



STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE

MEETING MINUTES

Day 1-31-2025 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order at 02:12PM, Sophia Pries, Vice President

Senate Roll Call

Olivia Brinkman, Director of Operations

Approval of Meeting Agenda 1/31/2025

Motioned By: VP

So Moved: SCB

Seconded: CHST

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Vote Passed

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 1/24/2024

Motioned by: VP

So Moved: SCB

Seconded: NSC

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Vote Passed

Special Recognitions:

- None

Speak to the Senate:

- None

PRESENTATIONS

MyCourses Survey Discussion

Niel Heir, Center for Teaching and Learning

- Came last year to discuss which professor excels at using MyCourses
 - 401 qualitative comments
 - Major themes of best users:
 - Well organized
 - Everything available
 - Assignments posted
 - Timely useful feedback
 - What students want to see on MyCourses:
 - Organization & Structure
 - Course Navigation
 - Clear folder structure
 - Intuitive layout
 - Visual Organization
 - Color-coding
 - Consistent formatting
 - Content Delivery & Accessibility
 - Timely Content Upload
 - Weekly, or in its entirety
 - Multimedia Resources
 - Recorded lectures
 - Supplemental materials
 - Feedback & Grading
 - Communications & Announcements
 - Interactive Learning Tools
 - Course Planning & Scheduling
 - Customization & Innovative Use
 - Asynchronous Learning Support
 - Student Engagement
- Questions?
 - Greek:
 - With this data, are you going to go into MyCourses and publish the shells of the great professors and post the bad ones?
 - Yes, but we're looking to create a mentor program with this
 - CET:
 - Is there anything that students dislike?
 - That's another survey we have to do. Negativity tends to overtake, so we wanted to focus on the positive first.
 - Women's:
 - How much training do faculty get?
 - New faculty is trained right away, but faculty that's been here for a while don't have as much training.
 - X-Reg:
 - Accessibility in the study?
 - I am very proud of what the institution has done with accessibility. Faculty understand its importance, but older faculty can sometimes get confused. There is a program that can check all the accessibility

- missing and will give them a list of what they need to include.
 - If it's red, you're going bad. Orange is not perfect, green is great.
 - Nicole:
 - I can use the services of your offices, but what's your outreach?
 - We build relationships with department chairs to make sure we will give them all the support faculty/adjuncts may need.
 - CET:
 - Have you been tracking student outcomes in MyCourses?
 - RIT has institutional research tracking those statistics.
 - NSC:
 - Are there any plans to renovate the Pulse app?
 - D2L owns that program. They are aware that it doesn't work. They are still owned by their original owners and are constantly looking to update their app. Still much room for improvement.

GE Revision Taskforce

Leah Bradley

- What is Gen Ed?
 - NYS requires students take a minimum number of classes in the liberal arts and sciences
 - BS students: 60 credits
 - BFA students: 30 credits
 - AAS students: 24 credits (RIT requires more than NYS)
 - AS students: 30 credits
 - NYSED defines GE as: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics
- Current GE Education Framework:
 - First-Year Writing
 - Perspectives
 - Immersions
 - GE Electives
- Why revise GE?
 - Student requirement & success
 - Student feedback:
 - Lack of flexibility
 - Lack of cohesion/relevance
 - Need to incorporate pressing contemporary issues
- What can/cannot change?
 - Credit requirement - cannot change
 - Accreditors' definition of GE - cannot change
 - Programmatic needs - minor changes
 - GE articulation agreements - minor changes
 - RIT GE structure, definition & pathways students take to navigate the curriculum - can change
- Task Force from Provost
 - Task force is charged with re-imagining the current GE model with the ultimate goal of creating a forward-looking, relevant and impactful GE program.
- Feedback:
 - Website: www.rit.edu/generaleducation/general-education-revision-task-force
 - Click the orange button

- Noel Levitz student survey
- Ideas:
 - What should a first year experience at RIT look like?
 - How can we provide an interdisciplinary experience?
 - What key foundational knowledge and skills in the liberal arts and sciences do all RIT students need?
 - Comments:
 - Women's: What I've found is first year students are not knowledgeable on GE's and advisors don't always explain properly.
 - VP: At RIT specifically, first year students should get more introduced to ASL. It would be very beneficial for our campus and the specific culture!
 - COS: Sometimes it feels like GE's don't always apply back to someone's specific major, so it can feel not useful.
 - NYS doesn't allow professional electives.

Elections Overview

Naemy Asmorom, Elections Chair

- Petition
 - All prospective candidates or teams must gain support, as outlined by the Elections Committee.
 - Until this support is secured, they are NOT considered official candidates.
- Campaigning:
 - The distribution of propaganda, in print and/or electronic formats, by prospective candidates or their representatives to solicit votes from students.
 - Any visual media or personal communication that exceeds a reasonable level of engagement will be considered as part of the campaign for candidacy.
 - Note: Casual conversations are not considered campaigning.
- General Rules for SG and RSO's:
 - Prohibited Actions
 - Candidates and Student Government or RSO officers are prohibited from engaging in any destructive actions against other candidates.
 - This includes but is not limited to tearing down flyers, spreading slander, or any other unprofessional conduct.
 - Advertising Restrictions
 - Campaign materials cannot feature the Student Government or any RSO logo, including on apparel or in graphics.
 - Advertising for candidates within the Student Government or any RSO office is strictly prohibited.
 - Endorsements and Favoritism
 - Members of Student Government or any RSO officers may not endorse or favor any candidates, including on social media.
 - Content posted on Student Government's online platforms must be equally applied to all candidates.
 - Discussion Restrictions
 - Discussions about candidates or their campaigns are prohibited within Student Government or RSO offices, except within the Elections Committee context.
 - Meeting with Official Groups
 - Meeting with official Student Groups to discuss one's candidacy is not

permitted until the candidacy is officially confirmed.

- General Rules for Candidates
 - **President & Vice President**
 - Candidates for President and Vice President run on the same ticket.
 - Both candidates must have completed two academic semesters at RIT by the end of the current semester.
 - **Academic Senators**
 - Candidates must have completed two academic semesters at RIT and one semester in their respective college by the end of the current semester.
 - Candidates must be pursuing a degree in the college they wish to represent.
 - An exception may be granted for the position of NTID Senator. Eligibility for this role would include students currently enrolled in NTID as well as Cross-Registered students who have completed two full time terms in NTID, with at least one of these terms being in the last two years
 - Exceptions shall be granted at the discretion of the administrative advisors.
 - **Community Senators**
 - Candidates must have completed two academic semesters at RIT by the end of the current semester.
 - **Women's Senator**
 - Must be elected by women students who identify as women.
 - **Greek Senator**
 - Must be a member of an Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) chartered organization.
 - Each chapter gets one vote, cast by the chapter president, with voting methods decided by the chapter.
 - **Candidacy Confirmation**
 - Students may not claim they are official candidates for their respective positions until their candidacy is confirmed.
 - **Soliciting Support**
 - Candidates may not solicit support from University faculty, staff, or departments.
 - University departments, programs, faculty, or staff may not publicly endorse specific candidates.
 - If a department, program, faculty, or staff member publicly supports a candidate, it is the candidate's responsibility to request the removal of their public support.
 - **Use of RIT Resources**
 - Candidates may not use access or resources granted through their RIT affiliations for campaigning.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, Student Government, Residence Life, Student Advisory Boards, Representative Student Organizations, or on-campus employment.
 - **Use of Official RIT Communication Platforms**
 - Any use of an official RIT communication platform endorsed or supported by faculty or staff for campaigning is strictly prohibited.
 - Examples include, but are not limited to, official RIT Slack, Discord, or any mass communication platforms.
 - **Social Media and Campaign Conduct Guidelines**
 - Social media shall not be used for destructive actions against any candidate,

- as outlined above.
 - All candidates must adhere to RIT's posting policies for all RIT locations. Student Government will provide a digital copy of the Posting Procedures for Advertisement & Announcements from the Center for Campus Life.
 - Any questions regarding the Posting Procedures for Advertisement & Announcements should be directed to the Elections Committee.
- **Campaigning on Election Day**
 - On election dates, candidates, teams of candidates, or anyone soliciting votes on their behalf, may not campaign within 50 feet of voting locations and/or within a voting location room.
 - Candidates or teams may not solicit votes using any electronic devices.
 - A voting location is defined as any location where elections are promoted by Student Government or any location designated by Student Government as a polling place.
- **Class and Meeting Disruptions**
 - At no time can a candidate disrupt an academic class or any meeting to advertise or solicit votes.
 - Candidates or teams shall not harass or actively engage with voters while they are in the process of voting, regardless of location.
- **Penalties and Enforcement**
 - **Infraction Review**
 - The Elections Committee Chair reviews all infraction submissions and can dismiss or issue warnings.
 - Dismissed submissions can be brought back for discussion by a majority vote, and are permanently dismissed 7 days after the Chair's dismissal.
 - Submissions must be made within 24 hours of the election end.
 - **Submission Rules**
 - Only non-SGA or non-RSO Executive Board members can submit infractions (except when a candidate is an internal member of SGA/RSO).
 - Infraction submissions must not be anonymous.
 - **Starting Infraction Points**
 - All candidates start with 0 infraction points.
 - **Infraction Levels on the Website**
 - The Elections Committee Chair and Director of Technology will update the official Student Government Elections page twice daily (9 AM & 5 PM EST).
 - The page will display:
 - Infraction color levels
 - Total infraction points
 - List of infractions and associated points
- **Infraction Levels**
 - **One (1) to Three (3) Point Infractions**
 - Campaigning before candidacy is approved
 - Using the Student Government or RSO logo in campaign materials
 - Not following advertising guidelines set by the Center for Campus Life
 - Slandering other candidates
 - Advertising within Student Government or RSO offices
 - Claiming official candidate status before approval
 - **Four (4) to Six (6) Point Infractions**
 - Meeting with official Student Groups to discuss candidacy before approval

- Destroying other candidates' campaign materials
 - Student Government or RSO members supporting candidates on social media
 - Harassing or engaging with voters while they are voting
- Seven (7) to Nine (9) Point Infractions
 - Using RIT resources or affiliations for campaigning
 - Soliciting votes within 50 feet of a polling place or in a voting room
 - Disrupting academic classes or meetings during campaigning
 - A University department, program, faculty, or staff member publicly endorsing a candidate
- Ten (10) to Thirteen (13) Point Infractions
 - Any dishonest or harmful actions that could impact the election outcome
 - Examples include manipulating the voting system or offering favors/compensation to committee members
- Appealing:
 - Candidates or teams can appeal any infraction decision, except expulsion from candidacy.
 - In the event that a team of candidates appeals an infraction that is within a specific RSO, said RSO shall not be present for appeal hearing and voting.
 - Other similar significant conflicts of interest and significant personal relationships should be acknowledged or disclosed with administrative advisors who shall have say in dismissal of said individual.
- All disputes or grievances regarding the election should be directed to the Elections Committee.
- Questions?
 - SCB:
 - Last year we allowed candidates to print out flyers (50 from other sources), is that not allowed anymore?
 - Nicole: That should not be occurring going forward.
 - ACA: We did not, as someone that worked in office.
 - Greek:
 - Does the different infraction lead to those points?
 - Yes
 - If one of our constituents comes to talk to us about running, what can we say?
 - Key part of the rule is being equitable with what you share. If you share with one candidate, you share the same time/information/advice with all.
 - Nicole:
 - If you're not sure if something is a rule, just ask. Email elections committee. Not realizing something isn't a rule will still get you the infraction points. Make sure that everyone doing something on your behalf knows what they can and cannot do. Your friends doing something without your knowledge still isn't an excuse.
 - The Elections Committee is where you want to go for all your questions.
 - sgelection@rit.edu
 - nwasg@rit.edu

Senator Reports:

- Women's:
 - Exciting update on the menstrual dispenser.
 - We just have to get it approved through FMS and the campus aesthetic committee.
 - Meeting with the Women's advisory board soon
- GCCIS:
 - Dean survey should be up for one month start Feb 11th
 - I want to have an event promoting the survey
 - As Parliamentarian I am helping WITR incorporate Robert's rules
- COS:
 - Met with my Dean
 - Sending over survey about Gen Chem to dean
- CAD:
 - Simone Center can count for co-op credit
 - Very valuable opportunity
 - They're offered to many different schools
 - I will be reaching out to my constituents to reach out to the Dean so they can show interest to keep the funding for this program.

Committee Reports:

- Elections:
 - If I sent you an email about the election packet. Respond to me immediately.
- Accessibility:
 - SHED update, the director of the SHED is aware of the issue and is attending the committee.
- H&D:
 - The chairs have gone out to dining locations for cashiers!

RSO Reports:

- SAAC:
 - Hockey game today & tomorrow
 - Track & Field had a successful meet
 - First week of fueling station
 - 6-8 week trial
- ACA:
 - First Town Hall of the semester
 - We had all our affiliates put their events in the calendar
 - Shared lockers between affiliates so resources can be shared
- GU:
 - Warm Up event at 10AM, very successful
 - Feb 5th, Spiritual Symbols & Food From Around The World
 - 12PM - 2PM in Fireside Lounge

Cabinet Reports:

- Ops:
 - Show up to retreat tonight if you said you would.
- Tech:
 - Please fill out the work form.
- Finance:

- Received budget plans from a lot of you
- Missing a few Senators
- Missing ALL Committee Chairs

Pres/VP Reports:

- VP:
 - Congrats on making it to the end of week 3.
 - Get your budget plans in
 - Retreat tonight & tomorrow
- President:
 - Reminder to sign up for the PawPrints event on Feb 4th. Tech Team has been working on this for so long and deserve the support from us.
 - There are still 12 weeks of you guys being in your roles. Many goals are still obtainable.
 - As the saying does, the best time to plant a tree was 10 years ago, and the next best time is now.

Advisor Reports:

- None

Staff Council/Faculty Senate Reports:

- None

External Committee Reports:

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

PawPrints

Ian Aiken, Director of Student Relations

- [Allow RIT Dining workers to sit, When Possible](#)
 - **DSR motions to respond and close PawPrint with response**
 - Seconded: Dir. of Tech
 - Discussion:
 - None
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 16
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **PawPrint is responded to and closed**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ops:
 - Be at your office hours. Those are NOT optional, it's a responsibility of the job you took on. Not showing up is basically a no-call-no show, in the real world, you'd be

fired. Stop planning meetings/events/personal plans during your office hours. Just do your job, it's not hard at all.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 3:34PM, "Roll tech"
Sophia Pries, Vice President

Minutes Submitted by
Olivia Brinkman, Director of Operations