



STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE

MEETING MINUTES

Day 11-22-2024 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order at 02:10PM, Sophia Pries, Vice President

Senate Roll Call

Lily Chau, FPaTS Chair

- **Present:**
- **Absent:**
- **Excused:**
- **N/A:**

Approval of Meeting Agenda 11/22/2024

Motioned By: VP

So Moved: GCCIS

Seconded: CHST

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Vote

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 11/15/2024

Motioned by: VP

So Moved: SCB

Seconded: ACA

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Vote

Special Recognitions:

Speak to the Senate:

PRESENTATIONS

Nourishing the Future: RIT Dining's Commitment to our Community:

Don LeFlam

- Introduction of Don
 - Executive Director for RIT Dining, have been at RIT for 16 years in various roles, was initially a cook in Brick City, then moved up
 - Chef by trade: "Food is my life - everything about my life is food"
- Who is RIT Dining
 - Fully staffed = 170, currently 150 full time and 1200 part time
 - Largest employment on campus
 - 18k -19k transactions a day over 17 locations
- Have a number of RIT Auxiliary Services
 - Auxiliary - non academic support services provided by the college that supports the college, done through student support services, revenue generation, and community building
- Plant Based Pledge Initiative:
 - Goal: Achieve 50% plant-based dining options by the end of 2025, currently 40-43% of platforms provide plant-based options
 - Why do we do it? Environmental impact -> reducing carbon footprint, think about health benefits, and sustainable efforts
 - 50% doesn't include what is purchased
 - What is the #1 food RIT students purchase?
 - Chicken Fingers, second is mozzarella sticks.
 - Participation in purchasing healthy more whole foods is low, actively trying to engage students with movements
- Culinary Suite Implementation
 - Switched over Menu Management system
 - Responsible for tracking recipes, orders, ingredients, inventory.
 - With the new system students can create accounts to add dietary restrictions, see food options, and give feedback on current recipes
 - Helps with portion controls and planning to reduce waste
 - Sustainable packaging efforts
 - Compostable flatware at crossroads previously - "knife melted in the chicken", trial and error.
 - Current product is not compostable, actively working on solution
- Sustainability
 - Local farm where produce is pulled from (Tait Farm)
 - Sold in catering and at Gracies
- Swipe Out Hunger Initiative
 - National program - 33 schools in New York state
 - Helps fight food insecurity on campus, where students can donate a swipe to another student on campus in need
 - There are case managers on campus to help with food poverty
 - Up in the air - implementation on campus in 2025
- Reusable Container Program

- OZZI containers for takeout at Gracies
 - Involves token and machine for containers to return to
 - Results in little participation across campus
 - Working with Auxiliary tech team to work on solution
 - Topanga the top option to working with revolving a web service with a QR code
 - Implementing a plan in Fall 2025
 - At Gracies and brick city cafe
 - Focus money on other parts of dining with reusable takeout containers
- Tech Implementation for summer 2025
 - Kiosk/Order ready installments being considered at
 - Ctrl Alt Del, Moil, Artesanos, Loaded Latke
 - POS upgrade
- Upcoming Trainings:
 - Takes place when students aren't here -> individuals can be taken out of work to do the training
 - Humane Society of US Plant Based Training
 - 1 day two part training for over 60 staff members focused on plant based savory meals and desserts
 - Allergen meal preparation training
 - Bringing in Chef Abbie from Umass Amherst (#1 dining program in the country)
- SG Partnership - Housing and Dining Committee
 - Events: Tiger Tailgate, Gracies feedback
 - Menu Items: The munson, Plant based options
 - Packaging changes: Thinking about sustainability
 - Initiatives: Accessibility (Order ready/kiosk ordering)
- Gracies event feedback
 - Over 140 students attended, with over 100 provided feedback on experiences.
 - Sifting through data, a lot of constructive feedback, will be working through the changes
 - Working on implementing "text to tell", no need to create a pawprint instead provides direct feedback to dining to work on solutions
- Gracie's rollover petition:
 - Benefits: gives flexibility to students, allows them to rollover their swipes to utilize in the future
 - Some issues:
 - only one all you can eat option on campus, location is near dorms and limits the time a student can be at the dining location.
 - Plan is structured in a way where students get a reasonable amount of Dining dollars to explore other locations, and a visit to Gracies would happen 3 times a week
 - Temporary solution for a larger problem, the location is not ideal
 - Will be taking a larger look at meal plans to better support students
 - Meal plan revenue goes back to the people being employed, rent for facilities as an auxiliary, and food being purchases
 - The little money left is used to work on the initiatives previously mentioned

- Hesitate to allow the rollover -> would cause the inability to invest in other initiatives
- Roar plan - 50 swipes per semester and 2,500 DD
 - 3 swipes and \$156 DD per week on average
- Potential solutions:
 - Engaging with a 3rd party consulting firm - envision strategy will talk to all parties of the campus to better understand what students want and how to improve dining experience
 - Will reach out to SG to get feedback
 - Create alternative ways for students to spend swipes other than Gracies
 - Creating events where swipes can be used
 - RIT Dining food truck
 - More time frames included at Gracies, more continuous service from 7am to 10pm
 - Impacts on operating and employment cost
 - Continue listening to student feedback, aware of Gracies stigma
 - A lot of freshman are impacted from what they hear from upperclassmen regarding Gracies
 - "Looks like an airport lobby" -> looking at different characteristics to make it more inviting , actively engaging with student body
- QUESTIONS:
 - GCCIS:
 - How does the funding work as an auxiliary service?
 - Don:
 - Meal plans hit at the top of the budget
 - Operating expenses is taken out, the bottom line is extremely marginal, credit card sales on top of meal plans
 - Just for Gracies swipes, what is the fear of letting it roll over in terms of funding if the meal plan money is already guaranteed?
 - Don:
 - Every time a transaction happens it hits the bottom line
 - It doesn't hit dinings budget until a transaction is made
 - Dir. of Finance:
 - If a dining plan rolls over from the fall semester to the spring semester, can you in theory??? (ask again what he asked)
 - Don:
 - The initial issue with the Gracies rollover was to let students continuously rollover swipes until they graduate without no expiration date
 - The concern of this happening this year is that it wasn't in the budget with all the other initiatives dining is focusing on

- SA Chair:
 - Have you thought about implementing things that used to be in Gracies that are no longer there? Ex. pool tables, ping pong tables?
 - Don:
 - GA at Gracies is looking at this and have purchases some stuff
 - "Short answer is yes, it's about creating a inviting space"
 - Allowing Gracies to be a community space where a swipe isn't necessary to enter
 - Chicken fingers are the #1 bought item because of the way it's provided, have you thought about implementing better white meat options with high protein count and low calories count? With the issue of the plant-based initiative, do many plant-based options have high calorie counts with low protein counts?
 - Don:
 - Pretty feasible and will bring it back to the team, think about different ways and products that can be implemented
 - Chicken fingers are so popular because the grill was really popular 30 years ago, moving the grill will require a large investment
 - Many other universities have their grill in the corner and healthier options in the front
- Greek:
 - Question was never answered on why dining dollars are allowed to be rolled over but Gracies swipes can't be? Is there data on how many swipes are unused and where those funds are being allocated to?
 - Don:
 - What happens to the funds? They go into the investment to the future
 - Some go into new equipment, updating old equipment, having to invest in themselves
 - The reason it doesn't rollover goes back to making sure that students are eating properly
 - Resulting in mental and nutritional health issues
 - Idea is to give them these meals to use throughout the semester, to actively insure they have 3 all you can eat meals
 - All dining dollars will rollover at the end of the semester, the 1,000 dollar cap happens after the academic year.
 - Will reach out to students regarding swipes
 - The idea was to ensure they're eating at least 50 meals a semester, currently not working
 - If a temporary solution of allowing swipes to rollover will help, discussions can be made but will impact on plans for the future

REPORTS

Senator Reports:

- Grad:
 - Hosting an event on December 3rd, free giveaway of snacks for students happening in the Shed
- CAD:

- Meeting with dean
 - will start a one stop shop, where a lot of students will spend a lot of money on foundation classes
 - portfolio???
 - Holiday party on 6th of december, airport lounge or 4th floor of cad 5-8
- SCD:
 - Careers in real estate event on Nov 21st, went really well
 - Reached out to director of simone center about the funding
- COS:
 - Last day of food drive, no official count but around 100 food items
 - A lot of students complying data to see what's happening with the intro courses
- CHST:
 - Had a town hall with the dean yesterday, went over strategic plan draft for the next decade
 - Interested in doing a winter clothing drive the week after thanksgiving, paperwork still needs to be done
 - Event on reading day - donuts event
- Greek:
 - Past week had Greek Town Hall meeting
 - Final greek finance meeting of the semester, at a good place
 - 12,000 left for the semester

Committee Reports:

- Accessibility:
 - Met with the DSO and got to see what can be done to get more accessible buttons in the SHED
 - At the time only one door button was approved
 - Working to try to get more
- SA:
 - Got a list of guidelines from the office of communications, reviewed during committee this week where comments were added and made
 - Will send back and get finalized guidelines
- Housing and Dining:
 - Had the Gracies event which was successful
 - Ordered 18 chairs for dining workers which will be added next semester
 - Still working on the dorm constructions

RSO Reports:

- ACA:
 - ACA Town Hall - Nov 21:
 - A concern is retention: with freshman involvement: working on promoting ourselves
- OutSpoken:
 - QueerFest happening from 7-10PM
 - If you visit enough tables you get a bucket hat
- Global Union:
 - Collab with ACS at the Student life center classrooms from 6-10 to celebrate thanksgiving (potluck)

- Unity house is hosting a semi-formal event on sunday

Cabinet Reports:

- Dir. of Finance:
 - SG Finance committee, awarded just under \$150,000 dollars, currently sitting at \$70,000 for the next semester
 - On track to last to the end of april/early may with our funds
 - Currently there is a request for \$5,000, request was done 3 days ago will work with sophia to put out the request on the agenda for the 6th
 - Because it's so large, request that all voting members go over the content
- Dir. of Marketing:
 - Have to stress that our in person marketing is as important as online
 - Keeping our SG Brand appropriate and professional

Pres/VP Reports:

- VP:
 - Alex and Sophia met with Niel Hare?!, RIT will be sending out a survey regarding AI
 - Currently working on the Creative Cloud License with Ian
 - Activity working with luke on the free printing option in wallace library
 - Working on wrapping the semester up
 - Will have a response on the cow pawprint by next senate
- Pres:
 - Week 13 - 2nd to last senate
 - Will be following up with the CTL advisor team to... for spring semester
 - Reminder: Send in schedules

Advisor Reports:

- Nicole:
 - "Be safe and be smart" - with weather being bad and traveling

Staff Council/Faculty Senate Reports:

- Staff Council:
 - If there's anything
 - Last meeting we spoke about the strategic plan.
 - Career Preparedness
 - Wellness (Staff & Students!)
 - Community Connection with RIT and Rochester Community
 - AI

External Committee Reports:

- None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PawPrints

Ian Aiken, Director of Student Relations

- [Give us a way to add our id's to our phone's wallet apps](#)
 - **DSR motions to charge PawPrint to DTS**
 - Seconded: Dir. of Finance
 - Discussion:
 - Already in the works
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 17
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **PawPrint is charged to DTS**
- [Fix the bus system](#)
 - **DSR motions to charge PawPrint to Facilities Parking and Transportation Committee**
 - Seconded: NSC
 - Discussion:
 -
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 17
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **PawPrint is charged to Facilities Parking and Transportation Committee**
- Keep the Student Health Services Open On The Weekend
 - **DSR motions to respond and close PawPrint with response**
 - Seconded: CET
 - Discussion:
 - Is the time correct? Wednesdays from 11:00 to 12:00PM
 - Motion to rescind to fix Wednesdays to Tuesdays
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 17
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **PawPrint is responded and closed with response.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NSC: On Dec 6th they'll have an happy hour event, an email was sent to RSO to be filled
- ACA: No senate next friday, the last alana wednesday is december 4th in the SAU at 2pm, will be serving snacks and giving out gift bags

- President: office will be closed wednesday to friday next week

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 03:30PM,
Sophia Pries, Vice President

Minutes Submitted by

Olivia Brinkman, Director of Operations