



Present: President, Vice President, Finance Director, Public Relations, Programming, Student Relations, Director of Services, Director of Clubs and Organizations, SCB, CIAS, COLA, Women's, Cross-Registered, Greek, Freshman, NTID, Graduate, CAB, Global Union, NSC, Reporter, WITR, SAAC, OUTspoken, OCASA, ACE, Academic Senate, Bill St. Jean, and Kate Blackburn

Absent: CAST, GCCIS, KGCOE, COS, CHST, RHA, ACA, and Staff Council.

Called To Order at 1:05 pm

Approval of Minutes:

-12/06/13

- 1st by Pres, 2nd by Greek.
- For: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 1
- Minutes pass as submitted

New Business:

Smoking Policy Update

- VP: First Donna Rubin talking about the smoking policy. We also have four senator positions that need to get filled. Today we will be filling two of those positions. Then we have a presentation for a request for additional funds.
- Mike: Awesome to speak to you all today. I am here with Donna Rubin.
- Donna: We are the co-chairs for a task force that is looking at the Smoking Policy. Last year we were directed to get representation across the campus, up on the screen is the list of who was on it last year. There was a lot of volunteer time given.
- Donna: I'm going to give you a summary of what the task force has done. Last year we brought in a consultant, Ty Patterson, consulted with our task force, lots of experience with many campuses; over 500 campuses are smoke or tobacco free. Then did an open forum for RIT that day. In January, a year ago, had three task groups. These committees looked at other campuses, and what was thought about our policy and what changes could be made. Mike and I participated in a webinar, trying to stay on top of best practices.
- Mike: Last spring we went back to give our proposal, at that time, looked at changing our policy and how international students may change that. Worked to develop a survey targeted towards international students, conducted a survey in fall.
Donna: Among questions, if we changed policy, would it impact if you came or stayed at RIT?

- Mike: We had a very strong response, 555 out of 2106, 68% supported restricting smoking on campus, 12% were neutral or indifferent. 20% were opposed to revisions. Most really embraced opportunity for the change. Had a section for comments, there were 100s and 100s of comments.
- Cross-Reg: What percentage of the people who responded were smokers,
- Donna: We can provide a further break down of the results. In the comments section (85% provided additional comments). The changed proposed policy is above. The scope: It applies to all students, employees, vendors, and visitors, while on RIT managed properties in the U.S. Definitions Tobacco products, combustible items, including but not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, and pipes), and non combustible items, including but not limited to chewing tobacco and e-cigarettes. Some of the highlights of the proposed policy, 12-18 month rollout period. If in May, there'd be time to adjust. There would be smoking station opportunities. There would be time to change the culture, alert the community. Wouldn't happen right away if approved. This provides us with ample time to make sure the school has revised policies. We are working with Wegman's and others to help provide support. We think this supports the wellness focus. This helps us walk the walk and not just talk the talk.
- Mike: The big hang ups or questions to policies like this, people get fearful, someone will write a ticket for smoking. Looking at cultural wellness, it would be up to all of us to support the policy. Underlying thing would be, first time visitor to campus, not aware of the rule. When you have it in roll out, the culture changes. Yesterday, we were at staff council, no smoking in bars or restaurants. People originally feared people would lose business, we don't foresee great issues. Part of culture and job to enforce it.
- Donna: Here is a video about Suny Cortland.
- Grad: I think it's good, if the policy gets approved, can you say what happens in the future? What is their action plan?
- Donna: Communication committee would be working with groups.
- Mike: We have a webpage already. Each sub committee have strategies in place.
- Donna: Part helps with the rollout period.
- Grad: What's happens with role of international students on this, international is only 2,000, what about the other percentage, do they go through with it as well.
- Donna: international, perception, national, that international students may smoke than the domestic students. There was an open forum, hopefully the job of the governance groups to get their thoughts. We would be part of more open forums, we are hoping that the governance groups, when there is a policy change, governance groups to endorse.
- Finance: I know Keith asked this question; out of the 68% were smokers?
- Donna: We have that data, not with us.
- SR: Student Relations and smoker on campus. I hate the idea of the ban, respect smokers, I live on campus. My legal residence, 365 days of the year is on campus. This kind of ban is not like a restaurant. I can't smoke anywhere at all on RIT. Part of what I hate, is it assumes I want to quit smoking. This is a very moralistic policy, because I smoke, comparatively, because I smoke, that I am harming people. Includes the term healthy, preventing harm, this concept of cultural

wellness, in order for a culture to be well, there can't be smoking. Every time we have conversations of smoking it becomes a moral issue. I am not a bad person because I smoke cigarettes. As my own person, I don't smoke on the quarter mile, when I am at a new place I look for the pans. When it's raining look for a place to be dry. I think there is a way to sell that we can have limited spaces, but still have wellness. I would feel much more well, where there is respect that as a smoker, and other smokers to stay clear where we need to be near butt stops, not in crowded groups, not feeling I am being told I am a bad person. I think that is the end of my piece. In my whole process, I looked for butt cans, they are on buildings, right by butt can, 20ft away, I choose to stand out of the way. Respectful to smokers, within the concept of ban on smoking.

- Donna: I appreciate your comments and reaction to way it was written. I don't know if it's useful to get in terms of language and such. We are meeting back with task force after meeting with the governance groups.
- VP: We have time for 3 more questions.
- Pres: I am not a smoker, but I agree with Tristan, would love to be smoke free. Our community is very well respected, originally posted; you have 20% saying no. That's a large portion saying against it. I would like to see something along the line of what Tristan said. Compartments built in, sliding door, I would love to see something can't walk and smoke on campus, 10-15 minutes on campus, hard for some people to get off campus. Some people don't want to quit. Helpful if people do want to quit. Not banning entirely, please don't smoke here policies.
- Donna: Let me add, when we consulted with other campuses, some banned completely, some had kiosks, the ones that had kiosks regretted it. It creeps away.
- Women's: First I would like to introduce myself as a non-smoker with asthma, it's a choice, shouldn't be smoke-free. For people who live here 24-7 shouldn't be forced to make changes. This is a good way to go for our campus, even if other places did regret it. I would hate to see people uncomfortable.
- CAB: Designated areas, lots of students living on campus, more housing than other schools, lots don't have cars to leave campuses, quarter mile is an important part to not smoke.
- Clubs and Orgs: I am asking who are students on the committee, would like to have a couple on there.
- Donna: We had students, it was a revolving door. Schedules are packed, difficult to fit, students and smokers to participate. At this point, a couple meetings, we will take your suggestion back at this late day. We are a functioning committee.

Did you know? RIT:

- None.

Senate Reports:

- VP: Senate reports?

- None

Old Business:

Speak to the Senate:

- VP: Anyone here to speak to senate?
- None

Committee Reports:

- VP: Committee reports?
- None

Advisor Reports:

- VP: Advisor reports?
- Advisors: None

Adjourned at 3:06 pm

Motioned by Women's, 2nd by Clubs and Orgs