



Present: President, VP, Finance Director, Public Relations, Student Relations, Director of Service, Programming, Organization Recognition, SCB, CAST, CIAS, GCCIS, KGCOE, COLA, COS, Women's, Freshman, NTID, Graduate, CAB, Global Union, NSC, Reporter, RHA, WITR, SAAC, OUTspoken, ACA, OCASA, Karey Pine.

Absent: Cross Registered, Greek Council, Academic Senate, Staff Council, Dr. Heath.

Called To Order 1:09pm.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Speak to the Senate:

- None.

Old Business

SG Term Start Date:

- VP: Today we will vote on term start date, overview of senate. We will start with the term start date. Do we have any questions? We will hold off for a minute so I can pull up the bylaw change.

Transfer Senator:

- VP: I know some people have done some research on the transfer senator position. Tim, would you like to speak?
- CAST: I guess I am a little on the spot here. I talked to a few people about what is possible in regards to a transfer office. No one has done anything. Basically they need more people and a checklist for transfer students to see what they need to do. Transfer is also on a rolling admission basis, you can accept admission the day before classes start. I don't think I could handle everything involved in getting a transfer office, and I don't think a senator could either. An actual faculty member should be going forward with it. The woman I talked to might have more power to do things if SG dedicates a senator to this position. I am not sure exactly who that power would come from.

Orientation right now is trying to help transfer students, they would like more resources, someone dedicated specifically to transfer students. This could be a temporary fix until we have an office. Mary Hoffman is looking to take over.

- SAAC: Speaking on half of athletic students, transfer student do not like to be thrown in with freshman. They are looking more for resources, who to talk to, quick tours, maybe more like a pamphlet with useful information because they have already gone through this process before.
- COS: Last year it was like that, just one quick day, meet your advisor, etc. It was much smaller and you were not with freshman.
- VP: I would really like for us to focus on what our role will be in addressing these issues.
- SR: I think that as my role of director of student relations, instead of focusing on the open forum, talking with other people has helped shape my perspective. Transfer issues have gotten on people's radar since last year, there could be something else to be done. Towards the end of the year I could come up with an SG proposal. I also wanted an office and a professional staff, I thought a senator could do that, but that might not be the best way to go about this. People in the right places can figure that out. My part would be to complete that proposal to lay out for next year's Student Government.
- VP: Any Alternatives to that plan? If not, we should task Teraisa with that plan. We will try to talk about that week 9, even if that will be transition week. Actually, week 8 Teraisa thinks she could have something. If you would like to be involved, contact Teraisa.

SG Term Start Date:

- VP: I pulled up the line for the term start date. I am going to read the line so everyone is clear. Elected candidates shall assume office one week following the spring graduation ceremony. This is what will be in our bylaws.
- Motion to Approve: 1st by SAAC, 2nd by Women's.
- 17 for, 0 against.
- Motion officially passes.

Presentations

Dr. Cooper and Student Affairs Funding:

- Dr. Cooper: We are very grateful that you were all willing to move to this space today. Things have been falling apart, my laptop with this presentation has "multiple intrusions". So this is Kim, who works in our office, this is our backup presentation. The board of trustees meets three times a year. There is a student committee that comes

and presents to us. In regards to the board of trustees, the most important thing for you to know is that they are legally officers of the institution. They hire, fire, re new president contracts, etc. If my budget at the end of the year is not evened off, etc, I can be terminated. I wanted to give the trustees and the student life committee a view of how we are funded. We thought it might be helpful for you to understand how we are funded. You will get an overview of student affairs. I will answer any questions you have. Moving forward next year, you might like me to come do another presentation, that will be kept in mind.

- Here I have the overview of the Institute Budget. I highlighted student affairs. Our operating budget: expenses are 18 million, but we bring in 6 million, so the net cost is about 12 million for student affairs. There are revenue producing areas, and there are overhead areas (non revenue producing). I don't sell or charge for my time, I do not bring revenue in. Overhead is a good thing. We do have a few income producing areas, such as: the student health center, orientation, the English language center, etc. But we also have a lot of non income producing sections, like: student conduct, international student services, women's center, etc. Our money for the most part comes from tuition. We do fund a student managed department. HEOP and TRIO funded by grants. It should matter to you. There are three fees, besides academic fees. Student activity fee, student health fee, and orientation fee. One of the questions I am curious of your response, you don't really want to raise fees. Then you want it covered by tuition. If tuitions covers all that, we still need that additional money. You don't want tuition or fees to rise. Then you ask for better buses, but that costs more money. The campus center used to be the pool. There was one lifeguard. Now there is the new student life center. We have three life guards now. Our cost increased, just for people who want to swim. The more services offered, the more cost to the student. We have to find a way to keep your cost at a minimum.
- How do we offer things to students without increasing fees? We have three active grants. HEOP, TRIO, and the national science foundation. If you are thinking about working in student affairs, I thought it was a great job back in the day. We raise funds, write grants, work on student affairs, the hockey arena, visiting alumni, etc. We can be tuition dependent no longer. These grant funds are at risk. We as an institution need to find a way to supplement those grants, with alumni. We will have someone next year dedicated to just writing grants. We are out seeking funds from the government, etc. to help us keep students here. Whenever you put in a new FTE, that person comes with a salary, a budget, etc. You have just added onto your overhead. Does that mean we shouldn't do it? Absolutely not. It just will increase our costs.
- We are right funded, as an institution, we have a lot of amenities others do not have. Capital resources are furniture, treadmills, computers that no longer work. Another

thing that happens is we do have endowment funds. People have given funds to the institution that are designated just for student affairs. 8 beat measure. A former employee has been a friend to RIT and donated a lot money just for student affairs. Additional funds come with restrictions. Parents of the students who died in the fire gave money to student affairs. There used to be fuse ball table at one time. After a man who enjoyed it left, we took out the fuse ball table. He asked how we could put in another one. He left ten thousand dollars for a fuse ball table, he has left it every year for student activities. People supply scholarship dollars. There are some things we have in our budget that we don't have the money for. We ask parents for money for active gift accounts. The tiger spirit fund pays for student conferences they don't have money for. We did that with frozen four last year. We don't allocate money for these things, it comes from the tiger spirit fund. Greeks who need buses to go to their formals off campus. Wedding fund if you want to get married. Everyone has to have a place to have their money land and that money be accounted for. We have agency funds for agencies not necessarily part of every day to day basis. It sits with us so it is accounted for. It gave the trustees a sense that we are conscious of the money that goes into student affairs. You might want to make sure future students have the same opportunity and donate money back to the institution some day. Does this information surprise you? Does it make sense?

- SR: How do you decide on those numbers?
- Cooper: We benchmark those by looking at similar institutions. The problem is that we really are a category one. There is no school identical to RIT. I think more and more we distinguish ourselves as category one. Is this going to become unaffordable for students? As a consumer, how much are you willing to pay for it? We asked that about football, stating it would include an extra fee, people did not want it. Staff will not go on professional travel next year to pay for this one unit that is 25, 000 dollars. Sometimes you have to make decisions like that.
- SAAC: I have a lot of people in my hometown that work for IBN who are RIT alumni. A lot of alumni say that hated it here. It is not the same today as it was back then. Alumni haven't seen the new campus. I don't know if there is a way to get them back here? Silly as it sounds, a reorientation? So they can see all the new things that have popped up. My best friend's dad saw campus and thinks he would have had a completely different experience here.
- Dr. Cooper: That is why we do homecoming weekend. Dave and Greg will tell you about the Horton speaker. The new marketing brand is also aimed at letting alumni know how much better we are. After all, the better we are, the better their degree is. Dr. Watters has been a very good friend to students. I came on board when they were building Gordon field house. It is a gift to someone in my position. It is exciting to program.

During the economic downturn, we put money into construction instead of giving raises. Other institutions had cranes stopped in the middle of projects. The institution will have national prominence.

- SAAC: I don't know if brick city gets a lot of alumni so much as it does parents. I know we have the alumni ball, but maybe like a weekend thing?
- Dr. Cooper: We invite them back for freezefest, imagine RIT, CAB events, etc. We can get some energy around that.
- Pres: I just have one question. You might not have the answer, but one of the board of trustees members expressed concern about the rising tuition, and that we could reach a point of no return. What are your thoughts on that?
- Dr. Cooper: You should ask Dr. Watters that as well, or even Jim Miller who is responsible for enrollment. I only know this because there are some people in the shopping world who associate prestige factor with \$50,000 or above. They said they were proud to be 50 over 50. Some people think it is better to pay more money. In the same meeting, we wanted tuition down, and then went to someone asking for more and an increase in fees. The reality is you guys will have debt at the end of this. We have to make your experience meaningful without you paying for it forever. It's about what you need, and what you want.
- VP: I think the way this ties into what our internal school of thought is, MSO budgets, one of the things we need to be mindful of, students complain when tuition increases. And yet we advocate for additional services and programming. As a group of student leaders, when we want to advocate for something with a financial impact, we have to be ready to cut that somewhere else. We also need to feel strongly about cutting somewhere else so we can be sustainable in our own budgets.
- SAAC: No one wants to increase tuition or spend more money. We should see what students want, if they really want it are they willing to pay for it? Ask them everything they want, and then if they would be willing to increase tuition by so much. Can we spin it more that way?
- Pres: I agree with Michelle. We have to explain what happens to the budget when students ask for more services. When students look at RIT, I don't think they realize the overall budget is stringent, they think we can just grab money from anywhere. We should work on showing students what the consequences of adding more services are.
- COS: I really like these presentations because they have that transparency with how our tuition dollars are being spent. It is nice to see where our money is going. We value more what we are paying for. It is broken up very economical.
- Dr. Cooper: We can do more of that, this is all overhead.
- VP: Dr. Watters and Greg will lead us through a presentation on Campus Beautification.

Campus Beautification:

- Pres: I have had a few meetings with Dr. Watters, the chief financial officer of RIT, and one of his biggest concerns is beautification. We are on one of the not best looking campus' list. He and I are going to solicit some feedback from you to gather opinions and hopefully move forward with some of the ideas we get from this table.
- Dr. Watters: My cost to you is I need information. I wish I had been here more for the explanation of the finances. If you are truly interested in where the money goes, I can show you where the \$645 million dollar budget goes. Today we are going to talk about the campus and the campus environment. I came here about 14 years ago, and one of my challenges was to try to change the environment. We studied student attitudes to figure out student complaints. It has been considered a cold and corporate feeling campus. Everything was like colony manor 12 years ago. No UC, no Global Village, no province or park point. All housing was like colony manor. Racquet club down the road. There used to be housing worse than colony manor. Problems with physical campus. Students use to sit in their cars to have lunch. Over the last ten to twelve years, we added UC, helped with Park Point, got rid of those racquet club townhouses, put in gardens, improved sites, added coffee shops, etc. RIT was always 1, 2 or 3 on ugliest campuses in America. Students hated the physical environment. My challenge was to change that. Bring a university feel to this campus. We have spent \$800 million dollars trying to re position the campus, a lot of that was getting rid of old housing. Before the new wellness center, for a gym all we had was just a small room in a basement. Lots of things have changed over time. It is a good time for you to say, what is still missing? What areas need improvement? I can't fix the weather. We want to be off that list. We want you to love everything, and a lot of that has to do with the space.
- VP: How do we get on the list?
- Dr. Watters: We poll students. We are currently about 17th.
- SAAC: Walking through the infinity quad, everything is just brick. There are places for landscape but it is not really utilized. We could take that pivotal space and do something with it; it is kind of a meeting ground of sorts. I think that could be turned more green than brick red. Flowers, add more color. The Kodak green grass quad is great. If we can get more places like that, the campus will be a lot more active and will be a lot happier. People at other schools are out all day. Kids love green.

- Pres: When you think about Rochester; when you drive through U of R, there is the river and grass, it gives students a sense of peace and interaction. I am sensing that is what a lot of people will want to see.
- CAB: As an RA, I know a lot of people have talked about our environment. We don't have enough art, we should have people graffiti a brick wall for self expression.
- Dr. Watters: An outdoor space?
- CAB: Yes. And I think the dorms need a lot of work. A space like the fireside lounge, but dorm side. And sustainability will make people passionate.
- Dr. Watters: Please send me e-mails where you would like to see this wall.
- PR: When does this survey go around? If we ask in the winter vs. the spring, you will get a huge difference. Outside on this campus is not accessible all year long. The dark feelings set in. We should focus on the little details. Staircases in building seven. Grey concrete. Basement up to Javas, blank cement hall way. Add some fresh paint to those places. Those little things could make a big difference.
- Fresh: Do you have any plans as to improving the red barn and that area?
- Dr. Watters: Those facilities are on the drawing board. There will be things added over there that don't currently exist, all those things are being planned.
- COS: Being in the COS, we are often in the woods and out in places not accessible to most students. We are using a lot of the wetlands. We should maintain some of those natural areas we still have on campus.
- Dr. Watters: War on frgamities?
- COS: There are areas where you can colonize something. We can maintain those areas that haven't been ruined yet. Those others, we should use those natural plants rather than orientation.
- SR: I want to reiterate. In housing we would give tours and parents hated the stairwells. Stair wells, entry places, etc; those are the places that we a trucking through the most in the winter, and they lost their sense of hominess. Giving them color, fresh paint, etc. Kathy Griffith joked about how it was so dark and gloomy during that time. Another problem is the signage when you come onto campus. We loose a lot of that college atmosphere. We loose a lot of that because we are not in a city.
- Global Union: I live in global village now, on the walkways there are accents on the walkways. After you get past the statue, actually right after you cross the student health center, we lose all that accents on the walkway. My mom remarked on those walkways when we came to visit.
- Dr. Watters: People have always talked about the brutal quarter mile. We brought an architect in who looked at the parking lots and said our lines are always facing the wrong way. Parking spots are oriented to seem like we are making progress towards the buildings. We put trees up to increase the comfort. I have had contests for people to

design wind breaks, and how we can create an appealing, visual structure on the quarter mile. We are still interested. If we can come up with a windbreak solution, I will re do the walkways and put in those accents.

- WITR: We have this great bike path, there is no good bike parking in global village.
- Dr. Watters: A lot of it hasn't arrived yet. We wanted to inconvenience everyone only once. We have a lot of bike parking planned, it just hasn't been implemented yet. That hole in the ground by orange hall will be a fountain.
- OUTspoken: We have been talking about outside a lot, but we should also put serene areas inside. There are only two buildings with vegetation inside. We could bring some vegetation in the atriums of buildings so winter isn't so horrible. The bridge on the quarter mile is awful.
- VP: I have a problem with the old style signage on buildings. I think that really alone contributes to the industrial feel of the campus, it is not very welcoming. I think colors should be orange here, not red. It is hard to get students to feel affinity towards orange. Those signs are very industrial, not collegiate. Some of the best are the temporary ones.
- Dr. Watters: There was faculty involved in those signs.
- DofS: For the first time you come to a campus, the signs that direct you, those big signs are the same red color. They are boring, they are not inviting, and they seem outdated.
- Dr. Watters: The directional signs when you hit the road?
- DofS: Yes, about the winter, if I ever come home in the winter, there are these big light posts, we could have better lighting.
- Grad: I have been here for almost a decade. I lived through a lot of those changes. Everything has gone through an immense transformation. Bing part of athletics, I traveled to a lot to other universities. Every building looks like it was designed for and is supposed to be here. Buildings in global village are different, I think. I hope we keep brick in the future. When the grass at the Gordon field house is painted with RIT colors, it looks fantastic. It should be up all the time, even dye the snow orange.
- COS: There are outdoor heaters in Global Village, did people use them?
- Dr. Watters: It was amazing how many people sat out there with those heaters.
- COS: We could bring that to the dorm side of campus so people can have more access to the outdoors.
- PR: On behalf of Deirdresha, the art building is creepy. There are no fountains or anything in any building. CAST has a building with a wall with green leaves. And little details, all the bike, advertisements. Space should be a little cheaper so we can get student advertisement up there.
- Dr. Watters: Those were given to us by outside vendors for free so they could benefit from the ads. We could provide something else to you.
- PR: I would be more than willing to formulate a team for this discussion for you.

- Dr. Watters: I could host a lunch for you all on campus. We should buy RIT, there are serious dollars that live in this campus. 75% of the food budget is student employment, buying on campus lets us keep these students employed, more business, self induced benefit here. There is a lot I can make happen on this campus, I will meet anytime, anywhere. Tell me the menu, and we will have a fun evening, morning, or afternoon.
- PR: Alex Bickerman from environment design, students come up with designs to help beautify campus in his class, he might be a good person to speak with.
- FD: There seems like a lot of comments on the signage. We have a brand name. We should have a massive re design of the signage. All the signs are lit up in other places. We can create a logo in other places. I think it could be a promoting element to the pride and the feel as well.
- Dr. Watters: Those signs were made in the mid 90's, we spent \$422,000 dollars on those signs.
- CAB: Make it a class.
- SR: One thing about signage. In high school, we played with words, did subliminal messages throughout our hallways, I was thinking a more practical application would be quotes from students or alumni, famous alumni, have signs show working them, students are getting updated just by reading it as they go by.
- Pres: Does anyone remember when the SAU had a quote on the wall saying you are beautiful? I think things like that should be around.
- COS: The new buildings allow a lot of natural light, maybe we could incorporate that into the old buildings. It is much better then fluorescent lights.
- Dr. Watters: Golisano building, near CIMS building will be platinum, costing \$38.5 million, photovoltaic over the building. Institute hall behind Golisano, that will be \$32 million, green data center on campus, same kind of orientation. We are studying re illumination with LED lighting, we are going to rebrand RIT and roll out a national campaign. Your brand and your credit of the institution will rise. We want your degree to be more valuable. Thank you so much for your time. Marissa will organize a focus group. We need to look at the connecting space and old buildings and spruce them up. The infinity quad, add color, flowers, fix signage issues. Wetlands, pleasant nature trails. Looking at internal spaces, green life and fountains. Did I capture most of everything?
- CIAS: I would like to get your e-mail.
- Dr. Watters: jhwbg@rit.edu I will respond day and night. I have to stay here and protect the money.

Reports

Senate Reports:

- VP: Report section today. Any senate reports?
- GU: You should be receiving a FB event Wednesday April 20th. It is diversity day to notice the diversity on campus, dress up in attire from where they come from. In the SAU, 12 – 2 pm, you should see some nice surprises in there. Wear the shirts that represent your colleges, Greeks wear their letters, athletes if possible wear team jersey. We also have the grass roots soccer tournament on April 30th, register on our website, fight against HIV in Africa.
- Programming: Next week is the voting tables, I will send out a reminder email with a time sheet. On Monday tables will be in the fireside lounge before the GeneSIS open forum. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday they will be in front of the digital den.
- CAB: Springfest soon! Going to give away freebies Wednesday and Thursday, spring fest week we will give out more. Pitch a tent from 6 – 10 pm tonight, food and music, paintball sold out, Tuesday at 10:30, and we are showing A Walk to Remember next Thursday.
- Grad: Next week is Earth Week. I am organizing a bunch of events on campus. There will displays in the SAU lobby, grads research on suitability, biofuel, renewable energy source demonstrations, RIT community garden, take back the tap water taste tests. We are going to organize a campus clean up, go through areas and see how much trash we collect. We will be performing a waste audit, sorting through different colleges and seeing what could have been recycled, composted, etc. Check the CAB website for the talks, learn about all the great things you can do for planet Earth.
- DofS: The clipboard survey about the GeneSIS project received 300 responses, most people do not feel informed. The GeneSIS open forum is Monday at 2 pm in the fireside lounge. Encourage people to come and bring questions if you have any.
- PR: For all of the MSO's or anyone in a club, the club block party coming up, RSVP to Kathy kahhcc@rit.edu, invite your clubs personally, two clubs today didn't know it was even happening. The deadline is next Friday.
- VP: Greg, Chris and I were at the ground breaking ceremony for the Golisano institute. Because of federal grants, a lot of legislators were there. Golisano made the initial donation, but he was unable to attend.
- Pres: To all the MSO presidents and representatives, I will be sending out an e-mail that SG banquet will not be happening the same way this year. It will be split into two events, an award ceremony you will be invited to for appreciation, and the other event will be the club block party. I will offer more details through te-mail, the banquet will not be occurring in the same way and this way will serve more people and make better use of everything.

Committee Reports:

- SCB: Candidates met with Destler and Dr. Watters, Destler picked a final candidate, we have a sustainability advisor for the whole school now. I cannot release their name at this time.

Advisor Reports:

- None.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.