



ABSENCES	position	Reason
MICHELLE	Junior Rep	unexcused
FARAH	Events coordinator	unexcused
TONY	Head of Athletics	Meeting
ZUHAIR	ECO & ICO	class

PRESENT	position
RABEET	President
YARA	Vice president
FAYEZ	Treasurer & Secretary
ANTHONY	Head of Athletics
KOSHAL	ICO
OMAR	Sophomore rep
ASIM	ECO
MASHAL	Freshmen rep

- ⌚ Yara: Today, we are having a guest from DSO, please welcome Ms. Amal.
- ⌚ Amal: Hello, I'm Amal al-Zubaidi Im head of client management in the client management center in Dubai Silicon Oasis.
- ⌚ Yara: So In general, RIT students feel like they don't know DSO and your role in our university. Some students don't even know that you subsidize half our tuition. I think this is the first step to bridge the gap between the two, what can DSO provide us in terms of facilities, sponsors, and advertisement?
- ⌚ Amal: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with the student government. There are many things that DSO can extend in terms support and collaboration, and there are other things that I need to go back to our management. The kind of support u could expect from us, DSO is heavily involved in social media, we have a lot of followers on facebook, twitter, and Instagram, so if there is any event or you might need us to publicize, we could do that for you. Yet I do have a concern, which is that I don't see any involvement from RIT students whatsoever in any of the community events that we have had. I think we should set a calendar of the things we need to do from an early stage so your students know about the events. If you want to get internships or training with any of the companies that are registered in Dubai Silicon Oasis, we can approach them for you and help facilitate that. U tell me what else you need.
- ⌚ Rabeet: About that whole student involvement thing, I feel like we are given the information about events going on around us on a very short notice, which renders us unable to participate actively in those events.

- ⌚ Amal: I could say the same about you guys. Michelle Vaz always comes to us a week or two weeks in advance, and it upsets us because we are then unable to lend the type of support we'd like to give you guys, be in logistics, extending electricity, or publicizing your event. I don't know who is our mailing contact to your university, but we always send emails publicizing our events, and it's their job to forward it to the students.
- ⌚ Yara: I guess in the huge pile that they have they overlook these things, so perhaps we should have direct communication with you.
- ⌚ Amal: I don't mind that, but I need to check with the department to put you in our mailer group. We have a long list of events planned for next year, I don't know if you guys are interested in doing focus groups, like business focus groups, or resident focus groups.
- ⌚ Rabeet: For next year we are going to start working on a global day which we are planning to be a huge event.
- ⌚ Amal: Soon we have a team that will create a calendar of all events we are expecting to hold next year, and if you guys are serious about certain events tell us way ahead of time so we put it on our calendar and prepare well for it. I have a suggestion for you that I would love to see happening in our zone, and that is a sports day.
- ⌚ Yara: how long should we tell you in advance before events?
- ⌚ Amal: three months is optimum.
- ⌚ Yara: In terms of facilities, say we should ever bring a guest speaker, are the conference halls in DSO headquarters open to us?
- ⌚ Amal: Yes they are! Just send me an email well in advance, there is just a lot of bureaucracy involved, and I just need enough time to get the management's permission. And another thing, unfortunately, lately we gave away many venues we had to clients like Phillips, and now if you ever want to use one of the halls, you're going to need to bring in furniture.
- ⌚ Fayez: Does that include chairs and the sound system?
- ⌚ Amal: Yes.
- ⌚ Yara: I know we spoke earlier about your perceived lack of seriousness of our students in events we held, what do you think is a way to tackle that problem?
- ⌚ Amal: Maybe giving the students incentives would be a good idea, giving volunteers points, and a reward at the end of a set time period like a dinner.
- ⌚ Yara: How can we create a positive image of DSO with the students?
- ⌚ Amal: I can assure you that from now on, I will make sure that the students get our emails and invites to events. You do have an email group of all undergrads right? I'll take it from Michelle and put it in our list to send you guys event promotions directly.

- ⌚ Nija: I think even then a lot of students would usually ignore these email, how about posters? Would it be feasible if we put up posters publicizing events?
- ⌚ Amal: We are trying to go paperless, but we are creating digital posters aimed to grab the readers attention for every event.
- ⌚ Yara: when is all the construction on the streets leading to the university going to end?
- ⌚ Amal: basically what DSO is doing is installing infrastructure to drain water when it rains, and hopefully it will be done by January. I know it is a nuisance right now, but in the long run it is for the greater good for our community. And by the way something really cool we are planning on doing is a manmade lake by the headquarters building that would attract flamingos.
- ⌚ Amal: About the multipurpose courts that you guys have, would you be interested in hosting a tennis tournament?
- ⌚ Tony: What we are planning to do next term is host a sports tournament and invite all universities in Academic City to join. But we have a big problem still holding us back and that is the court lights, when can we fix that?
- ⌚ Amal: John Mitchell, the man who was responsible for that left because of medical reasons, but I will put it in my agenda, and will see what we can do about it.
- ⌚ Yara: The cafeteria that we have been trying to set up for years upstairs is still not up and running, the guy renting the place is being held back by the Civil Defense Bureau.
- ⌚ Amal: Oh I thought we were already up and running! I'll call a colleague of mine and see if we can speed up the process.
- ⌚ Yara: Another thing I would like to ask you, do you have any connections that could help us get cheaper rates on desert safaris, hotel stays, and touristy things to do in Dubai? We get a lot of study abroad students, and we have an orientation week every year, so that could be very useful.
- ⌚ Amal: Yes! In DSO headquarters we have Al-Rayes travel agency, I could approach them for you when you have something in mind.