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## **ACADEMICS**

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**Date added:** 7/05/2005

**Q:** Good afternoon Dr. Simone,

I have a couple of questions.

What is the acceptance rate at RIT? What is the male/female ratio for the incoming class? And, finally, how come there are no Nobel laureates in our faculty?

**A:** Great questions and I will handle them one at a time:

1) Our acceptance rate for freshman applicants was 67 percent for the last entering class (we accepted 6130 out of 9113 freshman applications received). It is also important to note that RIT receives more than 3,000 admissions applications from transfer students each year, and the acceptance rate for transfers is 55 percent.

(Combining the freshman and transfer numbers would result in a "blended" acceptance rate of 65 percent). Our acceptance rates are well below the national averages.

2) As for the male/female ratio, that also depends on how you define "incoming class." Women have made up 25 percent to 30 percent of the entering freshman class in recent years, and will likely be in this range this fall. Once again, there is a different pattern for transfer students, with women making up 35 percent to 40 percent of those incoming students. Women made up 30 percent of RIT's total undergraduate student population for fall 2004, and women made up 39 percent of our graduate student population last fall.

3) In terms of the Nobel Laureate question: RIT has traditionally been a "Teaching University" rather than a "Research University," which is where Nobel Laureates can typically be found. This has essentially been our mission for 175 years.

As we evolve into a university that conducts world-class research along with our commitment to teaching, it is certainly possible that in future decades we might have a Nobel Laureate or two, although most of our faculty research is in the "applications" arena rather than pure "basic research" in the discovery of new scientific principles.

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**Date added:** 7/15/2005

**Q:** RIT seems to be very generous when it comes to helping students with necessary funds by providing grants and scholarships. Though what I find to be quite unfair is that some students who do well academically here at RIT are not awarded as highly based on what primarily seems to be on their high school SAT scores. What incentive is there to keep doing well when students who do worse academically are awarded more for merit scholarships just because they received a little more points on their SATs? A student's GPA seems to be the best indication of academic ability and willingness to learn.

**A:** Many RIT merit programs such as the Presidential Scholarships and Transfer Trustee Scholarships are awarded to students at the time of admission to RIT based on candidates meeting a variety of pre-established criteria.

SAT score is only one of many criteria that may be used, depending on the scholarship. As indicated in our financial aid and scholarship brochure, additional criteria can include rank in class, outstanding leadership, community service and other extracurricular achievements, as well as outstanding art portfolios. Many times, these merit-based scholarships become a part of larger need-based financial aid awards offered to students to assist them in meeting the cost of attendance.

RIT does offer scholarships designed specifically to recognize students who demonstrate outstanding performance while here at RIT. Those scholarships frequently have high GPA requirements for eligibility. The Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholarship is one example. Information about the Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholarship can be found at <http://www.rit.edu/~940www/DEV/nrsscholarship.html>

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**Date added:** 7/25/2005

**Q:** This is not so much a question as a commendation - I read the question posted 8/09/2004, to which your reply discussed introducing more flexibility into the curriculum. I feel that the staff has done an excellent job in revamping the curriculum, and also I think it wonderful to allow those students who chose to do so remain on the old curriculum system. Thanks!

**A:** Thanks.

For those of you who missed this news, the most sweeping curriculum revisions in decades are in place this fall at RIT. Every undergraduate degree program now has more flexibility built into it than before these revisions were in place.

RIT's revised curriculum overall has five major features:

- It provides students with greater degree flexibility for possible minors and double majors.
- It extends decision time for students "undecided" on a major.
- It will reduce "time to degree," meaning students can graduate faster.
- It provides greater elective choices for courses in other colleges.
- It reduces obstacles of internal transfers within RIT.

The moves are a direct result of RIT's Strategic Plan for 2005-2015, which states "RIT will practice flexibility in its curricula, policies and procedures."

The Strategic Plan also says the university will develop flexible pathways for students to make their own choices about significant aspects of their coursework.

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**Date added:** 8/03/2005

**Q:** Will the Urban and Community Studies program be available beginning this fall? Many students including myself are very excited about this program and want it to start ASAP.

**A:** The BS program to which you refer is currently under development by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts.

The faculty have made good progress in designing the new degree program but it has not yet been brought forward for formal approval by RIT. Consequently, the program will not be open for enrollment this fall.

Please stay tuned.

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**Date added:** 8/05/2005

**Q:** Dr. Simone,

I have a few questions regarding COB, the quarter system, and co-op's. First of all, the smallest college on campus seems to be COB. Do you see any future expansions on this building? Secondly, I have heard that a proposal in changing to a semester system was shot down a few years ago by the students. Is there a possibility that the school will look into it again? In the future, will the co-op requirement become an option? I have friends in the engineering and hospitality programs that have transferred out because of the mandatory 4 co-op's. Thanks.

**A:** Thanks for your questions. The Lowenthal Building will undergo expansion within the next five years. This should be very exciting.

Semesters rather than quarters have become an issue every five to ten years for the past 40 years. When this came up a few years ago, students voted to keep the quarter system. We have no plans right now to revisit the issue.

Co-ops are a hallmark of an RIT education and are a major recruiting attraction in bringing students to RIT. They are unlikely to be reduced from current requirements, although more alternative experiences, such as assisting a faculty member on a research project, are being allowed to substitute for co-ops.

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**Date added:** 8/05/2005

**Q:** Why is it that transfers to RIT are decided by the admissions office and not the departments themselves? It would make more sense for the department to be the determining factor in whether a student can handle the course load that RIT creates since they each know their curriculum the best of anyone at RIT, as opposed to the admissions office that has little interaction with the departments and the students in it.

**A:** Admissions has the expertise and staffing support to handle the volume of applications for all undergraduate applicants, both first year and transfers from other colleges.

The departments make admissions decisions at the graduate level.

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**Date added:** 8/18/2005

**Q:** Dr. Simone,

I was up in Rochester this week, and my friend and I wanted to go to the pool since it was like 95 degrees out. When we got to the gym our cards were denied access, and they said it was because we weren't taking classes for the summer quarter, and we would need to either purchase a guest pass for \$5 or a membership for \$60. I just think that it's ridiculous that just because we're not taking classes at RIT for the summer that we cannot use the gym facilities, and we have to pay for it. We just got this multi-million dollar facility, but don't have access to it, because we're not taking classes for the current quarter, I've never heard of such a thing. As a student I feel that even though we're not taking classes for the quarter that we pay enough money throughout the year to have year round to the gym facilities.

**A:** I checked with some folks at the Student Life Center on this. Here is the explanation:

The membership fee for students who are not taking classes or are taking zero credit hours during any particular quarter is \$35. The \$60 fee is actually the alumni rate per quarter.

When students are enrolled full-time during a quarter, a percentage of their tuition automatically goes towards their membership fee at the Student Life Center, Gordon Field House and Activities Center. When they are not taking classes or if they are taking zero credit hours, the percentage that we receive towards their membership is either less or nothing. Therefore, we have a fee structure in place in order to make it fair for all students who use this facility:

Students with 6-11 credits \$20

Students with 1-5 credits \$30

Coop/Inter/0 credits \$35

If a student who is not taking classes full-time chooses not to purchase a membership, they may use the facility by purchasing a guest pass for \$5/visit. Any non-member is allowed 3 guest passes per quarter. Should they change their mind and decide to purchase a membership during the same quarter, they can use their previously purchased guest passes towards their membership fee.

All campus recreation programs require a membership fee for their students. Usually, the fee is automatically deducted from their tuition when they are full-time like it is here at RIT. The services we provide would not exist otherwise.

I hope this explanation helps you understand the reason behind our fee structure. Should you have any more questions, please feel free to contact [jllped@rit.edu](mailto:jllped@rit.edu).

Jennifer Lewis  
Assistant Director, Recreation Services and Facility Operations

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**Date added:** 8/23/2005

**Q:** I thought that all courses had evaluations at the end -- but I just took an online course (which I'd like to comment on) that had NO online or physical evaluation. What's up?

**A:** I checked with the folks in Online Learning regarding your question. Here is their response:

Online Learning coordinates the quarterly final course evaluation process with the academic departments that are offering online courses. Not all academic department courses that are delivered online are evaluated every quarter, and of those that do (most do), some favor the paper evaluation process and others favor the online system. The academic department decides what online courses and faculty will be evaluated in a given quarter, provides the evaluation form, and decides what method the students will use to take the evaluation – paper or online.

Online Learning's responsibility is to coordinate the logistics related to the distribution and collection of the paper evaluations and the set-up and administration related to the online evaluation process.

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**Date added:** 9/08/2005

**Q:** Why isn't RIT recognize Labor Day as holiday? Is it a message of anti-union from RIT?

**A:** RIT isn't alone when it comes to going to class on Labor Day. Meanwhile, the New York State Education Department requires that classes meet a certain number of days annually. Our current RIT schedule meets exactly that minimum number of days as required by the state. Starting on a Monday allows RIT to stay in sequence in areas

that have lab time.

Finally, RIT has a long history of working with unions, i.e. construction projects.

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**Date added:** 9/09/2005

**Q:** I recently began the MBA in finance, however was originally considering the MS in finance. Since this degree has fewer credits it should have taken only three quarters to complete but I was told that was not possible. I wondered what the real explanation was for that and also if there are any plans for offering a Ph.D. in finance through the COB.

**A:** The MSF is designed to be completed by full-time students in four quarters, providing they enter in the fall or winter quarters.

Resources constraints do not allow such scheduling for students entering in the spring or summer quarters.

The MSF consists of 12 four credit courses. Full-time students are expected to complete 3 courses per quarter. Thus, four quarters are required to complete the MSF.

The 12 quarter hour load is in line with institute standards for full-time students. This load also reflects finance faculty out of class workload expectations and the student's need for balance in their life.

Additional information is available at:  
[http://www.ritmba.com/programs\\_msfinance.html](http://www.ritmba.com/programs_msfinance.html)

There are no plans for a Ph.D. in finance at RIT.

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**Date added:** 9/12/2005

**Q:** I was wondering why RIT only uses letter grades of A,B,C,... and nothing in-between, such as A+ or B+? It's discouraging to get an 89 and receive the same grade as someone who receives an 81. Is there a possibility that this will change?

**A:** The Provost/Chief Academic Officer weighed in on this. Here is his response:

This issue arises every ten years or so, the faculty examine it, and always end up voting not to make any change. This last consideration occurred about four years ago.

There is no consensus as to what the effect of adding plus and/or minus grades would have on grade inflation or on average GPAs.

The example you provided is often cited, but the counter example is that the student who gets a 92 and now receives an "A" grade could well end up with an "A-" grade, which would lower his/her GPA. Or, a person with a borderline 90 grade who now might end up with an "A" would likely end up with a B+ grade. Alternatives of using A,B,C, grades with the addition of plus grades only, (without minus grades) or another alternative of using A,B,C, grades with minus grades only (but no plus grades), also get explored, and at the end no proposed change has ever had a majority of support behind it, so the current system remains in effect.

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**Date added:** 9/15/2005

**Q:** Dr Simone,

Why is it that there is no merit based financial aid available to Caucasian students? It seems that everything is based on grades from high school and the work put in at RIT does not count. In the spring I attended the financial aid office for some scholarship applications and I got handed a stack of scholarship applications that were for the minorities. Could you please explain RIT's stance on affirmative action?

Thanks

**A:** Many RIT merit programs such as the Presidential Scholarships and Transfer Trustee Scholarships are awarded to students at the time of admission to RIT based on candidates meeting a variety of pre-established criteria.

RIT does offer scholarships designed specifically to recognize students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance while here at RIT. Those scholarships frequently have high GPA requirements for eligibility. The Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholarship is one example. Information about the Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholarship can be found at <http://www.rit.edu/~940www/DEV/nrsscholarship.html>

As a service to students, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships provides information about a variety of additional scholarships available both on campus and on the web through the use of free, reputable scholarship searches. Packets of information about a series of scholarships and leadership awards offered by Student Affairs were made available last spring. Information on the Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholarship is will be posted when it becomes available this winter.

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**Date added:** 10/05/2005

**Q:** Mr. President,

Why is it that RIT doesn't offer that many doctorate programs as compared to many other schools that were established after RIT? US News and World Reports often ranks RIT among colleges whose highest degree is Masters. In fact, I only know of 1 doctorate program in engineering which is the PhD in Microsystems Engineering. I believe more PhD programs will boost the reputation of RIT.

**A:** Great question and very timely.

First, you have to understand the history of RIT. Although we were founded in 1829, RIT did not begin granting degrees until the 1950s.

We developed the world's first doctoral program in Imaging Science in 1988. In 2002, we added our second Ph.D. - Microsystems.

This year, RIT approved a Ph.D. in Computing and Information Sciences. This program will be a complementary and synergistic partner with our two existing Ph.D. programs in Imaging Science and Microsystems.

We are now in the review process of examining Ph.D. programs in Color Science, Sustainability and Astrophysics.

In U.S. News and World Report, RIT is highly ranked in what is known as the "Master's Category."

RIT has a history of being a teaching college, with applied research. I believe in the combination of Teaching, Scholarship and Practice. This approach will lead to a curriculum that will be balanced 1) between theory and application 2) between experienced-based and scholarly-based learning.

What I am suggesting now is that we do not neglect RIT's beginnings, which were rooted in practice, with faculty who came to teaching with many years of solid professional experience – in business, printing, the arts, and technology. I am proposing a “balanced” faculty portfolio, which includes expertise in, and commitment to teaching, scholarship, and practice ... all three dimensions integrated in cohesive fashion, with each dimension drawing strength from the other two. This model will build on our history and tradition in teaching and practice, while synergistically incorporating our more recent focus on scholarship. It should help us prepare our students for careers and life better than ever before.

To learn more, you may read my paper regarding Teaching, Scholarship and Practice

found on my main website: [www.rit.edu/president](http://www.rit.edu/president). Here, you will also find RIT's Strategic Plan, 2005-2015.

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**Date added:** 10/05/2005

**Q:** Is it possible for RIT to produce a final exam schedule earlier than say the 6th week of classes (because its already 5th week and the schedules a no show)? For students who have to travel home on the holidays arranging, and booking flights in advance is impossible. To make matters worse the rates increase dramatically by the time we actually do figure out when we can leave. Is there anything RIT can do to speed up the process? Thanks!

**A:** This is a very timely question. Several significant reforms are being undertaken within the Registrar's Office, including having final exam schedules posted before the beginning of the quarter.

There are, however, some more pressing needs to be undertaken first, so it may be a couple more quarters before this occurs.

Students can, of course, ask the professor at the beginning of the quarter what activity for that course will occur during the eleventh week. But if it is to be an exam, you won't know the day or time until the exam schedule is produced. We will continue to look into this issue.

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**Date added:** 10/28/2005

**Q:** Why is the registration system so bad? Not only the registration system, but the lack of spots in classes is quite disconcerting. As a freshman, I cannot register until 6am tomorrow (the academic advisors refer to oversleeping and not being able to register for necessary classes as sleeping until 6:30am). With the credits I received from APs and community college, I need to pass less than half my classes this quarter to receive second year status. However I must still register with freshmen. This means that the math class I must take (Discrete Math 2) has only 1 class time open and 2 spots available in this class since even the sophomores who do not necessarily have this class as a priority get in before me. I am positive that the school has told more than 2 freshmen that Discrete Math 2 is a class which they absolutely must take next quarter (as this is what they told me and at least one other freshmen that I am friends with). Why do you not make more available spots for classes which are mandatory? Why

not have a better registering system so that hundreds of people do not need to wake up at 6am just so they can try to register for the same spots?

A: We turned to the Registrar's Office for a detailed response. Here is their reply:

Your comments, observations, and questions are very good ones and are certainly not going unrecognized by the Institute. Without delving into too much 'technical detail', most of the issues and frustration you have with the Student Information System (SIS) and RIT's registration systems are a consequence of the technologies available at the time these systems were developed and of the processing schedules necessary to support the ongoing operations of the Institute as a whole.

With that said, over the past year we have gathered feedback from literally thousands of students on a wide-variety of topics that have included class registration and the Student Information System with many of their comments being similar to yours. In response to this feedback, a concerted effort by Information & Technology Services (ITS), all the colleges, administrative divisions, and the Institute as a whole was initiated this past year to begin the process of revamping our student systems. While not everything can be accomplished as quickly as we would like, our plans include among a wide array of other initiatives:

1. Completely revamping the look, feel, and functionality of SIS to make it a comprehensive 'one-stop self-serve' site where students go to accomplish the majority of tasks and transactions they need to while at RIT with 24-hour availability.
2. A complete replacement of the current class registration systems with a feature-rich Academic Planning and Registration system inclusive of academic planning and schedule modeling tools to significantly improve your academic planning process while greatly reducing the time, frustration and anxiety associated with quarterly registration. (We certainly intend on fixing the problem experienced with knowing how many and which type of spaces are available for a course and we will have a much better way to monitor and manage course restrictions.)
3. Enhanced ways to manage course demand and unmet course needs.

While this is just a brief answer addressing your comments in particular, RIT is committed to supporting the needs of our students as evidenced by the myriad of initiatives underway to improve student success and satisfaction across the Institute. Thank you for your time and your comments, they are very much appreciated and necessary for us to realize our goals.

**Q:** It's always a surprise to find out when my exam schedule is. I know there must be a reason why exams aren't held in normal class times, but I can't figure out why that is. Why does my Tuesday Thursday class have a Wednesday exam? It seems like it could present a problem for some people in the class. Thanks for your time.

**A:** Certainly a timely question. Exams are held in the same time slots for evening classes as well as Saturday classes. But for the regular Monday--Friday day classes, a special exam schedule is created for two reasons:

- 1) To have a common exam time for courses with numerous sections which may want to use a common exam for all the sections.
- 2) To make sure that classes that meet several times a week for one hour can still have an uninterrupted two hour exam schedule.

Earlier this year, the Provost proposed that we make the eleventh week schedule identical to the first ten weeks, but the deans discussed this prospect with their department chairs in each college and they came back nearly unanimous in keeping the current model for the above reasons.

Good luck on finals and have a great break!

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**Date added:** 12/07/2005

**Q:** I heard you hate building 7 and you also think art professors should be paid less. Is this true?

**A:** I don't know where you get your information, but it is absolutely and totally incorrect. You asked if "I hate Building 7"? Nothing could be further from the truth. I often brag about the programs, faculty, and accomplishments that are undertaken in our College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (CIAS), which is housed in Building 7. As you may know, alumni of the College have earned 10 Pulitzer Prizes over the years and the College is home to the nationally number-one-ranked School of Photographic Arts and Sciences in the country, the often-cited number one School of Print Media, a nationally top-ranked program in Film and Animation, the unique and widely acclaimed School for American Crafts, nationally recognized programs in Fine Arts and Interior Design, a unique program in Medical Illustration, and the kudos go on and on.

Every year, faculty and, especially, students win nationally competitive awards. CIAS is one of our two largest colleges in terms of student enrollment.

Thus, you can see I am very proud of Building 7. Thank you for bringing this rumor to my attention so I can correct the record.

With regard to your second question, you asked if I think art professors should be paid less. Let us be very clear on this point. I do not think they should be paid less in terms of their capability, talent, and contribution. However, we live in a market-driven economy. Prices of goods and services, as well as salaries and wages, are determined by the economic laws of demand and supply. As it turns out, on average, professors of art in universities across the country are paid lower salaries than professors of engineering, computer science, business, law, and medicine. According to the law of demand and supply, they "should" be paid less. As an economist, I am intimately acquainted with the various laws of economics, including the fundamental law of demand and supply, and my comments about the salaries of our professors reflect that.

Having said that, it doesn't mean that outstanding people, in whatever field, should not command outstanding salaries. There are professors in Building 7 who earn significantly higher salaries than professors in some of the other "higher demand/lower supply" colleges because they have more talent, experience, and achievements. Some of our CIAS professors - the very best ones - make significantly more than the average engineer. That is the real world in which we all live and work.

I hope I have clarified these two areas of interest for you.

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**Date added:** 12/15/2005

**Q:** Recently I heard rumors about talk of stopping the coop program. I was just wondering if there is any validity to this. If there is, I would like to join the campaign to keep the coop.

**A:** Thank you for bringing this rumor to my attention. Nothing could be further from the truth. Cooperative education is a major component of the RIT experience. It is what differentiates us from many other colleges and universities. It's our tradition; it's our future.

One of the goals of our new Strategic Plan (2005-2015) states: "RIT will broaden its cooperative education and experiential learning options to place students in the most desirable learning environments available through any university."

I urge you to review RIT's Strategic Plan, which can be found at my main website: [www.rit.edu/president](http://www.rit.edu/president).

Thanks again for bringing this to my attention.

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**Date added:** 12/19/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

I was wondering if there has been any progress towards a Ph.D program in astrophysics?

**A:** The prospect of a Ph.D. program in some aspect of astrophysics is very much a reality. The Physics and Imaging Science Departments are actively engaged in discussions of what shape such a program might take to be unique to RIT's strengths, and a proposal will likely be forthcoming before the end of this current academic year.

It would probably take another year for all the necessary approvals to be obtained at the RIT and New York State levels.

Stay tuned.

## **ALUMNI**

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None.

## **ATHLETICS**

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**Date added:** 8/03/2005

**Q:** Dr. Simone,

Currently, the schedule for Brick City Festival shows that RIT Hockey's first ever Division I game is scheduled for 7PM Saturday, while Jon Stewart is scheduled to perform at 8PM Saturday.

Is this correct? It would be a shame if arguably the biggest two events at RIT this fall were occurring at the same time. Perhaps the hockey game can be moved up to 5 or 5:30PM?

**A:** Our goal is to provide as many options as we can to people visiting RIT during Brick City Homecoming. We will have thousands of parents and alumni on campus.

Creating an athletic schedule with another university and scheduling a superstar like Jon Stewart is never easy.

That being said, the Oct. 8 game against Waterloo is considered an exhibition. While this will be the first time the team takes the ice, the first home game that counts on the record is against Canisius on Oct. 22.

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**Date added:** 8/18/2005

**Q:** Dr. Simone,

I was up in Rochester this week, and my friend and I wanted to go to the pool since it was like 95 degrees out. When we got to the gym our cards were denied access, and they said it was because we weren't taking classes for the summer quarter, and we would need to either purchase a guest pass for \$5 or a membership for \$60. I just think that it's ridiculous that just because we're not taking classes at RIT for the summer that we cannot use the gym facilities, and we have to pay for it. We just got this multi-million dollar facility, but don't have access to it, because we're not taking classes for the current quarter, I've never heard of such a thing. As a student I feel that even though we're not taking classes for the quarter that we pay enough money throughout the year to have year round to the gym facilities.

**A:** I checked with some folks at the Student Life Center on this. Here is the explanation:

The membership fee for students who are not taking classes or are taking zero credit hours during any particular quarter is \$35. The \$60 fee is actually the alumni rate per quarter.

When students are enrolled full-time during a quarter, a percentage of their tuition automatically goes towards their membership fee at the Student Life Center, Gordon Field House and Activities Center. When they are not taking classes or if they are taking zero credit hours, the percentage that we receive towards their membership is either less or nothing. Therefore, we have a fee structure in place in order to make it fair for all students who use this facility:

Students with 6-11 credits \$20  
Students with 1-5 credits \$30  
Coop/Inter/0 credits \$35

If a student who is not taking classes full-time chooses not to purchase a membership, they may use the facility by purchasing a guest pass for \$5/visit. Any non-member is allowed 3 guest passes per quarter. Should they change their mind and decide to purchase a membership during the same quarter, they can use their previously

purchased guest passes towards their membership fee.

All campus recreation programs require a membership fee for their students. Usually, the fee is automatically deducted from their tuition when they are full-time like it is here at RIT. The services we provide would not exist otherwise.

I hope this explanation helps you understand the reason behind our fee structure. Should you have any more questions, please feel free to contact [jllped@rit.edu](mailto:jllped@rit.edu).

Jennifer Lewis  
Assistant Director, Recreation Services and Facility Operations

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**Date added:** 8/24/2005

**Q:** Why not create a new football team for this year?

**A:** RIT's football program ended in 1978. While some students have asked about football, Student Government leaders have said (after polling fellow students) that the real focus should be moving our hockey program to the Division I level.

This year Tiger hockey goes Division I, joining the Atlantic Hockey Association.

Football is a very expensive proposition, tens of millions at the Division I level, for example.

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**Date added:** 8/25/2005

**Q:** Hey when I went on a college visit about 9 months ago, before I applied for admission, there was talk about R.I.T. building a 9 hole golf course some time in the near future on campus. Was this just hype, and if so where's the nearest course to campus. –Thanks

**A:** We have no plans to build a 9-hole course at RIT. But you should know that Rochester is considered a major golf town. Rochester is home to the LPGA every year, and legendary Oak Hill has been home to the U.S. Open, PGA and Ryder Cup.

There are dozen of public and semi-private courses in the area. Here are just a few within 20 minutes drive: Genesee Valley Park, Eagle Vale, Lima, Shadow Lake, Twin Hills, Victor Hills.



To find out more, I suggest you contact someone in The Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation: 475-2614

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**Date added:** 9/08/2005

**Q:** I'm an incoming freshman and I was wondering what was going on with RIT and golf. I'm an avid player that wouldn't mind joining a team if one existed. I read online in a few forums/sites that efforts are being made. Are there?

**A:** RIT has 24 varsity sports right now; 12 men, 12 women. We do not have plans to create a varsity golf team.

However, we do offer golf instruction. And there is nothing from stopping students from forming a golf league, as Rochester is home to many great courses. For further direction or more information, I suggest you contact someone in The Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation: 475-2614

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**Date added:** 9/24/2005

**Q:** I'm a first year student and I know RIT hockey is going Division I this year as well as being Division III champions in water polo. Does RIT have any plans to bring our whole athletic department to Division I?

From what I've heard from people that have been around the country visiting colleges, RIT's athletic training facilities rival the University of Miami's for one of the best around, so obviously we have the resources to have competitive Division I teams.

**A:** RIT is committed to going to Division I in hockey. We have our first game (exhibition) on Oct. 8. The home opener is at 7 pm, Oct. 22 against Canisius.

At this point, we have no other plans to move our other 23 sports to the Division I level. The men's hockey team will be joining the Atlantic Hockey Association in Division I. If such a conference were to become available for women's hockey, we would strongly consider this.

However, moving all of our other sports to Division I is a very expensive and complex proposition.

We strongly believe that sports must not taint the academic integrity of an institution.

Our Student-Athletes at RIT have a higher GPA than the overall student body. And they major in areas throughout the university.

We decided to go D-I in hockey because this particular conference has other institutions that align with our academic standards: Air Force, Army, Holy Cross, etc.

We've taken a big step this year by going D-I in hockey, and we are proud of our overall Athletic Department.

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**Date added:** 10/05/2005

**Q:** I heard that the turf field was put in here at RIT for students and clubs to have a place to play sports without wrecking the varsity fields. So how come when students want to reserve the turf field, Varsity sports always get priority? Why would RIT build another field? That means non-varsity students have even less options for field use.

**A:** The turf field is a multi-purpose field for a variety of users. It was built as a shared field to accommodate everyone including the varsity teams, Intramurals, clubs, special events, and recreation use.

To say that the varsity teams always get priority is not an accurate statement. Varsity contests get priority, but not practices. The turf field in general is scheduled in blocks: Mon-Fri 7am - 3:30pm open for general use by anyone by reservation (except for a few wellness class times); 3:30-7:30 is varsity time. 7:30-10:45pm is intramural and recreation time. Sat. & Sun: 8am-noon is varsity time and noon - 10:45pm is intramural/recreation time.

We do make exceptions to these time blocks to accommodate varsity contests, club tournaments, special events like Brick City reunion games, etc. Intramurals uses the turf Sun. noon - 10:45pm, Mon 7:30- 10:45pm, Tues. 7:30pm - 10:45pm.

Overall the reservation coordinator in the Wellness & Recreation Office works diligently to keep groups with their time blocks and trades off times when the block times don't work.

The Wellness and Recreation Office would be happy to sit down with you to try and accommodate your reservation needs as long as it does not conflict with our reservation policies/procedures. The office can be reached at 475-2620.

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**Date added:** 10/05/2005

**Q:** Why doesn't RIT have a football team?

**A:** RIT's football program ended in 1978. While some students have asked about football, Student Government leaders have said (after polling fellow students) that the real focus should be moving our hockey program to the Division I level.

This year Tiger hockey goes Division I, joining the Atlantic Hockey Association.

Football is a very expensive proposition, tens of millions of dollars at the Division I level, for example.

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**Date added:** 10/06/2005

**Q:** Since coming to RIT, I have found that RIT is interested in making the student population more equal, 50-50, males to females. If you are going to bring in more girls to RIT, are the same athletic opportunities going to be available to the females as the males? As it stands, there are far more opportunities for the male population to get involved with sports. Girls on the other hand, either have to play on the varsity sport or pick from the few club sports offered. Are you going to form more club sports and intramurals more appealing to the female population?

**A:** RIT is fortunate to be able to offer 24 varsity sports. There are an equal amount for women (12) and men (12). RIT is one of the highest rated schools for athletic opportunities for women by offering more than is required by law. Our participation rates of women has been steadily climbing.

Having said this, we still have challenges in getting women involved in intramurals. We have worked hard at this. There is progress. But, it is slow. On the other hand, women participate in recreation endeavors (using the SLC Fitness Center) at seemingly high rates. Furthermore, we have crafted wellness classes specifically for women (aerobics, self defense for women, etc.) that are very popular.

There is room for improvement. Yet, we are ahead of many other schools in this regard.

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**Date added:** 10/06/2005

**Q:** Will RIT be adding a Division I women's sport or change an existing sport from Division III to Division I in order to avoid violating Title IX?

**A:** There are plans to move a women's sport to Division I. Women's Ice Hockey has been talked about as a possible sport to elevate. We are interested in moving in this direction in the near future.

One big issue is conference alignment. We would need to identify an appropriate association. We are very pleased to be able to offer so many athletic opportunities for women (12 sports). This is far more than we are required by law.

Our reason for doing this is to maximize opportunities for women to participate in competitive sport as well as making RIT a more attractive university of choice for prospective female students.

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**Date added:** 11/16/2005

**Q:** I was wondering what you think about the Corner Crew at hockey games. I think it is a good idea to have a group of people showing their support for the team and RIT, but many of their cheers are inappropriate. Some of the cheers include vulgar language and even though this is in a college environment, there are still many kids present at the games. Some of their cheers also show bad sportsmanship to the visiting team.

**A:** We heard about this near the end of a recent game. Members of our Athletic Department went to the Corner Crew area and spoke with the key people about what went on. Some of the Corner Crew members have e-mailed us expressing remorse about the incidents.

Under the direction of Lou Spiotti, Director of Athletics and Recreation, our staff began to lay out a response plan to prevent this kind of behavior from occurring in the future.

We are extremely displeased with what took place. These games should be events where families can feel comfortable about attending. In fact, we are relying upon the support of the community to help make this new venture into Division I a big success.

For starters, we are planning a meeting with the Corner Crew. Furthermore, we are laying out some specific expectations and consequences relative to behavior and language. We are going to step up security measures and the training of staff to deal with misbehavior.

We want these events to be fun and community building. But, they also need to meet the norms for decent and civil behavior.

We truly want there to be school spirit at RIT hockey games. But it needs to be conducted the right way. We want to display sportsmanship and hospitality throughout the arena....The Tiger way!

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**Date added:** 11/16/2005

**Q:** Athletics for many colleges and universities contribute significantly to the social fabric of campus communities. Why isn't there a "quick link" to RIT's athletic programs? Does RIT offer scholarships to student-athletes?

**A:** Right now, our athletics site does have a quick link off the homepage, which can be found in the lower left-hand area, under "About RIT." There is also a link under the "News" and "Student Life" tabs, although this would be a secondary page.

We are always examining new ways to improve our Web sites. So I will pass the idea of making athletics more prominent on the homepage along for consideration. Meanwhile, the direct address for RIT sports coverage is: [www.ritathletics.com](http://www.ritathletics.com) We redesigned the site this summer.

Regarding your second question, since RIT is an NCAA Division III program we are not allowed to give athletic scholarships. Our student-athletes, of course, may qualify for academic awards and other forms of financial aid that is afforded to the student body, in general.

In terms of going Division I hockey, we also can not grant scholarships because of our overall D3 status (We have 24 sports in total). We feel we will still be competitive and this year's hockey team is proving that this season.

PS: After further review, we added an Athletics link to the MyRIT portal. Thanks for keeping us on our toes.

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**Date added:** 11/16/2005

**Q:** President Simone,

I've heard a rumor that RIT may be looking to add a D3 football team to the sports program. Is there any truth to that?

-Kevin

**A:** It is fair to say that we have been reviewing all of our athletic programs in the past year.

Right now, the focus is on the successful transition into Division I hockey.

In terms of football, the topic came up two years ago as a student initiated issue. Student Government lead the way with surveys and other communication. Along with

this, some research and fact finding was done.

Ultimately, the decision to move our men's ice hockey program to NCAA Division I became the priority and football was placed on the back burner.

We are still reviewing many aspects of our athletic program. But football is less of a priority as we focus on hockey and our 23 other varsity sports.

## **CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION**

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**Date added:** 8/23/2005

**Q:** I was wondering how the renovation of Shumway Commons was coming along and would like to know if it will be on schedule for opening in September.

**A:** This is a timely question. Shumway is on schedule to be open at or before the start of classes.

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**Date added:** 8/23/2005

**Q:** When will the Civil Engineering tech Department join the rest of the CAST departments and no longer be in the basement of building 7? It's pretty hard to get the gravel and concrete used in the soils lab down all of those stairs even w/ the elevator. And lugging surveying equipment from the basement to the various locations around campus usually going up two flights of stairs just doesn't seem right. And for a major that spends so much time outdoors to spend all day in a place with no windows is a little depressing. And its very hard for anyone to find our office around campus. :( so Mr. Simone when will we move out of our underground warren in building 7??

**A:** Thanks for the inquiry. The plan is to hire an architect this September, break ground in Fall 2006, and have the new ET Building construction completed by Fall 2007.

At that time, the Civil Engineering Technology, Environmental Management and Safety Technology Department, will be housed in it.

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**Date added:** 10/11/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

Several residents of Ellingson Hall, as well as myself, were wondering how long the

construction outside of our building will last? It is very loud and seems to start quite early in the morning. Thanks for any info you have.

**A:** You are referring to the new NTID Student Development Center, which will be a 20,000 square foot, two-level addition connecting the Johnson Building with the Shumway Building, and will include some remodeling in each existing structure.

The new building will house NTID services, which focus on student needs, student clubs and activities, and will also house a large flexible meeting space. The Quad will be reconfigured upon completion of the construction, which is estimated to be in August, 2006.

While the contractors are working to enclose the new addition, they are not starting work until 8 AM; once they "go inside" and the work is quieter, they will start at 7 AM.

## **CAMPUS SAFETY**

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**Date added:** 7/09/2005

**Q:** I have heard that RIT has a secret counter-terrorism unit in the wake of 9/11, a separate division of Campus Safety. Is this true? Does RIT have any counter-terrorism measures in place?

**A:** There are no "secret" units in Campus Safety. In terms of counter-terrorism, RIT works with local law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, to coordinate counter-terrorism and Homeland Security efforts.

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**Date added:** 7/27/2005

**Q:** Hi,

I have a question about the campus safety office.

I had my car broken into last winter and \$2,000 worth of stuff was taken from it. I might also add that I was parked in C lot very close to the campus safety office. I did some research through the campus safety office and was amazed at the number of break-ins reported on campus. The people at campus safety said that they do have a camera in the parking lot but it does not cover much of the lot. They also said that whoever was breaking in to the cars would most likely never get caught.

My question is this. Why doesn't RIT have a better system of video cameras throughout the parking lots? Students on campus must have hundreds of thousands of dollars stolen from them each year. Rochester is known for having a high crime rate, why can't RIT be a safe haven for drivers. Please help! I am afraid to bring my car anywhere near RIT. Thank you for your time.

**A:** Obviously we have had challenges with vehicular larcenies the past couple of years. Our numbers, though, have decreased from a total of 129 reported incidents (2003-2004) to 95 incidents (2004-2005).

Of the 129 incidents reported to us in 2003-2004, 13 were the result of unsecured vehicles with the removal of property from within the vehicle (car stereos, personal items, stereo equipment, etc). In 2004-2005, only 2 were the result of a vehicle being unsecured or an unknown method of entry.

Whenever an incident is reported to Campus Safety, we will immediately canvass the area for other signs of criminal activity, interview witnesses, and distribute Crime Alert postings with specific details about the crime, date, time, and location. We also utilize our data from Crime Analysis to formulate directed patrols, plain clothes details, and may hire contract security if it pertains.

We network with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office as well as other security officials (Marketplace, etc.) in furtherance of efforts to proactively respond to these challenges as well as identify offenders (other colleges as well, etc.).

One of our challenges is the lack of surveillance equipment in the parking lots to assist with the investigation. Although this will not stop any crime in progress, it may give us more information as to who is committing the crime, vehicles that may be used in the crime, physical descriptions, etc. We utilize all of our campus resources while investigating these types of incidents and encourage faculty, staff, and students to report any suspicious activity immediately.

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**Date added:** 9/24/2005

**Q:** While everyone is contemplating new places for cool webcams, cars are being burglarized... Isn't there a cheap, yet effective way to monitor our parking lots... that we already have cleanly installed and tested on campus? Couldn't the relatively inexpensive cameras simply monitor/record activity in our parking lots... For how much money we're shelling out, I would expect our parking lots to be a little less prone to burglarizing and attempted auto stripping than the streets of Compton, CA.

**A:** For this question, we checked with Mr. Chris Denninger, associate director of Campus Safety.



Here is his response:

Thank you for sharing your concern with me regarding parking lot security. We couldn't agree more that security cameras and webcams are excellent tools to monitor behavior and investigate crime. The university demonstrates exactly what you are implying in your letter. RIT continually provides financial resources to purchase and install security equipment. For example, this past year, capital funds were used to purchase a new card access system in the residence halls; to enhance exterior lighting in five areas on campus, and install new security alarm systems, cards readers, and security cameras inside other facilities. There are additional capital projects in the works to install new security cameras at other campus locations.

In the meantime, Campus Safety uses existing staff and equipment to deter crime and apprehend undesirable people on campus. The men and women at Campus Safety take security very seriously and they take it personally when incidents occur on campus affecting our students and their property. You should also know an RIT community member was recently apprehended by RIT personnel in parking lot B, and arrested by the Sheriff's Office for vandalizing a student's parked car. The person is also being held accountable in RIT's Student Conduct Office.

I remain available to discuss further at your convenience and I can be reached at 475-6620 and at [cgdcps@rit.edu](mailto:cgdcps@rit.edu).

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**Date added:** 9/29/2005

**Q:** I was walking down the quarter mile today and I saw something that baffled my mind. I saw a person get a ticket while riding his bike. I was wondering why he received the ticket for riding his bike on the quarter mile?

**A:** RIT does have a biking policy. It's a walk-only zone from the Sun Dial to the Infinity Quad on the Quarter Mile. This is to protect the safety of pedestrians from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

RIT policy can be found on page 20 of the 2005-06 Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Or at [www.rit.edu/~301www/rr\\_conveyances.php3](http://www.rit.edu/~301www/rr_conveyances.php3)

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**Date added:** 10/20/2005

**Q:** I lost my cell phone somewhere on campus about a week ago, and in searching unsuccessfully I have come upon somewhat of a problem in the system. Practically every building on campus keeps a lost and found, making it extremely difficult to track anything down if you aren't precisely sure where you lost it. I know Campus Safety keeps a sort of "central" lost and found, but they only receive a small portion of the items. Could there be some sort of push for using Campus Safety as a campus-wide central lost and found, maybe to send everything there if it isn't claimed within a certain time span where it was turned in? I think that could make recovering a lost item on campus a lot simpler.

**A:** Thanks for the note and suggestion.

Campus Safety currently maintains a central lost and found. When they hear about found property in other areas on campus, they contact the person, pick up the property the same day. And when possible, they contact the owner.

Many people contact Campus Safety during the week looking for their property and, in many instances, Campus Safety is able to re-unite them with their lost jewelry, textbooks, keys, and wallets.

Wallace Library, Student Life Center, and many colleges contact Campus Safety when they take-in lost property and Campus Safety contacts the owners when it's traceable.

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**Date added:** 11/28/2005

**Q:** Over the past few weeks, I've noticed more and more vehicles speeding on the back side of campus (between the stop sign in front of Gracie's to the stop sign in front of S lot). Trying to use the crosswalks to get to UC from the library or S-Lot is becoming increasingly more dangerous - as is trying to walk/jog along this area. Is it possible for Campus Safety to increase their efforts in policing that area for speeders?

On a second note -- I'd like to commend RIT vehicles - specifically Facilities Management - for their adherence to speed limits and pedestrian traffic. They are one of the few vehicles on campus that actually yield to pedestrians in cross walks and maintain the speed limit while driving.

**A:** Thank you for sharing your concerns with me related to traffic safety on Andrews Memorial Drive.

Campus Safety staff regularly enforces speeding and stop sign violations on campus, and they are advised of your concerns in the area near University Commons and

parking lot S. We genuinely appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns, and to recognize FMS employees for driving safely on campus.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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**Date added:** 7/27/2005

**Q:** Why is it that we have international flags up in the Union, one representing at least one student on campus, but there isn't a Puerto Rico flag? Puerto Rico is not international and it's not a star in the American flag. Puerto Rico is a commonwealth and I think it deserves to be up there.

**A:** Excellent question. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

I have consulted with the Center for Campus Life and we will include the flag for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico when we install the new flags later this fall.

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**Date added:** 8/23/2005

**Q:** Why are the tour guides so stupid. I sit in the GCCIS much of my time on Thursdays and Fridays when not in class and sure enough a few tours will go by. Most if not everyone of the tour guides usually has no clue what the rooms they are describing are and what is really going on. For example, I was in the [Freshman] Mentoring Lab yesterday and the tour guide called it the graduate lab because, "it has couches". Instead of looking at the name written on the glass in 12inch letters that said "Mentoring Lab" or the white board that said the lab is "for freshman" and is run by "upperclassmen". The fact that it is the SE Mentoring lab would clue most people in the college and in a few others that it can't be a grad lab since there is no grad program yet for that department.

I can understand that some information can be wrong since they don't attend that particular college but this is getting more and more ridiculous every time. These "guides" and I use that term loosely should

- 1) Look at the webpage for each department to find out what they do
- 2) Look at the what each room does
- 3) Ask what each room does from the people in it
- 4) Admissions should ask each department that the tours go through, "what they want to be shown and how it is described if it is to be said."

**A:** Dear Concerned Student,

I understand your frustration regarding the recent observations that you made during the campus tours, specifically those walking through the Software Engineering department in the Golisano building. I am also glad that you brought them to our attention. The Undergraduate Admissions Office has also brought your concerns to the student ambassador/tour guide staff and will be working more diligently to make sure these inaccuracies do not occur again.

As you may be aware, it is difficult training a 60 member tour guide staff (of which only 5 students are from GCCIS and none of which are in the SE program) on the workings of many of the lab areas. Due to this, admissions is working with Fernando Naveda (and other Golisano department members) on more appropriate descriptions. Student ambassadors shadow a number of tours before they lead a tour on their own and we encourage students to add personal experiences and anecdotes, but to never give inaccurate information. Their training process is ongoing and the information you shared will aid in this process.

Most of the tour guides do a great job for RIT and we receive positive feedback from our visitors about their tour experience but thank you for sharing your observations. Many of the suggestions that you mentioned will be used in the revision of the campus tour program.

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**Date added:** 9/15/2005

**Q:** There are numerous colleges and universities that have a siblings weekend. This weekend is organized around attracting younger siblings to come to the college of the older one's choice. Why do we not have something along these lines?

**A:** RIT offers sibling activities at the Brick City Homecoming each year as a means for developing their interest. The Admissions Office participates in these events meeting with siblings and others with various enrollment interests in the Institute. Additionally, special activities are planned at the RIT New Student Orientation Program each year that are designed to engage and interest siblings in RIT.

Meanwhile, RIT offers about 15 different Admission undergraduate campus programs for prospective students throughout the year. In addition we are open weekdays and Saturday mornings for individual appointments and group interviews.

Grad and part-time enrollment services has extended hours into the evening Mon. through Thursday.

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**Date added:** 9/24/2005

**Q:** President Simone:

Everyone knows that with the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, aid is needed for what is probably the largest natural disaster our country has seen in a long time. I know that some companies have programs where they match the donations of their employees. Does RIT have something like this / can we have something, even if the Institute does not match donations, where all students can donate, and then have the donations be given from "RIT as a whole"?

Plus, I think we should have another blood donation, even if we have to schedule it sooner than we normally do.

I think that while private donations are great, it would really look good for the collage if we could come together and give as a group.

**A:** Thanks for your question, and sorry for a late response. But this question is still timely, given what is still happening in the region with Hurricane Rita.

Below is what RIT has done so far. Please contact Student Government or the RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center for more information.

- RIT has enrolled about a dozen students. Fall quarter tuition has been waived for full-time undergraduate students. RIT will help affected students maintain their progress towards completing their college degrees at their college in the Gulf region.
- RIT has also joined efforts with other universities and will work through the coordination and support of the Sloan Consortium offering displaced students the opportunity to take online classes at no cost.
- “A Call to Community” was held Sept. 12. All members of the RIT community were invited to a special service of remembrance, held in the Allen Chapel, RIT Interfaith Center.
- Donation cans were designated for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund at each RIT Food Service location.
- The RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center Office sold water; all monies from the water sale will benefit the victims of the hurricane.
- Reaching Out for Community Service Day (ROCS) was held September 24. The RIT Leadership Institute, Community Service Center and Government and Community Relations Offices are coordinating a “needed items” collection drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina. A list of items that are needed will be posted on the ROCS web site (<http://www.rit.edu/~940www/rocs/>).

- Saturday, October 1: the RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center will sell bottled water at the Aventura Hispanic Heritage month event; all monies from the water sale will benefit the Katrina Hurricane victims.
  - The Co-Op and Career Services Office is offering resume writing and job placement assistance not only to our alumni, but to RIT's current parents displaced by Katrina.
  - The Division of Development and Alumni Relations has e-blasted over 25,000 alumni appraising them of RIT's efforts in the last week, provided a forum for alumni looking to volunteer in any capacity, and became a centralized location for alumni sharing their survivor stories. In addition, the division has suspended fundraising efforts in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Alumni Relations office also plans to begin initiating community service programs in many of the RIT chapters across the country later this fall.
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**Date added:** 11/09/2005

**Q:** Good Morning,

Why wasn't the American Flag lowered to half staff Wednesday to show respect to Rosa Parks?

**A:** Good question and sorry for the delayed response.

The truth is that we let this slip by us. We should have thought of it.

After the fact, we learned that Governor George Pataki ordered that all flags at state facilities be flown at half-staff from sunup to sundown in honor of Rosa Parks. At the national level, flags at federal offices were ordered to be lowered.

Although we are a private institution, we should have lowered it for this historic national figure. Our apologies to anyone who may have been offended by this oversight.

## **FINANCES**

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**Date added:** 7/15/2005

**Q:** In speaking with staff at Housing Operations, I learned that housing (along with food service) is one of many "auxiliary" operations that help support colleges that do not bring in enough tuition to cover their expenses. If this is true, which colleges are these, and why aren't they held accountable for their poor performance?

Another student used this forum to ask why RIT chooses to offset these costs by ridiculously overcharging for just about everything on campus, instead of just raising tuition itself, which is more fair to everyone. You avoided his question. Please answer it.

**A:** Within the university system, not all academic departments cover their full expense. Consider the enormous equipment necessary to train students in microelectronics compared with liberal arts majors who are more driven by desktop technology and access to our on-line library resources. We charge both students the same amount of tuition.

It is just the fact that tuition dependent universities, such as RIT, need to subsidize academic programs which do not cover their full expense from all available surplus-generating resources. This includes other academic units and business units such as food service, housing, bookstore, printing, and others. Similarly, we support student athletic programs. Clearly, we have sports which do not generate enough revenue to pay for the annual expense of the sport.

Within the entire university economic system, we balance the pluses and minuses.

It is not the case that our non-academic cost structure is seriously overpriced. Our rent levels are compared annually against the surrounding marketplace.

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**Date added:** 8/18/2005

**Q:** Why doesn't the book store take American Express or Discover credit cards?

**A:** American Express and Discover have a much higher discount fee and expense fees associated with the sale of items through the bookstore than Master Card and Visa.

The bookstore is charged a percent of sale as well as a per transaction fee every time a credit card is used to pay for merchandise. This directly effects our bottom line and ultimately how much surplus revenue is given back to RIT. (The bookstore is institutionally owned thus all surplus funds generated go back to RIT).

We could certainly look into accepting American Express and /or Discover, but this could ultimately mean increasing the price the student pays for an item to cover this additional expense.

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**Date added:** 8/25/2005

**Q:** Dr. Simone,

I am disturbed by the new billing procedures at RIT. Where did the idea of e-billing come from? There are still many people who don't do business via the internet and I am one of those people. Secondly, without getting a paper copy of the bill mailed to me or to those who are paying the bill how will financial holds not be placed on my accounts? Has anyone really thought about the problems this will create? This is a Technical Institute and your own professors tell us in classes that there is no such thing as a secure web connection, so how can you assure me that this is a safe way of doing business? Finally, it is your responsibility to send me my bill not me to go fishing for it on some complicated web page that people don't understand. Has RIT forgotten that RIT works for me not I work for them?

**A:** I turned to the Office of Financial Services to answer this directly. Here is their response:

The Office of Student Financial Services has implemented eBilling for all students. Students can grant billing access to 3 additional parties. Parents can also have access to Food/Tigerbuck balances. This convenient, secure service provides up to date balance information. We are working with students and parents throughout this conversion.

As far as security is concerned, the new eBilling system is as secure as it gets. We utilized 128-bit SSL encryption of all data being sent through the internet and all sensitive information is encrypted within our databases. Sensitive information is only held in the database for as long as absolutely necessary and access to that database is secured through locked-down firewalls.

The Student Financial Services Office is more than happy to work with you on your individual situation.

Mary Beth Nally  
Director of Student Financial Services  
25 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623  
(585) 475-5305  
<http://finweb.rit.edu/sfs/>

**FOOD**

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**Date added:** 7/25/2005

**Q:** Would it be possible to have a website that offers the health information for all food offered on campus. Trying to avoid the college weight gain is hard to do when you don't know what you are really eating.

**A:** I checked with Food Service the Student Health Center to respond to your questions. The Student Health Center does offer nutrition counseling to students who might have specific questions about a food item, their nutrition needs, etc.

Meanwhile, we have some nutritional information on some of the menu items we prepare, however it is not very scientific and precise. The Restaurant Industry has opposed nutritional labeling due to the complexity of component ingredients, the lack of accuracy in listing the ingredients and making any health statements, and the cost that would have to be added to the menu offerings at restaurants.

RIT Food Service does indicate heart healthy menu items on their menus at Grace Watson and other facilities, however; we do not list the ingredients, calories, or other information similar to that on labels of processed foods.

We are looking into nutritional software that may assist us in the future, however; we continue to be concerned about the accuracy of the information that we provide to our customers.

As a side note; I would encourage anyone with questions about the content of specific menu items to ask our managers and production staff. They would be very happy to assist you with any information that they do have. This would relate to the type of frying oils or the ingredients that are in some of the preprocess menu items that we use from time to time.

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**Date added:** 8/03/2005

**Q:** Why is it that at the end of each quarter our food debit balance is "erased"? I think that because we are still paying for it, the remaining balance should carry-over into the next quarter or credited to our account.

**A:** Each quarter, the revenue produced from the billing of the university's meal plans is recorded in the proper revenue accounts. At the end of the fiscal year these funds, along with all other revenue of the institute, result in a surplus to the university.

These funds are then used to support the University's Capital Budget, which allows

for new construction, current campus facilities maintenance, and technology upgrades. Without the benefit and prudent management of these funds, the University would have to resort to other means of covering these expenses such as higher tuition and fees, etc.

In addition, the debit portion of the meal plan cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year or from quarter to quarter due to accounting regulations, which require revenue to be recognized in the period in which it is earned.

Debit is a way of offering our students additional dining flexibility within our meal plans, however the total revenue for a meal plan is earned each quarter whether or not students avail themselves of the opportunity to eat all meals. This is the case whether a student has a 20 meal per week meal plan and eats only 18 times or whether they choose a plan that has a debit option and they do not expend all of the debit money.

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**Date added:** 9/10/2005

**Q:** Hey,

How is it that Pepsi can give the school \$250k a year and the food in Gracie's still be so terrible? Is it possible to reinvest this money back into food services? Maybe even provide fresh juice or higher quality products for your hard working students?

Thanks for your time,

Nick

**A:** The money RIT receives from Pepsi (and such arrangements are common at universities across the nation) is used in a variety of ways. One example, it helps support our Intercollegiate Athletics program.

As for the food at Gracie's, we think we do a pretty good job with a fresh variety of food there and across campus. If you had a particular bad incident with juice, please report it directly to food services.

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**Date added:** 9/10/2005

**Q:** President Simone,

Why is it that Coca-cola products are not available on campus for purchase especially at the vending machines? We are hereby forced to drink Pepsi products. Thank you.

**A:** RIT is a multi-year contract with Pepsi that brings in tremendous revenue to the university. This revenue is used in our overall budget to offset other costs.

Such a contract is typical for most universities. We think there is a lot of variety within the Pepsi brand.

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**Date added:** 9/12/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

As an incoming freshmen, I often find that I'm not able to attend Gracie's enough times during the week in order to get the most out of the meal plan. Would it be possible to set up even a small shop that would operate during the hours Gracie's is closed?

**A:** Food Service recognizes that dining needs vary widely and has therefore created several meal plans (20,14,12 or 10 meals per week) for residents in an attempt to offer flexibility to accommodate individual's preferences. In addition, each meal plan offers 5 meal options per week, which can be used in any Food Service facility and most have a debit amount which can be used as cash in any of our facilities.

Several of Food Service's facilities operate after Gracie's closes and starting with fall quarter we have expanded our late night offerings. Crossroads operates until 10pm during the week and Sol's, which features Sandella's wraps, is open until 11pm daily. The Corner Store is also open until midnight daily.

The newly renovated Commons is now open until 1am daily and this facility now houses Hettie's Grill, Stone Oven Pizza and Pasta Cucina (featuring gourmet BrickHouse NY Pizza) and Quiznos Subs.

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**Date added:** 11/09/2005

**Q:** President Simone -

I've read through many of the responses provided to questions related to what I'm asking here, but they only tangentially addressed my question. I understand there are

financial regulations governing debit money. I also understand the left-over money is part of institute budgeting and operations. This is wrong. We are shelling out a direct amount of money going into our debit account each quarter, as part of our bill, and it's being applied to institute funds if we don't use it. We either need to be able to cash-out our debit money at the end of the quarter, through the Bursar's office, in the form of cash, or a credit to our student account against tuition, whatever, or be able to opt-out of meal plans for the residence halls. I have been in the residence halls for 4 years, and have lost hundreds of dollars that I could otherwise have spent towards tuition, books, etc. Alternatively, I've had to spend entire days at the end of each quarter, making 10, 20, 30 trips to and from the Corner Store, Sol's, etc., buying packs of soda, water, juice, whatever, until I have stacks of 12-packs up to the ceiling in my dorm room - as I refuse to pay additional hundreds of dollars toward the institute that are earmarked as "food money", money that is coming out of my and my parents' funds in a 1:1 ratio with the debit account total.

Why can't we simply opt-out of the meal plans (if we are no longer freshman), cash out our debit at the end of the quarter, have it applied as a credit to debit of next quarter, have it applied as a credit to our student account, or make deposits to debit like flex on a PAYGO basis?

Obviously, allowing us to cash-out at the end of the quarter, or have the money applied to our student account, would be best, but if that is not possible due to tax exemption regulations, etc., then I would certainly prefer a cash basis - much better for me to have my parents give me 1200 some odd dollars in cash from which I can spend ONLY WHAT I NEED, than be forced to "burn" the 200, 300, 400 dollars left at the end of the quarter - it kind of defeats the whole concept of budgeting or teaching students fiscal responsibility, and since either way, I am refusing the money to the Institute, why make it harder for me - it seems like an intentional plan to leech more money from already cash-strapped students and families, paying at least 1/3, on average, of a middle-class family's yearly income to attend the Institute - an intentional incentive for students to either burn their money, thus giving profits to the food services program, or let the money disappear into the broad coffers of RIT general funds - students lose either way, this is wrong. After 4 years here, I see things aren't going to change without some noise being made, and I'm making it.

Respectfully awaiting a substantive reply.

**A:** The best explanation to your questions comes from Jim Bingham, Director of Food Service. Here is his response:

This is a normal request that is made from time to time by students who see a balance left on account at the end of each quarter and I can understand your questioning as to why this can not be applied toward other Institute expenses or just be refunded to you in cash.

The answer to this is in the New York State law that permits RIT and other not-for-

profit colleges and universities the opportunity to sell students meal plans throughout the year and not to have to collect sales tax on top of the meal plan cost. This is a savings of \$95.68 per quarter and \$287.04 per year.

To be able to have this sales tax benefit, RIT has to follow the guidelines that stipulate that we can not refund any unused portion of unused meals or dollars from these sales tax exempt meal plans. We have to follow these guidelines very closely to avoid any violations of New York State tax laws.

As far as large amounts of unused debit and meal plan money going to the Institute, this is not the case. We encourage students to use up their debit dollars and meal plan meals on a quarterly basis. These dollars can be used at the Campus convenience stores in the Residence Halls, Ben and Jerry's, the Candy Counter, all campus food service facilities, the RIT Inn and Conference Center food Service facilities and all campus vending machines. Most students are able to spend down their accounts and very little goes back to the Institute.

You asked why these left over dollars can not be deposited to the Tiger buck account or to allow them to be cashed out on a quarterly basis. These suggestions along with having the funds transferred to your student account all constitutes a refund, which is not allowed by the current tax laws. If we were to start refunding students for these balances, we would be required by law to collect sales tax from all the students of the Institute who are on meal plans.

You also asked why students can not just opt-out of a meal plan while they are living in the residence halls. By living there for four years, you are aware that the meal plan is a mandatory requirement of residency and this is directly a concern for health and safety in the residence halls that are not set up for with kitchens for the preparation of food. Many students who are concerned about increased flexibility in their living arrangements and with meal requirements do opt to move to campus apartments where they do not need to be on a meal plan, all though many students in apartments continue to be on meal plans. This of course is voluntary.

I hope that this has given you some additional incites to why the current meal plans are not refundable. If you have any additional questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Jim Bingham  
Director of Food Service  
475-2285  
jcbfsa@rit.edu

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**Date added:** 11/16/2005

**Q:** President Simone,

We pay a pretty good amount to attend school here, approximately \$32,000 including food and housing. I was wondering why we lose our money in our food debit if we do not use it? We pay \$1196, or \$906, or some other amount to go on our debit account, but if we do not use it by the end of the quarter, we lose it. Why is that fair? It is our money that we put into that account and we should get to use all of it no matter what. I am not suggesting that it be returned, I am just saying that it should roll over to the next quarter or something along those lines. I just think that it is unfair that we pay money and just because we are unable to use all of it, it just disappears.

Thank you.

**A:** This question has been asked several times. Jim Bingham, Director of Food Services, answers it best:

I can understand your concern for losing any unused food debit on a quarterly basis. Is it fair? No, but there is a saving to you for not having to pay sales tax.

As an administrator for the Food Service Department, I am left with the following challenge as it relates to meal plan administration:

- If I am to allow refunds to students on meal plans then I have to charge sales tax to all students on all meal plans. This would be an increase of \$287 per year per student. (8% sales tax)
- If I am to allow unused food debit money to rollover to the next quarter and then to the spring quarter, it would still be non-refundable to you. If your current quarterly schedule does not allow you to use up your food debit within that quarter, my fear is that you would still have the same problem at the end of the spring quarter, only larger.
- Our Department and the Institute feels that administering this on a quarterly basis is the best way to assist you in the management of your meal plan dollars.

As a department, we have increased the service areas where you can use your debit dollars to avoid losing them at the end of each quarter. If you have a unique issue with your work or academic schedule that does not allow you to use your meal plan food debit, then you may wish to contact my office and set up a meeting.

I hope this helps you to understand our concerns as it relates to the sales tax issue and our need to manage meal plan accounts on a quarterly basis.

Thank you.

Jim Bingham  
Director of Food service

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**Date added:** 11/22/2005

**Q:** This is in response to the 11/9 question with regards to food service plans.

I am currently a RIT staff member and alumni. I was a RIT student from 1998 through 2002.

We are all extremely concerned about student retention and student satisfaction. I would rate my experience at RIT as positive overall. However, as a student, I had two main concerns with regards to the quality of my experience at RIT. The first, and primary, concern related to professors who lacked motivation to assist their students in the learning process. I understand this is a complex problem that needs to be solved on many levels, so I won't address that issue in this question. The second concern related to wasted money on food service plans. In recent time, Food Service has dramatically improved their services by adding external vendors to their food offerings and introducing meal options. That being said, it is nearly impossible for many students to spend the extreme amount of money that goes along with an all-debit meal plan. I know from personal experiences the stories that have been relayed to you through this student's question -- I too spent hundreds of dollars the last weeks of each quarter -- on items I stocked up for years (soda, laundry detergent, etc). I even paid for lines of people at the Commons, only to make sure the money was fully spent before it was lost.

What can be done to solve this problem? From personal experiences, I know it affects student satisfaction. There are several different solutions that I am aware of:

- 1) Allow students to done their remaining debit to be used by local food banks. I am not sure if this complies with state tax laws.
- 2) Allow students to purchase an amount of money that corresponds to their projected need. A minimum value, say \$500, could be set in order to guarantee that every student has a reasonable amount of money to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Similar to a staff benefit (Beneflex), students could be offered the ability to fund their debit at a level that meets their needs.

In order to determine whether it's simply a coincidence that my friends and myself experienced the same problems as the student who posed the 11/9 question, I would suggest investigating graphs of weekly spending at the convenience store locations to determine whether heavy spending the last several weeks of the quarter is a regular occurrence.

On the topic of student satisfaction as a whole, I would highly recommend that a team be developed to interview a randomly chosen population of RIT students on a regular basis to hear their praises and concerns about their experience at RIT. This type of team, in conjunction with business process auditing (i.e. Six Sigma) of each and every division and college within RIT could dramatically improve the student experience and efficiency of the Institute.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response.

**A:** Thank you for your comments pertaining to the meal plans at RIT and the impact they have on retention and satisfaction.

We have developed the current meal plan selection to do two major functions. First; to offer the maximum amount of flexibility and choice to students who are required to be on meal plans due to the Residence Halls mandatory meal plan requirement. When I say maximum flexibility, I mean that students can use their meal plans dollars in many ways. To purchase meals at Grace Watson, meal options at all Food Service retail operations, at the Inn and Conference Center, Ben and Jerry's, the Candy Counter, and all campus vending machines. We have just started a new service where you can order pizza to be delivered to the residence halls from the newly renovated Commons and use your food debit. We will soon rollout a web based food ordering system (Webfood) that will allow you to pre-order food for pick up or delivery from the Commons and use your debit or meal options.

Secondly; we have to set the price of our meal plans so that they cover the cost of all the services that we provide so as not to be a financial burden to the Institute. The Food service Department must fund all the expenses that go into providing the services we provide. This is from buying the food, paying the staff, covering the heat and lights, and paying for the buildings and the equipment. We are fully costed for the full expense of the services we provide.

We can offer lower meal plan costs; however we would have to reduce or eliminate some of the services we now provide that were developed due to student/customer demands.

Your suggestions to resolve the problem of having debit left at the end of the quarter are very interesting.

1) A donation to a local food bank is the same as a refund and that would jeopardize the sales tax exemption that New York State allows to RIT.

2) Allowing students a choice of purchase amounts that will meet their needs is a possibility as long as we are able to cover the cost of the many services we currently provide. This is similar to the variable plan costs that we currently provide to commuting students. We will look into this for the future.



Your comments pertaining to student satisfaction sampling and focus groups is an excellent suggestion. We currently meet with a Food Advisory panel of students from the Residence Hall Association. This meeting is held on a monthly basis and is a good opportunity to learn about concerns students have as it relates to residential food services.

We also do two annual customer service surveys. The information we receive from these surveys also assists us in our decisions on services and pricing.

I think we can increase this level of customer feedback and will do so in the future.

Thank you for your comments and suggestions.

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**Date added:** 12/22/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

I was wondering why Gracie's is not open later in the evening? Many students, (including myself) have class that run until after 7:30pm, and since we are only allowed to have 5 meals at other locations it becomes difficult to schedule meals at Gracie's around class time. Plus, Gracie's is not on the Academic side of campus, which makes it a pain to walk back and forth on the quarter mile more than once during these frigid times. Myself and many others would greatly appreciate Gracie's being open until 9 or even 10pm. I also think that the employees might appreciate some extra hours opening up.

**A:** We checked with Jim Bingham, director of Food Service. Here is his response:

"I understand your concern for wanting to have Grace Watson Dining Hall open later to assist students who have classes that run to 7:30 PM. This has been a concern in the past. In 2003, we provided a quick grill service for students who had a problem making it back to Grace Watson by 7:30. We were only open until 8:00 PM with one side of the center grill area and very few students took advantage of this extended time. Due to the need to reduce expenses, we evaluated this under-utilized service and it ended in 2004.

I would like to understand the current need and would be willing to meet with you in the New Year to discuss extended service hours. Also, I would be willing to bring this up at our next meeting with the Residence Hall Association (RHA). The Food Service Department meets with the RHA on a monthly basis and we might be able to work with them to understand the need for extended hours.

Please feel free to contact me on this question or on any additional concerns you might have.

Thank you.

Jim Bingham  
Director of Food Service  
585-475-2285  
jcbfsa@rit.edu

## **HOUSING**

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**Date added:** 7/20/2005

**Q:** Dear Dr. Simone,

How come transfer students don't get treated so well by housing when it comes to moving and living on campus? Are you aware that just about every transfer student is getting put in the RIT INN for the fall or until we get a room on campus. The reason I bring this up is most of the transfer students have classes from 8am to 9pm with breaks in between, making it almost pointless for us to go back to the inn unless we have a gap bigger then 2 hours. So why is it that the summer transfer students are getting moved to the farthest place to live on campus that is really off campus?

**A:** Dear Transfer Student,

Here at RIT we offer housing to all students who request it. In order to accommodate the demand for housing, we assign some students initially to an RIT Inn & Conference Center hotel room, which is one of our housing facilities located within 15 minutes of the main campus.

Over 300 students live at the RIT Inn during the academic year. There is a free shuttle that runs between the RIT Inn and RIT every 20 minutes from 6:50 am - 2:00 am daily on school days. If you have a car, you will be given a free reserved parking sticker that will enable you to park in a specific reserved parking lot on campus if you drive to class.

The RIT Inn has high-speed Ethernet, free standard cable, furnished rooms, free parking, dining facility, indoor and outdoor pools, free light housekeeping service weekly, coffee bar, laundry room, etc.

Students who have lived at the RIT Inn over the past few years have found it easy and

convenient to be transported or drive between the campus and the Inn throughout a school day. It is not only transfer students who will be living at the RIT Inn. Returning students and graduate students are also assigned to the RIT Inn. The combination of transfer, graduate and returning students creates an appealing upperclassman living environment.

As additional housing options become available, you will be reassigned to a permanent housing assignment. We will refer to your housing preferences when assigning you to permanent housing; however we cannot guarantee your first or second choice. Transfer students are eligible to be housed in all of our housing facilities, which include residence halls, apartments and the RIT Inn.

If you have any questions, please contact Housing Operations at 475-5815. Have a great summer!

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**Date added:** 9/09/2005

**Q:** President Simone,

As a third-year dorm student, I feel I must ask: why does RIT not hold the contractor who provides its laundry services accountable for broken or malfunctioning equipment?

I refer specifically to the dryers. For two years, the dryers in both the dorm and Colony Manor laundry rooms have steadily deteriorated, many to the point that clothing dried in them comes out almost as wet as when it was put in. I have read questions on this website time and again, and the only answer to any of our laundry issues seems to be "it's an outside contractor, there's nothing we can do." In any other business, it is known as "stealing" when a customer pays for a particular service or item and then does not receive it.

If the contractor has not been notified of the problem, why not? If it has and responded by claiming that the dryers are functioning properly, or that they were "fixed," I ask that a representative from that company bring his or her laundry here to be cleaned in said properly functioning equipment. Why else would students mark particular dryers with small or even large indications of their functionality? And, more importantly, why are we still paying full price to use a facility in which only half of the machines are fully operational?

Thank you.

**A:** Thanks for bringing this to our attention.

We will certainly contact our vendor and see what their report/resolution log for Colony has been.

We will also review the contract to see if there is language that requires them to update their equipment periodically.

If you see that this is not resolved to your satisfaction, please contact Housing Operations:

Mary F. Niedermaier  
Sr. Associate Director  
RIT Housing Operations  
113 Kimball Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623  
(585) 475-5432 (V/TTY)

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**Date added:** 8/25/2005

**Q:** Is "College Town" definite? If so, when can I expect them to start building and finish completely? I am very interested in this endeavor and I like the idea, but I am also highly critical. Why does RIT need stores 1 minute away, as opposed to the wealth of stores 5 minutes away? Also, we are in dire need of more housing...I hope that RIT does not plan on counting this "College Town" as additional housing since it will be market rate (as I have been told). Has RIT looked into building a mirrored set of UC apartments behind the 325 and 11-17 buildings?

Glad I could be brief. (Feel free to edit my questions)

A critical but happy student

**A:** College Town is in the planning stages and construction may begin in a year. It would take several years to build in phases.

When RIT moved from downtown Rochester to Henrietta in the 1960s, it was wonderful opportunity to take advantage of a land donation and start a modern campus. Yet the area was somewhat isolated.

While it is true that South Town Plaza and Market Place Mall are nearby shopping attractions, College Town is much more. It will create a village or town-like atmosphere that we don't have now adjacent to campus.

In terms of housing, we do see some upperclassmen and graduate students being attracted to College Town. But we won't consider this RIT housing as College Town will be managed by a developer and the private sector. We have not plans to build near University Commons, and we feel we have ample room when you factor in the RIT Inn and Conference Center.

Finally, the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle recently featured College Town in an article. Visit:

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050812/NEWS01/508120392/1002/NEWS>

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**Date added:** 9/12/2005

**Q:** Dr. Simone,

Hello. I was just wondering about your housing policy. Outside of campus, if someone decides to up and leave, they are responsible for the rest of their contract. This protects the other people who happen to live in the same housing.

I had this occur last year, where a roommate up and left for the Spring Quarter, which left me with the bill for both people. It was a surprise move, fueled by lack of income. My roommate moved back with her parents in order to save money.

Now I never actually discussed this with her, but I do believe there is a housing cancellation fee that would be the equivalent of a quarter of rent for that one person.

Now to get to my question. Dr., why is it that students are not protected by this? It seems as if the school benefits a great deal financially if a student moves out since they turn around and charge the roommates what that one person should have been paying. It seems to hit especially hard when it is a last minute thing and another roommate cannot be found in time.

Honestly, it just seems to me that it would be more appropriate to protect the other roommate and allow them to pay only the percentage they owed and not force them to pay for a roommate who was already under contract. It is tough being hit with a thousand dollar bill after a student loan has already been taken out.

Thank you for your time and thanks in advance for your response.

**A:** I checked with Housing Operations on this one. Here is their response:

There are several factors involved when a student terminates their contract (i.e., LOA, Withdrawal, Suspension). However, if a student terminates the contract to move off

campus and remains a registered student they are charged a cancellation fee that is equivalent to 1/2 of the rent or one quarter. In the apartments, remaining residents in a unit are given the option of finding another roommate, or, in Colony Manor, Perkins Green, Riverknoll and Rac Club they have the option of paying what is referred to as alternate occupancy (which is a higher rent amount).

At University Commons, because the contract is for an individual bedroom, there is no alternate occupancy and if the remaining residents do not find a replacement, Housing Operations will assign someone to the space the following quarter.

The goal of this policy is to put the rent responsibility on the student that breaks their contract, rather than on the remaining residents. Several years ago, if a student moved out the remaining residents had to pay a higher amount of rent on the first day of the following month where as now, they have basically the full quarter before their rent changes.

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**Date added:** 9/16/2005

**Q:** Why don't our student ID cards give us access to the other dorms? Don't you think such a privilege would result in a more social and friendly community? I know at other schools, students living in the dorms have access to all the dorms. I just wanted to know why RIT doesn't follow the same logic. A student living in another dorm poses as much a risk to students' safety as a student living in the same building. All the students are equals, and we [dormers] all pay the same room and board to live on campus, shouldn't we all have equal access?

**A:** Access privileges on the ID system are programmed identical to the replaced mechanical key system. Student ID cards are also programmed to access the main center quad doors to Kate Gleason Hall, Nathaniel Rochester Hall, and Sol Heumann Hall so access is available during inclement weather to the laundry rooms, Post Office, stores, and NRH computer lab. The current system provides the best security to residential floors. It's our experience that simple conveniences erode the basic tenants of security. If you lived in an apartment, your ID card would only provide access to the building you live in, not all of the buildings.

Feel free to contact Mr. Denninger, Campus Safety's Associate Director at 475-6620 if you have any additional questions or concerns.

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**Date added:** 9/29/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

Lack of sufficient housing seems to be a big problem at RIT. There are many freshman and upperclassmen who are stuck 3 to a room in rooms designed for 2. The lounges are being turned into dorm rooms and it's difficult to secure apartment housing for upperclassmen. Are there any plans to expand the housing on the RIT campus to include more apartments and dorms?

**A:** We know there are a lot of housing questions at this time of year. We will try to address these issues in several parts:

\* Lack of sufficient Housing:

There isn't a lack of sufficient housing here at RIT. The University has decided that it would house 67 percent of the full-time student body; we are now housing almost 68 percent. The problem is the need for more "Swing" housing at the start of the academic year as a result of demand. As we progress throughout the academic year as a result of Co-op, leaves, etc. there more than several housing vacancies throughout all of housing. Therefore, Housing Operations goes out of it way to house more upper-class students (over 3,000) when the University policy is to require housing for freshmen and guarantee housing for sophomores.

Freshman & Upperclassmen are stuck 3 to a room?

At the beginning of fall quarter, Housing Operations sets aside double occupancy rooms to be over occupied by freshmen students. The purpose is to provide housing for freshmen who are accepted late by the University. Also Housing Operations knows that not all will show up for various reasons. Fifty over occupied rooms were set up in August as of today there are only four of these rooms. This is a common place occurrence among colleges and universities who have had increased housing demands.

Unlike most, Housing Operations purchases newly designed furnishing to fit in these rooms for the comfort of the students until they are reassigned in the halls. In addition if all three students are still remaining in this living situation, they are rebated back a portion of their housing fees. Very few, if any, colleges or universities do this.

There are no upperclassmen in over occupied rooms this year. Upperclassmen can elect to go into rooms which are designed for two or more students.

\* Lounges in the residence Halls:

Not all of the lounges in the residence halls have been turned into students' rooms and those which have were offered to upperclassmen to meet the demand of these students who would like to stay in the halls.

The renovations of the Dining Commons, Grace Watson lobby, and other small lounge renovations has been done so to provide gathering spaces as a result of the lounge room conversion project.

Plans to expand housing:

There are no current expansion plans regarding student housing. The new College Town development which will be located on the corner of John Street and Jefferson room has plans in place to provide affordable apartment and loft living arrangements, where RIT students will have an opportunity to reside. This project is several years away.

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**Date added:** 11/03/2005

**Q:** Hi!

I saw you mention RIT's planned construction of College Town in a previous response and was happy to see that "two-thirds of it will be composed of ponds and parks". You also mention that it will be home to student housing, commercial retail outlets, and restaurants. This is a rumor, but I heard that because of contractor stipulations, the future housing in College Town will not be reserved for RIT students, but rather will be available to the public as is any other off-campus dwelling (exception: RIT Inn). Is this true? Thanks!

**A:** College Town is going to change the face of this campus. It will enhance the RIT experience and be an extension of the university.

To answer your question directly, housing will be available to the general public.

To sustain business and not put risk to the university as a whole, the developer will have to attract more than just students and members of the RIT community to College Town. It will need to attract consumers from all over the greater Rochester region who are looking for a unique experience. It needs to be a smart combination that appeals to both the RIT community and the general public. And this is for both the commercial and residential ventures.

College Town is moving from the conceptual phase into the development phase. Construction could begin as early as next year, with the first phase of housing and retail potentially opening in 2007. Here are some features of the project:

- 70,000 to 90,000 square feet in retail space, with perhaps 20-25 stores.
- A variety of housing with room for up to 800 occupants. This could include town houses and apartments.
- Theme restaurants.



- A new campus bookstore.
- Galleries highlighting arts and crafts from students and faculty.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

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**Date added:** 7/07/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

I've heard that there is a project to change the use of Social Security numbers as the student IDs. What is the timetable on this, will it happen before the start of the 2005-2006 school year? I feel very uncomfortable having to give out my social security number to people just because it is my "school ID."

**A:** This is a project high on our priority list.

RIT has been actively working to replace the Student ID with a RIT generated number. As you might imagine, this is a very large project that involves significant systems modifications and other changes across the campus. The project is currently in the design/development stage and is targeted to be implemented during the 2005-2006 Academic year. It is too soon to give an exact date.

While the major systems changes are being made, a number of process/form changes have been implemented to further reduce exposure of SSN in campus transactions. A number of campus communications are planned to keep the RIT community informed as the transition approaches.

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**Date added:** 7/15/2005

**Q:** Hello.

I received this email that I have forwarded to you. Looks like RIT is selling my email address to spammers. Here's from their website:

"Join us now by paying a one-time membership fee of \$29.95 and become one of the thousands happy members of StudentSurveys.Org program. Follow the instructions and remember your password and username."

I run my own website and email services, plus I'm a Networking/Sys Admin major. I \*absolutely\* hate spam and when I have to deal with it on my own servers, I take appropriate action against the person using their account to spam.

I'm really disturbed that RIT would sell our email addresses. I'll expect a FULL and

ADEQUATE explanation, or I'll plan on coordinating some student protests. In addition, I would like an apology sent to all students regarding this matter.

Thanks for your cooperation

**A:** I've passed this information along to the chief information officer to look into.

But the bottom line is RIT does NOT sell e-mail addresses.

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**Date added:** 8/24/2005

**Q:** Why doesn't Riverknoll have adequate network services provided by RIT like every other housing facility on campus, and more importantly, are there any plans to provide service in the near future?

**A:** We have done a great deal of research over the last few years about "wiring" Riverknoll. There are a few potential solutions, however all of them are fairly expensive to implement. The biggest problem is that there is no fiber optic cable that runs to the complex. This is required for any of the solutions and is one of the biggest expense, since we would need to dig and run cable to the complex.

Furthermore, we would also need to pull and install cable to each room.

Wireless or WiFi is not really a good option. The complex is populated to the point that if any wireless were to be installed the students would end up with less bandwidth than their current roadrunner solution.

So, the most cost effective and comparable network service is to wire the entire complex, to look like the rest of the dorms and apartments.

Housing Operations continually works with ITS to research options for connectivity at Riverknoll.

So far, we have not received negative feedback about the quality of the Road Runner service from the residents of Riverknoll. But I will pass this along to ITS.

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**Date added:** 8/24/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

I am a freshmen entering this fall and I'm sure that I am not the only student uncomfortable using a Social Security number as a student ID number. Every other university I have dealt with has ended the use of SSN's and replaced them with a dedicated student ID number to reduce the chances of identity theft. When will RIT follow suit?

**A:** This question is a popular one. This is a project high on our priority list.

RIT has been actively working to replace the Student ID with a RIT generated number. As you might imagine, this is a very large project that involves significant systems modifications and other changes across the campus. The project is currently in the design/development stage and is targeted to be implemented during the 2005-2006 Academic year. It is too soon to give an exact date.

While the major systems changes are being made, a number of process/form changes have been implemented to further reduce exposure of SSN in campus transactions. A number of campus communications are planned to keep the RIT community informed as the transition approaches.

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**Date added:** 9/09/2005

**Q:** Are you for or against the RIT "hub"? Why? What is RIT doing to satisfy its students' needs for music and movie downloads?

**A:** The "hub" you mention is not sponsored or endorsed in any way by RIT, and is in fact largely used for the illegal downloading of music, movie, and software. It and other hubs like it (i2hub, for example) have also been identified as security risks for anyone connecting to these services. Downloading material protected by copyright law is illegal, is a clear violation of the RIT Code of Conduct for Computer and Network Use, and can result in university sanction.

RIT students can let the music play, and do it legally, thanks to a legal music service available on campus. Information and Technology Services (ITS) has partnered with Cdigix, a company offering digital entertainment to colleges and universities. In doing so, RIT became one of the first schools in the nation to take part in CTRAX - the company's digital music service - as an alternative to illegal file sharing. Subscriptions can be made online at [media.cdigix.com](http://media.cdigix.com). A limited number of free subscriptions for students are still available.

RIT and Cdigix are also pleased to announce the recent launch of CFLIX on campus. CFLIX provides affordable movies on-demand, TV programs, and other video content to RIT students. For more information or to subscribe, please visit [media.cdigix.com](http://media.cdigix.com).

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**Date added:** 9/10/2005

**Q:** Why is it that so many sites (including the MyRIT site) still lack a more sophisticated layout (clean with visually appealing colors) such as the primary RIT site? I am just an engineer, but even I find it rather painful on the eyes. Speaking of the MyRIT site, why is it that the polls never have alternatives like "no opinion" or "other?" Those options should always be left open. Thanks!

**A:** Hopefully you have seen the new MyRIT site, just launched a few weeks ago. We think it is much more appealing and has improved navigation.

Web sites are fluid and many divisions and colleges around campus are in the process of building new ones. A university-wide committee is also looking at the issue of consistency and improved navigation.

The MyRIT poll is informal, not scientific. Limiting responses forces people to be decisive. If someone has "no opinion", they shouldn't participate.

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**Date added:** 9/12/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone:

The new webcams seem to be quite popular. At almost any hour of the day or night there seem to be people viewing and controlling them. Are there any plans to include additional similar webcams around campus?

**A:** The popularity of the webcams has been a pleasant surprise. We have been assessing locations for more webcams with the same control features and will be communicating their future location shortly.

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**Date added:** 9/12/2005

**Q:** I recently noticed that the "webcam" that looks out over the Kodak quad/library/CIAS areas has an amazing zoom capability. It can actually zoom close enough to identify people, and since anyone on the internet can control this camera it seems to me that this poses some sort of safety/privacy concerns. Wouldn't you agree?

**A:** We do not see this as a privacy concern, as these cameras are taking video in public spaces, i.e. the Student Alumni Union, the Quarter Mile. Webcams in public spaces are pretty common these days.

Just a note that many parents (and grandparents) like the webcams because they can zoom in and see their children & grandchildren. Students have used it also to wave to friends from other colleges.

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**Date added:** 9/24/2005

**Q:** Why was the switch made to a new version of myCourses? I know I have only used it for a week, but it seems much worse. There have been no notifications of new material posted. So now when a professor says he'll post something in the next few days, I have to 1) sign in 2) click on the class name, and 3) click on the content link as opposed to the old system where I only had to sign in to know. On an RIT connection it's not bad, but for people not on campus it will take much longer.

Also, what is the point of the main login page? 99% of what I have used it for in the past few years has been to pull off what teacher's post, so having the "content" page load up initially would be much, much better. The tech help, dishonesty, and ADA portlets may be nice, but how many people are actually going to read them more than one (if at all)? The new colors are nice however.

**A:** I checked with Online Learning for this one. Here is their response:

The NEW myCourses upgrade was required because the old system was discontinued by the developer and licenses to use the product are no longer available. We liked the old system too and would have continued using it if that had been an option. A year ago this quarter a team of staff and volunteer faculty reviewed 6 alternatives and recommended 2 for evaluation. Faculty and staff were invited to vendor demonstrations and after the evaluations were tallied we selected Desire2Learn for the current myCourses system. Although it currently lacks some of the features you liked about the old system, it has many other improvements. And the new company we are working with has been very responsive to our requests for feature enhancements and some of your suggestions are in the works.

For example, we have added a "My Progress" link that you can use now to see if there is new information posted in your course. You may still find it less convenient than the old approach but there is a performance issue with showing more information from the database when you first login and so for now we feel this is the best compromise. We are exploring putting Content updates on the Course Home too so you can see as soon as you get into the course if you need to access new materials.

You can expect changes to the Course Home in the near future, but the default will probably not be the Content section you prefer because there is a very important News feature on that page now that we want to continue to have the highest priority. You may not have had an instructor yet who uses the News feature for important announcements, but it is a big improvement over the old default Syllabus that loaded every time you visited a course in the old system. The Course Tools area on the right of the Course Home was created to help with the transition to the new system, but as soon as everyone gets used to the Navigation Bar we will delete that information since it is essentially the same navigation links with descriptions.

As far as the Academic Dishonesty and Disability statements go, your comments are well taken and we will discuss them further in Online Learning to see if we can find a way to make it less redundant but still readily accessible to students. The information has always been available on the RIT web site but never incorporated into the online course structure before. The first page you see entering a course is very important space and we want to make sure it gets used well.

Thanks for your constructive comments, they keep us on our toes and give us great ideas for continual improvement to RIT Online Learning.

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**Date added:** 10/11/2005

**Q:** Dear Dr. Simone,

I have heard rumors that RIT's network is being monitored by the FBI....is this true? Are you able to confirm or deny this because I am very curious on what grounds that they would be here.

Thank you again.

**A:** There is no monitoring going on. We work with the FBI when we get a subpoena, which orders us to conduct an investigation into a specific incident.

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**Date added:** 10/20/2005

**Q:** I have had to use my Social Security Number for many different things both on and off campus. Last summer, while working, my employer made an error in my name and it did not match my SS#. The SS Administration contacted me to deal with this and to make sure it was me. If the federal government keeps a close eye on this number, why are we still using it for our identification? If I remember correctly, on

the back of the card it says that it should not be used as a form of identification, as I read both the card and number. My concern comes from the easiness of its access. If I'm required by a professor to put my student number, i.e. SS#, on an exam, that number could be copied by someone who saw it. I was also disturbed to learn that my SS# or "student id number" was going to be used to access my academic records for statistic purposes. This was requested by the president of my fraternity who happened to attached an e-mail from RIT staff. Should I not have received that letter, I wouldn't have known the purpose behind the data collection, and at no time did I authorize anyone to view my records. I have also heard that there is some law stating that it is illegal to use Social Security numbers as means of identification outside the Social Security Administration and Tax and Finance. Does RIT have any plans of changing the ID system to better protect its student?. I remember at one point that some delinquents found a trash bag of shredded paper and decided to trash the stair well of one of the dorms when I resided there. We found the paper and investigated its content and found it was student names and SS#. We did report this to Campus Safety. Do we have the proper facilities and procedures in place for the destruction of sensitive documents containing such information?

Thank you for your time.

**A:** I turned to Chief Information Officer Diane Barbour to help answer this question. Here is what I found out:

RIT understands the issues of the growing rate of identity theft in this country. Identity theft is accomplished in many ways and SSN (Social Security Number) is one of the items thieves may try to compromise.

Over the past year RIT, has taken several steps toward eliminating the SSN as an Identifier on campus. Information & Technology Services (ITS), in partnership with the Registrar, is leading a campus-wide task force that will ultimately replace the SSN as the student identifier. As you can imagine, the task of modifying all of the campus computer systems is a very large and complex assignment.

Recognizing the effort and time required to make these changes, RIT has been making process changes in the interim to further reduce the exposure of students SSN. For example, a large number of Institute forms have been updated to remove SSN. Computer screens that include SSN have been masked to only show the last four digits of the number. RIT computer accounts were changed a year and a half ago, to use a random 4-digit number in place of the SSN.

One of the major tasks in replacing SSN is the re-issue of RIT Identity cards. Everyone in the university will need to get a new ID card. The new card will contain a University ID number in the barcode and on the magnetic stripe, but will not contain your SSN. The look and format of the RIT ID card is currently being reviewed will likely change as well. Implementation of the new IDs will take place from May 27 - June 4, 2006, which is immediately after the end of the Spring

academic quarter. Plans are being put together now to distribute the new IDs cards to all students, staff, and other people who have RIT ID cards. However, this will not require everyone to take a new ID photo.

Questions about the task force or suggestions for interim steps can be directed to Dave Hostetter 475-5685 (dwhits@rit.edu).

To learn more about this project please refer to the following web site:  
<http://www.rit.edu/~itsnews/articles/article6.html>  
<http://www.rit.edu/~wwwits/initiatives/sirp/SIRPfaq.html>

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**Date added:** 11/03/2005

**Q:** Hello,

I was wondering what type of peer to peer file sharing the subpoenas are for from the RIAA. Is this another I2 hub bust again?

Thank you for your Time

**A:** The most recent subpoenas are for I2 hub. We are also getting notifications that do not involve I2 and those notifications could turn into subpoenas as well.

The following is worth repeating:

Downloading material protected by copyright law is illegal, is a clear violation of the RIT Code of Conduct for Computer and Network Use, and can result in university sanction.

RIT students can let the music play, and do it legally, thanks to a legal music service available on campus. Information and Technology Services (ITS) has partnered with Cdigix, a company offering digital entertainment to colleges and universities. In doing so, RIT became one of the first schools in the nation to take part in CTRAX - the company's digital music service - as an alternative to illegal file sharing. Subscriptions can be made online at [media.cdigix.com](http://media.cdigix.com). A limited number of free subscriptions for students are still available.

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**Date added:** 11/09/2005

**Q:** If RIT is trying to push the CDIGX music sharing, why not make it free to all students? I know many people who would gladly get this (even though I have heard many bad reviews) if it was guaranteed free. Why risk paying for a subscription to this when the hub is free?

**A:** The Cdigix service is currently free for 12 months for students that subscribe. There are only a limited number of free subscriptions available, but some are still available at this time. The free subscriptions are funded by a grant to the university specifically designed to help us launch this service.

RIT did investigate paying for the service up front for all students, but this would cost in excess of \$500,000 per year. Such a cost is prohibitive for us, so we decided instead to pursue the grant and negotiate as low a monthly rate as possible for when the grant eventually runs out and students have to pay for the service.

The Cdigix service will cost \$2.99 per month for students when the grant funds are depleted.

As to your question about "the hub", if you are referring to the i2hub, the DC++ hub, or similar file trading hubs, most of the files shared on these networks are done so without the permission of the copyright holders, and are therefore shared illegally. Users trading files on these networks run the risk of lawsuits or criminal prosecution. In addition, many of these networks are security risks for the students that connect to them.

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**Date added:** 11/14/2005

**Q:** I just received an email today from a representative of the Online Learning Office at RIT. In this email, it told the students who bought the so-called "clickers" for the first quarter about the buy-back policy on these devices.

I have a problem with this policy. As I'm sure you're aware, we all bought a clicker for \$45. During the entire first quarter, we used the clickers a very small number of times (possibly once or twice effectively). Because of this, I feel that I have been cheated out of my money, since I bought something that was not used enough to merit its cost. Now, I am not even guaranteed to be able to sell it back to the bookstore; as quoted from the email: "A limited number of clickers will be accepted by the bookstore on a first-come, first-serve basis." There shouldn't even be a question of whether there are enough spots or not to buy back the device.

In addition, I believe the idea of giving back only a fraction of the cost is ludicrous.

My clicker is still in brand new condition, simply because it remained in my book bag the entire term. In my opinion, I feel that the school should be reimbursing the students the full cost of the clickers because as you say, we are pilot students. If RIT is willing to try a system that is not guaranteed to remain in operation, the students should not be the ones hurting because of its failure.

I believe that the clicker system has immense potential as a learning tool, but in order for it to be an effective tool, there are some specific things that need to happen. First, in all of the first term, there were only a fraction of times when there was a representative from Online Learning in the room to assist the professor in implementing the system. When there was no assistant there, the professor would attempt to use the clickers and became frustrated and just ignore the system. Second, the buy-back policy should be a higher percentage of the original cost, simply to make the system slightly more attractive to the students.

In lieu of this, I hope that some resolution can be arrived at that benefits the students rather than the university.

**A:** Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We checked with Online Learning and the bookstore to gather more information.

In terms of student satisfaction to this technology, two student surveys were conducted to evaluate student satisfaction. Preliminary analysis of the end-of-quarter survey indicates that students like the use of clickers in class. However, many of the comments from students related to their concern over the cost. We will continue to look at this.

In terms of bookstore buy back, it was decided that clickers would be distributed through the RIT bookstore. This would allow students to take advantage of any existing student aid for course material purchases. Online Learning met with Campus Connections and RIT's Purchasing department to determine the most equitable arrangement for buyback. However, the final decisions on both the buyback rate and the number of used clickers accepted in buyback rested in the domain of the bookstore.

Right now, the response pads (clickers) are being bought back from students who will not need them for future classes. Up to 300 response pads out of the 850 sold, will be purchased at \$18.00 each (40% of the new price) for the upcoming winter term. In an effort to reduce the price for future students, we will be re-selling the response pads for \$25.00. The e-mail that was sent by the On-Line Learning department was to alert the students who had purchased the response pads as to what the buyback policy is and whether or not they will need the item for an upcoming class.

It should also be noted that the separate license fee of \$16.00 per response pad was not passed along to the students, but absorbed by the On-Line Learning department.

The number of response pads RIT will purchase back is based on the expected number of new students who will need to purchase this item for class. Many students will be using the response pads for a sequential course.

Since this is a pilot program, and there are some issues to be resolved regarding the use of the response pads, cost to students, licensing fees, and future cost of the product, or whether or not a rental or leasing program will be used in the future, we can not guarantee a buyback beyond the start of the winter quarter.

Meetings will be held during the winter quarter to work towards a viable program using response pads in the classroom.

We will wait until Spring Quarter to make our final recommendations about the student response system and its use on RIT campus. By pilot, we do not suggest it is an experiment for students. The research done at other universities and by a Pew Grant study of course redesign indicates that student response systems are effective. We are trying to determine which courses make most sense, and how we can standardize the equipment to keep the cost down for students by the use of buy back, effectively support the tool campus wide, and scale the support and training faculty need to use the system.

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**Date added:** 11/18/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

Why don't more professors use myCourses? It's so beneficial to both parties, why don't you take steps to encourage a broader use?

**A:** More courses are using the myCourses learning management system each quarter. This Fall Quarter 2005, 42.5 percent of all courses with 2 or more students enrolled used at least one feature of the system, not including the convenient email feature. The top 2 features are posting Content and Grades online. The overall usage is consistent with usage rates at other colleges and universities where faculty decide which aspects of the system they will use.

We have just completed a migration from an older system to the new myCourses, and it will take some time for faculty to decide what aspects of the new system will work best for them. Some faculty prefer to develop their own web pages and online tools for supporting their courses. Other faculty may not have the skills or interest to develop online aspects to their courses.

The Online Learning office scheduled over 100 faculty workshops from last Spring through this Fall to learn how to use the new system. They also sent out CDs with

tutorials and posted support documentation on their web site and linked it to the new myCourses system as a faculty resource. We believe that the new system is good enough that over 50 percent of the courses will be using it by the end of this academic year.

Be sure to let your instructors know which aspects of the system you believe would be helpful in your courses through your course evaluations. Sharing your opinions will help faculty decide how myCourses might benefit their course.

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**Date added:** 11/28/2005

**Q:** President Simone:

I was recently informed that I will be subpoenaed by the RIAA for breaching the copyright infringement law. Granted, I am not even close to being one of the main offenders and the fact that I truly am not all that computer savvy, this situation I have found myself to be in is very ridiculous. However, on that note, I am not making any excuses; I DID perform an illegal activity.

Given the fact that RIT, among other prestigious "tech" schools such as Harvard, MIT, etc, is specifically being targeted solely on the basis that one might suggest such institutions are made up of more "tech" savvy individuals than most others, I would like to have your PERSONAL input on the matter of two things:

- 1) Do you think it is unfair (and unlawful) that RIT (the institution as a whole, not just the students) is specifically being targeted on a legal level on the bases mentioned above?
- 2) Do you think it is abusive of our own legal system to incriminate college students (especially those that are not major offenders) and jeopardize not only their immediate future, but also their long term career and life plans?

I recently read an article about a Bill that has repeatedly been passed in the House, but has yet to come up even for a vote in the Senate, due to other matters "being more important." This Bill, I believe would be very applicable to what has recently been happening to college students across the nation. Here is the link to the article about the Bill and a link to the Bill itself.

Thank you for your time

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051027/ap\\_on\\_go\\_co/congress\\_lawsuits](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051027/ap_on_go_co/congress_lawsuits)  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c109:1:./temp/~c109YiZPnW>

**A:** Sorry the delayed response. Evidently, you have been subpoenaed by the RIAA for breaching the copyright infringement law. You raise two questions.

First, you ask if it was "unfair (and unlawful) that RIT is specifically being targeted on a legal level?" Clearly, these potential law suits are causing a lot of RIT activity and expenditure of time. The allegation is that students are utilizing university facilities to perform illegal acts. RIAA is holding RIT responsible for the actions of a few students who are breaching the copyright infringement law (RIT is not legally liable as an ISP provider). Whether we are legitimately legally liable for the actions of students, to me, is not the dominant question. The real question is whether we should establish policies which make students understand that if there is a law, they should follow it. We have established such policies.

However, a policy is no good unless there is enforcement. Accordingly, we want to make the point to every student that as part of your educational experience at RIT, it is not appropriate to break the law, and if one does break the law, there are consequences. We have introduced policy and intend to enforce it to make this educational point. This would be independent of any law suits that anyone might care to bring against us. Our primary concern is that students learn the right thing to do.

Interestingly, we had a full discussion on this very issue at our November 18, 2005 Board of Trustees meeting. A strong and resounding point made by some of the trustees was that protecting intellectual property - copyrights and patents - is critical to the economic development, job growth, and quality of life of the United States. We have precisely the same problem on an international level where some countries - China is often cited - deliberately infringe the intellectual rights of U.S. citizens, thereby getting an illegal and unfair economic advantage. We cannot, on the one hand, criticize the behavior of countries for following this practice while, at the same time, condoning it on an individual basis within our universities. It is important that American corporations and the American government are able to protect these patents and copyrights on a world-wide basis. This holds for every country. This should be part of our education at RIT. When students violate it, we should make it very clear that this is not acceptable.

Your second question was: "Do you think it is abusive of our own legal system to incriminate college students... and jeopardize not only their immediate future...?" The answer to this question follows the answer above.

If something is illegal, you should not do it. You should just follow the law. If you choose not to follow the law, then there will be consequences.

What RIT can do is work as hard and creatively as it possibly can to educate our students - before they even arrive on campus and every day while they are on campus - about their legal and ethical responsibilities with respect to copyright and patent infringement, with reference to illegally downloading music and films as specific examples.

I hope this helps.

Cordially yours,

Albert J. Simone  
President

## **NTID ISSUES**

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**Date added:** 10/05/2005

**Q:** This question should have a pretty broad appeal to the RIT community in regarding to interpreting for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

I am very concerned about RIT's funding for the interpreting department. Because of frequent budget cut, they are force to severely limit their resources in providing supporting service, BY LAW to the student who both qualify and need the service to keep up with their academic performance. Not only the resources are limited to the number of interpreter that can be provided, but it also led to limited selection of courses and even section...many students including myself are forced to remain at RIT for an extra quarter or two just because we could not get interpreter's service for ONE courses simply because one section is supported and the other is not and I'm unable to take the unsupported section because of the difficult level that the course has to offer. Many students face such obstacles and we see nothing being done by both the interpreting office and especially by the President.

Again this is a very broad appeal for the RIT Community for NTID is a very large part of that community. I'll be looking forward to your answer sometime soon!

**A:** Let me first address your concern about rumored cuts in funding for interpreting by stating emphatically that there has been no cut to interpreting funding. In fact, funding for interpreting services has increased annually and so has the total hours of service provided each year. Last year, we provided 98,520 hours of interpreting services to students, compared to 85,584 hours in 2000.

Deaf students are succeeding in greater numbers at RIT and have moved into a more diverse array of majors, including increased numbers undertaking graduate studies. Additional interpreting services have also been provided by RIT in support of deaf faculty hired within other colleges of RIT.

Since RIT established the world's first formal interpreting program, we've maintained our leadership role through a wide variety of ways. Despite the longstanding and very critical shortage of interpreters in Rochester and throughout

the country, we have worked hard to fill the gap on both sides. The Provost Deaf Access Committee meets once or twice quarterly to address and resolve student concerns; the Dean's Student Leadership Advisory Group (DSLAG) meets regularly with VP/Dean Dr. Hurwitz to discuss issues, and NTID Student Congress has been actively involved. To help meet the growing demand, we implemented a new computer system to dramatically increase the speed and convenience to students when they request interpreting services.

On the interpreter side, we established a bachelor's degree in addition to the associate's degree we offer for ASL-English interpretation; we seek and have been awarded many grants to help the professional development of interpreters and to help improve access for deaf/hard-of-hearing students in various fields. We employ more than 100 full time interpreters.

But despite annual increases in budget and hours of service provided, there remain limitations and burdens imposed by using interpreting services. I'm sure you can understand why careful management of this expensive resource is necessary and why it would be unrealistic to cover every calculus class at RIT when only one or two sections could serve all the deaf students. There is no denying that the strategies used to manage these services place some additional steps in front of deaf students, and present some challenges in the selection and registration of courses that are not shared by your hearing peers. The Access Services Department works closely with faculty advisors and students to ensure all students can enjoy the access services they require.

Access Services has also been expanding its offerings beyond interpreting. NTID has rapidly expanded its capabilities for speech-to-text 'captioning' in real time as an access service for students who do not benefit from sign language interpreting. Twenty-five captionists now provide this service using C-Print and the number will rise.

There are strategies students can use to maximize their chances of getting services. Advance planning with your advisor, early registration and requesting for services improve the chances of getting what you'd like. Just as for any student, some opportunities may be closed out. RIT offers a fantastic variety of accessible courses, providing the largest amount of access services in the world.

The director of Access Services, Mr. Steve Nelson, would be happy to meet with you to discuss the details of your recent experiences. He can be reached at sandis@rit.edu or 475-6455(v/tty).

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**Date added:** 12/22/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

As a "hearing" student at RIT, I view this school as one of the best places in the world to learn sign language, since there are so many people who actually use it in everyday conversation! So I was wondering why is it not offered as a minor? I still enroll in ASL classes anyway, but with such an invaluable resource as NTID and deaf students, it baffles me that it is not offered as a minor here.

Thanks you for your time.

**A:** As you probably know, the College of Liberal Arts already offers a concentration in ASL. We currently do not offer sufficient courses to provide a minor. Our faculty resources do not allow us to expand our offerings at this time. However, the Foreign Language Department has been exploring the possibility of offering minor in the future.

You make a very good point, and we are making efforts to increase options for students across the entire curriculum, including offering a broader range of courses in the area of ASL and Deaf Studies. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the general education curriculum, we currently are considering a collaborative effort involving NTID and the College of Liberal Arts.

The goal of this effort is to expand the scope of our course offerings in the area of Deaf Studies and provide a wider range of academic options for students, including the possibility of offering a minor in the field of ASL and Deaf Studies.

You have identified an important issue which directly influences the education of a great many students. I want to assure you that we are making every effort to address this issue in a meaningful and constructive manner that will benefit both deaf and hearing students at RIT. RIT should be a place where deaf and hearing students can discover the advantages of a culturally- and linguistically-diverse environment as a source of personal and professional enrichment. The integration of deaf and hearing students on the RIT campus provides us with a unique opportunity to contribute to learning and scholarship in the field of ASL and Deaf Studies, and we are committed to taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by such a diverse environment for the benefit of all students enrolled at the university.

## **PARKING / TRANSPORTATION**

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**Date added:** 7/07/2005

**Q:** This is a follow-up to a previous question. I rely on public transportation (RTS) to get to and from RIT. Since last September when the number of stops by RTS dropped



from 16 to two this has been a challenge. The RIT provided shuttle service has helped, and is appreciated, but the schedule has prevented me from using the field house or any other activities because I need to work through most of my lunch hour to insure I accomplish my responsibilities. My question is will RTS ever return with an expanded schedule? RIT is a top ten employer in the county and is really a small city during the primary school year. I admit I am biased because I use the service but I feel public transportation aids the environment and would free parking spots for others who do not have access to public transportation.

**A:** When RTS cut back Rt. 24, RIT stepped up to the plate to align the Green Line service to provide that connecting link to Marketplace Mall. RIT has continued to support that service through this summer.

RIT continues to express the need to RTS to resume service and try to influence that outcome. Recommendations are forthcoming on how to best manage the need for connecting service for public transportation to RIT.

RTS needs to hear the public's voice as well on this issue. They need to hear direct feedback from people like your self.

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**Date added:** 7/27/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

Why is it that parking services seems to go out of their way to ticket freshman drivers? I understand that RIT is one of the few schools that allows freshman to bring cars to school, but this privilege is pointless if they can't use it. Unlike students with any other permits, freshman with B permits cannot even park in G & H lot during the day! Why is that? They are quite far away from the academic buildings, but are still closer than walking if a student is really in a hurry.

**A:** The Parking regulations have developed over the years in response to increasing demands. The academic lots on the north and south side of campus serve commuter students, faculty and staff members that come on campus daily.

Lots G & H have become an extension of these academic lots and have absorbed the increased demand as our Institute programs continue to expand. The parking regulations reflect this increased demand and provide a priority system, per say, that allows those that must park daily to do so first. All resident students in the Residential Halls and various apartment complexes have varying degrees of accessibility to these high demand academic lots.

The rationale being, on campus residents have alternative modes of transportation to the academic center. Alternative transportation modes include the extensive bus services and the extensive pedestrian network throughout campus. RIT is unique in allowing Freshman to bring vehicles on campus and we strive to provide parking near the residential quarters to accommodate this right. With less than 10,000 parking spaces and over 15,000 people on campus daily, restrictions during peak demand periods are inevitable.

The Parking Enforcement program is geared towards bringing order and compliance with the regulations in order to accommodate all the parking needs. Per statistics from the past academic year, Freshman-B-Lot Stickers actually represented less than 6 percent of all citations issued.

The parking enforcement program is here to help in the overall safety and management of our systems.

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**Date added:** 8/05/2005

**Q:** Dear Dr. Simone,

This past winter the F parking lot gained a row-and-a-half of reserved spaces, I assume in response to an increase in the number of reserved parking tags being issued. However, over the last 6 months it has become clear that most of these new spaces consistently go unused every day - it's an awkward location for most of the buildings. Would it be possible to remove some of the restricted parking? Even if the eventual answer is no, it would be nice to know there is an active and responsive administration routinely re-evaluating these sorts of decisions. Thank you.

**A:** The Reserve Parking Program is evaluated quarterly to determine the need to either expand or contract the reserve areas based on the outstanding active permits. All lots have seen an increase in demand this past year and hence the resulting increase in spaces and rows reserved.

Each academic quarter has differing characteristics and needs; for example, during the Summer Quarter the number of Reserve permits notably drop off.

In response, the Parking Office has dropped the reserve signs in various rows in an attempt to open these areas to general parking. The Parking Office just completed a survey evaluating this condition and will be considering additional modifications, as needed.

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**Date added:** 9/12/2005

**Q:** Hi Dr. Simone,

Why do the shuttle busses only run until 6:00 pm? I am not talking about the shuttle bus for the RIT INN - I mean the bus that circles the campus. This is a major inconvenience. I know the campus safety people escort until around 2:00 am, but that doesn't work for someone who wants to get to a campus event at night sometime past 6. I heard from students that have been going here for quite some time that they used to run until 10. What happened?

Transfer student

**A:** The RTS On-Campus shuttle service runs from 7:10am until 10:36pm Monday through Friday. At 10:30pm, the RIT late evening escort shuttle runs till 2:17am the following morning. Please refer to the Campus Safety Transportation website for regular updates on the transit services available  
<http://finweb.rit.edu/campussafety/transportation/index.html>

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**Date added:** 9/21/2005

**Q:** I received a parking ticket the other day and it was a fine of \$30! I was wondering why RIT feels the need to fine so much for such a harmless thing as parking?

**A:** The parking fines were derived through bench marking with other universities. The \$30.00 fine is for having an unregistered vehicle, violating housing restrictions, parking in reserved lots without a permit, parking in short term spaces without a permit and for parking in visitor spaces.

The Parking Enforcement program is geared towards bringing order and compliance with the regulations in order to accommodate all the parking needs. We have nearly 10,000 parking spots on campus, and we have a bus system in place.

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**Date added:** 9/29/2005

**Q:** A large number of students are angry about the decision to stop the counterclockwise bus. What are you going to do for all the students who relied on this bus? We want it back.

**A:** The transit schedules on and off campus are routinely evaluated based on demand and ridership information. This evaluation is performed in order to develop efficient schedules and improve on frequency of stops to serve the total campus population.

We are in the process of evaluating future needs and will certainly consider any suggestions that will address the varying needs of our diverse campus population.

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**Date added:** 11/04/2005

**Q:** I'm a dedicated supporter of public transportation – not only by choice, but by need. I use the RTS bus daily to work downtown. However, after some investigating, I feel compelled to ask why does RIT fail to support RTS, making public transportation as painful and inconvenient as it is?

Brenna Cammeron of The Reporter (September 23, 2005 edition - [http://www.reportermag.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2005/09/23/43321d781e450?in\\_archive=1](http://www.reportermag.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2005/09/23/43321d781e450?in_archive=1)) wrote an excellent article describing the near torture it is to go downtown for an afternoon. If you have any doubts, I personally challenge you and any of the RIT administration to take a trip downtown using public transportation. Here's a tip...schedule the whole day for it, you'll need it.

What she failed to include in her report was how frustrating it feels to do that daily, and more importantly, she failed to include why it is this bad. I had a chance to speak to several bus drivers for the 24 line, and they've told me RTS has cut back on the number stops to RIT over the last few years. From my understanding, RIT has a contract with RTS for on-campus shuttling, and I find it rather odd that RIT would stand back and allow RTS to cut the number of RIT-Downtown runs from more than half a dozen down to two per day without creating an initiative to increase usage. There is only a run at 7:40am and 10:50am. Sure, there are several buses that leave Marketplace Mall, and RIT does have a shuttle to the mall. However, as Brenna wrote, even when it works 100% on time, it is still an all-day affair that is frustrating and terribly inconvenient.

If public transportation is to be successful, it needs to be reasonably convenient; otherwise, students will find other means-- the fact it is underutilized is proof of how inconvenient it is. What bothers me is how little RIT apparently supports public transportation downtown. What has RIT done to promote the bus transportation downtown other than put more bus schedules on campus or obtain transportation downtown for a handful of special events? Why hasn't RIT generated interest and support for RTS's downtown service so RTS is inclined to run additional lines? Or will the downtown bus die a silent death?

**A:** RIT is very much concerned with the lack of adequate direct RGRTA service to our campus affecting students, faculty and staff. RIT's Transportation Services office continues to advocate and negotiate with RGRTA to improve service to our community on a quarterly basis. Just recently, minor adjustments in our current contracts have resulted in another direct RTS Rt. 24 stop on campus. RIT has had to provide supplemental transit services from campus to Marketplace Mall to provide the necessary link to regional public transportation system. This Fall, RIT has added a second bus to handle the 53% increase in transit demand on the Green Line route. Last year, between the RIT/UR Link service and the RIT Green Line bus service, over 34,000 passenger trips were recorded. These passenger trips would otherwise be using the RTS Route 24 directly to campus.

RIT transportation service goals are to provide alternative transportation means within the RIT campus and to RIT owned housing (RIT Inn and Racquet Club). Recently, the need to provide the external link to the regional public transportation system has expanded the thresholds of the transportation goals that inadvertently have led to less reliable service due to external factors that easily alter schedules (i.e., traffic conditions, weather, road construction, vehicle malfunctions, incidents, etc.). Attempting to balance all the varying needs of the RIT community makes the task of coordinating all potential connecting schedules an arduous task, if at all possible.

The long-term resolution to this challenge is to continue to bring these concerns directly to RGRTA and your County Legislator. Over 34,000 passenger trips per year are being dropped off short of their destination by RGRTA. We encourage and welcome this type of feedback to assist in on going efforts to resolve this opportunity.

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**Date added:** 11/04/2005

**Q:** In a recent question you mentioned that:

"You are also ten or fifteen minutes away from downtown Rochester, which has symphony, theater, first-class restaurants, sports and entertainment. Nearby are the Finger Lakes, the Adirondacks, and the Fast Ferry to Toronto."

Fifteen minutes is if you own a car which not all of the RIT students do. The Reporter recently printed an article stating that it required over three hours to get to downtown Rochester via buses. The columnist ended up getting a ride home as to avoid the bus system. Not to mention they cited being uncomfortable with some of the other riders.

When will RIT see that not having a car is a HUGE disadvantage and needs to get on the ball with a bus to get downtown?

I really enjoy the movie-mall bus and believe that such a method could be employed

to get downtown. A bus that runs on the weekends just a couple of times a day would suffice.

**A:** RIT is very much concerned with the lack of adequate direct RGRTA service to our campus affecting students, faculty and staff. RIT has been an advocate for improved public transit services and takes every opportunity in negotiations with RTS to improve this service.

RIT transportation service goals are to provide alternative transportation means within the RIT campus and to RIT owned housing (RIT Inn and Racquet Club). We must provide the basic transportation services first and will look for opportunities to expand the weekend services when practical.

The long-term resolution to this challenge is to continue to bring these concerns directly to RGRTA and your County Legislator. We encourage and welcome this type of feedback to assist in on going efforts to resolve this opportunity.

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**Date added:** 11/04/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

What is RIT planning to do about the obvious parking problems on the academic side of campus? I am a commuter student whom, three days out of the week, has to come onto campus in the middle of the day.

Usually I arrive on campus 10-15 minutes before class, and park in S-Lot because it is the closest to campus. Often I will drive through every row in the lot I am allowed to park in, looking for a space and find none. It is like this in all the other lots I've ever visited at these times. I'm therefore forced into a dilemma. I could either skip class and go home, or park illegally on the grass. Now I'm not going to skip class, so the latter is the only real option.

I have so far received 2 tickets. One was removed. I asked in the appeal what I should do in this situation, and got the reply, "Look at the orange card we gave you." I looked at this card and, it says nothing relevant. I know I am not alone in this situation, because every time I must park illegally, there are many other cars doing the same. What should we do? I don't think it's fair that we must pay an \$18 ticket just because we were trying to get to class on time. And I don't think we should have to leave for class an hour ahead of time just to find parking.

**A:** Parking on campus is an ongoing challenge with the increased demand and expansion of our Institute. The Parking & Transportation Services Office is currently undertaking a parking lot occupancy survey to identify where we may have constant

demand for spaces and where we may have excess spaces. These evaluations will be taken quarterly to assist with current and long-term strategic planning efforts. Once the surveys are complete, we may be able to identify various options.

At this time, we would ask you seek legal parking spaces in other lots or adjust your arrival patterns, even by just 15 minutes, and it can make a difference.

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**Date added:** 11/15/2005

**Q:** I would like to know why E lot behind building 7 is completely reserved now. G and H lot are beginning to overflow; there are no general spaces being made to replace the ones being pulled into the reserved section. This is a real problem for commuters like me. I'm paying for an education here, which means I NEED to be on campus, and buying a reserved parking pass should be a luxury, not a necessity.

**A:** Due to the increased demand for parking on campus, the Reserved Parking program has also seen an increased demand. The recent expansion of the reserved parking areas is a direct result of the number of permits being purchased by students, faculty and staff in our community. The current number of reserved spaces represents less than 20 percent of the total number of parking spaces.

The Parking & Transportation Services office has been undertaking parking lot occupancy surveys to determine the actual daily and hourly demand in each of the major parking areas. This information will be a critical component in identifying over/under utilized parking areas and potential future needs.

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**Date added:** 11/15/2005

**Q:** Sir,

Is there any chances of increasing parking spaces in packing lot E. I have attended RIT for over four years and have slowly seen student and commuter parking spots taken up by special permit and or facility. It pretty hard for commuters to drive long distances to attend classes running short on time only to have to walk a bit of a distance to class. Any help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

**A:** The Parking & Transportation Services office is currently reviewing parking utilization throughout campus.

This will assist in determining current and future needs as our campus continues to

expand. This evaluation will assist in developing options and long term recommendations to address the parking challenges being faced on campus.

We are anxiously waiting to see the results of these efforts and will make future program recommendations available to our community.

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**Date added:** 11/16/2005

**Q:** In a recent question, you responded to a student having trouble finding legal parking. However I did not find your response satisfactory. I am an art student here at RIT and parking behind building 7 has become increasingly difficult in the 2 years I have been commuting to campus. I have noticed that gradually E lot has become entirely reserved parking over the past year and half, but there seem to be empty spaces (until presumably someone buys another reserved parking pass). I understand that I can leave an hour early to possibly find a parking space that isn't the last row in the back lots, or better yet at 8 am to find a spot for my class at 2, so I ask you this: Why keep increasing reserved parking? Why not set a limited number of parking passes and when they run out that's it? Why is that just anyone can buy a reserved parking pass if they have the money? I understand this is a good way to make money, but I know that it is making many commuter students very upset. It now may take me 5-10 minutes simply to walk to class from the parking lot.

**A:** Here is yet another response to a parking question.

The Reserved Parking program is managed and operated by our Parking & Transportation Services office. We are aware of the increased demand on our parking facilities and we aware the Parking Office is evaluating the parking utilization and adjusting the reserved parking limits based on the number of permits being purchased by students, faculty and staff.

As the parking facilities remain constant, or temporarily decrease to accommodate the various construction projects on campus, available parking is at a premium. There are specific times of the day and on certain days of the week, that regardless if we had reserved spaces or not, students would still have to walk long distances to class. The locations of the spaces haven't changed; the reserved program has provided an opportunity to allow those who choose to pay for a closer space, to do so. Premium parking is very much the norm throughout other universities across the state and nation.

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**Date added:** 12/07/2005



**Q:** This year I chose to live off campus and commute (due to lack of housing, but that's another issue). I have been finding it quite difficult to find parking spaces. This happens mostly for my 12 and 2pm classes, which I show up twenty minutes earlier for. Some days I will drive through several lots and have to park illegally so that I am not late for class. I have not received a ticket yet, but when I do, I will refuse to pay it. I feel this way because as I walk from my space, I see the large number of reserved spots that are open, usually 20 to 50 percent. This is grossly inefficient. If the school needs more money to maintain lots, either raise tuition or charge everyone a nominal fee when they register their cars. This would remove any need to have special reserved spots. The reserved also goes against the spirit of this fine institution that values equality.

Thanks for reading and I hope I get a response.

**A:** Paula Benway, our Parking Manager, is studying this issue. Here is her response:

"Thank you for contacting us regarding the parking situation on campus. Parking on campus between 12:00 and 2:00pm is at a prime. That is the peak time when the majority of our faculty, staff, students and visitors are on campus. The Reserved Program has greatly evolved based on the desire for our members to park closer to the buildings. The Parking Office has been doing parking occupancy surveys in each of the major lots and has been adjusting the reserved program limits as needed. While we are still evaluating the data, it does indicate the following patterns in reserved spaces during the time frame you mention:

U-Lot reserved - over 95% full on Mondays, Tuesd, Thursd during these times  
S-Lot reserved - over 95% full on Mondays, and 90% on Tuesdays  
E-Lot reserved - over 90% full on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays  
F-Lot reserved - 100% at 2:00pm on Wednesdays, over 85% on Tuesday&Thursdays  
J-Lot reserved - over 90% full on Mondays and Tuesdays

There may be other times of the day when these spaces are not highly utilized; however, a reserved permit holder who has paid a premium to park in these lots is entitled to park at any time on any day. Parking illegally (reserved space, fire lane, handicapped, short term, etc.) is not acceptable as you are taking someone else's spot or putting other pedestrians/vehicles at higher risk. General parking is available in some of these lots and at other locations (G, H, T-Lots), however, will require a longer walk.

With this data we are assessing campus wide parking needs. We hope this information will go a long way in defining where/when we may need to add additional parking on campus. Other mechanisms to equitably assess parking fees will be considered as part of the overall parking master plan process.

We do thank you for your suggestion and hope this helps to explain where we are in addressing campus parking challenges.

If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to contact me."

Paula Benway, Manager  
Parking & Transportation Services  
RIT Campus Safety

## **RIT FACILITIES**

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**Date added:** 7/05/2005

**Q:** President Simone,

The crossroads market, the corner store, and the bursars office all have hours between 8 AM and 5 PM on weekdays. I have a co-op this quarter, which makes it impossible to do necessary business on campus. Would it be possible to extend the hours of campus facilities during summer quarter? One or two weekend hours would help tremendously.

**A:** Thank you for your question pertaining to summer hours. As it relates to the Food Service facilities (The Crossroads Market and the Corner Store), we are open at the Crossroads from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Friday and are not open on weekends until the fall quarter.

The Corner Store has been open on since June 6th, with weekday hours from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Sunday hours from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM.

As of July 9th, we will open the Corner Store on Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM as well.

In addition to these two facilities, we also have Grace Watson Dining Hall open on weekends from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday for the three main meal periods, and from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM for brunch and dinner on Sundays.

We are limited during the summer to not being able to open all of the services that we normally have available during the academic school year. This is due to the very small number of students, faculty and staff on campus during the summer quarter. To open more facilities that we currently have open would be cost prohibitive. We try to position the services that we have open to service the majority of the customers we have on campus at the times and locations these services are needed.

In terms of the Bursar's Office (Student Financial Services), anything you need can be handled by phone (475-6186) , e-mail (kvcbur@rit.edu) or online

<http://finweb.rit.edu/sfs/>

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**Date added:** 7/25/2005

**Q:** Why is it that we pay the same amount for the activities fee over the summer, when the SLC and other facilities are on reduced hours? I know that they are ON reduced hours because of a decrease in student staff as well as demand, but would that not warrant a decrease in fees to run?

**A:** The fees referenced are charged quarterly to help operate programs and buildings that serve students. While it is true that some facilities and programs are on a reduced schedule of hours during the summer, they serve a radically reduced student population.

The truth is that the funds collected from this small summer student population cannot really cover the costs of all the services and building hours provided.

If these areas had to operate on the fees collected from summer students only, the operational hours and services might: -actually be reduced more than they already, -possibly unavailable, or -might require that students be charged more than the regular fee already assessed.

Therefore, the charge for these facilities and services reflects a cost savings.

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**Date added:** 7/26/2005

**Q:** Dear Dr. Simone, RIT received a request from RG&E to limit its power usage for fear of over loading resources. Why hasn't RIT invested more in building an independent power system utilizing natural methods such as Windmills, Solar Energy, and even the nearby river? Much could be gained by RIT's 'exploring' these initiatives including reduction of college costs, and more importantly, possible future contributions to society's transition from typical resources such as oil and natural gas.

**A:** The Institute has in the past and continues today to look for opportunities to reduce our reliance on the electrical grid. In the 1980s RIT actually constructed a solar house on campus for a faculty member to live in and several years ago in cooperation with the local utility, one of the first Fuel Cells was placed on our campus (the Fuel Cell converted natural gas into electricity).

Currently we are almost ready to solicit bids to construct a cogeneration plant that would be capable of producing approximately 50 percent of our current electrical

needs. Additionally the Institute has looked into utilizing wind and solar power, and is currently talking with the County about the potential use of land fill gas as a fuel source. While the above all speak to alternative sources for producing power, it should also be mentioned that the Institute has aggressively implemented a large number of energy conservation methods over the last 10 years in an effort to reduce our consumption.

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**Date added:** 8/03/2005

**Q:** What are the plans, if any, to fix up the old pool across from Clark Gym? I think it would make a great spot for an automotive garage, don't you think? People gathering learning about automotive engineering. Maybe the school could get some sponsorships from companies to provide tools.

**A:** Thanks for the suggestion.

Concepts are still being developed for the former swimming pool area and we have involved students in the process. We have a number of clubs and organizations on campus that need more space.

At this point, the area may be designed to have three floors with a combination of student support space, multi-use space, and socialization space.

Once a concept has been agreed upon, we will try to fundraise for it with the start of construction being dependent upon the amount of dollars we can raise.

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**Date added:** 8/18/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

This summer RG&E contacted RIT about saving electricity during peak times. Since we are a technical institute, why do we have such a bad energy policy? There are lights left on all over campus. Even the Perkins basement lights are left on with no way for the residents to turn them off.

**A:** The Institute Energy Policy (<http://facilities.rit.edu/policies>) is actually a very realistic one which if followed would conserve energy.

It does require the cooperation of students, faculty and staff to make it work however and sometimes people forget to turn off lights and/or equipment. Of course, there are

cases where either for security or safety (or both) lights must remain on 24 hours a day.

## **RIT HISTORY**

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None.

## **RIT MYTHS**

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None.

## **STUDENT LIFE**

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**Date added:** 7/15/2005

**Q:** Why don't you come by Shaker's Blends more often? I work there and have seen you once this summer showing people around. If you come by, I'll buy you a shake! Thanks for your time!

**A:** Sounds refreshing. Thanks for the offer!

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**Date added:** 8/03/2005

**Q:** I know that people comment that RIT doesn't have a lot of school spirit. My high school was in the same situation as RIT, as we did not have a football team, so homecoming was pretty pathetic. One thing that we did have that brought lots of school spirit, was a Winter Carnival. This was for students and faculty. At my high school, we had freshman v. sophomores v. juniors v. seniors v. faculty. The competitions were easy things that anyone could do, and the winning team won money towards their graduation party fund, and faculty won a small party. There would be volleyball contests, hockey, ski jump contests, a bonfire, inside contests too. There was a racing contest where people had to make "cars" (usually shopping carts) and go through an obstacle course. We could easily do something like this at RIT, but make it more college appropriate. We could do it colleges v. each other and a team for faculty. It would be something to do for us in the nasty winter months.

**A:** Thanks for the suggestion. I will pass this along.

Please note that Student Government has held a homecoming in the winter the past few years. They plan to call it something different this year, but the point is to have a "spirit week" during the winter. It typically falls around the time of the Super Bowl. I do suggest that you meet with Student Government this fall to share your ideas.

Meanwhile, we are hoping the student body rallies around Tiger Hockey this year, in our inaugural season at the Division I level. Finally, with more than 160 clubs on campus, I think RIT offers plenty in the arena of extra-curricular activities.

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**Date added:** 8/18/2005

**Q:** Here's a school spirit and residence life spirit idea that other colleges do that I haven't seen RIT try: A decorating dorm contest. A competition like this could promote more atmosphere in the dorms and be something fun for students to do. It would be something the school could show off - some of these dorms. Maybe have a prize for the winner. I'm sure this could be a lot of fun, why not?

**A:** Great idea and I checked with the folks in Residence Life to see what they have planned.

They are planning to have prizes, an ice cream social, pizza party, and extra programming funds, plus gift certificates.

Look for a contest in early fall or during Brick City Homecoming weekend, Oct. 6-9.

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**Date added:** 9/08/2005

**Q:** Many times when I am walking in or out of a building I have to walk through a cloud of smoke. There is no way around it since the smokers stand right outside the door. This is very common near the learning center, the library, the college of business, the computer building, and many others. Is there anything you can do about this? I came to RIT to get a good education not lung cancer. Thanks

**A:** Sorry for your inconvenience.

We have implemented a smoke free zone 25 feet with the residential facilities, but this is not the case for all other facilities on campus.

We have taken action with students/others who are smoking within the 25 feet. But we don't have smoking police at all doors 24/7.

The RIT smoking policy can be found at:  
[http://www.rit.edu/~301www/rr\\_smoking.php3](http://www.rit.edu/~301www/rr_smoking.php3)

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**Date added:** 9/08/2005

**Q:** President Simone,

Over the summer there was a question about why a school with such rich art ability as RIT doesn't have a yearbook, and your response was that the cost would be too high. Why can't RIT produce a yearbook without the headshots? That would reduce cost and make for a less daunting task. If a public high school can produce a full-color yearbook, then a private institution like RIT should be able to as well. - Thank you

**A:** A yearbook can come in many forms in today's world of technology. The idea of not having headshots is an interesting concept.

As you know, this question does come up from time to time and we have recently examined the issue. Meanwhile, students are now connecting in such forums as Facebook.

It does become a question of resources: It would cost approximately \$100,000 to start this up. There are many operational issues involved and we would need to see a huge support from the student body to move forward on this. I suggest that you bring this up with Student Government and/or Student Affairs.

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**Date added:** 10/05/2005

**Q:** At the school I transferred here from, there were lockers in certain buildings for commuters. Books are pretty heavy these days, and if I have a busy schedule, its just crazy to try and lug them all around, let alone not very good for my back. Would it be possible for RIT to supply commuters with some sort of locker or storage place that we could keep some of our belongings/books in?

**A:** The answer is that the Off Campus and Apartment Student Association, "OCASA", located in the Student Alumni Union, bldg. 4 in the RITreat (hallway between the SAU lobby and Campus Connections Bookstore) will provide students free of charge a locker. This information is located on pages 105 and 161 of the SOURCE for future reference.

The lockers are located on the A level of the Student Alumni Union and there is also in the OCASA office free coffee and hot drinks available, a fax, copier and computers (both Mac and Dells). OCASA is a gold mine for any commuter student or student living in an RIT apartment.

If you would like a warm friendly voice to talk with more about their services, please give her Jane Hutchinson's name and her phone number is 475-6680. Jane is the OCASA office manager.

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**Date added:** 11/22/2005

**Q:** Why were certain free standing Greek homes on charters way deemed "DRY" this past week for no fault of their own? Should one Greek be punished for another's mistakes? How do you feel about the future of Greek life at RIT? Were you yourself a member of a Greek organization?

**A:** The decision to remove alcohol from the Greek free-standing housing was made in response to a high level of activity involving Greek organizations and members of the Greek letter organizations. Specifically, Greek organizations and their members constitute over 21 percent of the current conduct cases. Over 50 percent of the cases involved alcohol. This trend is unacceptable.

I believe that the Greek system can be a significant, positive aspect of the RIT community. The opportunity to bond with other students, to contribute philanthropically to the Rochester community and to participate in national affinity groups is commendable and a model for other clubs and organizations. In fact, we know that RIT Greeks graduate at a higher rate, contribute as alumni and enjoy the chance to be a part of structured organization that fosters brotherhood/sisterhood and excellence.

Alcohol and the abuse of it don't need to be a part of that message. My decision was based on evidence that many Greek affiliated students were headed down the wrong path. I have asked Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president of Student Affairs, to work closely with the Greek leadership to assist them to strategically turn this around.

Early signals are the Greek leadership is very engaged in helping change this behavioral trend. There is a Greek Summit on December 4th where the Greek community will come together to plan for its future. Representatives from Campus Life, Residence Life and Student Conduct and Mediation will be in attendance to offer support and collaboration.

Additionally, Dr. Cooper will be designating funds to support recruitment efforts by



the Greek system. I believe the future of the Greek system is in the hands of the current Greek leadership with the support of the Student Affairs staff. They have my full support.

To answer your last question, yes, I was a Greek at Tufts University. I was a member of Theta Chi, which is one of the largest national fraternities. I am also a member of the following academic fraternities: Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi.

## **TOP QUESTIONS**

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**Date added:** 8/03/2005

**Q:** I heard rumors that you were going to retire and were planning on staying at RIT less than a decade. Is this true?

**A:** I joined RIT in 1992 so I am in my 13th year. I thoroughly enjoy my job and I have no official plans to retire yet.

We are now implementing RIT's new Strategic Plan (A copy is located on my website), and I am excited about the momentum the university has as we move forward.

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**Date added:** 9/10/2005

**Q:** Hi Al,

It seems to me that there is a recurring air of complaint and disgruntledness about this website. I must say I admire how patient you must surely be to look through all of the questions and pick out one each week. However, I don't see much in the way of results or changes occurring from the questions on this website.

What exactly is the purpose of this site? If the goal of this site is for you to get an indication of the thoughts of the RIT student population, I'd say the site is a success. If the aim for this site is to receive questions about RIT and clear up students' misconceptions, there is still a lot of success. However, if the goal of this site is to take thoughts from students and turn them into changes of RIT, I don't see it happening. What is the goal of these question/answer pairs, and can you point out any results - not just appointments or procedural changes, but actual results that have come about through student questions to this website and your replies to them.

Oh - one more thing... essentially every question here is directed to you. Do other top RIT administrators reply to these questions as well, or just the president?

Thanks!

**A:** This is a good question, particularly now that the site has been up and running for a few years.

The main mission of the site is to provide information. Many times, I'm simply trying to provide direction or clarification to a question. Sometimes the site is used to prevent misinformation...i.e. rumor control. And other times my responses are used to spread the vision of RIT...i.e. the Strategic Plan.

Yes, the site is one tool to gauge the pulse of the RIT community, but it is only one tool.

We can point to examples of change thanks to great feedback from the questions. For example, we've made improvements to the MyRIT portal, SIS. We've installed more Web cams and bike racks, all as a result of this forum. We've taken ideas from this site regarding how to reconstruct the old pool area, and shared them with the campus leaders. And we've taken ideas from this site to help make changes in Academic Affairs, where we are seeing greater curriculum flexibility this year.

That being said, not every request on this site is going to receive a positive reaction. We can't say "yes" to everything, as we have to prioritize and we have a fiduciary responsibility as leaders of the university.

Meanwhile, your question is timely because of the large volume of questions coming to this site. Some of the recent questions have been very specific...i.e. related to parking and housing, the taste of juice, etc. I would hope that these questions are also being asked directly of the representatives in those specific fields first.

Furthermore, I would like to point out that RIT does have a Student Problem Resolution Office/Ombudsperson where students can air more challenging problems. They can be reached at 475-7200.

In regards to your final question, yes, other top administrators reply to questions, as they are often closer to the situation.

Thanks for asking and we will try our best to respond to all questions as best we can in this one particular forum.

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**Date added:** 9/15/2005

**Q:** What attribute do you account for your success in the university and intellectual environment? And what value(s) would you ask striving RIT students to embrace?

**A:** You ask two questions. The answer to each is identical.

What I try to reflect, and what I search for in people whom I hire, and what you - as an RIT student - should strive towards are the following values and attributes: integrity; work ethic; smarts and talent; ability to communicate; ability to work with others; and individual, professional, and institutional loyalty. I have listed those attributes in priority order.

Every successful leader and citizen needs all of these. However, to have the second or third without the first will yield failure. Having the first and missing some of the others may not yield total success but will at least provide happiness and a sense of esteem and comfort with oneself.

Of course, there are other attributes that are important for success and happiness. For example, the ability to love and be loved; the willingness to give back to society; the understanding that it is important to treat others the way you would wish to be treated; the ability to listen; the ability to respect ideas, cultures, and individuals who may be different from you and with whom you may disagree.

Putting all of that together is no easy task, because there will be forks in the road almost every day which will force you to examine yourself and which have successfully tempted other unfortunate individuals to stray. You need courage and discipline to stay on the right path.

Thanks for the question. Good luck.

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**Date added:** 10/26/2005

**Q:** President Simone.

I have read about 20 questions, and 20 of your answers, and come to the conclusion that in all the answers you have given, I have yet to see an answer with genuine sincerity. You seem to be more interested in how you present yourself than to answering the questions. I feel that your attitude towards the peoples' questions here is very similar to your attitude towards RIT as a university. You say that you want RIT to be one of the best colleges in the country, but you blatantly do not treat RIT as such. You seem to be more enthusiastic towards making RIT "great" to the rest of the world than paying attention to what happens on your own doorstep every day.

RIT is a great institution. RIT is filled with passionate individuals who want to make something great of themselves. I feel that you are more concerned with prestige than making RIT a great place for the people who spend a lot of money to go here. We don't spend the money on RIT to be prestigious--we want to learn and have a good EXPERIENCE of RIT when we leave--you don't seem to understand that part of that experience is having a good time, having fun, and relaxing. We work hard at RIT, and are missing a crucial part of the college experience-- FUN !!!

Why won't you just let RIT become a prosperous place of ingenuity, imagination, and creativity here on the home front FIRST, and then focus on how the rest of the country perceives us as an institution ? Why don't you let us have fun at RIT ?

All work and no play makes john a dull boy.  
All work and no play makes sally a dull girl.

Thank you for your time.

**A:** Dear Student:

Thanks for your question of October 20. I will give you a structured answer and then a personal answer.

With regard to structure, we have more than 160 clubs, 28 fraternities and sororities, 24 intercollegiate sports teams, an active student government, a prize-winning Reporter magazine, radio and TV shows, and the ESPN Sports Zone. There is also the Brick City Homecoming and the Spring Festival.

Everyday of the week, if you look at the calendar, you will find there are lectures, concerts, bands, and activities. There is plenty to do.

Moreover, active plans are underway to construct College Town, which will carve out 90 acres on our campus, two-thirds of which will be composed of ponds and parks, with the rest providing student housing, commercial retail outlets, and restaurants. You are also ten or fifteen minutes away from downtown Rochester, which has symphony, theater, first-class restaurants, sports and entertainment. Nearby are the Finger Lakes, the Adirondacks, and the Fast Ferry to Toronto.

Thus, from a purely structural point of view, it would appear to me that there is plenty to do. Whether you have fun doing that, of course, gets to my next point, which is the personal one.

You could take everything I just described and eliminate them and many individuals will still have fun. They have fun by the manner in which they interact with one another, and by sharing common interests in a positive fashion. In every organization, there are rules, expectations, guidelines, principles, and values. Individuals that share these are the ones who have the most fun. Individuals that may wish to disengage

from these values, principles, and guidelines are the ones who feel put upon.

I suggest that it is up to the individual to determine what kind of person he or she is.

In short, I expect students at RIT to work hard and play hard. There will be expectations and guidelines which I also expect students to follow, because without these chaos can result and that will be to the disadvantage of the students in general.

The prestige and strong reputation that RIT enjoys speak for themselves. I am very proud of the caliber of students, faculty, staff, curricula, and academic and extracurricular programs. I will continue to foster and build these as we move ahead. I hope that you can find a way to have fun along the way.

Cordially yours,

Albert J. Simone  
President

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**Date added:** 10/28/2005

**Q:** Why does RIT waste money on things that we don't need? I have a hundred examples off the top of my head, but the most prominent is The Sentinel.

"The Sentinel . . . a landmark for RIT. The 110-ton, 70-foot-high, stainless steel-bronze sculpture by Albert Paley will serve as a dynamic focal point and campus gathering place in a new pedestrian plaza at the end of the university's main entrance."

Are you aware the no one gathers at The Sentinel? Surely you must have noticed that it's not exactly the most comfortable location on campus. What I can't understand is why you spent XXX amount of dollars (I find it funny that the dollar value seems to be hidden away where no one can find it) when you could have spent LESS money creating a REAL public meeting place. Something like a gazebo, with benches/chairs, tables, etc. I'd wager my tuition that if there were something nice like a miniature park in front of the SAU, it'd be filled to the brim with students every day. Anything from study sessions to ResLife events to people just sitting down to eat their ice cream from Ben and Jerry's.

Okay, so perhaps you felt this campus needed more artistic sculptures on campus. However, for the sake of all things holy, why this?

"The Sentinel speaks of technology, it speaks of organization, it speaks of creation and expression. It fills a void in a society that is filled with commercialism,

uniformity and mass production."

If you ask any student on campus what The Sentinel is, you will get 1 of 2 responses:

- 1)"It's a giant piece of trash bolted together."
- 2)"It's a tribute to how much money RIT can waste."

Being an RA, I have contact with many, many different students and faculty, and of course professors. I can honestly say that I've never heard a positive opinion about The Sentinel. Do you really pay attention to the general RIT populace when making political decisions like installing a giant sculpture? I bet if you took a poll of all RIT residents right now, I could predict the results. "Survey Says: Sentinel is a joke."

**A:** Let's revisit the Sentinel again.

Clearly, you are entitled to your point of view with regard to the value of the Sentinel. I must tell you that visitors come from across the world specifically to the RIT campus to see the Sentinel. It is regarded as one of the most significant - if not the most significant - work of art by an artist whose work can be found in galleries and museums in major cities in the United States and around the world. He is an artist with a truly international reputation of the highest order.

Art, by its very nature, is an expression of feelings and emotion. Different people see different things in a physical product. That is what art is all about, particularly the art that Albert Paley has crafted to perfection over decades. There is a book which is just recently published by the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press. It is titled Sentinel: Design, Fabrication, and Installation of the Monumental Sculpture by Albert Paley.

I truly believe that if you carefully review this book, you will learn a lot. You will come away with an appreciation of the mammoth undertaking this work of art required on the part of a team made up of dozens of people: artists, engineers, construction managers, and students. Please read the book. After you have reviewed it, drop me a note to see whether your sentiments are the same.

Bear in mind that not every student at RIT majors in a discipline that is valued and appreciated by other students. When you criticize the work of one of RIT's and the world's greatest artists and professors, you also attack the discipline and the literally hundreds of students who study under Professor Paley, and who seek to gain some measure of his artistry, talent, and ability in their studies at RIT and as they follow their professional careers.

Cordially yours,

Albert J. Simone  
President

P.S. You should be able to review a copy of the book by asking for it at the Carey Library. If you have any difficulty, please contact my office and we can arrange for you to review it.

PPS. Of importance to note is that most of the funding required for the sculpture was raised through outside donations. You should also note that many RIT students had an opportunity to study and learn as the Sentinel was originally designed, prototyped, manufactured, and, eventually, installed.

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**Date added:** 11/16/2005

**Q:** Dear President Simone,

This is not so much a question, but more of a comment or an idea. I personally love R.I.T and I hate the fact that some students show little to no pride for their school. As I sat down and looked around the campus, I remember the first time I visited R.I.T. I remembered what truly attracted me to the school. It did not matter how the campus looked on the outside, but it was the inside that counted to me. R.I.T has great facilities and faculty. I think R.I.T should make a campaign that states just that "It's what's on the inside that counts," or "It's what's on the inside!" This school was built on a great history, and people that made this campus what it is today. It is just a suggestion, but it would be a great campaign for the school.

**A:** Thanks for taking the time to write. We appreciate your support.

RIT has much to be proud of and we do have a great history. We also have a lot of momentum for the future, and must focus on continuous improvement.

One of my favorite books is "Good to Great" by Jim Collins. The first sentence states "Good is the enemy of great." This simply means you can't be complacent and must always strive forward.

I see RIT in this category of universities. Good luck on finals and have a great break.

Onward and upward!

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**Date added:** 12/07/2005

**Q:** Dr Simone,

As a graduate student in the College of Business, I am continually perplexed by the following two situations:

1. The lack of graduate student representation on campus. There are senators for each college for undergrads but no one to represent the graduate students.
2. The nonchalant response to the repeated appeals to administration for the funding of a new facility for the College of Business. It is not an option in my opinion. As COB continues to improve programming and offerings, they will continue to attract attention from potential students and leaders in the business community. I have heard several times from students, faculty and staff that there were plans in the works, but I am told that a recent faculty and staff meeting with yourself and the Provost revealed that there truly are no plans for such a project.

I can't help but believe that the reason is that COB is not a breadwinner or cash cow for the college much like science, engineering, IT and other programs. Have you ever contemplated that the lack of adequate facilities may be one of the largest factors in limiting opportunities for the COB?

I have even heard from you (at this summer's Board of Trustees meeting) that the COB is "just not high enough on the project priority list." This is baffling to me as you yourself see the impact that COB students can and do have in the community. Have you ever thought about the fact that perhaps some students do not work harder to bring activities and speakers to COB because of the current facilities?

The only visible improvement in my time here so far (a little more than a year) has been the removal of the hideous and dated rug "art".

I believe that not proceeding or planning for a COB complete renovation or new building or annex will prove to be a detriment to the RIT community. As alumni and current students enter the workforce as members of the Rochester and global communities, we can not ignore that their loyalty and ties to RIT and the COB will not be affected by the lack of attention paid to this crucial need.

Regardless of COB position as a non-cash cow, the face of RIT is seriously marred by the lack of attention and dedication to this need. Think of it as PR, think of it as an investment, think of it as an investment in the RIT community, think of it as an investment in the Rochester business community, think of it as an opportunity to facilitate economic development in Rochester, any way you look at it - it is not a losing situation.

Thank you for your consideration.

**A:** Sorry for the delay on this response. We are still catching up from the break.



First, with respect to the representation of graduate students in university governance let me say that you have a valid point.

We do not have a distinct, separate office to assist students with transition issues nor do we have a "graduate student senator" on student government's cabinet. I will bring this to the attention of Student Government in our next meeting to see how we could set this in motion.

On a more positive note, there are two graduate students serving in leadership roles in student government this year, specifically as a vice-president and as a senator for CAST. Additionally, the College of Business has a fairly active graduate management association (GMA) led by two active MBA students, Nick Rogers and Michael Jones. They have their annual holiday gathering 12/9 at 7:00 p.m. at the RIT Inn.

The second question relates to funding for a new facility for the College of Business. A \$2.5 million renovation/addition is budgeted and scheduled for implementation after the first of the year. In addition, a proposal is currently before a donor requesting a significant gift which would support a major renovation of the College of Business facility.

Thus, the need to upgrade the College of Business facilities is duly recognized. It is an important factor in the growth and development of the college as a whole. Of course, the most important aspects of the quality, growth, and development of any academic program are the caliber of the faculty, student body, and curriculum. While these are certainly enhanced by top notch physical facilities, facilities are simply the supporting and facilitating mechanism - they are not the driver for excellence and recognition.

Over the years, I must tell you that some of the outstanding programs of business administration across the country have worked out of facilities no better than what the College of Business now has. Again, the driving forces are the faculty, student body, and curriculum, along with the industry support that recognizes the excellence in these areas. However, to your point, some of the programs to which I am referring now have upgraded their facilities significantly. We still are behind the curve in that regard.

The College of Business facility challenge is not alone on this campus. We recently made significant upgrades in the College of Engineering, College of Science, and the College of Computing and Information Sciences. We have significant work to do yet in the College of Applied Science and Technology (and that is budgeted and scheduled), the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, and the College of Liberal Arts.

The funding for facilities upgrades comes from our internal budgeting, from federal and State support, from corporations and foundations, and from individual donors. Support from these sources has been greater for the College of Engineering, College

of Science, College of Computing and Information Sciences, and NTID than has been the case for the colleges which are in the most need right now, and that is the reason for the current facilities profile across the campus.

The bottom line is that the facilities need for the College of Business is duly recognized. We are working on it, and I would hope that we would have some positive news to report within a reasonable timeframe.

Again, thanks for your question.