

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

MINUTES OF INSTITUTE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

S. Bayerl, J. Beck, D. Boyd, M-B Cooper, F. Cost, B. Destler, M. Dwyer, K. Ester, B. Finnerty, B. Fuller, R. Goldberg, D. Guzman Valle, J. Haefner, M. Johnson, B. Kiely, L. Kushner, S. Lu, C. Lundgren, K. Mayberry, K. McDonald, C. McKenzie, H. Miller, J. Miller, K. Mook, A. Phelps, G. Pollock, C. Schreck, C. Thoms, L. Twyman, R. Ulin, F. Walker, J. Watters, S. Widrick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

M. Carroll, L. Cauda, J. DeCaro, T. Engström, M. Fragale, J. Loffredo, A. Lopez, S. Maggelakis, D. Mullaney, J. Ott, H. Palmer, M. Picioli, A. Rao, P. Rosenberg, V. Sanchez, D. Stendardi, J. Voelkel, J. Watrous

**NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING:**

S. Bogart (for C. Kelly), H. Boice-Pardee, T. Chloros, A. Federico (or D. Lorenzo), C. Glenn (for A. Moore), L. Jones, W. McKinzie (for J. Diaz-Herrera), D. Soufleris, K. Stewart, II (for S. Patterson), J. Yarrington  
Interpreters: C. Bovard, C. Lomeo

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

**MINUTES**

The September 15, 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Destler opened by remarking on all the exciting things happening on campus and commented on the fact that, if you noticed, RIT is in the news weekly. He reported on the Global Village grand opening, the Saunders gift, the \$13.1 M award to build GIS, and said that another great announcement will be made in the next week or two. Dr. Destler remarked on the tremendous interest in Brick City weekend. He gave an attendance update on the weekend events: Al Pacino was sold out at approximately 5000 tickets; men's hockey game at Blue Cross Arena sold about 6,867 with 10,000 being the total available; Craig Ferguson 3,567; President's Ball was sold out at 962 which was a record attendance. He thanked the RIT community for their contributions and support for these events. He commented on the exciting branding campaign with the strategy of gaining a global reputation, mentioning that it will be on an upcoming Institute Council meeting agenda. He stated that these are exciting and great times at RIT. Dr. Destler concluded by reporting on the exemplary success of our many sport teams, including men's and women's hockey and soccer, and women's tennis.

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION TEAM** (*Ppt presentation is on IC DML site*)

Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, senior vice president, Student Affairs, introduced Ms. Dawn Soufleris, assistant vice president, Student Affairs, to deliver the Student Behavior Consultation Team presentation. Ms. Soufleris reported on the recent loss of three students. She requested that we remind folks about the SBCT and the resources available, adding that 2500 faculty and staff are trained in early intervention. She commented on the importance for faculty to be flexible and understanding if students are having difficulties dealing with these losses as these tragedies impact family, friends and the RIT community as a whole. She discussed the importance in referring a student to SBCT including times that you are concerned about a student but are not sure where to turn; for consultation and advice; when you feel you have done everything you can to help a student and it's still not working; and when you are concerned that "other things" may be happening for this

student. She followed with examples for referring students to the Counseling Center: to determine if your concern constitutes a mental health emergency; a student has communicated an intent to harm self or others; student appears strange, not making sense, delusional, etc. Ms. Soufleris added situations for referring students to Public Safety: when an individual's behavior makes it impossible for you to teach or conduct your business, AND when an individual continues despite your attempt to intervene, OR when you feel threatened or concerned about the well-being of yourself or others. She said that what they need in regard to the referrals is for you to provide documentation regarding the experience with the student, ask that you be willing to attend SBCT or help with follow-up and referral, and to be a resource to the student. Ms. Soufleris said that the team outreaches to and works with parents. She added that the team has seen an increase of 200 students from last year. Ms. Soufleris reiterated to please contact Donna Rubin or herself for consultation or advice. She closed by saying, if you need us, we're here and referenced the slide with their contact information. Mr. Pollock asked what the RA process is for seeking help for a student. Ms. Soufleris responded that RAs can contact their supervisor or contact Donna and/or Dawn directly.

### **RATIFICATION OF OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS MEMBERSHIP**

Provost Jeremy Haefner introduced the Oversight Committee for Externally Funded Projects membership list for ratification. He discussed the purpose and composition of the Research Oversight Committee and that the policy states that the membership needs to be ratified annually by Institute Council. The membership was unanimously approved.

### **ENROLLMENT UPDATE** (*Ppt presentation is on IC DML site*)

Dr. Jim Miller, senior vice president, Enrollment Management & Career Services, opened the enrollment update by revisiting the university's overarching goals of becoming more selective, more national/global, achieving improved gender balance, enhancing ethnic diversity, distributing enrollments appropriately within RIT, and improving persistence and graduation rates. He remarked that RIT continues to grow in its selectivity, undergraduate gender balance, and AALANA initiatives. Dr. Miller commented on the increases in both the persistence rate from freshman to sophomore year (91%) and graduation rate (70%). He added that the FTE is 61% higher than 16 years ago. Dr. Miller spoke about the 2009 and 2010 enrollment comparisons, commenting there was a 433 headcount (actual) increase. He delivered the undergraduate, graduate, and college enrollment comparisons. Dr. Miller discussed the "power of 1%", saying current enrollment is within 0.8% of original projections. He covered the recruitment and admissions overview which included a 10% increase in international students (an all time high), 13.4% increase in freshman AALANA, and total applications for fall were a record 21, 656. Dr. Miller remarked that growth is a necessary condition and will be monitored and managed continuously with necessary annual adjustments. He said that our international locations, retention effects, and new program development are all primary contributors to RIT's growth. In summary, he said enrollment results are products of recruitment and retention efforts, RIT remains tuition dependent, and RIT is moving forward with accelerated institutional ascent, pushing the aspirational vision, strengthening connections with strategically targeted markets (women, national, talent, diverse, global), focusing efforts and resources effectively, and greater financial aid is required in these economic times. He remarked that the challenges are greater given demographic, economic, and competitive factors.

### **BUDGET UPDATE** (*Ppt presentation is on IC DML site*)

Dr. Jim Watters, senior vice president and treasurer, Finance and Administration, delivered the budget update reiterating that the fall revenues are solid and fall enrollment are great. He discussed the monetary details on his slides regarding the FY2011 budget draft revenues and expenses. Dr. Watters talked about the financial success on our campus and how we exceeded our plan which presents us with a positive picture and a strong year ahead. Dr. Watters remarked that there has been some strength in the endowment earnings to the tune of an 8.2% rise as of June, 2010. He said there was a 4.9% increase in undergraduate and 5.3% increase in graduate tuition rates. He discussed a few of the projects and their financial aspects that are going on across campus, including the calendar conversion, improved SIS system, Sustainability Institute, and Institute Hall. Dr. Watters spoke about the great response to the recent RIT bond sale. He concluded with the comment that RIT is currently able to build buildings at low interest rates and that our debt service is low. All in all, RIT will look forward to a strong year.

**FACILITIES/CAMPUS PROJECTS UPDATE**

Mr. Jim Yarrington, director, Campus Planning and Design, delivered the campus project update. Mr. Yarrington began by saying, “we have the students, we have the money, and here is where the money is going around campus.” He spoke about the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences new space for the School for American Crafts and the Vignelli Center, stating what wonderful facilities they are and to visit both. He commented on Global Village’s design concept which makes the area less windy, more intimate, and sunnier. Mr. Yarrington covered the slides relating to campus projects, including the hockey teams varsity locker rooms in Ritter/Clark, Golisano Institute of Sustainability, Institute Hall, and the CBET/Golisano Quad. He showed the concept design of the bikeway overall plan and remarked that the idea came from feedback from Student Government and was driven by safety issues. Mr. Yarrington said there are upcoming plans for covered bicycle parking. He discussed how the plan for Wallace loop was an effort to reduce car traffic. Conversation ensued regarding loss of parking spaced during upcoming projects and the need for increased night lighting on west campus.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES** *(Ppt presentation is on IC DML site)*

Mr. Greg Pollock, Student Government (SG) president, Ms. Teraisa Chloros, director of Student Relations, and Mr. Brad Fuller, SCB senator, presented the SG Vision 2011 presentation. Mr. Pollock pointed out the four major components of their vision which includes purposeful programming (including faculty/staff), operations (working collaboratively), communication facilitation (public relations), and authentic representation (student related issues). He discussed their goal to involve more purposeful programming to increase involvement; promote leadership; increase alumni relationships, community service, collaboration, education, and advocacy. Mr. Pollock stated the need to provide more structured financial guidelines to help students understand the SG financial processes. He said transparency is needed to ensure equal opportunity and allotment of funds for SG clubs and Greek organizations. He talked about the importance to act on the feedback received from Student Speak Up Day and the Student-to-Student survey to close the loop. He said there will be a Student Feedback committee in place by the end of the year to assist with publicizing the progress of all participating departments. He remarked on SG’s challenge to administration to improve the overall RIT student experience (ie: RIT Challenge and SG Transportation committee). The team remarked on their goal to find ways to ensure that under-represented students are well-represented, their commitment to the graduate and NTID communities regarding the Election Review committee, and hosting SG senator chaired college/community committees. Mr. Pollock discussed the topics for future open forums and concluded with a slide on the areas of inquiry. He spoke of the need to collaborate with ITS regarding the Green Data Center and the new Student Information System, as well as collaborating with Student Affairs regarding the calendar conversion. Dr. Destler remarked that they had a full agenda and thanked them for their great presentation.

**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

No New Business

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Distribution:	Institute Council	Student Government	Student Publications	Academic Senate
	Student Affairs	University News	Staff Council	Wallace Library
	WITR	Non-members attending		

To be approved December 15, 2010