

SENATE MEETING MINUTES



18 SEPTEMBER 2026 / 2:00- 4:00 PM / CAMPUS CENTER, BAMBOO ROOM-2610

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order at 02:08 PM Nkodia Ndongala, Vice President

Senate Roll Call - Peyton Jesse, Director of Operations:

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda 09/18/2026

Motioned By: VP

So Moved: COLA

Seconded: CET

Yes: 19 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Vote Passed

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 09/11/2026

Motioned by: VP

So Moved: Dir. of SR

Seconded: CHST Senator

Yes: 18 No: 0 Abstain: 1

Vote Passed

REPORTS

Senator Reports:

- **Accessibility Senator**
 - Successful first SAB meeting w/ Joel from Parking about RIT bus accessibility
 - Spoke with health & safety about constant fire alarms in Ellingson
 - Discussed w/ Dir. of Elections on ways to make petitioning more accessible

- **CET Senator**

- This past Tuesday was the CET Club Fair; ~40 students showed up
- Talked to Assistant Dean again to discuss student problems & establish goals for the rest of the semester

- **Cross-Registered Senator**

- Focusing on filling the 12 open SAB positions

- **Saunders Senator**

- Met with Dean & SAB to discuss Saunders' Career Fair; Focusing on how to improve co-op offer outcome for students
- Working on an AI forums & hosting types of workshops regarding that

Committee Chair Reports:

- **Dining Chair**

- First committee meeting is next week Wednesday 9:00-10:00

Point of Information; CET Senator:

Where is it being held?

- Kathy Hall

- **Clubs, Policy, & Wellbeing Chair**

- Committee meeting Mondays 3:00-4:00 in Kathy Hall

- **Parking & Transportation Chair**

- Reached out to Senators to see who is available & interested to sit on the committee

RSO Reports:

- **OUTSpoken**

- Fully restocked gender affirming supplies
- Annual No Where to Wear was fun & successful!
- Tabling in the SAU lobby Wednesday September 23rd 1:00-4:00

- **ALANA**

- Heritage Month Game Night September 25th 5:00-6:00 in mosaic; Event is in collab w/ LASA for Hispanic Heritage Month
- Started Internal applications for ALANA Eboard

Cabinet Reports:

- **Dir. of Partnership & Governance**

-Finishing up 1:1 w/ RSOs

- **Dir. of Student Relations**

-Reached out to Senators to get them sitting on an internal committee

- **Dir. of Operations**

-Focusing on Fall Retreat

-Meeting w/ Marla Ernest & Sara Bayerl to work on Brick City Weekend

-Meeting w/ Karen Barrows to work on Sander's Halloween Bash

-Planning a possible "Career Fair Pit Stop" in the office for students to drop by

-Working on Consortium visit

- **Dir. of Elections**

- Senator Petitioning Packet has been finalized

-Working on Bylaw redlines for Dir. of Elections position

- **Dir. of Finance**

-Focusing on approving EAFs

- **Vice President**

- Working w/ Dir. of SR to assign Senators internal committees

-Complete the EAF certification

-Complete Hazing Prevention form ASAP

-Working w/ RIT wide Senators & First Year Senator on forming SABs

- **President**

-Working on a secondary Bylaw redlines push

-In collaboration w/ University Council on B05 policy on policy

Advisor Reports:

- **Faculty Senate**

- Figuring out what information is most useful to bring to SG Senate & how to contribute

Point of Information; Primary Advisor, Nicole:

Could you explain how the Faculty Senate is held/structured?

-Faculty Senate meets with all of the colleges & have a student representative. SG can present similarly to how SG Senate works.

VP recognizes Primary Advisor, Nicole:

There is a list of charges that are on going through the academic year or Faculty Senate to handle.

VP recognizes President:

In the event we bring a charge to Faculty Senate, what is the difference between presenting to show ideas or opinions of students versus presenting to get a vote?

-Similar process, but at the end they ask "Do you want a vote?." Ideally, communicate that there is a new idea and be detailed.

VP recognizes Primary Advisor, Nicole:

Historically, SG is only getting a formal vote if we are getting a policy or resolution passed and looking for support from another Governance group. We usually are seeing how people are feeling, informally or formally.

- **Primary Advisor, Stan**

-Thanks to ACA & GLC for reaching out & scheduling a meeting

-RSOs please reach out

NEW BUSINESS

Pawprints - Jameson Baker, Director of Student Relations:

- **Charges**

-None

- **Plans of Action**

"RIT Should Cover Homework Platform Costs, Not Students"

Charged to: Academics & Co-ops

Key Points

1. External textbook platforms (e.g., McGraw Hill Connect, Achieve, etc.) charge \$80 - \$150 per course, costs which are not factored into financial aid, nor are they listed in SIS before signing up for the course.
2. Students already pay tuition + mandatory fees, students feel that these programs should be included in those costs since the programs are required to submit their homework.
3. Similar programs are not unheard of UofR's Essentials, Lehigh University's Learning Unlimited, and many others. Costs for course materials are included in a flat fee for all

undergraduates ~\$390 per semester. Students can opt out if their materials cost less.

Goals and Plans

1. Reach out to sm744@bncollege.com for insights on the logistics, history, and outcomes of UofR's Essentials program.
2. Reach out to Peter Briggs (Director of Retail Operations / TextbookX) regarding publisher negotiations and the logistics of different pricing models.
3. Reach out to Maria Bates (Executive Director of Student Financial Services) regarding any regulatory restraints around different pricing models
4. Reach out to Lauren Cannon (Registrar's Office IT System Admin) regarding the logistics achieving transparency around course material costs during course registration in SIS

Director of Student Relations motions to open 30 second discussion on plans

Seconded: Dir. of Ops

"Stop RIT from using AI to replace notetakers"

Charged to: Academics & Co-ops

Key Points

1. Transcripts uploaded into AI for notes is not accessible to all of those with notetaking accommodations (e.g., no PowerPoint, if there are relevant graphs/visuals, etc.)
2. Some students benefit from AI notetaking software as it saves them time, effort, etc.
3. Students want choice between a human or AI notetaking. Unclear human notes can be submitted for clarification via myaccess.rit.edu

Goals and Plans

1. Reached out to NTID and DSO staff for perspectives regarding student needs and intent of AI notetaking
 - a. Kate Torres (DSO Director)
 - b. Kelly Kamish (DSO Associate Director)
 - c. Nicole Ribis (NTID Notetaker Coordinator)
2. Gather more student opinion on AI note taking during next week's committee meeting

Director of Student Relations motions to open 30 second discussion on plans

Seconded: Accessibility

NTID Senator: It would be good to also get in contact with Access Services to see what they say

Cross-Reg. Senator: I'm not sure who is responsible for NTID specifically for notetaking, but talk to Department of Access Services

"End RIT Partnerships with ICE-Aligned Corporations"

Charged to: Clubs, Policy, & Wellbeing

Key Points

1. RIT has a contract with Enterprise car rental

- a. Employees and students who reserve rentals for university related travel receive a corporate price rate when booking with corporate ID and RIT corporate credit cards.
2. Enterprise leases cars to be used by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents
3. The ICE has been conducting itself unconstitutionally and violently, killing multiple US citizens, in the pursuit of arresting immigrants in the country illegally.
 - a. National boycotts call for protest of corporations which support ICE

Goals and Plans

1. Reached out to Johann Bodensteiner (Director of Procurement) and Milagros Concepcion (RIT controller) regarding partnership with Enterprise car rentals
 - a. Traveling staff and students are encouraged to book rentals using university code to receive corporate rate
 - b. Inquiring about alternatives for student and employee travel

Director of Student Relations motions to open 30 second discussion on plans

Seconded: Dir. of Ops

- **Updates**

-None

- **Responses**

-None

"Continue the weekly/daily vendors in the SAU"

Charged to: Clubs, Policy, & Wellbeing

Main Points

The goal this semester was to meet the demand last year of better quality and lower prices, this made it difficult to have vendors as frequently. The traffic and crowding also was a fire hazard.

Director of Student Relations motions to close pawprint with said response

Seconded: GCCIS

Discussion on the motion is opened

Accessibility Senator: Reading the response feels like we didn't solve the problem. I understand the fire hazard but when I read the response it didn't read "fire hazard" to me. Students crave transparency and we should include what we were told by Prostaff. If when we talked to them they said no, then we need to include that. I would also like to see the Pawprint from last year about the quality/price of the vendors included in this Pawprint for reference.

OUTSpoken: I agree. I think we need to clarify what we have done to solve the problem. We need to show how we worked towards making it better.

President: I am inclined to agree with the group and I have spoken to Prostaff and it's important to include what they are telling us in our response.

Petition Writer: I have talked to almost all of the vendors that they had in the Fireside Lounge. It's upsetting because RIT did not clarify the reasons. If they are going to prohibit and limit the vendors, then they should have alternative things in the SAU to keep up student social interactions.

Director of Elections motions to table this response until next week via unanimous consent

Seconded: Dir. of SR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President: We are getting polos & will be getting our photos for the website taken 9/25 after Senate!

Dir. of Operations: Fall Retreat 9/27 from 12:00-3:00 in PRISM

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 02:39 PM Nkodia Ndongala, Vice President