



Present: President, VP, Finance Director (newly elected), Public Relations, Programming, Student Relations, Director of Services, Organization Recognition, CAST, SCB, CIAS, GCCIS, KGCOE, COLA, COS, Cross Registered, Freshman, Graduate, CAB, Global Union, NSC, Reporter, RHA, WITR, ACA, OCASA, Dr. Heath, Karey Pine.

Absent: Women's, NTID, Greek Council, SAAC, OUTspoken, Academic Senate, Staff Council.

Called To Order at 1:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Speak to the Senate:

- None.
- VP: Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone that elections are officially upon us. So everyone knows, in the SG office we don't display any candidates or anything candidate specific. Conversations about elections in the office should stay simply at the logistic level; we will not speak about our opinions on candidates, etc. If you have any questions, please contact me or Teraisa. Finally, I would like to mention that both Greg and I are running for president next year. This quarter we still have a lot of work to do; it is not awkward for us, but if it is awkward for you please let us know and we will answer any questions you have. We don't want it to be awkward for all of you.

New Business

Finance Director:

- Pres: I asked for two volunteers from finance committee to work with me to find a new finance director. I would like to thank all involved for their efforts. We interviewed about 20 candidates, and I offer my nomination to Jeff.
- Jeff: I'm a fourth year Mechanical Engineer, and I am happy to have received this nomination. It sounded very interesting to me because of my background with numbers and accounting, in class and in co ops. I have also been involved with other organizations around RIT campus that solidified my involvement.

- VP: If there are no questions; Jeff please step out for a moment and we will have a discussion.
- Jeff stepped out of the room.
- VP: Is there any discussion that we feel needs to take place about Jeff before voting? It was a long process that Greg went through, and Cabinet met with Jeff at the meeting yesterday. It has been a very thorough process.
- Fresh: Is his position just for the rest of this year?
- VP: Yes, just for this spring quarter. If there are no more questions, would anyone like to motion for his appointment?
- 1st by GU, 2nd by Cross registered.
- All in favor.
- Jeff is officially elected as our Finance Director.
- Jeff reentered the room.
- VP: Congratulations Jeff, you are officially the new Finance Director.

Greek Council Changes:

- VP: No Greek Council representative or Danuary were able to attend today, and neither could the rest of his E-board. At the very least, I would like to introduce the topic to you, and hopefully expand next week. Basically, Greek Council has ceased to exist at RIT. The Greek community has proposed some changes to how it operates, and to the governance structure. They want it to become a Greek programming board. Having one group in charge of both programming and representation, it splits the group heavily. Those councils that meet in the Greek chapter are really the groups that have a governance responsibility; whereas, for Greek Council, it didn't really make sense for those groups. Their loyalty is first to their national groups and secondly to RIT. Having a second governance layer on the RIT level didn't make a lot of sense. They have requested that Greek Council focus solely on programming for the Greek community. What that means for representation on student government...well there is no longer an MSO for Greek council, and they would no longer have a seat at our table. They suggested we adopt a senator seat, a community senator seat, and act as all other SG senators do. What we are talking about here are two changes to SG—that we will need to vote on—first to remove MSO status from Greek Council. Right now, it only exists in SG. But they are no longer operating as Greek Council. No more subcouncil presidents. Then we would have to add a seat for a Greek Senator at our table. They would like that to happen alongside our elections this year to take off in fall. We will have to modify the election schedule for them a little bit, but it is a very easy group for them to target. We have been told there is great interest in the position already. That's where we stand. I

hope we can have a more in depth conversation next week, but I will be happy to answer any questions now.

- Fresh: You are planning for them to be elected in spring?
- VP: Yes. And Teraisa just mentioned to me the voting. Currently, each chapter gets one vote for an E-board member. That is set up so chapters with many students don't have the advantage over smaller chapters. We have talked about it in Cabinet, and we did not want to remove a single person's ability to cast a vote for any seat. So we are trying to find a balance between the two ideals. We have thought about having a system where every Greek student casts a vote, but the vote is casted within their chapter. Whatever candidate gets the majority vote for that chapter becomes the one vote assigned to that chapter. Very similar, but every student has the opportunity to cast a ballot. Any more questions?
- CAST: My question is, we have a very rigorous election process. Can we accept such an exception? Why do they have the exception of having an electoral college, so to speak?
- VP: That is a very good point.
- COS: I'm a little ignorant about the Greek system. Does it encompass all Greek entities on campus, or just a few?
- Karey: Our social fraternities and multicultural fraternities and sororities. To Tim, for us, if we allowed everyone's votes to count instead of by chapter, it could become a popular vote. We cannot ensure a level playing field. One Chapter One Vote is the same everywhere, not just on RIT's campus. For SG's purposes, we will track all the votes. I can say that from the Greek Community's perspective, this works. It is not new here. It comes from a chapter structure that has the same kind of affinity to a chapter. I don't know if it can be resolved in our bylaws, but part of SG's role is to serve the communities around it.
- ACA: Requirements for this position, what are some of the requirements? Do they have to be Greek?
- VP: Nothing special, standard senator requirements would apply.
- SR: Just to clarify for you Tim, I'm not going to make a packet for the Greek Senator today. They will come to us with a planned proposal, and we will come with bylaw proposal changes. All the other requirements will remain the same. Their election calendar will be much shorter, but they are okay with that.
- COS: Will they be allowed to hold a position in a fraternity or sorority at the same times as serving as the Greek senator? Might that compromise representation as a whole?
- VP: It isn't something we have really discussed; for our other senators there are no limitations like those, but I would be interested to hear thoughts on that.

- Karey: They will be creating as a community requirements that are beyond a senator's requirements. They have things they want specifically. I can make sure if they haven't thought about that, that they will.
- COS: How is the chapter structure any different for people who are in different college majors, that have huge departments?
- VP: I think since I'm not a Greek student, it is kind of hard to understand the concept. I think the level of affinity to these programs versus academic programs is not comparable. When I asked this, this was their answer as well.
- SCB: Will this senator be just for the community fraternities or what about the academic fraternities?
- Karey: Right now Greek Council does not even do that. I don't think there is any goal of trying to add them, though it is possible.
- KGCOE: There is nothing like Greek Council right now that all of Greek life?
- VP: Not right now, no.
- Karey: There is a transition team. Normally Greek Council never agrees on anything, and I don't think anyone was ready for people to approve the proposal unanimousl. They voted to dissolve Greek Council. No one expected that in one meeting, so I don't think they were quite ready, but now they are forming a transition team.
- KGCOE: So they would have a board aimed towards programming, and just one person towards the non programming? Seems limited.
- Karey: They don't think what we set up for them works for them. It isn't any different than any other community senator. We don't know if it will work. They may come back next year and want to change things again.
- KGCOE: If you only have one person, there is no discussion. Then there is no way to bring all of Greeks together.
- SR: I asked the same question when they came to us. In the job description, in supplement to the bylaw duties, the Senator would chair a president's roundtable, where they would have to speak to all of the Greek sub councils. They would go to chapter meetings. Those things will come next week when we have an actual job description. They will have more defined things that will hold them responsible.
- KGCOE: The SG demand is pretty high. You have senate, office hours, desk hours, etc. It sounds like they are going to have a lot for only one person. Are they going to be able to handle all of their Greek things and all of the SG things? They shouldn't get so caught up in SG that they can't represent all fraternities.
- VP: The senators that have the best success rate are the ones that have a strong tie to their home group outside of SG. I think at times it can be hard to know what your role is, especially as a community senator. We will obviously take a look at it. In the Greek

System, there are other Governance groups. These subcouncils and the programming board will keep them honest.

- KGCOE: I just think it is more important for them to be there than at the SG office. Maybe less SG requirements would allow them to do their job better.
- VP: They actually came to us and didn't want this to be a paid position. But if they want to have a legitimate senator seat, then they have to be paid. Maybe we can say their committee requirements are already met. We need to be careful in how we look at it.
- Grad: It seems like it would serve its purpose better as an MSO. Why don't SAAC and GU get a voting seat at the senator meeting that we have? Is it really the proper role to have a Greek Life Senator?
- VP: I brought this up today to get these reactions out. My first response was the same as that. If we sit down with members of this community, it might help to clarify a few things.
- ACA: What about having a position for sororities and for fraternities?
- Pres: I had a very similar original reaction. I asked the same question; I did not understand why they wanted to change to a senator. One of the things they brought up is that Danuany has been doing all that. The one thing I do want to point out, is if Greek Council has concerns about their representation, it should be our concern as well. We don't have the right to tell them how to be represented. That's for them to tell us. It's okay to make mistakes. For what it is worth, it is important to hear what they have to say about it. We will give them a shot next week.
- VP: We will talk about this more next week.

Notifications for Instructor Changes:

- VP: I want to talk about something I personally experienced over spring break. I logged into mycourses, clicked on the syllabus, and, unknown to me, half of my teachers had been reassigned. I only found that out by opening up the syllabus. This has never happened to me before. I found out from other students that this is a relatively regular occurrence. I understand the need to sometimes change instructors, but at the very least I should have been notified. I shaped my schedule around the professor, and I think everyone has had experiences like that. I would like to bring this up more with Academic Senate, who couldn't be here today.
- COS: Yes, I have had that happen before, and sometimes it happens so late there is nothing you can do about it. Sometimes late notice, they will sometimes change time adjustments that also needs notification, because I have had that problem as well.
- Fresh: Same thing happened to be me. Can we talk to the GeneSIS program, about notifications?

- VP: It should also be the department's responsibility.
- SR: What has also happened to me, with labs TA's stay TBA, and there should be a deadline for when names have to show up. There should at least be a name, even if they have to change later.
- Director of Services: I have noticed in info center that the room will change without notification. I know room changes happen a lot too.
- SCB: I have had a physics class where even the professor isn't on there. There should be a deadline for a professor's names to be up.
- RHA: The same thing has happened to me. I'm not sure what the best way is to fix this, every class you're registered for that changes, you should get an e-mail.
- VP: I think at the very least that is appropriate.
- COS: Something I have heard about broad classes, even instructors don't know what sections they are teaching until last minute.
- GCCIS: I have never had the teacher change, but I have had class changes. If your professor does change, and you want another one, whatever happened to Tiger Reviews? I'd like to see that come back.
- VP: Tiger Reviews was storing private information so we removed it. Because of the way SIS used to be structured. Social security numbers used to be ID numbers. SG doesn't really maintain web apps anymore. It is cost intensive to have someone secure the system. With the new age of web apps with SIS, and ITS, I think it is something we need to look at. A tiger reviews system is on Bobby's list somewhere.
- Director of Services: That was one of my goals this year. I'm going to look into it more. I mentioned it to the GeneSIS project before, and I can follow up with them again.
- VP: SG used to have their own system administrator that developed all these web apps for us, but there was no real documentation, etc. We are still figuring out the best way to move forward.
- COS: All those course reviews, I feel like students should be able to see those.
- Grad: You can go into COS and request to see all the reviews at any time.
- VP: Has anyone ever had an instructor change or something listed that changed without notification? Room change? Seems like a great majority. I will follow up with Paul. We are still customers, so we still deserve customer service.

Old Business

Elections Modifications:

- VP: We are now going to move to our elections modifications. In Week 10, we approved most of the changes, but there are a few left. Point D is verbage; Point F is who PR

works with during elections, Point L is the VP filling a vacancy. Does anyone have any questions or comments about this? Seeing none, is there a motion to approve D, F, L?

- 1st by KGCOE, 2nd by GU.
- 16 for, 0 opposed.
- Modifications pass as submitted.

Presentations

- VP: We have one more midyear report to do!
- **Director of Programming, Kaitlyn Parenti, Mid Year Report!**
- Programming: My goal for the year was Purposeful Programming! I wanted better collaboration with MSOs, more student engagement, and senate social events.
- We all helped each other with a lot of these events. Applefest, Trick of Treat, RIT Challenge, Corn Maze, Hockey Game, Thanksgiving, Superbowl Party, Host a Hockey Game. Next up is SG bowling night, this Sunday, 3/13, at Bowl a Roll.
- VP: What is purposeful programming?
- Programming: Programming with a purpose behind it. For example, we will have a BBQ this quarter that will provide information about elections. There is always a reason for hosting these events.
- A slide show was then shown of pictures of all of the events.

Reports

Senate Reports:

- CIAS: On March 8th, RIT won the TAGA chapter for the 9th time. The award is on display.
- GCCIS: This week, Week 2, we are having a penny war in GCCIS. Stop by the atrium, bring coins, cash, or food, and donate to a department of your choice. This will take place all next week, from 12 – 4pm.
- SR: I have been hosting elections info sessions. I am pleased with the number of candidates, but I am not satisfied. We don't have a packet taken out for each position yet. If you are interested, or can advocate for this position to your friends, please do. Have them come to an information session, even if they just want to learn about SG. I don't want to see any one person or zero person races.
- VP: You know who in your constituency would be great in this position. The best thing for SG is to have strong races and strong candidates.
- PR: Please advertise for community senators as well as your college, since they don't have their own college to advertise in.

- Programming: Bowling on Sunday, bring your school ID!
- GU: Next Friday, at 7:30pm, GU is hosting a movie screening about Iran, and a woman's life there over the summer. Discussion will follow, and it will be in the Ingle auditorium.

Committee Reports:

- CAST: There is a very prestigious award for a teacher on campus, please nominate a teacher.

Advisor Reports:

- None.

Adjourned at 2:10 pm.