November 19, 2009

Academic Senate Protocol for Consideration of the Calendar

**Motion 1, Process:** The Academic Senate recommends that the following process be followed at its January 14, 2010, meeting on the academic calendar: a) that President Destler address the Senate regarding the RIT community’s consideration of the academic calendar; b) that the Academic Calendar Committee present each calendar option under consideration; c) that each governance group—including representatives from each College, Staff Council, and Student Government—report on any calendar discussions, polls, or votes to date; and d) that the Academic Senate then formally consider whether to recommend change to a semester system or to retain the quarter system.

**Motion 2, Semester Options:** If the Institute elects to change to a semester system, the Academic Senate agrees to recommend either the 4-for-4 or the 5-for-3 credit conversion model as preferable. It further recommends a minimum 3-year implementation process, as outlined in the RIT Semester Conversion Report, prepared by the President’s *ad hoc* Committee on Semester Planning.

**Motion 3, Quarter Options:** If the Institute elects to retain the quarter system, the Academic Senate agrees to recommend either quarter option 1 (the current calendar format), or quarter option 2 (a late start quarter), or quarter option 3 (a split winter quarter into two 5-week blocks). The Academic Senate recommends an informal, non-binding vote on each option in turn for the purpose of ranking the options in order of preference. After this first round of voting, the option receiving the fewest votes will be eliminated from consideration. A second round of voting will then occur on the remaining two options to determine which option to recommend.

**Motion 4, Final Recommendation:** The Academic Senate agrees to consider the preferred semester option and the preferred quarter option together and votes to recommend one of these as the preferred option for RIT’s future calendar.