



STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE

MEETING MINUTES

Day 09-19-2025 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order at 02:05 PM Ana Paolini Carrano, Vice President

Senate Roll Call

Mike Hibbard, Director of Operations

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda 09/19/2025

Motioned By: VP

So Moved: GCCIS

Seconded: OUTSpoken

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Vote Passed

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 09/12/2025

Motioned by: VP

So Moved: GLC

Seconded: ACA

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Vote Passed

Special Recognitions:

Starting to do “Mominations” member nominations for people to nominate people for their hard work throughout the week!

Speak to the Senate:

None

PRESENTATIONS

Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHe) Reaccreditation Update - Christina Licata

- Christina is located in Eastman Building and is the Vice Provost for the university!
- Reaccreditation helps the University receive funding from the US department of education. Reaccreditation focuses on the student experience to see if an institution can stay accredited to receive this funding. Middlestates is our regional body that decides if we can be an accredited university.
- This reaccreditation process occurs once every 8 years. Michelle Snow was the student representative on the steering committee!!
- Where are we in the process?
 - The first step was to create a self-study to collect student experience on campus, submitted in September 2025.
 - Institutional Priorities draft - submitted in September 2025
 - Created 3 priorities
 - Improve Student Success
 - Expand Research Enterprise
 - Prioritize community well-being.
 - Asking the governance groups to see how well RIT is aligning with these priorities
- Reaccreditation visit
 - Dr. Nariman Farvardin of Stevens Institute of Technology is our external team chair who will be visiting throughout the year to evaluate our progress on our priorities!
 - His first visit will be on Oct. 2nd to become familiar with RIT, provide feedback on the first draft self study, and meet with students, faculty and staff.
 - The Evaluation team visit will be from March 29, 2026 - April 1st 2026 to finalize reaccreditation process
 - On April 1st, there will be an open forum to share their findings of RIT in Ingle Auditorium
- Possible Outcomes
 - June 2026: Commission takes action
 - We can either be reaccredited, need to submit more information or be denied.
- Questions
 - President: What are some short goals that we are focusing on?
 - Middlestates is focusing on the finances of universities to ensure stability

Ombuds - Joe Johnston

- Joe is the Director of Ombuds and their office is located next to the DSO Office, across from the Davis room
- Ombuds is a confidential, neutral, independent and informal resource on campus. They are not mandated reporters, only have to report issues if there is harm involved to the individual or another person
- Ombuds can not be a part of the formal process, however they can guide and help you to a solution. They can also talk to other departments for you to help you get a picture of how a problem may be resolved
- Come to the Ombuds office when you feel...

- Treated unfairly, unable to resolve a conflict, trouble facilitating communication
- Scope of Ombuds
 - We do:
 - Listen and support confidentially
 - Help discuss options, strategies and step of resolution
 - Coach individuals through the conflict management and resolution processes
 - We do not:
 - Serve as an office of notice to the University
 - Have administrative decision-making author
 - Advocate for individuals in a dispute but will advocate for fairness
- What we do
 - Meet with visitors - students/faculty/parents
 - Anonymous fact finding
- Contact us!
 - Website - www.rit.edu/ombuds
 - Email - ombuds@rit.edu
 - Phone number - 585-475-7200
- Questions
 - President: what should we say to someone to direct them to ombuds?
 - Let them know if they need someone to talk to and empathize with to help them come up with a plan to resolve their issue
 - Accessibility: how are you different from counseling services?
 - We are not therapists but we can still help!
 - SOIS: Is there a limit to the number of visits a student can use?
 - We usually set aside an hour with a “client” and then set up more meetings as needed but there is no limit

REPORTS

Senator Reports:

- COLA
 - Met with SAB to plan a double major, transfer students open house event!
- CET
 - Working on the CET club fair!
- SOIS
 - Had the first advisory board meeting to set up a banquet event for SOIS students. Having SOIS alumni come back to sit on a discussion panel at the event
 - Setting up a mentorship program for students

Committee Reports:

- H & D
 - Introducing a Sanders drink for the inauguration at Artesanos. Drink covers featuring Sanders and Ollie (His dog) will be included!
 - Will be posting a cleaning schedule for dryers and washers in Jefferson
- FPaTS
 - Met parking and transportation to work on the RTS and RIT bus schedule to make it more accurate

RSO Reports:

- **ACA**

- Had an ACA connect event on 9/18! ALANA Wednesday's are this month!
- Town hall on September 26th in the SHED at 5 PM!

Cabinet Reports:

- Ops
 - Please fill out the Staff Info Form ASAP <https://cglink.me/2d1/s96241>

Pres/VP Reports:

- President
 - Out of office hours are going well!! Shout out to Senators to have their Deans and Professor to table with them!
- Vice President
 - Finalizing External Committees so please communicate if you can not make your committee meetings

Advisor Reports:

- N/A

Staff Council/Faculty Senate Reports:

- Faculty Senate
 - Shout to Igor for staying awake for Faculty Senate
 - University is looking to overhaul general education requirements for degrees

External Committee Reports:

- Student Steering and success
 - Working on a remodel of the RIT mobile app!
- Faculty Senate
 - GCCIS Attended the first faculty senate meeting, please let me know if you have any questions!

OLD BUSINESS

Vote to Approve Bylaw Revision

Motioned by: VP

So Moved: Pres

Seconded: H & D

Discussion : None

Vote:

Yes: 18

No: 0

Abstain: 0

NEW BUSINESS

NSC Appointment - Rafael Gilboa, President

NSC is the student congress for NTID. Student Government is tasked with approving the candidates put forth by the NTID community.

The Candidates:

Sarah is the president. Been in Student government since 7th grade. Been a part of multiple sports teams. Looking to get more students across campus involved with NTID clubs. Sui Young is a graduate student at RIT. Looking to make NSC run more smoothly.

Questions

- NTID: How will you encourage clubs to collaborate with each other and help dying clubs?
 - Hoping to do more fundraising and events to empower clubs. Hoping to provide food and bring the clubs together to plan events
- Accessibility: How do you plan to make NSC run more efficiently
 - Hoping to be more visible to the NTID community, Hoping to create mental health programs such as stress management to help students. Hoping to grow the connection between RIT and NTID through their programs

CLOSE PAPER VOTE

NSC President and Vice President are confirmed!

PawPrints

Trishelle Hoopes, Director of Student Relations

- **Charges**
- **The double standard of lowering the US flag on the RIT campus**
 - **DSR motions to charge to Student Affairs**
 - Seconded: ACA
 - Discussion on Motion:
 - GCCIS What is the separation between Student Affairs and Well-being
 - Well-being is more about CAPS related things
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 19
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **Charged to Student Affairs**
 - Discussion on Pawprint:
 - President: Committee chair should stay away from allowing students to “rate” if the flag should be lowered or not
- **Price Gouging**
 - **DSR motions to charge to Housing and Dining**
 - Seconded: SOIS
 - Discussion on Motion: NA
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 18
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1
 - **Charged to Housing and Dining**

- Discussion on Pawprint:
 - H & D: was discussed in the committee this week. Dining is charged for the space they occupy on campus so the prices are used to help cover overhead.
 - President: Focus on advertising cheaper food options
 - ACA: Does dining get their food from the same supplier?
 - Yes
- Bring water cups back to Cantina
 - **DSR motions to charge to Housing and Dining**
 - Seconded: GLC
 - Discussion on Motion:
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 17
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 2
 - **Charged to Housing and Dining**
 - Discussion on Pawprint:
 - OUTSpoken: Other locations offer free water, why can't cantina?
 - GCCIS/ ACA: The committee should focus on sustainability and encourage students to bring water bottles.
 - H & D: Cantina had to stop due to students filling water cups with fountain drinks
- **Plans of Action**
 - Make contraception distribution containers more secure - Wellbeing Committee
 - Contact Health Promotions to add locks to the top of distribution containers in the short term, looking to have vending machines sponsored by Trojan to give out condoms and other products in the long term
 - **Discussion:** N/A
 - I.C.E University Wide Alert system and Support RIT Students' Lawsuit Against The Trump Administration - Student Affairs
 - ISS was contacted via email on 9/8/2025 and 9/16/2025 to generate a response.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Ops - we should bring in CLCE to respond to the support RIT lawsuit section of the PawPrint
 - Push for a 24/7 Study center on campus - Academics and Co-ops
 - Reach out to Senators as point of contacts for each college to open a space in their college
 - Communicate already open 24/7 spaces across campus
 - **Discussion:** N/A
 - Make Syllabi Available before enrollment - Academics and Co-ops
 - Met with Michael Laver to get info from the Faculty Senate on syllabi being posted earlier.
 - Look into finding the course proposal form as a way to get syllabi posted earlier
 - **Discussion:** N/A
 - Allow Access to Classrooms when not in use (again!) - Academics and Co-ops
 - Contact the library then each college.

- Look into what classrooms are already accessible to create a list to share with students
 - **Discussion:** N/A
- Put a toy train going around the ceiling of the SHED - Student Affairs
 - The project is not feasible based on the findings of a previous PawPrint and work done by an MSD team. Offered to include it in a whole new building!
 - Exploring other options that have a similar spirit of the train
 - **Discussion:**
 - Nicole - Reach out to me to move this forward
 - SOIS - what is the spirit of the train?
 - Something similar to the train to still add to the SHED
- Shuttle to Train station and Airport - FPATS
 - Contact Parking and Transportation about ending of the previous bus service to get metrics on usage
 - Propose a voucher system to help cover the costs for students to get to these locations
 - **Discussion:**
 - SCB - Have we considered a joint shuttle system with another college?
 - GU: we have an international student bus to transport international students to Train station and airport, would need more resources to expand the service
 - Pres: Look into getting more student interest before purchasing a bus
- Reopen the ramp between Gosnell Hall and Wallace Library
 - Talked with FMS and they said there were issues with safety and currently no plan to reopen. They are exploring options to remove the ramp to add stairs to make it a safer option and potentially re-open
 - **Discussion**
 - GCCIS - Can the committee put up sign why the passage is closed so students are aware
- **Responses**
 - RIT Cow!
 - **DSR motions to close this PawPrint with this response**
 - Seconded: President
 - Discussed on Motion:
 - Faculty Senate: no bus, no train, and now no COW!?!
 - **Vote:**
 - Yes: 20
 - No:0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **PawPrint will be closed with this response.**
 - Disband College Republicans. now.
 - **DSR motions to close this PawPrint with this response**
 - Seconded: ACA
 - **Discussion on the motion:**
 - Accessibility - Can we change the tone to be
 - GCCIS - Can we include why we cannot disband a club?
 - **President Motions to table this response**

- **Second: Tech**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 18
 - No:
 - Abstain: 2
- **This response has been tabled till the next meeting.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- VP: Senate will be postponed for next week due to the Inauguration of Sanders. Please wear SG polos if you plan to go. Mominations will be read after Senate. Please slack Rafael or Ana if you are going to the Inauguration!
- DSR: Official invite emails to SG Collaborators (formerly named SG Affiliates), A program to include regular students in internal committees!
- Nicole: The group for the reaccreditation event should be small as the time is limited to meet with the group.
- Courtney: Please let me know if you have any accessibility needs for your committee meetings that we need to request to ensure all participants can participate.
- GLC: Mud Tug is next week, please show up if you are interested!
- H & D: Location will be moved to Bamboo due to popularity!!
- Pres: We will be doing a Mud Tug team for next week! Thanks for a great senate!

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 3:39 PM, "Roll Tech"

Ana Paolini Carrano, Vice President

Minutes Submitted by

Mike Hibbard, Director of Operations