

AGENDA • SG SENATE

07-08 STUDENT GOVERNMENT



3/21/08 | 1829 SAU

1) Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 1:01

2) Roll Call and Approval of the Minutes

President	x
Vice President	x
Finance	no
Director of Programming	no
Director of Public Relations	no
Historian	no
MSO Liaison	x
Rep @ Large	no
CAST	x
CIAS	x
COLA	x
COS	x
GCCIS	x
GLBT	x
KGCOE	x
SCOB	no
Women's center	x
NTID	x
NSC	x
OCASA	x
RHA	x
Dr. Heath	no
Collette Shaw	x
ACA	x
CAB	no
Global Union	x
Greek Council	x
Reporter	x
WITR	x
Freshman	x
SAAC	x

3) Speak to the Senate

Dr Destler/Sten McKenzie will come at two to discuss professors who do not have a Ph.D. will be here at 2. GCCIS: Will Dave Morgan be able to speak at that time as well? VP: I don't think that's up to me, let's vote. NTID: Can we discuss recent changes to the co-op program when he arrives as well? VP: Let's save it for the tail-end, I want them to address our Ph.D. concern first.

No other speakers.

4) Cabinet Reports

President: On April 4, Dr. Cooper will come to discuss the Parkour club. Good Samaritan passed the staff council. Board of Trustees meeting is coming up, let Wolf know if there's something you want mentioned. Tuition increased by 5.9%, we all got the e-mail.

VP: Eat Well, Live Well program is gaining momentum. NTID Senator is having trouble with the pedometers, you gotta reset them everyday, and I can't get mine to reset. Malinchoc said they were cheap and we got them for a special price, so.. yes, they're a little cheap. You can get a more expensive one if you want. Senator dinner will be Sunday after week four, maybe around lunchtime. Senior Year Experience, want to have a senior night at MacGreggor's, but they don't want to work with us. Distillery doesn't want to shut down their business for a night for RIT. So, we're planning an event instead. Maybe a semi-formal, maybe going to Artisan Works? Also, I don't want people to pass around these election packets during the meeting, please don't. I don't want it to look like SG is just supporting all of the old candidates, also please don't join endorsement Facebook groups. We want to be unbiased.

MSO: No report.

Rep at Large: Club review tabled airsoft, approved two clubs ???

5) Senator Reports

Freshmen: Alcohol Task Force committee – interested in evaluating how alcohol education is a part of FYE. Committee is also working on a grad assistantship (should help student health and conduct and such with marketing), wants to make an alcohol as it pertains to RIT website. Also met with Collette and Krista Bank to recommend some changes to the FYE curriculum. Will start an assessment next week as I hold late night office hours outside of the corner store. (GLBT: Beer goggles are always fun... maybe incorporate them in your alcohol awareness?)

OCASA: Pizza bomb was yesterday, it was a good time. Tuesday, March 25 is apartment fair. United Way Golf Course also went on last week. A lot of people have been coming to OCASA with parking and housing concerns... maybe we should hold a housing forum to address these common concerns? And for parking... should those people be referred to the parking committee...? VP: They should go straight to Paula, but if they want to come through us, ok. President: We're having an open forum Monday night. VP: There was also a parking forum last week, people should have gone.

CAST: CAST dean search is going on right now. New CAST building has a green wall in it, not put in place yet, but it increases energy efficiency for the building, saves energy and water. Should show how RIT is pursuing sustainability.

GCCIS: Townhall meeting was today, very informal. Another one next week. Talked about new building next to building 70... maybe building 87? Met with architect, talked about the plans.

REPORTER: reportermag.com launched.

Women's: First Wednesdays with Women... didn't get a great turnout, we're trying to figure out how to draw more people to these meetings. Want to market to women, figure out how to make a network. Also, went to the first meeting for a... well, it's a group of women that Dr. Destler has charged with getting 40% women population by 2015. We're presenting some ideas to Destler on Monday. Yesterday was Pathways, which is an art display on the history of women at RIT.

COS: Been meeting with staff in the COS, want to create a neuroscience track in our building. Working with some faculty to create that field of study.

NTID: Went to a presentation about AG Bell last night, why the dorm was named that way, what's involved with removing the name, etc... so, we're going to a meeting with Dr. Hurwitz later to discuss this issue.

NSC: We want to set up a forum to help students understand what's going on with the Bell hall issue, what oralism means, why we're upset. A lot of hearing people or oral Deaf student don't necessarily understand what we mean... so, we're having a meeting in the SDC on Thursday. Maybe, location isn't finalized. We'll send out an e-mail.

6) Advisor Reports

Kathy: Tina is not here, and there are table tents that need to be put out. They're for open discussion on Monday. Could five of you come back to the office and help?

7) Presenters

Dr. Destler and McKenzie are here to address our concerns.

Destler: I was asked to come here to talk about faculty members and promotion guidelines, and I guess there have been a couple of cases of GCCIS professors who would not be promoted until they got a Ph.D. First, I can't talk about individual cases, it's a personnel issue. We can talk about it generally, though. This campus has a history of being a very applied sort of place, especially in CAST, we have hired tenure-track professors without terminal degrees. In virtually every case, there was about a decade worth of experience in industry that stood in place of that degree. Now, the cases in GCCIS are a little different than that, in the sense that in GCCIS (when it started 7 or ten years ago), there was a mad rush to get faculty. Several faculty members were recruited from within RIT who had gotten masters in imaging arts and science, they were hired to teach in GCCIS. Those faculty did not have that kind of industry experience. Those people should have been hired as lecturers, not tenure-track professors, in my opinion.

So, when these cases crossed by desk six years later, I looked at them and said “in my own opinion, these people would not have been appointed as tenure-track professors in other universities of similar stature. This puts me in a difficult position, because if they had been, I mean... students really seem to appreciate them, like them as professors. I granted them tenure, but did not give them a promotion.” So, that’s the rationale for them. We’re not trying to change the focus of the Institute. It’s simply trying to push for a standard... we’re not trying to make RIT a research-oriented institution.

Wolf: Could you please explain the difference between an associate professor and an assistant professor?

Destler: Terminal degree is the highest one you can get in a field. In Fine Arts, this is a masters. Virtually everywhere else, that’s a Ph.D. Associate professors are usually hired from a field of professors who have terminal degrees. After six years, those professors are granted tenure. Here, it’s a bit different. But, after this period, they’re evaluated for promotion and tenure. If all goes well, they get it. Tenure means job security, usually it comes hand in hand with a promotion to job security.

Greek: Does a college actively try to grant people time to get Ph.Ds?

Destler: I don’t know the situation here specifically, I don’t know that the professors in this case were told to get Ph.Ds.

NTID: What about part-time professors?

Destler: Part-time are generally treated differently, those positions are not usually tenured, the qualifications for lecturers may be different (we don’t generally require terminal degrees). Generally, it’s an expectation that faculty has at least one degree level higher than the people they teach. Obviously, not true for doctorate students. But, so, if you higher faculty who do not have a terminal degree, there’s discouragement to hire them because they probably can’t teach masters students. As you know, we are a significant graduate and undergraduate institute, so we keep that in mind.

Dave Morgan: I want to read something from the faculty handbook. [Quote from the handbook relating to high standards]. I know that we can’t talk about specific professors, but some of the ones that were turned down are the best I’ve ever heard. Now, on the question of masters teaching masters... my capstone committee will be full of masters-wielding professors. They bring an expertise from industry that is extremely valuable to me, and I think they’re supported by the quote I just read. If we have someone come in from industry, let’s say from EA games... would they every get promoted up the structure? Based on what you just said?

Destler: Not true, I am willing to look at significant corporate experience in lieu of a Ph.D. If I didn’t believe in this, I would not have tenured this faculty.

KGCOE: Does RIT have a policy allowing for professor's to reduce course loads to pursue Ph.Ds?

Destler: We're looking at this right now. I've asked the deans to produce not a policy but a working document to get a hold on what that would require. You know, my job is to move the institute upward, and I need to do that without doing a lot of damage along the way. We need to look at cases like this... how are we going to help these professors get Ph.Ds so that we can promote them?

GCCIS: In IT and such, you've got a lot of students working with cutting-edge technology. I feel like the professors we pulled in to teach these cutting-edge, hands-on departments should be treated like CAST professors. I don't think you're gonna find a guy from EA with even a masters... I feel like they shouldn't be required to get a terminal degree. Because this is ever-changing, we can't have this reliance on Ph.D.s.

Deslter: I think that's very well-stated, it reflects the unique character of RIT. We try to provide genuinely applicable education for our students, which is difficult! That's why we're trying to come up with this working document... how ARE we going to solve this problem? It's a difficult issue, and we need to figure out how to solve it. We want our students to learn from the best, but 'the best' needs to be defined.

COS: So, it's not set in stone that you need a Ph.D. for tenure?

Destler: Tenure, no. Associate professor... yes.

COS: Has it ever been considered that proof of Ph.D. could be used for a lower courseload?

Destler: We're looking for it. Frankly, I'm trying to look at lower teaching loads in some colleges around the institute.

McKenzie: We have been working on it, we've granted leave of absences to professors for up to two years to work on stuff like this. Just a correction... CS and SE have had Ph.D. standards all along, we're really talking about IT.

Destler: And accordingly to the dean of GCCIS, they've hired only people with terminal degrees. He's been in effect imposing this standard.

Freshmen: I hope that you're not generalizing the colleges when you're looking at this. IT is obviously very different than SE or CS... if we generalize too much, we might lose some good and effective faculty.

KGCOE: Will professors who were turned down be re-evaluated under these new guidelines?

Destler: Should the suggested framework for considering these cases allow for, say, the consideration of a promotion from associate to assistant... even if it didn't, the provost could recommend exceptions, so I can see several ways in which these cases could be reconsidered. It's crucial to RIT that we continually raise the standards that we have. As you move out into the world, you're gonna care about RIT's quality as perceived by others. Part of my job is to move RIT upward, hopefully while doing as little harm as possible. So when I saw these cases, I said... "maybe we need to start a campus discussion about this... these people (and no offense to them) would simply not have been promoted at other institutions).

Liz Kieiwet: You're comparing RIT to other institutions, and I just want to say that I chose RIT because it's so unique (Destler: so did I!). And so I just wanna make sure that we don't change RIT too much.

Destler: and I agree with that, but that doesn't mean that RIT can't be improved.

Morgan: The thing I worry about most is that we'll end up turning away experts.

Destler: In my opinion, the most important recommendation is the department's. On the other hand, it's possible to have quite mediocre units with quite mediocre faculty who recommend other mediocre faculty. So... the reason we have a Provost and a President in this process is to take a hard look at those instances.

8) New Business

Wolf: Aditya e-mailed me the other day asking about the status of the grad student representative on SG. Grad student dean thinks it's a good idea, so Cory Crest is here (grad student) and he would like to express his feelings on how grad students would like to speak).

Crest: We set up a committee with Dean Moore and are looking at current grad student issues... over 2500 grad students on campus, a sizable group. Our needs are somewhat different than undergrad needs, and we'd like some representation on SG. RHA: What kinds of issues? Crest: Moore has a list, things like parking and housing (currently no formal housing for grad students), other general needs like space in the different colleges (no good space to do researches that's devoted to students). Insurance for grad students, too... a lot of us have families, childcare as well. So yes, not the same issues as undergrads. Freshmen: Do you feel like these needs are universal to grad students, or are they major specific? Grad: Probably, I don't really know. We'd need to look at that, we have a committee so people from different colleges will be able to voice their major-specific needs. Wolf: At this point, we're still in the early steps at creating this representation.. we have three options. 1) Grad student council, have a seat on senate. 2) Senate position that's just elected by the grad student body. 3) Have a senator position that's appointed by this advisory group of graduates. Are there a couple of volunteers to help me and Cory pursue this?

9) Old Business

SAAC

Wolf: They have revised their constitution, and have answers to questions raised last week. SAAC: Cooper has approved this, sent me to the NCAA website, don't know how else to explain it. We've included a definition of a student athlete. There are four separate departments for sports, we're under the athletics department. So... we're dealing with students from the athletics department only. We've also included a definition of varsity sport. Also, appended novice teams who are a part of athletics department (men's and women's crew). We can't represent intermurals, wellness, and recreation groups (they are in different departments, and NCAA doesn't cover them). GCCIS: I looked on the NCAA, I still think that club sports should count. SAAC: I don't know how to explain it to you... but NCAA doesn't cover it, it's only the athletics department, not club sports. GCCIS: But they're all under the umbrella organization CIAR. D'Arcangelo: SAAC has all the right information here. CCL and SG give funding to club sports, athletics supports us in terms of coordination, but NCAA athletes are held to a higher standard than other (for lack of a better word, amateur) athletes. GCCIS: My concern is that club sports members are not represented on campus, they get shoved out of playing space... our NCAA athletes take up the majority of the playing time, the majority of the playing space. VP: I think this is a different issue. SAAC isn't a part of this, if we need to address this, let's treat it separately. Freshman: SAAC's hands are tied, we owe it to them to vote. KGCOE: That may be how SAAC operates, but is that how we want our Sports RSO to operate? SAAC: We battle for playing space, we're given a four-hour block every day to balance 24 teams. We are given priority for those four hours, that's it. Club sports are represented through SG. I'm gonna speak for SAAC, we've done a lot in the last year and a half on campus. We're trying to work with you, and we feel like we have made a difference on campus, and that we should be allowed to be a part of this. We represent 575 athletes, we're the same numbers as Greeks. Why not? Greek Council: We oversee a lot of different Greek organizations, maybe SAAC is just a council underneath the Athletics RSO? GCCIS: Were you saying you could make a subcommittee for club sports? I just want them to have some representation. Motion to vote by Women's, second by CIAS.

SAAC approved.

10) Announcements and Comments

MSO budget review hearing is April 5 and 6. More info to come.

Employer advisory board meeting info session will be in the co-op office 11 a.m. Monday. Meeting in CIMS 7:45 – 1:30.

Open forum. Expectation is that you'll be there unless you have class. Wear orange and brown.

VP: On that note: as you guys know, Ed and I are not ra-ra-ra orange and brown, but please wear it on Fridays. Try your best.

Pulse Happy is tonight 4-6. NTID star search is at 7 in Panara Theatre. Super Pulse Happy Hour is on May 3 during Innovation Festival.

Motion to end meeting made by RHA

Second by. GCCIS

Meeting was adjourned at 2:33.