



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

Absent: Finance Director, Greek Council, Reporter, SAAC, ACA, OCASA, Staff Council.

Time began: 1:06 pm.

## **Call To Order**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> by Freshman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SCB.
- All in favor.
- Minutes pass as submitted.

### **Speak to the Senate:**

- None.

## **Old Business**

### **Calendar Discussion:**

- VP: In Staff Council we voted in favor of Calendar B, the "nontraditional" calendar, the four week-break-six week. At this point we can either have more discussion, or we can go ahead and take a vote here in senate.
- CAST: Can you discuss some of the points that led to a consensus?
- VP: Staff were concerned about not having that extra time to process paperwork between the end of summer quarter and the beginning of the fall semester, like withdraw paperwork, F's, so forth. They really wanted that extra time; winter break didn't really affect them because, either way, they would still be coming back early.
- Academic Senate: We were split 14 to 13; it was just a straw vote, when we vote at institute council next month, it will be an interesting calendar choice.
- VP: If there is no further discussion, we are going to take a vote. This is an official vote; voting seats only.
- PR: Can you refresh which is A and which is B?

- VP: Choice A was three weeks of classes, three weeks of break, and then seven weeks of classes when we return. However, there is less time in the summer between the summer quarter and fall semester. Choice B has four weeks of class, a two week break, and then six weeks of classes when return, but includes more time in the summer between the transition.
- SR: We aren't voting formally on anything; I think a straw vote would be more appropriate at this point.
- VP: Since we are going to institute council, I would prefer an actual vote. Does anything care one way or another? If not, then we will take an official vote. I will take votes for A, and votes for B. Voting seats only.
- VP: Option A? 5 votes.
- VP: Option B? 9 votes.
- NTID Abstained from voting.
- VP: Anyone in the community can attend the institute council meeting.
- SR: Representatives from SG who sit to vote on Institute Council, would they be voting on behalf of their vote or would they represent the larger body here?
- Graduate: I sit at the council; I will vote as the whole of SG voted.
- VP: I believe the expectation is to vote on behalf of our group here.
- Academic Senate: I don't know if you have bylaws about this, but you might be able to split the amount of votes you have at council in proportion to the split in SG.
- VP: There is no specific bylaw in regards to that, but those of you there please keep in mind it does not reflect well on us to go against the majority of the SG group.

### **Elections Modifications:**

- VP: The Elections Review Committee has met over the past several weeks. Please remember: they have no authority to change the bylaws, they can merely present to you things they would like to modify. Since these are changes to the bylaws, they are automatically tabled for a week. They cannot be voted on until next week at the earliest. We will go through the entire packet, please highlight your notes and we can discuss and answer questions at the end.
- VP: I have numbered the pages and broken them down into individual changes.
- VP: Point A on the first page; added the word 'fulltime'. Co ops are fulltime, matriculated students, but they do not pay student activity fees. We have had plenty of students on co-op continue their SG duties.
- VP: Point B: Students have wanted to run for a college they were planning on switching too, but were not currently a student of that college. At the time you are running, you

should be a member of that college already, except for the Graduate Senator Position. GSAC would like undergraduates to run to be Graduate Senator for the following year.

- Point C: Freshman, NTID, and Graduate do not need to spend at least two quarters at RIT, we would like to get rid of that exception for the graduate and NTID senator.
- Second page, Point E. Wanted to add a clarification that the bylaws have guidelines. Wanted to add a chair person, remember elections committee can always be made up of students outside of SG.
- Page four: Talks about how senators are elected; would like to remove the section about the NTID senator, and hold an open election in the spring like all the other academic colleges here.
- Bottom of page five: Clarify freshman election process. Feedback was this year's model was better than in the past; gave the three finalists more time to talk, everyone at senate more time to deliberate, helped make senate make an informed decision. Candidates used to only have two minutes to speak, and only two questions to answer.
- Point H: Removed how the graduate senator is elected; instead, we would like to hold an open election, held in the spring.
- Point I: In the spring quarter, if there are zero candidates for an office, the elections committee can hold that ballot until fall, then reconvene in the fall and run a special election. We felt that the time shift might shift people's views on their responsibilities. For example, last year we had no one on the ballot for the CAST senator, but when the position re opened over twenty people were interested.
- Point J: We had the Idea last week to remove write in votes; however we have realized write in votes are not the problem; the problem is having someone win only three votes, doesn't know what they are doing, doesn't grasp the commitment. Similar to the section before it, if there is a ballot with zero official candidates, then the ballot would be held. In the fall quarter, write in votes would be back for that election.
- Page 8: Point K gives SG the responsibility to hold information sessions about elections. During the first few weeks of spring quarter, it would be the responsibility of SG to reach out to students and inform them about the election process. We would give all interested candidates the packets to fill out. If a student could not attend—although we have drafted around 24 sessions in a two weeks period--they could e-mail the elections chair, get a packet still, etc. No one would be excluded.
- Page 9, Point L: In week three, when packets are due, if one position has no packets, we can re open the position with PR, solicit interest for two weeks, and try to keep that election during spring quarter. This is preferred over moving the election to Fall quarter. If there are still zero candidates, the election would move to the fall quarter.
- VP: We would love to hear your feedback, we have been working very hard to find the best recommendations; we would love to hear both positive and negative feedback.

- OR: What about situations in a BS/MS program?
- VP: You only need to have been a student at RIT for two quarters; you only have to be in the college when you run for it.
- NSC: Page three, letter E. Why are you eliminating the chairman of the NTID Elections Committee?
- VP: We are still going to go to NSA and get their feedback; what we have gotten is that this position is not an annual position. The change to add this position was made last year. It never happened that the chair even became part of our elections committee.
- KP: It is part of the E-board's responsibility; NTID students might be transferring into colleges at RIT after finishing up RIT, which is very similar to Graduate students. Could they run for the colleges they are going to be a part of?
- SR: The bylaws holds its purpose; it's not that we don't want them to sit on the elections committee, it's hard to have specifics we may or may not have control over, putting an obligation on someone who doesn't hold to our bylaws; but the invitation will always be there.
- KP: It is in their bylaws, and I haven't seen a change in eleven years. If you have a communication link with that position, then you need to put it in there somewhere, your bylaws leave the message for your community.
- VP: It was more of a housekeeping thing; we could definitely talk about it some more.
- Pres: So there are no inaccuracies; there is always an elections chair person, it is a mandatory part of their elections process. NTID election chair person would be responsible for the NTID senator; we want to emphasize, it is up to the chair person themselves if they want to come to SG, and many of them did just that. I'm not sure SG can make that connection if we change the bylaw.
- NSC: If you get rid of NTID chair person, SG won't know what is going on in the NTID community?
- SR: It is good that it is in their bylaws; by not having it in our bylaws does not mean they are not invited, it just means they aren't held accountable by our bylaws.
- VP: I think we need to move on.
- DofS: Graduate senator position; from what I gather from how it is worded... it should be worded that undergraduate students could run, but that they must be a graduate student the following year.
- Graduate: Point I and J; there is language that doesn't exist in I, we wouldn't quite need J if the language is put into the other part.
- SCB: I and J are very redundant; if you reword I, you can get rid of J. Graduate senator is a completely different beast, you might need at least a quarter of experience as it incorporates all colleges; might need to keep the prerequisite part.

- CAST: On Point G, there will be three nominees brought to Senate for freshman senator, how many students typically run for freshman and is three enough?
- VP: It's tough to answer the first part, it varies; we wanted to build some language on how that cuts get made. VP chairs a committee that approves these candidates, or SG charges someone else to chair the committee; I feel that If we bring more than three, it is a disservice to the people here.
- SR: Three compared to twenty seven may seem like not enough, but there's only going to be one senator in the end. They still have that interview part with the committee, they aren't just turned away. In fall, we got to know a lot of the candidates. Maybe a minimum of three and a maximum of five to be more lenient?
- Fresh: We turned in our packets, had mini interviews, that way you know the three people you bring to senate are really committed to the position, plus it is hard to remember more than three when people come to senate.
- Women's: For the women's senator, men are allowed to vote and I kind of thought that should be taken away.
- VP: I interpret the bylaws as just women; we need to talk to the people of ITS about just allowing female students to vote for that position.
- COS: Should be everyone who identifies as female, then necessarily on paper as male vs. female.
- SR: Create some verbiage about the freshman senator committee.
- VP: How do people feel about the change for the write in candidate policy? Are there any concerns?
- SR: Does anyone think it is a better process than the one we had before?
- Many individuals raised their hands.
- Graduate: Are we going to vote point by point, and are we getting an e-mail with changes?
- VP: I will make a few changes and will compile them over the weekend, send them out, and we will vote point by point at the next meeting. That will put us a week ahead so we can implement everything before the elections process begins in spring quarter. We might hold off on a few items, but we will probably be voting on 90% of it this next week. Sunday evening, look for the e-mail, you will be able to compare the two.

## Presentations

### **GeneSIS project:**

- Kathy Bell, the project manager. New student information system.
- Kathy: Luke is the student perspective on the project.
- New world for RIT; this is a complex project which covers the entire student life cycle, from recruitment all the way to alumni status. It will be a very robust system; it will impact all aspects of the university.
- Going to configure the system and enhance our processes.
- Vision Statement: Robust, but tight time line. Transform current services into greater opportunities; going to bring you new technology that will last. At the end of the day, the most important aspect is student success.
- Guiding Principles: Buying technology proven in the industry; strive for little to no customizations, optimize student success (i.e student retention).
- Sponsors: Dr. Cooper, Dr. Haefner, Dr. Miller, Dr. Watters.
- Product is an oracle peoplesoft product, campus solution 9.0 and CCRM 9.1. Oracle Consulting Services (OCS), the new versions have been very improved, great functionality.
- Two distinct pieces that will talk to each other; we went through a huge process before picking OCS.
- Implementation: RIT and OCS began configuration and prototyping, in the bottom of Grace Watson Hall.
- The team is very complex; sponsors, management team, four strategy teams, module teams, support and training teams.
- SR: Do you have any students?
- No, at this point we don't, but that is why we are talking to SG. We want to bring students; but we want to do it at the right time. Student records/degree audit.
- 2010 was some of the analysis work; making decisions, etc. January we started configuration of modules, and will have several different go lives during the next year and a half. In the summer, admissions will go live in June, then we will start retention work in November.
- Student will have access in April, 2012. Registration Available.
- Benefits to students: enhanced course catalog, increased add/drop functionality, easier registration, pre-req checking, integrated degree audit, multiyear course planning, increased self-service capability, single sign on for access to full functionality including financial aid, billing, registration, degree audit, course planning, CRM for retention.
- CAST: What about a portfolio? We recently had a presentation about a portfolio application, will this be a part of it?
- That is not directly related to this; it is tied more closely to mycourses, and there is a different team working at it.

- SCB: Is there any mobile technology built into it?
- There is a website for the GeneSIS project; the capability does exist but right now it is mobile web access, not exactly mobile app.
- COS: Students who are transferring in; will there be transfer credit articulation?
- Not sure; there will be functionality for transfer students to have the courses they have taken otherwise be processed into RIT courses.
- SR: For course catalog, can you see a past or current syllabus before you register?
- I'm going to have Luke capture that question; I don't want to answer that question incorrectly. We will have to get back to you on that.
- SR: Are more students going to be able to access the system at one time during registration?
- We will have new partners; we can scale things up every year, it is just a matter of money.
- SR: Automated alerts; would I receive an e-mail about having a hold of my account before I can register, or would the system e-mail my advisors if I withdraw from my courses, etc?
- That is part of what the system will allow, it will have positive and negative service indicators. We are still deciding how many we need.
- VP: Parking is currently using an off campus system; are these going to integrate them?
- They will remain separate entities but we will make them be able to communicate to each other.
- VP: On the time out page, there should be a link to the genesis website. A lot of students who complain just hear about them working on the genesis project, current students should be given the opportunity to actually see the genesis project.
- VP: There have been visual improvements to the students.
- Cross Registered: Will this system be integrating access services so NTID could request interpreters, etc?
- We have been working on an access service, we want to do the right thing with that system, the proposal is to build an interface for the short term, and build into SIS access services as much as we can.
- RHA: For some of the courses, the names don't math up, will they match up?
- I would say yes but I will have Luke write it down so we can get this back to student access.
- Fresh: I have difficulties with blocked out classes, those aren't yours right? I know we have unmet needs, but could we have a waiting list for classes?
- Yes, that is coming.

- PR: It should make what we can take as an open elective more accessible, right now we have to search through colleges, search for all open classes, etc.
- We will have Luke capture that and ask that.
- Fresh: I think having the link to the GeneSIS website would be a good idea, we definitely feel those frustration. And another question, why is registration at six in the morning?
- We were trying to find a time when no one is in class. Late at night there is a process in the system into 5:30 am, so 6 am is a chance for everyone.
- Grad: It is very important to keep track of your classes, especially as a graduate students. Will some other process that needs to be fulfilled be build into the system, like teaching experience, etc?
- There is a piece of functionality that might be able to address that, we will forward that one on.
- SCB: Will you be able to search by time?
- Yes, you should be able to search by almost any feature.
- GCCIS: My biggest concern is, when I wake up at 6am, am I going to get on?
- We will eliminate that problem.
- GCCIS: It says when it is restricted but that's it. It would be great if it said exactly why it is restricted.
- COS: Double majors BS/MS programs; half the time SIS doesn't acknowledge I am a double major. Will I be able to register for these programs?
- We will set that up in the academic structure; it will address all of these concerns. We are prototyping that right now so the system is configured.
- COS: Is there an override capability?
- I think you will still have to have someone else override, you might be able too.
- If you do that in advance, you might be able to get a number where you could be allowed to register.
- COS: For pre planning, will it alert you when changes are made to those courses you have set up for following years, etc?
- I will have to follow up on that question. Student Records is just starting configuration right now.
- SR: Will the GPA grade prediction stay in the new system?
- We think so, but we will get back to you.
- SR: I think the searching capabilities are very important.
- Pres: Sometimes we have to search, and we time out. Can we change the searching from departments to our actual majors?
- That's the plan right now. That is the integrated degree audit which is going to help you see what you have to take.

- Programming: It could say where to go or who to talk to in order to get past the course restrictions.
- If you meet with your advisor early, you can get that out of the way.
- RHA: Is it still going to be where you can't access the service after midnight?
- No, It is going to be 24 hours.
- RHA: A lot of the courses, you can't tell they are restricted until you try to register.
- That is a bit of a theme here with registration, perhaps those can be addressed today.
- Fresh: I'm undecided so I have a very hard time registering for classes, it would be great to have that information in advance.
- COS: Is the degree audit program going to be like tiger tracks? Will there be some capacity to override?
- We will try to make it so those never issues never arise.
- OUTspoken: You can check how many seats are available and restrictions under academic planning.
- We want student input for Portal Design, prototyping, testing, communications, change agent network (faculty, staff, reps, hopefully students), training.
- If interested, contact Bobby, director of Services.
- Rit.edu/genesis, ask genesis is you have any more questions.
- VP: if you all have constituents that want to have feedback, get in touch with Bobby.
- DofS: meeting today at three o clock in Kathy hall conference room.

### **Global Union Midyear Report, Bharat Thazhathu:**

- GU: We looked back at our roots; GU came from a Venezuelan student, Nicolas Rubio, in 1997.
- At that time, only 2% of the RIT student body were international students. In 2010, there were 1634 students. We have grown significantly.
- We have transformed from an advocacy group to an activity group. We wanted to take it back to advocacy.
- Obviously, we kept what works: international student orientation, Halloween blow out, ski trip, unification, Gala.
- We also started new traditions! Movie screenings; two movies, showing problems around the world. Showed how we can fix those problems as well.
- Grassroots soccer tournament; fights spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa through lessons in Soccer. Raised 2000 dollars last year.
- Going to do it again this year during springfest! Going to be way more open than last year, with a bunch of red stuff to give out.

- The World Connected @ Imagine RIT. Wanted to be innovative! We will be allowing visitors to do a live video chat with a student or faculty member somewhere in another country.
- Those were events; but advocacy as well!
- International Student Open Forum went great thanks to the help of SG.
- International Student Career Fair: One big problem is finding full time jobs or co ops; very few companies are willing to sponsor international students. Only employers that will hire international students will be there.
- RIT Video Tour: Students who are accepted to RIT but can't make it to campus; view of campus, dorms, gracies, and Rochester.
- Global Union Website, all events listed, but powerful aspect is the affiliate page: events and members can be registered, allows closer connections when people can't make meetings, etc.
- Pres: How does the language barriers work?
- Working with the study abroad office, going to be in the field house
- COS: International companies for work across the seas?
- Yes, that will be available as well.

## **Reports**

### **Senate Reports:**

- Cross Registered: Vagina monologues tonight and tomorrow at 8 pm, 5 dollars for students and 8 for faculty/staff and the general public. It will supporting women, in the Ingle auditorium, tickets at the door.
- Programming: Hockey game tonight! Information has been sent out through e-mail, you have to wear sneakers tonight if you are going to be on the ice.
- Graduate: April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day, we will be setting up a bunch of booths, educational section, bring in students from AP science in high schools, if you would like to get involved or host events, I am open to any and all suggestions.
- SR: Election committee to start in spring! If anyone is interested in sitting on that committee let me know; ask your e-board, anyone who is not running can sit on the elections committee, Bobby is.
- SB: Senior sustainability advisor committee selected three candidates to bring to Dr. Destler.

### **Committee Reports:**

- None.

**Advisor Reports:**

- None.

**Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned.

Time ended: 2:58 pm.