2010-2011 SG Senate Meeting   2/4/2011

Present: President, VP, Public Relations, Programming, Student Relations, Director of Services, Organization Recognition, SCB, CAST, CIAS, GCCIS, KGCOE, COLA, COS, Women's, Cross Registered, Freshman, NTID, Graduate, CAB, Global Union, Greek Council, Reporter, RHA, WITR, SAAC, OUTspoken, OCASA, Academic Senate, Dr. Heath, Karey Pine.

Absent: ACA, Staff Council, NSC, Finance Director.

Call To Order

Approval of Minutes:

- 1st by CIAS, 2nd by COLA.
- All in favor.
- Minutes pass as submitted.

Speak to the Senate:

- None.

New Business

Elections Modifications:

- Hoping to give recommendations by week ten, have them approved by spring quarter week 1.
- Want to bring problems we have noticed to the larger group.
- Some of the proposed solutions are a bit "out there" in terms of what we normally do, but please look at them with an open mind. We would really like feedback, but please know: whatever the committee recommends, they are nothing more than recommendations and must be approved by senate. We are coming today so we have time to look at the feedback. Thank you for coming in, Katie, chair of the committee and former Organizational Recognition.
- Katie, Chair of Elections Review Committee: Not many people have been picking up our packets; last year there were more picked up but many of them weren't returned. SG should be encouraging participation.
- Students are running as a write in candidate; students can type in anyone's name into the "write in" section on the ballot.

- That way, students who don't fill out the paperwork in time can still run a campaign.
- Are write in candidates taking away votes from the people who actually fill out the packets and run through SG sponsor? We should be protecting these candidates.
- During the election process, the election committee can address any issues that arise between SG sponsored Candidates, but write in candidates can't be accounted for and will have no punishments.
- Write ins can delegitimize the process as a whole. We want people to vote for the people who want to run, who care, and we want people to take the process seriously.
- Students have to be approved for conduct, academic, and have a designated number of signatures. We can't verify the eligibility of a write in campaign; the winners might not even be eligible.
- If no one is running for a position, would someone win for no reason? We don't want people to take this as a joke.
- SG's responsibility to promote elections; OA's and RA's have carousel days, where hopefuls come to talk to them and to try to fill these positions; maybe we should host an SG information session, two or more a day, students can ask questions, figure out what their responsibilities would be, etc.
- Already in calendar for this year: a pilot program to have potential candidates stop by the office between weeks 1 – 3.
- Students could make an appointment with Teraisa if they cannot attend the info sessions, this way no one can say they simply couldn't make it.
- Might be a good idea to get rid of write in candidates.
- If we did, the process would be more legitimate; we would protect our candidates; but what would happen?
- What happens if no one runs for a position? Bylaws, the election committee would be charged with reopening the election process and there would be a PR push for that position. If no one runs, we didn't do our job right.
- We would open back up the process, designate a certain amount of time, and basically re do the process.
- If no one fills the position still, we would leave the spot as a vacancy until freshman senator elections in the fall, then we would re run again.
- Student Relations would advocate for that student body until a senator is elected.
- If someone still doesn't fill, the position will be treated as a vacancy.
- Feedback? Positive? Negative?
- SR: In the fall, it would still be an open election with the students voting, not us picking.
- Greek Council: Have you ever had people win by write in?
- Yes, there have been people who have ran and won on a write in campaign.

- GC: Then what happens if no one runs, how would you handle that?
- It would be reopened, under the elections committee, who would give a timeline and a PR campaign.
- SR: Week 1 packets are distributed; they are to be finished by week 3. Once approved and verified, student can begin campaigning through weeks 4, 5, and 6. Week 7 voting will be held, and the results will be announced by that Friday. If by the Friday of Week 3 there are positions that didn't get filled, the process will re open, packets will go out again, we will give two more weeks, if at the end of that extension process no one is interested, we would push the election to fall (but the process will probably be slightly shorter).
- VP: There was a president and vice president who won by write in. We have had people getting elected with only twelve votes. Sometimes the winners do not even know what we are talking about when we say they have won.
- COLA: What if we made the election process easier, so we have more candidates that will actually run?
- Director of Services: I don't like the idea of getting rid of write ins completely, if there are candidates running there should still be write ins.
- COS: Have we ever had people run as write ins because they didn't want to do the paperwork?
- VP: Can't say for sure it was because of the paperwork, but someone has decided in advance to run a write in campaign versus a regular campaign.
- KGCOE: There should be the option of a write in, otherwise it takes away power from the students. Ceaser ran as write in because no one else was filling the position, and he recognized that. What about checking if it is a real name?
- VP: We can't do that, through our voting process we would be providing students access to information they shouldn't have.
- KGCOE: What about putting a minimum percentage of votes in order to actually be elected from a write in? 10%, 15%?
- VP: Very interesting idea.
- Pres: Are we trying to represent the students best we can, or does it look like we are taking away their voice?
- KP: Write Ins should be required to have at least the same number of votes as signatures an SG candidate has to obtain.
- KP: Focus on the process, excitement in the process will draw people in so people won't want to be a write in. We should set up an incentive process for being an actual candidate, maybe get to work with the SG PR team, get an additional color banner, name gets sent out during the debate, that way it becomes attractive to become a part

of the actual process. Maybe the elections committee should get outside the res life system, we are electing, not hiring.

- SR: The reason we came here today is to get ideas; we are not getting support for or against. We want the thinking cap right now.
- Director of Services: People will put down inappropriate write ins because they didn't like the candidates; there should be a "no vote" option, so we know how many people specifically decided to refrain from voting.
- SCB: If one person registers and there is no write in, then that person gets in and it isn't fair to someone who can do better than that.
- VP: We need to wrap up for now, but we would like to present a couple sets of modifications that you will have the ability to approve or deny, best set of options to choose from, will reserve time next week to talk about some other topics as well. How are academic senate reps. elected?
- Academic Senate: People can volunteer for election, generally a "twist your arm", will build a ballot, whoever is on the ballot is then elected, senators up for re election, some colleges are more competitive and will have a more contested ballot.
- VP: Katie, thank you very much.

Presentations

Lee Twyman, RIT Ombudsperson:

- Twyman: Who has heard the term ombud? Who knows where it comes from?
- Academic Senate: It is a Swedish term, a person who mediates problems, a go to when you don't know who else to go to.
- That is a very accurate description, term actually means representative. Informal role here in the university, problem solving, coaching, etc. If you have a problem here at RIT that you cannot solve, anything you can imagine, come into the office and we will help you.
- There are a lot of policies that you don't need to know about until you need them; housing problems, anything you can imagine. I always hear from students "I wish I knew about this office before".
- If you don't know how to solve someone's problem, send them to us.
- Confidential and independent; not affiliated with any group, only report to the president's office. In the old retreat area, glassed hallway, welcome to come walk in, contact by e-mail, make an appointment, generally open from 8 – 5 pm. Will be setting up an office Thursday evenings on the dorm side of campus.
- Questions?

- OUTspoken: Never heard about the office in FYE class; should have this office brought up in the FYE curriculum.
- Pres: Would be nice to have you come on and tell us what we can do if RIT does something to us instead of the other way around, maybe during orientation.
- Faculty and staff know a lot about the office, but students don't seem to. We are going to modify the brochure to reach more people, etc.
- Wednesday, next week, we are having an open house, 11 – 2 pm, serving Dibella's subs. Announce to your constituents, come and talk.
- Normally left over bakery goods from the faculty open house before the student one.
- VP: Do you have any promotional anything that I can give to the students?
- Yes, and I will send it out to you.

Old Business

AY 2012-2013 Calendar:

- VP: I put some more time on the agenda this week for calendar discussion; Greg can update us on what was discussed at the President's Roundtable discussion.
- Pres: President's roundtable was also split down the middle; they voiced many of the same concerns, shorter summer on one calendar, leaving for three weeks, forgetting everything and coming back.
- SR: Started off cabinet yesterday with Greg talking about the president's round table being split, but then we thought, is cabinet split? Talked about why we weren't as split; "traditional A" I would say is actually nontraditional, it would not give student leaders adequate training, almost seems like we would be punishing them for taking summer quarter. If you put three weeks vs. two week break aside, would you really lean towards A? Cabinet seemed to mostly lean towards B with that in account.
- Academic Senate: Had a straw vote, even more split, 14/13, think all the issues are on the floor, will go forward to institute council, don't know if it's a vote or if the president makes the final decision, everyone is big time divided on this.
- VP: Institute Council meeting is the 16th of February; we do have one more week to discuss these issues, MSO's please discuss with your E-board, have similar conversations with your executive groups. Done for discussion now.

Presentations

Global Union: Unification Commercial

- VP: We will hopefully play a commercial for you all now, if you are looking for something to do at freezefest, the best event on Saturday is Unification!
- GU: Unification is tomorrow! Still selling tickets in the SAU lobby. A lot of you haven't seen the commercial for It, so here it is! E-board might be doing a dance as well! Mental Graffiti will be there, a group from almost every continent will be there (except Australia)

Reports

Mid Year Reports:

SCB: Jake Maynard, Midyear report!

- SCB: I was elected nine weeks ago, I am a third year student and I also participate in ultimate frisbee on campus.
- Goals: Really wanted a club fair every quarter for college of business; had one in the winter, and I am trying for one again in the spring. Trying to work on a career fair, getting involved with imagineRIT, and openly advertise at least one E-board meeting a quarter.
- Met with assistant Dean, he gave me the task of planning a party in a week in a half. The holiday party was very successful, we also hosted a Saunders tailgate before one of the hockey games against Bentley.
- E-board helped plan events; talked about club events; collaborated between events; in E-board we also discussed issues in the college that need to be resolved.
- We have mailboxes that students don't use; have a giant TV, for example. We are trying to rebrand, in with the new and out with the old. Two weeks ago we implemented a new website, Saunders and SCB innovate/connect/succeed, talked with alumni, school has changed but the students are still the same, we are also pushing social media.
- Saunders snack hour; clubs stand in the atrium and give out food for an hour, college pays for it, get the club names out, etc.
- Senior sustainability advisor to the president search committee: everyone is interested in sustainability, going to start video conferencing (green, don't fly everyone in) hopefully the last three applicants will be flown in, Destler will select an advisor from there.
- Free printing for everyone in the college; would like to limit the amount like they do in the college of science, work on the big screen, show better advertisements.

- Working on imagineRIT, the college sees imagineRIT as a recruiting moment where we can show what we have to offer.
- Two to three students will talk about social media, cross between COLA, collaborative effort that will promote the events of the day. Encouraging clubs to get involved as well.
- Questions?
- SAAC: Can you move the TV so you can see it when you walk down the stairs?
- SCB: That is something we can talk about.
- SCB: We are planning on redoing the whole thing; at the alumni dinner I saw some of the planning, it is going to be a lot different.

CAST Senator, Tim Maher, Midyear report!

- CAST: Elected about four weeks ago, immediately spoke with the dean. The dean was concerned with the transition process, been working on a strategic plan for switching from quarters to semesters, an example of a concern is the breadth CAST takes up.
- Spent about a week and a half going over the plan, analyzed the plan from a student's perspective, next year hotel resort kids want to take over the Radisson instead of RIT inn, etc.
- Mr. Walker would like to implement these goals starting spring quarter; he wants this to be advertised to the students.
- Also sat on the Building Identity Committee; working with the RHA to name dorms.
- Lack of communication with SG and CAST Dean office, would like to set up some sort of binder for the next CAST senator so they won't fall behind, the Dean of the college would like to always be in good communication with SG.
- COS: What are they trying to do with the Seneca park zoo?
- One building is 103 years old; animals were in cages, beaten, etc., NY has mandated the zoo must redesign the building in three years.
- Part of the senior design project is for civil engineering to affect the community, not sure if they would just submit designs for the building, etc.
- COS: Might be useful to bring in students from COS in for collaboration.
- Cross registered: David Hamilton is the zoo rep. if you would like to contact him.

Director of Services, Bobby Watson, Mid Year Report!

- Director of Services: Third year, info tech student. 8th week as director of services.
- Prior to winter quarter was website manager, Dave contacted me and asked if I would like to become director of services, worked together throughout fall quarter, the position was filled half and half between Dave and Marissa during fall quarter.
- Continued working behind scenes on SG website, got things ready for winter.

- In December I became Director of Services, took a few weeks to catch up on everything, came back to RIT, had been on co-op fall quarter.
- Major accomplishments: RIT voting application, working with ITS on improving the voting application so other clubs and organizations can use it, improve it overall. Hopefully this project will be completed before our elections in spring quarter.
- Working with the technology committee, main focus in the genesis project, new sis system with the quarter/semester conversion, prototype will be released this January and we are looking for feedback, we will be presenting at senate.
- Meet Your Senator Campaign; midyear reports and videos so people know who their senators are, get the word out, Public Relations and Director of Services work together quite a bit. There are also weekly podcast updates.
- Major Accomplishments: RIT challenge, worked on the website, did a lot of filming, learned how to film during the challenge, created guidelines for the Kathy hall conference room and the popcorn machine, etc.
- Server Frustration: Services and PR data stored on Mac server, the server crashed. Dave had set up a backup system so nothing was lost, but for a while we didn't have a server. However it is now back up and running.
- Looking to the future: Want a new website up, finish the voting application, wide format printer mostly used for PR but would like to offer it to other clubs and MSO's, not sure how feasible that is, improving the services we already have, finishing videos, etc.
- Questions?
- VP: None, thank you very much.

Senate Reports:

- KP: Freezefest begins tonight! Please check the website; it provides good links to all the events that you are all supporting. We have a full schedule starting today, rail jam begins around 4 pm, make sure to go check it out!
- KP: GU has unification on Saturday, Sunday we have the superbowl party, put on your shirts, get out there, please show your support! Remind yourself of the fun of being at RIT, come join us, tonight is the premiere of the viral video, send it to your friends!
- Freshman: Fifth annual one year down party, starting planning now to make it the best thing possible, before sophomore class came and gave feedback, anyone have any suggestions for any resource on campus coming to speak?
- Ombud's Office!
- RHA: People who will explain difference in student apartment living versus Dorm living.
- SR: For example, OCASA.
- VP: If anyone has any more ideas, please e-mail them to Sarah.

- Staff Assistant: Deirdresha asked me to speak because she had to leave early today. Tuesday was Play, Believe, Achieve! And it was a great success. I was a mentor, and I know a few others here at senate were mentors as well. The girls were great, they had a wonderful time, we won the basketball game, and we want to thank you all for helping us host such a successful event.
- Cross registered: Next Wednesday, NTID senator and I are hosting a forum on transitioning from NTID to RIT, from 6 – 7:30pm, interpreter will be provided, Student Development Center (Commons) Room 1300.
- Programming: Superbowl party this Sunday! Please wear your superbowl shirts with your name tags, please meet at the SG office at two, anyone else volunteering please meet in the field house at 2:30 pm. We have about 50 people helping and we could always use more, Vinny and Sarah please meet with Marissa after the meeting.
- SR: Spring elections! If you are going to run again, please start thinking about it now, have some ideas in your head, MSO's please let me know about your process, if you want SG packets, be on our ballot again, etc.
- VP: If you are planning on running again that's great, if you are not please encourage those outstanding students in your constituents to run. We want healthy, contested races.
- KGCOE: Even if you are planning on running still help the word get out.
- SR: Marissa and I are working on an interactive map instead of more paper going out; we are going to be sending out a spreadsheet and assigning everyone with what you will have to write up for this interactive map. MSO's can write as well, it will be edited before it is put in, the map will be online, this is closing the student feedback loop.

Committee Reports:

- None

Advisor Reports:

- PR: For all volunteers, please wear superbowl T-shirts on Sunday, wear your jersey underneath, somewhere else, etc.
- VP: We will get all volunteers a shirt, if you have a name tag please wear it otherwise we will get you something to wear. Senators please meet in the conference room, we are going to meet very briefly.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned.