**Charge #1** Develop a set of recommendations to the Senate in order to provide more clarity as to expectations for academic conduct, collegiality, and civility.

Survey Responses:

- 89 out of 445 (20%) thought civility to be a major issue on campus
- 201 out of 445 (45%) thought civility to be a minor issue on campus
- 128 out of 445 (29%) thought civility not to be an issue at all
- 27 out of 445 (6%) did not respond to this question

1. **Academic Misconduct** – defined as incidents of classroom misbehavior that negatively impact the learning environment

   Reported most frequently on the survey:
   - Texting during class (102 comments)
   - Cell phones going off in class (102 comments)
   - Unauthorized computer use in class (59 comments)

   Committee suggestions:
   - Behavioral expectations clearly specified on syllabi
   - Remind students of RIT Honor Code (with http citation)
   - Provide resources regarding classroom management problems
   - Employ the *Early Alert System* to inform student and advisor of disruptive behaviors

2. **Collegiality** – defined as colleagues united in a common purpose and respectful of each others contributions to group goals and the ability to work together toward them

   Reported most frequently on the survey:
   - Lack of manners with colleagues (185 comments)
   - Lack of communication between colleagues (30 comments)
   - Colleagues difficult to work with (70 comments)
   - “Rankism” displayed toward subordinates (112 comments)
   - Lack of respect for members of RIT community (113 comments)

   Committee suggestions:
   - Collegiality was incorporated in this survey to gain a broader understanding of the civility issue on campus. The committee was concerned that survey feedback indicated a problem in this area. Sharing this data with that collected in regards to the RIT environment may be helpful.

3. **Civility/Incivility** – defined as a lack of courteous and respectful behavior

   Reported most frequently on the survey:
   - Verbal misconduct such as verbal abuse, vulgarity (42 comments)
Civility/Incivility – continued

Rude behavior such as bad manners and disturbances (189 comments)
Lack of respect from students to peers and superiors (140 comments)

Committee suggestions:

- Addressing unacceptable behaviors in class when they occur.
- Remind student’s of RIT’s Honor Code
- Incorporate “civility training” using on-going seminars, activities and venues reinforcing civility throughout the student’s educational experience at RIT.

Conclusion

Although not perceived by most of the RIT community as significant or widespread, if incidences of incivility are ignored, it may increase and negatively impact students, faculty, and the RIT community.

Recommendation

As recommended by the Student Affairs Committee last year, establish a centralized Academic Misconduct Committee as well as a centralized Academic Conduct Office where academic integrity violations and incidences of incivility can be tracked, tried, and appealed. Since a move to this model is a significant change from current practice, process and policy, the Student Affairs Committee proposes that the Provost establish a task force to implement this recommendation.

Charge #2 Investigate whether or not faculty are provided with adequate resources to provide special accommodations to student populations needing such accommodations.

Information gathered

Categories of students with disabilities include: learning disorders; visual and hearing impairments; anxiety and depression disorders; and various medical conditions ranging from paralysis to metabolic disorders.

RIT Disability Services works with each student individually to arrive at “reasonable and appropriate “ accommodations to ensure that each student has equal access to the overall college experience. The student must provide a written request with documentation to the Director of Disability Services at RIT.

Reasonable accommodations

- Easy entrance and egress into residences, buildings, classrooms, and laboratories
- Modifications in residence halls for air conditioning, kitchen facilities, etc.
• Testing modifications to include: extended time; alternate testing locations; etc.
• Ability to use lap tops in class to take notes for disabled students
• Interpreting, C-Print, and note-taking services for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students (available through NTID Access Services Department)

**RIT Statistics**
• RIT Disability Services accommodates 700+ registered students each quarter.
• About 250 new students register with the Disability Services Office each year.
• Included in these totals are about 10% of the NTID population, which are hearing impaired students with additional disabilities.
• RIT has the largest number (~70) of students with autism spectrum disorders including Asperger’s (more than any other university in New York State). Therefore RIT offers the “Spectrum Support Program” for assisting students with this disorder.
• The RIT Disability Services Director is a member of the National Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), the New York Disability Services Council, and the local Rochester Advocacy Consortium for College Students with Disabilities for use in education, training, and benchmarking.

**Conclusion**
In addition to increasing awareness of captioning services provided by the Teaching & Learning Services at Wallace Library, the Student Affairs Committee found that RIT faculty are provided with adequate resources to support special accommodations to student populations that have such a need. The Student Affairs Committee contends that RIT is in the forefront of New York State universities with regard to accommodating students with disabilities on campus and in the classroom.
Student Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate 2012

Jim Aumer (CHST), Chair jcascl@rit.edu
Linda Bryant (NTID) lmbnca@rit.edu
Jeremy Cody (COS) jacsch@rit.edu
Mary-Beth Cooper mb.cooper@rit.edu
VP of Student Affairs
Paul Darragh (SG Appointee) pmd6624@rit.edu
Vincent DiCairano (SG Senator, CIAS) sgcias@rit.edu
John Edlund (CLA) jeegsh@rit.edu
Carol Fillip (CIAS) cjjfaa@rit.edu
Anthony Hennig (SG Appointee) aih2400@rit.edu
Richard Latham (SG Senator, KGCOE) rel5224@g.rit.edu
Greg Pollock (SG President) SGPRES@RIT.EDU
Ruben Proano (KGCOE) rpmeie@rit.edu
Karen Proctor (CAST) klpipk@rit.edu
Bill Stackpole (GCCIS) bill.stackpole@rit.edu
John Ward (SCOB) jward@saunders.rit.edu
John Weas john.wea@tit.edu
Delegate for Mary-Beth Cooper