



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

Absent: SAAC, OUTspoken, ACA, Academic Senate, Staff Council.

Called To Order at 1:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

- 1st by Fresh, 2nd by GU.
- All in favor.
- Minutes pass as submitted.

Speak to the Senate:

- None.

New Business

Finance Appeal: Phi Kappa Tau:

- VP: First order of business today is a financial appeal.
- FD: This is a financial appeal on the part of Phi Kappa Tau. Their President, Zach Field, asked for an appeal to help bring them up to the overall cost for the rest of the tech crew charges. The overall reason for the appeal is the amount awarded is not sufficient to put on the event unless they take additional funds from their bank account or take away some of the money they were going to donate. This conflicts with the finance committee's bylaws; they state SG will not fund a group the entire cost of an event so that all proceeds may go to a charity.
- Fraternity President: We only have half the money required for the event. The money we have in the bank is for our national dues. If we have to pay for the costs ourselves, the money will have to come from the money donated that was supposed to go to charity. We are asking for more money to cover the cost of tech crew.
- Karey: Who goes to your event?
- Fraternity President: It is open to the entire campus, everyone is welcome to come.

- Pres: You have \$1500 sitting in the bank account for the charity?
- FD: No, that money is for national fees. I should point out you are having a raffle, are you selling tickets?
- Fraternity President: Some companies donated gift certificates and such. We give a complementary raffle ticket with the admission ticket and most people don't buy more raffle tickets than that.
- Fresh: Are we voting to see if we are going to give them the extra funds and bypass the bylaw?
- VP: Finance committee has already made a decision and awarded them a certain sum of money. Every group awarded can appeal that decision. Today we either uphold the original decision, or we overturn finance committee's decision and come up with our own new amount to give.
- Fresh: So we would pay for everything?
- Fraternity President: We paid the hundred dollars for the Clark gym.
- Karey: I think there are two conflicting points here. What I am hearing is that in this case there isn't enough money without SG funding to cover tech crew costs. You could interpret either way and it could be correct. It is possible to look at number 2 and say it could work here too.
- KGCOE: You are charging for the event?
- Fraternity President: Yes.
- KGCOE: SG is funded by our student activities fees. If you wanted the money so students didn't have to pay, I would be okay with it. But in this way we are basically donating our money to charity, but it should be going to RIT affiliated students.
- Fraternity President: As Greeks, we are expected to do more than the average students would do. It is hard to put on events like this without help. We can only donate small amounts of money in that way. This would make it possible for us to do that.
- KGCOE: My only concern is that none of the money SG is giving you is going to the students, because they have to pay to get in. That is my only concern.
- DofS: Regarding charging a student fee, if we didn't award them money, then they might increase the cost to get into the event. If we give them money, they wouldn't increase the cost of tickets. About the bylaws; it is against the bylaws for us to fund the entire thing because it would go to charity? So we could increase funds without covering everything, correct?
- COS: Did you get any money from the inner fraternity council?
- Fraternity President: They are going to charge us less dues from now, but that amounts to a discount of a few cents a member. Basically, we didn't receive any money from them.

- COS: Have we ever done anything like this in the past?
- FD: We did give them a thousand dollars in the year previous.
- PR: How many students do you expect to attend?
- Fraternity President: Last year there were around a hundred people. We are hoping it grows this year. Each ticket is three dollars.
- PR: How much money was raised before?
- Fraternity President: We sent a thousand dollars to charity last time.
- PR: If you are paying \$1300 for tech crew, and spending more on the event then you are raising, you should either cut back tech crew and re manage the event or just donate the cost of the event instead.
- Fraternity President: Bands require certain things to make this concert happen from tech crew.
- SR: I feel your pain when I did the trick or treat challenge. A couple questions. When people buy a ticket, is that the raffle ticket or extra?
- Fraternity President: Extra you can buy in the event.
- SR: Those costs are donated to the organizations then. Do you have people who buy extra tickets?
- President: No, they take the free one that comes with the admission ticket mostly.
- SR: If you do, you could offer buy an extra one for a dollar, or five for three, etc. That helped us during the superbowl party this year. I would propose someone increases the amount awarded but don't fund it fully. I would ask that you talk to tech crew and CCL and see if they can help support you since they work with Greek Life. There are other places that can help you. I have talked down tech crew costs before. You might be able to talk down the price.
- Motion to overturn the decision: 1st by CAST, 2nd by CIAS.
- VP: We have a motion on the floor to overturn the decision. If we overturn it, we need to come to a consensus about what the new amount awarded will be.
- 7 for, 3 opposed. The finance committee decision has been overturned.
- VP: We need to come up with an alternate amount to give them.
- KGCOE: Was this an issue last year when we gave them \$1,000?
- FD: It didn't have to come to senate last year. We just awarded them a thousand dollars.
- KGCOE: Were tech crew costs similar last year?
- Fraternity President: I don't know.
- VP: The event will take place next Friday.
- CAST: What about we give them \$975, somewhere in the middle?
- Karey: CCL will probably help you out as well.
- Motion to grant \$975: 1st by Grad, 2nd by Freshman.

- 9 in favor, 5 opposed. An award of \$975 has been approved.
- VP: Your award has been modified to \$975 dollars. Have a good event.

Transfer Students:

- VP: We are going to jump around a little bit on the agenda, and skip to our the last item about transfer students. We have had some initial conversations about how they might work in SG. I will turn the floor to our guests.
- Transfer Reps: We are here to talk about the potential of introducing a transfer representative or senator to this body. I know this is a sensitive topic. I would like you to really think about this, it is a very underrepresented position. We know through orientation that transfer students don't always feel like part of the SG experience. We want to increase school spirit. We are really missing the vote with them. In my office we do run programs for transfer students; we are trying to increase the number of students we reach. A lot of transfer students don't care about going through the orientation process. We are limited in our scope of who we can reach. During the real RIT challenge, I was placed at the RIT inn, I do remember that a lot of what we heard about transfer students at the RIT inn is that they felt very disconnected. Transfer students have been on the radar of the board of trustees for a while now. This population is just going to increase once we go to semesters. It could move up by 50% when it is easier for students to transfer in from a semester school. I also believe the new genesis program will help with the credit evaluation process. We could use a student representative and advocate to help their transition into the university.
- Another transfer representative: As programming director last year, I know the issue of transfer students is a very complicated one. Students don't know how to get involved in the beginning. The transition is overwhelming. Each student has a different situation they are trying to deal with. Credits play out in different ways for each student. It shouldn't fall to the orientation office to address these issues. No one has really taken on the responsibility yet. The only reason I became happy here is because I got involved. I felt disconnected, etc. Unfortunately some students don't think they can stick it out as long. There is no one reaching out to them here. Orientation has created a transfer ambassador program. There is a lot of red tape. Housing especially. I didn't know what I would have until the day I got here in terms of housing. I had to fight with housing to get into the residence halls. More needs to be done to advocate for these students, so they know there is someone they can talk to who has been through the same experiences. Even if the person is a transition state. In the mean time they need a publicized person

they know they can talk to. There is a myriad of issues, and they don't have a voice. There was joke last year that I was a transfer senator.

- SR: It was kind of hard to find out where to go to talk about a transfer student. Every place has a different story. Who advocates for these students? We didn't have a clear answer by the end of the year. A lot of departments said they were doing the best they can. These students have been out in another college and chose RIT over it. Orientation has tried many different things to help them, but they don't have a central place, they don't have advising, nothing. They feel like a transfer student for two years. They still feel like they are a transfer student. I would love to see a seat that is proposed for a couple of years that is supposed to create a committee to get some space on this campus to support a transfer center. It is needed at this time, though not forever. These departments don't talk to each other on a daily basis. I think it is necessary as of right now. Ultimately I would want to see a transfer office. I don't think anyone but SG is going to do the work it takes to get these done. I think a senator position is what is needed.
- Transfer Representative: Cabinet members have their own jobs. We need someone who can clearly focus on this so it can be properly addressed.
- Pres: I am for it, and this is a group of students we need to address. From your expectations, what would be the expectations of this person? What kind of impact are we looking at?
- Transfer Representative: They would do research; benchmarking with other institutions; make recommendations for real change; some campus departments are doing that but they need a student voice. We need a student voice to tell us what students want and need. We have students on campus now who are transfers. It could be a regular election process. Like Freshman or like the other senators. That would be up to you guys.
- Transfer Representative: Surveys from student speak up day directly from the students. I think the transfer senator is there to guide transfer students. That person will be able to answer those questions. They can contact them directly or advertise for transfer students, which might not work as much.
- COS: I totally agree that something needs to be done to integrate them. Right now it isn't fair to them. Is it reasonable for one individual to be that bridge? It is hard for one person to understand the different department needs. What about a committee or an MSO full of many different transfer students, representative of all the different departments?
- Transfer Representative: As a senator you can create committee. You can use them as a network to help, and transfer students would be involved.
- Transfer Rep: It is enough for one person to get the ball rolling.

- Fresh: I understand when they first come here they might have a problem, but by spring quarter what issues do they feel?
- Transfer Rep: They are still disconnected. It is still an issue. There are still transfers that come in spring quarter. It is a continuous thing.
- Fresh: How did you get involved?
- Transfer Rep: It was more a personal thing. I forced myself to get involved. It is a continuous thing.
- SCB: Have we ever got rid of a senator before?
- SR: Yes, GLBT before, but that moved to Outspoken.
- SCB: So what is the long term plan?
- VP: The nice thing about being a senator is you can do whatever you want. Whatever your proposals are is what we will vote on. We could write something in about a period of time. We could look at any of that.
- DofS: When I first heard about this, I was like, great, another senator. But there are issues. If we have a senator who works towards a transfer office, so that we have a better connection, I don't see anything wrong with a temporary senator. For a certain period of time I would be okay with.
- PR: I definitely think there is a need for this overall. I know many people with these ongoing issues; those issues don't just end. Transfer students continually have crazy issues. Would a transfer floor in the dorms ever get approved?
- Transfer Rep: We have approached that issue before. Next year, the 4th floor at the inn will be designated for transfers. It is better than having people randomly scattered around, though it is certainly not ideal.
- PR: Having an RA would be a really helpful thing, a community spot to hang out.
- Transfer Rep: A senator could help try to push that sort of issue. We really need someone who will be constantly advocating these issues.
- VP: The outreach and the programming part are an important part of what a senator will do. Really, the transfer senator may not have as much publicity and events. They will continue to have quite a bit of work to do all throughout the year. Right now at RIT there is no punch list on how a transfer student gets matriculated in. Your experience depends on your department. In hospitality they are used to transfer students. People wait about their credits and some people get it taken care of. I wanted to do a couple straw polls to gauge the interest level. Who thinks SG needs to look at how we involve transfer students? Very large, who agrees with a transfer senator position? Fair enough. Who didn't raise their hand, what do you have to say?
- SCB: We could set up an RSO for transfers; there would still be one person in charge.
- VP: Setting up a whole organization versus one seat, I don't see..?

- SCB: One person sets it up that would still have a seat here.
- VP: So you are saying a senator seat and then task them to adding an RSO for a year?
- SCB: Maybe not a senator per say, but someone paid?
- SR: Creating an MSO is a very difficult process, why do we need that?
- SCB: Office or representative office?
- SR: I don't think it is the representation part, it is that transfer issues aren't being addressed. Greeks didn't feel the representation; transfers are not being advocated for. The office I would be talking about would be a center for academic success. An office for a certain group so they feel like they have a place that advocates for them.
- Karey: Student representation and advocacy and an office are both needed. We are not students anymore in departments. We can make a decision and not do the right thing in some circumstances. We need to be kept honest. We need to let them be students and tell them what they feel. We need an office that can help fix that. I am not sure an MSO would be a good idea when it is not their full time job to do that.
- VP: In a lot of ways it is like the GLBT senator. Certainly, there could be a time where we should move away from the senator seat. But I don't want to put a specific timeline on it.
- COS: An MSO would be able to identify issues and address them with an entire team behind that head person.
- Transfer Rep: I think a representative student group would be a recommendation a senator could put forward to the group. We talk to a lot of transfer students. I think getting a group together will take a couple of years, and having a person to drive that would only help. A transfer office would be fantastic. We are looking at a minimum of five years before that can become a reality on the budget table. In 2013, we are going to have an influx of students. This is not an RIT specific program. We can be the trend setters.
- Transfer Rep: And then there is the fact that an RSO needs a budget.
- VP: We certainly could vote to add an RSO for transfer students which would be good, some day. The moment we vote that in we need to make that happen. We already have a lot of things to focus on. I am not sure we could do that correctly. I would rather charge a single person to focus on specifically that.
- Pres: I would avoid putting a price on anything, I am not worried about the budget at all. Either might be the answer. We need concrete answers, and can one person do this? We could set up a transitional transfer student committee to talk about this and then we could consider their opinions?
- Transfer Rep: I don't know if we should be extending our timeline?
- SR: Week seven we will be having an open forum. I will prepare something to get some kind of outcome from this open forum to charge this senator with. The new leadership

could look into electing whatever they feel is appropriate. When I said “office”, GU has an international services office with a specialized professional staff. Eventually we would need that dual office MSO thing, or maybe not, but we need to start somewhere.

- Transfer Rep: It is hard to get transfer students involved. It is hard to get transfer ambassadors. I think you will have a hard time initially getting those many people involved. You would be better off getting one person in the first place.
- Programming: A lot of us are not transfer students. I feel that it would take so long to do what Greg was saying. We should start with just one person, and it only takes one person in the beginning. They will do what they need to do. It would be good to have a senator to start with. It doesn't hurt to try.
- Transfer Rep: I think it will be faster and fewer resources would be needed. If they need more people, they will get more people. You really just need one person to start off.
- VP: There has not been an actual proposal made. Do people feel a senator position is a good idea, according to a straw vote? Most people think good idea, some say bad idea. Vinny? You say bad idea, why?
- CIAS: I think to start off, transfer students should be under the Student Relations director, and they should look at that.
- Grad: Each department on campus is completely different. They all do things differently. It is our job as the senator of each our colleges that they should be working with us, as they are still our constituents. We should be working with those different departments and colleges.
- Transfer Rep: You represent all graduate students, how is that different from a transfer senator?
- Grad: Do I necessarily think there should be a graduate senator? I don't know. It is different because the requirements we have to meet are completely different than undergraduates. You really need to go under those conditions. And there are graduate programs not under certain colleges.
- Cross registered: I have been going back and forth. For me, if a transfer senator set up, they would be doing the same position as me with different students. They would work with all the colleges like I do. With cross registered, you finish an issue, another one comes up.
- Transfer Rep: New students come with new problems. It could turn into an office, but you need to start somewhere. Something needs to be done for these students.
- Cross registered: Transfer students aren't involved; why would they want a representative? I am fifty fifty; I go back and forth. How beneficial would this be? We need to figure all those things out.

- RHA: I feel like there is housing issues to deal with, etc. It is not just each college senators' duty to help transfer students with the issues outside immediate academics. We need someone to actually go through and help them out.
- Programming: Exactly, there are more than just academic issues associated with transfer students.
- VP: Very fruitful discussions. We will move forward with drafting different proposals, the open forum is coming up soon. Thank you both for coming.

Special Senate Meeting:

- VP: Next, I don't remember who proposed the idea, but way back when we said people don't understand senate and we want it to be more visible. The idea that has come to me is to move our senate location. I would like to propose, week seven, pending weather, moving senate to the infinity quad. This would present some challenges. We would need microphones from tech crew. Would this be a disruption? That is the elections result meeting. What are your thoughts?
- GCCIS: Excellent idea. I never knew when senate was. This is like a secret meeting. People never came earlier because they didn't know about it.
- CAST: Best idea. Forces meeting to be focused. Just make sure we can afford the tech crew bill.
- Fresh: Can we do senate meetings, college months, have meetings in certain colleges?
- VP: It is a good idea. Scheduling senate is very difficult.
- DofS: If it does rain that day, we could also for a rain location go into the fireside lounge?
- CIAS: Could we someday have live feeds of our senate meetings, and have a tweet update?

SG Term Start Date:

- VP: There are no real guidelines as to when a term starts and ends in Student Government. Over the years we have done certain things to try to make the changes obvious. I want to see if we should make the changes more obvious. I feel like June 1st is a good idea to "transfer power".
- WITR: Like three weeks after the last day of classes end so it is always the same day of the week?
- Pres: MSO's own their own budgets until July 1st, we should consider this. We had \$10,000 before the year was over and we needed to spend it during the summer. We should make sure we go along with the budget. The e-board should be able to complete the budget for the year.

- VP: The problem with that is, if you graduate, no one is in the position for a period of a couple of months to handle the budget. Giving the new group an opportunity to finish the budget would give them a chance to set up their new year.
- COS: It puts a strain on people who are graduating if we wait until July 1st. It needs to give people time. Relatively soon after graduation, but enough time to wrap everything up.
- SR: I would suggest two weeks after graduation. Normally into the first week of June.
- VP: I want to bring some bylaw proposals to you with blanks with dates that we could fit in. I wanted to see if there was interest in establishing this.
- CIAS: I would say a week after the last senate meeting.
- VP: That would be finals weeks.
- PR: Requirements to leave SG documents behind. It was disaster over summer trying to figure this all out.

Reports

Senate Reports:

- GCCIS: We hosted penny wars during week three and the Computer Science department won. \$160 in pennies was donated on the last day. \$550 dollars for the scholarship was raised, and we raised about a \$100 in food items.
- GU: Thank you CAB for hosting a movie with us last night. Tomorrow, my home country India is in the cricket world finals. We will have a showing in the Ingle auditorium, from 5 am to 2pm.
- Programming: Next Tuesday and Wednesday we will be handing out fliers and candy to promote elections. The election BBQ is next Thursday! I need more people to sign up so I will pass this around once again.
- SR: We are trying to increase the attendance at the debates. We will be raffling off a java gift card, t shirts, and will be giving out a hockey jersey for the best question. The debates start during senate so we should all be free. We will hopefully be broadcasted on WITR. We will have some professional questions ready. Please be ready next Friday.
- PR: Anyone helping with promoting elections will get this ROC the vote t-shirt with our voting website on the back. After senate come get your shirt.
- CAB: Springfest is April 28th to May 1st. Remember to register your events on the website! 8:30pm tonight extreme capture the flag in the field behind Gracies. There will be a BBQ, and WITR will be there. We still have open slots for the trip to the Eastview mall and we are of course sending some people to see KESHA this weekend.

Committee Reports:

- CAST: Teacher nominations for April 9th ! Nominate by end of next week.

Advisor Reports:

- None.

Adjourned 2:38pm.