounded awesome.
- Reporter: It's not a self-governing body.
- Org Rec: It is sort of. Other schools used it for this type of thing and we liked how it sounded.
- Alvin: We want you to look over this document and edit and see if things need to be reworded. We looked at how much money they typically requested and took the average and that would be set aside.
- WITR: I didn't see anything about a separate committee. Will they still go to Finance Committee?
- Alvin: We're working that out.
- Org Rec: Adi is working on the by-laws for Finance Committee. We want to limit how much they can ask for. We're looking for the right process. There would be a certain amount set aside and they

can't get more than that. If you have thoughts let us know so we can edit and work on it.

6) New Business

a. SG Updates

- VP
 1. VP: Everyone did a good job with Freezefest. Everyone had fun. Next Senate meeting is the last one of this quarter.
- Reporter
 1. Reporter: We love getting ads from you but please don't flip the magazines to your ads. That's not cool. CAB and Global Union, you are guilty of this.
- SCOB:
 1. SCOB: There is a blood donation bus outside the college of business. Please go.
- CAST
 1. CAST: Tuesday is the CAST quarter wrap up party. Beverages from 1 – 4 in the Campus Center.
- ACA
 1. ACA: Black Renaissance is tomorrow.
- GCCIS
 1. GCCIS: There is a Hockey Night coming up and there are a limited amount of free tickets for GCCIS students.
- Women's
 1. Women's: I'm looking for help with Women's Month.
- President
 1. Pres: They're looking at a credit system for laundry, they're converting 9 lounges and they're working on updating the lounges as well, housing is set for alternative housing.
 2. Stu Rela: Will the swipes limit where you can do your laundry?
 3. Pres: No. Instead of free laundry it would be a credit system and you pay for the over credits.
 4. KGCOE: What about athletes? Will they get more credits?
 5. Pres: I think there would be issues for bending the rules.
 6. Freshman: They have athlete exceptions for food so I think it would be an issue.
- RHA
 1. RHA: We are getting brand new furniture for lounges. The tiger laundry is in process and we have a prototype coming up. There is an RHA Valentine's Day dance tonight at 7 in the SAU.
 2. VP: Dave Mullaney is the DJ.
- Org Rec:
 1. Org Rec: MSO Roundtable is canceled tonight.
- NSC

1. NSC: We're working on a cybercafe. We're looking to make better use of the space. We'll be putting in plans.
- b. Committee Updates
 - Provost Honors Advisory Committee
 1. Org Rec: We are working on the Honors Group. There are issues in the committee so we want opinions.
 - Scholarship Committee
 1. Stu Rela: Scholarships will be available soon.
- 7) Old Business
- 8) Adjournment
 - a. Greek motion to adjourn, seconded OCASA
 - b. Adjourned at 2:22

Announcements

Next Meeting

February 19th, 2010 in SAU 1829