

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ROCHESTER 8, NEW YORK
Student Council Special Meeting Minutes
February 19, 1959

This special meeting was called to order by President Kay Finley at 12:05. Roll was taken and it was established that there was a quorum present.

President Finley emphasized the necessity for getting the feelings of the students on Council during this quarter. He pointed out that since time was an important element in any decision the special meeting would be used to discuss further the proposal submitted on Student Government Re-organization.

Art Pavele made a motion to reconsider by section the proposal. He felt that most representatives had new ideas from their constituents that should be discussed. The motion was voted upon and passed. Discussion on individual sections followed.

Section 1.

Bob Kohler asked that Council carefully consider any plan that would invest all power in one body and suggested the possibility of a two house system.

President Finley pointed out that a single house was essentially what we have as a functioning unit. He emphasized that a report made by the committee showed few schools the size of R.I.T. with a house even approximately the size of Council.

Section 2.

Bob Kohler suggested that two consecutive elections would be too confusing and hard for the Election Board of Control to handle.

Dick Beal mentioned that if the two elections were to be held at the same time the losers in the presidential-vice-presidential elections would automatically be eliminated from any office. He pointed out that these superior personalities would not then be able to function in student government.

At this point Art Pavele said he felt Council members needed more time to consider the proposals. He also criticized the committee on re-organization as not having, except for two members, any familiarity with student government.

Section 2. (Cont'd)

President Finley pointed out that Council had been aware for months that a committee was working on this problem and that any interested members could have easily gained access to committee meetings and information. He also pointed out that the minutes contain several instances where Council was asked for opinions on this.

Other members felt that the inexperienced members on the committee were valuable for a fresh viewpoint and were easily balanced by those with previous experiences.

Joel Hand criticized the opposition to the proposal as not offering specific arguments.

Section 3.

Sue Joyce announced that polling S.A.C. resulted in a 100% vote against the proposals. Several other members pointed out that the numbers were not sufficient to represent students adequately. It was then mentioned that the importance was not concerning the quantity of the representatives but the quality. To emphasize this point John O'Connor reported that on a recent survey in the Printing Department, it was shown that 7 out of 50 representatives report to their classes and that 40% of the classes did not know who their representatives are.

Several members questioned the advisability of having representation on a class basis when the Institute was oriented on a departmental system. It was felt that this complicated matters of representation.

Art Gardner pointed out that students should not be aware so much of their departmental status but rather of their status as R.I.T. students. In connection with this Jack Lloyd mentioned that the Administration is working toward greater class unity and starting next year will emphasize departmental exchanges in general education programs. He felt that the proposal was a way to help initiating better spirit and unity at R.I.T. He also pointed out that every student at R.I.T. loses education value immeasurably by narrowing his field of friendships.

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Section 3. (Cont'd)

At this point Art Pavelle asked that Art Gardner assume the Chair since the president as head of the Re-organization Committee was participating freely in the discussion. President Finley pointed out that Mr. Gardner was equally involved and that there were no individuals uninvolved in the problem. However, he agreed to step down if Council wished this.

Dick Beal felt that this was wasting more time and that Council should continue to go along in the manner of informal discussion.

Bud Lockwood called for a poll of individuals who had polled their department. The results of this were confusing but it was established that approximately 8 had voted against the proposal, 5 were for it and several had mixed reactions.

Dan Jackson suggested that a more amenable solution might be found by adding a single representative from each department to the present proposals.

Frank Lang pointed out that there is little chance that a single department will not be represented.

Art Pavelle moved the motion to table until the March 9 meeting. The motion was voted upon and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER BRENNAN
Secretary