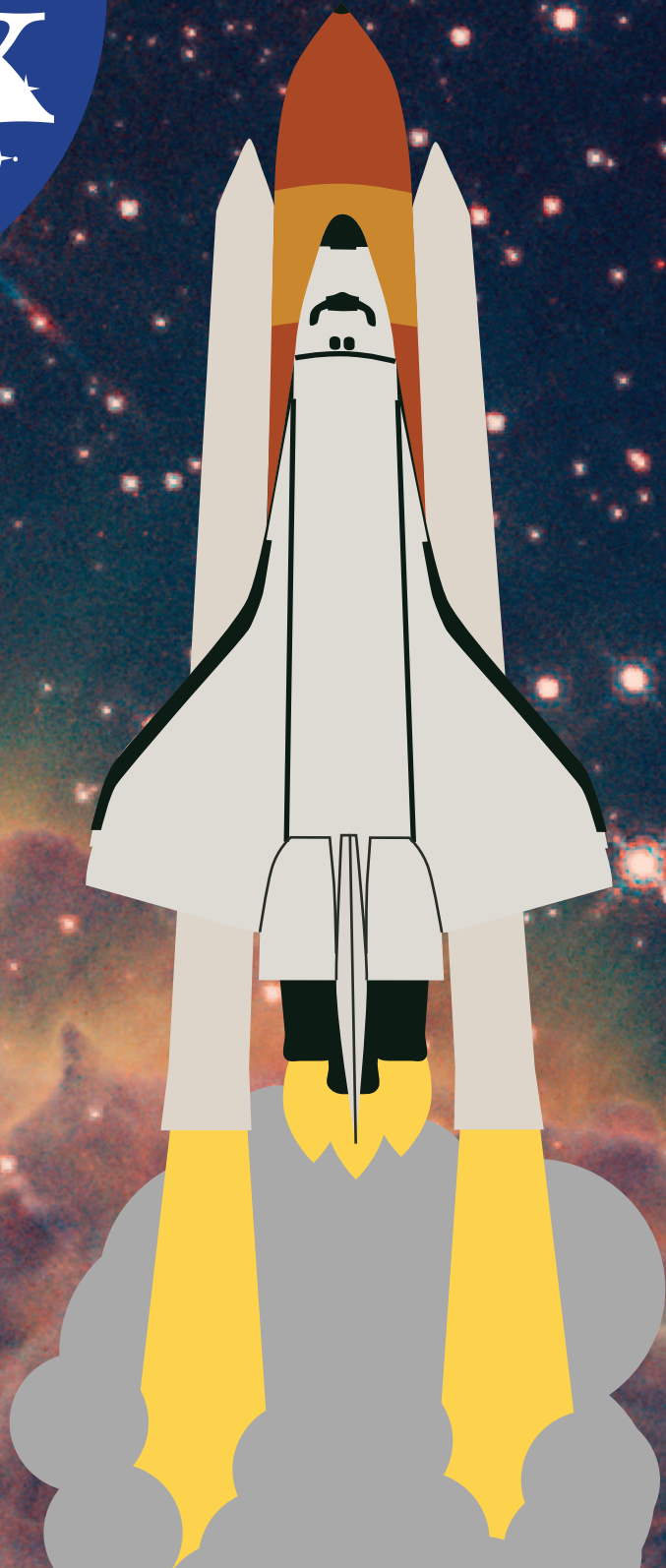


the
polytechnic



GM WEEK 2016

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Grand Marshal



Paul Illori
AERO '17



Daniel Rogers
MECH '17

President of the Union



Chip Kirchner
AERO/MECH '17



Keegan Caraway
EE '18

Class of 2017

President

Kyle Neumann
NUCL '17

Senator



Erica Braunschweig
Senator
CSCI/ITWS '17

Class of 2018

President

Brenna Buckley
AERO '18

Vice President

Kayla Cinnamon
ITWS '18

Senator



Justin Etzine
Senator
CSCI/ITWS '18

Class of 2019

President

Vignesh Babu
CSYS '19

Senator



Sid Kochman
Senator
CSCI '19

While the controversy currently surrounding the Student Union is important, it is only a symptom of the larger problem we face: a lack of effective communication between the administration and the student body. As Senator I will fight for the voice of the Class of 2017, and the rest of the student body, to be heard. I will push back against an administration that makes important decisions and THEN tells us about it. I will ask the important questions and refuse to take “no” or “don’t worry, it’s in your best interest” for an answer. In order to make RPI the best it can be, we as a student body need strong leaders who won’t back down from a challenge. I promise to be that leader for you.

Austil Miller
BCBP '17

Joseph Venusto
ECON '17

Representative

Trevor Corrao
MGTE '17

Alexander Peixinho
AERO '17

Brian Priem
MGTE '17

Independent Senator

Samantha Notley
CIVL '18

Edward Qiao
CHEG '18

Greek Senator (IFC)

Marvin Cosare
ELEC '17

Undergraduate President

Eryka Greaves
CSCI '17

Greek Senator (Panhel)

Hannah Rabinowitz
AERO/MECH '17

Graduate Representative

Jennifer Church
CHEM

Graduate Senator

Mike Caiola

Anthony Ashley
AERO

Alumni President

Nick Dvorak
CHEG '16

As a senator, I pledge to embody the following creed throughout my term: I will sit down with my constituents, and I will stand up for my constituents.

Be it trivial or earth-shattering, I will address every student concern brought to my attention with tact and dedication.

I will sit down with you. I want to hear your opinions on issues that affect you. I want to know your take on every situation. I want to know if I am missing anything; no one person can fully understand the entire scope of any project. I want to bring your views to the table.

I will stand up for you. I will bring your ideas to Senate and committee meetings and relay them to project leaders. I will address your concerns with relevant RPI officials to assist in a resolution.

That promise to each and every one of my constituents is already in effect. As always, you can reach me for any reason at etzinj@rpi.edu.

Matt Heimlich
CHEG '18

Richard Lin
CSCI/BMGT '18

Steven Sperazza
ELEC '18

Representative

Yueze Li
CSCI '18

Ellie Mees
ELEC '18

Youssef Elasser
ELEC/CSCI '18

Xing Tong
ELEC/CSYS '18

Alumni Secretary

Katie McGuigan
AERO/MECH '16

Margaret Murphy
BMED '16

I’m Sid Kochman, a freshman majoring in Computer Science. I’m running for Class of 2019 Senator.

My primary focus will be bringing your concerns to the attention of those who are able to deal with them, whether that means student government committees, administrators, or others. My job is to represent your interests.

The Rensselaer Union is my favorite part of RPI. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the Union remains strong and independent, and I will seek opportunities to strengthen it even further.

As one of your senators, I hope to bring greater transparency to student government. As I am currently on the outside and looking in, I understand the need for more frequent, relevant, and open communications.

Please ask a question via email at kochms@rpi.edu if you would like to reach me! I look forward to hearing from you and making RPI the best it can be.

Kyle Waters
AERO/MECH '19

Randy Licata
CSYS '19

Qinhao Lyu
MATH '19

Pamela Pulla
AERO '19

Representative

Jeff Rong
ECON/IME '19

Christopher McCulloch
ENGR '19

Colin Atkinson
CSCI '19

Benjamin Morrison
COGS '19

Alumni Vice President

Alexander Benzell
CHEM '16

Alumni Treasurer

Kelly Dearborn
SUST '16

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This issue is a special publication of *The Rensselaer Polytechnic*, provided as a public service to the Rensselaer community for the Grand Marshal Week 2016 election. Comments, questions, complaints, or other general correspondence may be directed to the editor at poly@rpi.edu.

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SCHEDULE

MONDAY

April 11

Food for Clothes:

9 am–3 pm, Union Patio

RPI's Favorite Fraternity:

10 am–4 pm, Union Patio

T-shirt Sales:

10 am–4 pm, Union Patio

Students for Sensible Drug Policy Tabling:

10 am–5 pm, Union Patio

TUESDAY

April 12

Food for Clothes:

9 am–3 pm, Union Patio

RPI Crew's Annual Erg-a-thon:

11:30 am–3 pm, Union Patio

Customize your own shirt with Red-and-White:

11:30 am–3 pm, Union Patio

Kicks, Flips, and Sexy Dance Fighting:

5–7 pm, '87 Field

Reefer Madness Showing:

7–9 pm, DCC 318

Red and White Scavenger Hunt:

8–10 pm, Alumni House

Wall-E Showing:

9 pm–midnight, DCC 308

WEDNESDAY

April 13

Jail N' Bail:

9 am–3 pm, Commons Field

Sims n' Soaring:

9 am–6 pm, Commons Field

ROC Bouldering Competition:

10 am–5 pm, 87 Gym Rock Wall

GM Day Jazz Fest:

11 am–noon and 2–3 pm, GM Week Stage @ the BBQ

Wing Burger Sale:

11 am–3 pm, Union Patio

Provost BBQ:

11 am–3 pm, Commons Field

RPI Players Performance:

Noon–12:30 pm, Playhouse

THURSDAY

April 14

Rootbeer Giveaway:

10 am–4 pm, Playhouse Concourse

Free 4 All A Capella Show:

7–9 pm, McNeil Room

Smores with RCA:

noon–4 pm, Union Patio

Voting:

8 am, Various Locations

T-shirts with BSA:

Noon–2 pm, Commons Field

Race to Sky Hull Climb Challenge:

2–4 pm, Pittsburgh Building

Puckman Auditions:

3–5 pm, Houston Field House

Fun at the C+CC:

4–9 pm, C+CC

Meanest Man on Campus Debate:

4:30–6 pm, McNeil Room

CDTA GM/PU Debate:

7–9 pm, McNeil Room

Drinks and Goodies from IPAC:

7–9 pm, Union Front Desk

FRIDAY

April 15

Tidbits Talk "History of GM Week":

9–10 am, Mother's

GM Week Finale:

6–9 pm, Union

The Poly thanks RPI TV for providing lighting for this issue's candidate portraits!

GRAND MARSHAL



Why do you want to be Grand Marshal?

Paul Ilori

I've been involved in student government for nearly my entire time at RPI. Through the experiences I've had in the Rensselaer Union, I've learned a lot about myself, and grown a lot as a person. From learning how to write proposals and presentations, leading discussions with administrators, and to discovering how to manage the times when all your plans go wrong the hard way, I've seen a lot. I've learned when to stand on my own and how to rely on others when I need it. Some of my best friends have been born out of the late nights spent completing a project. Overall, I guess I really love the Union, the Student Senate, and the opportunities we present for students to grow on campus as individuals while strengthening campus itself. Our projects have the ability to cause actual change, from causing teachers to respect all class excuses issued by the Dean of Students and Health Center and interfacing with administrators and influencing policy, to things like getting picnic benches and water bottle filling stations on campus for students to enjoy. The privilege of being able to chair this body, and help direct its tone for a year and into the future would be an honor, and a task I would take up wholeheartedly, using my experiences and knowledge to help push the senate forwards to new and greater accomplishments.

Earlier this year, I was selected to attend a regional ACUI (Association of College Unions International) conference. It was only there that I really learned about what it means when people talk about how different our student union is to others in the country. The ability we have to be involved in the decision making and running of our Union, and the room for growth we get from that are truly unique in the United States, and understanding this, I further want to be GM so I ensure the Union is maintained and ensure these same things are available to future members of the Union.

Daniel Rogers

I want to be grand marshal because I have been a motivator and leader for as long as I can remember. I see all the opportunities that are out there for students that are just not utilized and want to propel our student body toward standards of living and well being that are unsurmountable. I want to bring in a rational method of leadership and a more efficient structure of senate meetings in order to increase productivity. Roberts rules of order. Under my leadership I will facilitate a stronger relationship with administration through reaching out for more forums, more regular meetings with lower administration to discuss current developments in their plans as well as ours and provide insight. The administration is a big of an asset as the student body. Just as we have to communicate efficiently with the student body, we must communicate as well if not better with our administration whose jobs are dedicated for the betterment of our student body. I want to ensure that there is a mutual respect between the board of trustees and the student government by using respectful language at all times.



Describe your experience in student government.

Paul Ilori

I've had an interesting and enjoyable experience. I joined student senate after the 2013 Freshman Elections, and have been involved in it ever since. I got my first leadership position during the spring of that year when I became the project leader for our residence hall reviews project in the Student Life Committee. I was also involved in the Constitution, Facilities and Services, Student Government Communications, and Union Annual Report Committees. During my sophomore year, I maintained a level of involvement in pretty much all senate committees, participating in all the same committees except the Communications committee, but also joining the Academic Affairs and

Hospitality Services Advisory Committee. During the year, I became a project leader on AAC for our Research Directory project and SLC's Student Rights and Policy sub-committee chairperson. In January, I also became the chairman of Rules and Elections Committee. Taking on this role ended up being more challenging than I expected, but my committee and I were able to accomplish a lot. We were able to implement the longstanding idea of establishing electronic voting for Rensselaer Union elections, worked with the Web Technologies committee to establish a petition website, and navigated the adventure which was GM Week 2015. I also became the secretary for my class council. This year, I became the chairperson of the Student Life Committee, and also was on the Union Annual Report Committee. In SLC, my team worked on several projects. These included working with student petitioners and other groups on campus to create projects to meet needs they perceived on campus. These included getting permanent funding for the Crossgate Mall Shuttle starting in Fall 2016, working with the Vice President of Administration on the Institute Inclement Weather Policy and renovations in different areas on campus, writing a proposal to create increased residence hall access for students while maintaining a safe campus, and working with the Registrar on implementing a system for students to use a preferred name on campus.

Daniel Rogers

My experience in student government started as a representative of the class of 2017 council as my interest peaked in what was going on behind the scenes. As Class of 2017 representative I was nominated and appointed treasurer of the class. Holding this position I worked very closely with Cameron McLean in budgeting and expenditures including both RPI class of 2017 Class hockey nights and funding of the upcoming concert. As president of the ring committee I involved the student body in the designing of the ring through multiple surveys and had listened to feedback from various organizations on campus. I spearheaded the advertisement of our class ring and with the help of the committee we achieved our goal for selling rings. I am also in charge of planning the ring dinner where selected faculty, staff and administration attend with students who purchased a class ring. Through this project I have worked with the presidential office, the Alumni House, as well as various clubs on campus.



List your campus activities, including levels of involvement, positions held, and awards.

Paul Ilori

Currently, I'm in the RPI Capoeira Club, which I've been involved with on and off since my NRB day trip, and act as an administrative officer. I've also been previously involved in the Debate/MUN club and Rensselaer Rocket Society.

Daniel Rogers

I am a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, RPI ski and Snowboard club, the outing club, and affiliated with Habitat for humanity. I have been involved in the day to day operation of my fraternity, which was founded on the basis of eliminating prejudice, through vice president and housing manager. I have been awarded a scholarship recognition award through Pi Lambda Phi. I have also been in charge of a subcommittee of my local branch of Habitat for humanity. We initiated a program called nickels for nails at over 30 schools which involved effective communication with administration from each.



Name three short-term (within your term of office) goals and three long-term goals (beyond your term of office) that you have for the Senate.

Paul Ilori

Short Term

- Schedule 2 meetings a semester between each Institute Vice President and a member of the Student Senate to improve communication and coordination between the senate and administration and at least one open forum with students every semester to further communicate with about projects, ideas, and the state of the student body
- Have every senate committee undertake at least one project with either a student petitioner or a student group on campus to increase student involvement on campus
- Ensure there are weekly posts on the Student Senate website to aid communication with students

Long term

- Get language describing the Rensselaer Union and its role on campus included in the Rensselaer 2024 Plan
- Create opportunities for regular student showcases and performances to take place in EMPAC
- Start process of creating increased access clusters and enhanced security measures for students living in on-campus housing

Daniel Rogers

The first goal that I want to take on and accomplish during my time as GM is to expand on the student union constitution to reduce ambiguity in many sections as to prevent misunderstandings with administration in the future. We have access to a lawyer for a reason, and this is what is needed in such an important contract to successfully append. Another goal is to have a better system of information management through the Rensselaer community. Every senate and E board committee is working hard for the student body and there is a large information gap on their progress. The last short term goal is to rebuild a strong and mutually respectful relationship with our administration and Board of Trustees. Communication will be more efficient when a better relationship has been established. This doesn't mean we have to have quarterly meetings with our President (however it would be nice) but even a bi monthly luncheon with administration as it seems there is a lack of free time on both sides. A long term goal is to solidify regular meeting times with student senate and various administrative positions. Guest speakers are a great way of having more information directly through the source and have instant feedback for questions. It is imperative to bridge the communication gap. This will take time but the starting of this practice sets an interactive standard and template for future student government to follow. A long term goal for the senate includes the addition of seating infrastructure throughout the campus in an effort to facilitate a more comfortable environment for class transitions. Another long term goal is to create a program where all things Rensselaer can be combined into a portable application which include student government updates, important dates for events and meetings, and to promote an increased unity throughout the student body.



In your own words, what do you feel are the roles of the Grand Marshal and the Student Senate?


Paul Ilori

I believe that the purpose of the Student Senate is to help all students address the issues that they feel affect them and the Rensselaer community as a whole. The Student Senate combines our experience and resources to help create solutions and accomplish tasks for the student body. We should be a body where people bring us their issues, concerns, and project ideas, and we work with them however possible to try to rectify the solutions as best as we can. As the head of this body, the Grand Marshal is its organizing officer and pace setter. It is their job to both lead from the front, make sure committees are staying on track and being provided with assistance when it is needed, and to lead interactions with students, faculty, and administrators on campus.

GRAND MARSHAL

Daniel Rogers

The role of the Grand Marshall in my own words is to be a rational and thorough student liaison between the student union as a whole and more importantly foster active communication with administration in a mutual and respectful way. The GM also serves on institute committees. The student senate in my opinion is a more powerful resource when representing the student bodies views. The Senate acts as a liaison for the student body to the grand Marshall and a voting body for various issues. The senate also prides its time with various projects that are organized and implemented in sub committees. Their goal is to improve student life as well as successfully implement projects through the committees.




What do you think are the incumbent Grand Marshal's strengths and weaknesses? What would you do to improve upon them if you were elected?

Paul Ilori

I feel Marcus' greatest current strength is his skill as an organizer and planner. He is very good at looking at a goal, and setting up an appropriate schedule and benchmarking points to ensure that the group will stay on track to complete their task on time, whether it's simply setting up projects for the year or a timeline for making sure a proposal is completed. He is also very good at working the back end of senate, setting up meetings, interfacing with faculty and administrators, and making our battle plans of who should go where. His greatest weakness is likely his skills as a communicator. As a naturally less outspoken personality than most of the recent GM's have been, at times he has had to go out of his way to communicate with others and reach out to people. This in was compounded by how communication is a recurring challenge facing the senate. I feel my strategies communication strategies would help reduce this problem. Another issue was a lack of togetherness and working towards a common goal in the senate sometimes over the course of the year. To deal with this, I would work to include more group bonding activities for the senate earlier in the year. We had some of these in previous senate terms, and the sense of togetherness we created helped us work as an effective body despite different ideas about the direction we should head in at times.

Daniel Rogers

I believe the incumbent Grand Marshall's strengths include encouraging student expression, and a mission to express the interests of the student body in an unbiased manner. He is a good leader of the senate and is an easily accessible GM. Some weaknesses that I believe he possesses is a lack of hesitation to take action at any possibly warranted issue and I believe that his efforts to be actively involved in administrative affairs were not sufficient.



How do you plan to improve committee participation and get non-representatives more involved in the Senate?


Paul Ilori

From my experience as a senator, the best way to get people involved and invested in senate is to work on things which concern them. I worked to facilitate this by basing projects on concerns which students brought to me and which committee members said they had heard frequent comments on from their friends and others on campus. I also would look at the senate petition website, and sometimes reach out to petitioners whose petitions had not reached the 250 threshold to be addressed, and see if they were still interested in working with SLC and our resources to get their goals reached. I would try to expand this model out to the entire senate, using that and ideas members of the student body brought me to bring more people in.

Daniel Rogers

I plan on improving committee participation through informing leaders of clubs and other student organizations

on campus of the developing projects, where help could be used, and the times of meetings and contact information. There are committee webpages that have their meeting times but not many students will actively go out of their way to find them. If this information is distributed bi monthly to all organizations on campus we would reach most of the student body in a more personal manner than an email directly from the GM which presumably many may not read. Another effective means of getting students involved in senate committees that I want to initiate is to have all committees actively working on projects to table in the union to gain useful feedback and gain potential members for those who are interested. Sometimes it just takes someone to talk to become more involved in student government.




What is your opinion of the current communication efforts with the student body by the Senate and student government overall? What plans do you have to maintain or improve them?

Paul Ilori

Everybody, especially the senate can always do a better job communicating. We have the habit of sometimes getting stuck in our 'bubble' of information due to our friends often knowing everything we know through either interacting with us or being involved in student government themselves. I think the main things we can do to improve our communication is harnessing current student interest in the Union and student government, and also using the different communication avenues we already have more. We don't post that much on the senate website or message board in the Union. I would expand our use of these, like we've recently started using the Student Government Twitter account more. Another strategy I would use to promote senate projects and involvement is to promote and advertise our projects using some of the poster strategies we use to promote campaigns leading up to GM Week to advertise our project groups, and trying to get senate brochures placed in shuttles.

Daniel Rogers

The communication efforts between the student body and student government have been minimal. The majority of education on the recent events were posted through reddit and in an email sent out to club officers. This was effective in the situation, however other information just as important has not been prioritized in sending out, such as the ongoing projects of student senate. This question overlaps with my answer to the previous one.



Looking forward, what do you see as possible issues facing student government in the next year?


Paul Ilori

There are always going to be new issues that arise which student government will need to take in stride and find ways to deal with. Whether it's major changes like those which happened last year to residence hall access or smaller ones it's impossible to foresee everything which will need to be dealt with over the next year. However, there are several long standing or new issues which are likely to carry over to the next year. The highest profile of these are providing input in the planning of the Summer Arch program, and how the restructuring of the Student Life Portfolio will affect the Rensselaer Union, Greek Life, and other aspects of student life. However, there are other long-standing issues which will need to be addressed. Among others, they include the unique position and challenges facing Graduate students, working with the academic side of the Institute on reviews to curriculum and structuring of course requirements, and staying involved with providing feedback to the institute on reviews to Inclement Weather Policy and renovations to Residence Halls. We also need to work on improving our communication between student government bodies, with Institute administration, and most importantly with the members of the Union. On a personal level, I want to work on making sure that our projects once completed, don't fall into

administrative cracks, and get moved along to completion once they get past the proposal stage. I personally want to make sure the hole the on campus pharmacy project has been in for over a year, and several other ones have fallen into gets filled up, so ideas and work from students don't go to waste.

Daniel Rogers

Future issues that I see are eminent would be an overall discontent from the student body with aRPI administration as a whole. There has been some misconstrued information during this communication sparse environment. The situation needs to be turned around regardless of the future decisions of the board of trustees and the administration as a whole. Other issues facing student government will be adjusting for all of the changes at RPI from administration, such as Summer Arch and trying to implement an interim Director of the Union. I see issues arising from a lack of cooperation from administration as well. This is what we need to fix before we can move forward.



What is your opinion of the current communication lines between the administration and the student body? What plans do you have to maintain or improve them?

Paul Ilori

Communication between Institute administration and the student body tends to be varied both in its scope and quality. There are some areas in which we are doing well, and some areas which need large amounts of improvement. The most important thing I think we can do on our side is to be clear, consistent, and respectful in our efforts to work with them. From my experience having success working with administrators, the best thing we can do is work on scheduling meetings with them regularly and early, so they have an idea of what projects we're working on, how they can potentially help us with them, and won't be surprised or confused when one of our documents appears on their desks. My time on the Faculty Senate curriculum committee and chairing two senate committees has allowed me to meet and interact with a large number of administrators. We currently have a good relationship with the Faculty Senate, with members visiting each other's meetings, and regular communication about project ideas and concerns. From my experience, when we present our points to them clearly, respectfully, and with reasoning and data to back them up, we very often are able to form successful working relationships with them, and help get things done for the student body. In terms of them communicating with us, the best thing we can do is to ensure that we let them know how they can contact us and that we are open to working with them on projects or giving them feedback on their initiatives and documents, whether they wish to speak to just us, or get a focus group of students together. This strategy got us in the position we currently are in where the Senate will be able to review the new Institute inclement weather policy, and give feedback on it before it's implemented. Finally, it is always important for us conduct ourselves in a mature manner, and state clearly when we disagree with them when we have disagreements with them, why we hold these differing ideas, and work with them to form whatever compromise we feel best recognizes the wishes and needs of our constitutions, the student body at Rensselaer.

Daniel Rogers

Personally as it stands there is little to no effective communication between the student government and the administration. I can realize that it is not all of the student government's fault nor is it all the administrations fault. However in this situation we must make the effort to reestablish a strong relationship and thus with that more initiative to meet with administration before an issue arose. I want to ask questions before conflicts have had time to manifest. I realize that this is an ideal situation, however it has been clearly vocalized that we too must be the ones to reach out and ask questions as to the state of affairs in the administration. I want to organize more forums with varying administration, whether or not there is a hot topic or reason to do so. The administration should be able to easily voice their goals and answer questions that may have never been asked. I would also like to host monthly luncheons with administration and student government, club officers, faculty and staff in an effort to rebuild relations in the most basic sense. It will help ease possible tension between groups and open the door for more frequent and effective communication.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNION



Why do you want to be President of the Union?

Keegan Caraway

I would like to be President of the Union for a few reasons. Firstly I want to continue the legacy of a student run union here at RPI, which I feel is currently under threat. Secondly, I want to help improve and rebuild the lines of communication that student government has with the administration.

Chip Kirchner

I have always seen the Union as the biggest point of pride for the students of Rensselaer. In Dr. Jackson's town hall one student stood up to say their role in club leadership was the single most important experience of their time at RPI. I think this extends to everyone who has had the opportunity to be a club leader and to participate in Union activities in any way. Beyond this however, I believe I have the leadership skills, experience, and vision to bring our Union to great new places and to cement our place in the future of RPI.



Describe your experience in student government.

Keegan Caraway

My experience in student government consists of a few items. I've been on the student senate for two years and of those two years I was secretary for the senate for most of that time in addition to my senator duties. In my time here I worked on a range of senate projects and senate sub committees. For the past semester I have been sitting in Executive Board meetings, attending Executive Board committees, and meeting with union administrators to make sure I fully understand the finances of the union.

Chip Kirchner

I joined the E-Board this year after being heavily involved in the Union Programs and Activity Committee for two years prior. I also participate in the Business Operations committee, the Marketing Advertisement and Publicity committee, and chair the Committee to Help Inform the Public.



List your campus activities, including levels of involvement, positions held, and awards.

Keegan Caraway

On campus I've been involved with a wide range of things. As a freshman I participated on RSA, and joined the cycling club. My more enduring commitments have been to my Fraternity Delta Phi where I've held various Executive Board positions for the past year and a half, and to IEEE where I have held the position of Vice Chair. One thing on campus I'm proud to say I was part of was aiding in the creation of the DI club on campus and helping to get it union recognized and union funded.

Chip Kirchner

Other than the experiences in student government listed above, I have had the pleasure of serving as the equipment chair for UPAC Sound for 2 years. I attended meetings for too many clubs to count my Freshman and Sophomore years, but found my commitment to leading UPAC Sound to be too large to join many other organizations. I am currently still assisting in running Sound day to day, and I play on an intramural soccer team.



Name three short-term (within your term of office) goals and three long-term goals (beyond your term of office) that you have for the Executive Board.

Keegan Caraway

As far as short-term goals I would firstly like to see the position of Director of the Union filled and the position of Director of Student Activities struck down or clarified as to not infringe on the Union. Secondly, I hope to accomplish setting up better lines of communication for new club officers to talk to the Executive Board. Lastly, while I'm in office I'd like to continue to do what Nick did so well, and continue a heavy public media presence and make sure that all documents are public and available when possible. In the more long-term picture of things I'd like the lines of communication with administration to be improved, as well as improving student government's involvement with the community, and lastly I'd love to see an improvement on long term saving for clubs for larger projects and emergency funds.

Chip Kirchner

Short term:

1. Change the way that E-Board members approach the budgeting process, making the process based more on the complex secondary effects budgeting has on the student body as a whole, rather than the more simplistic approach that has existed in the past
2. Drastically increase the training and awareness of the Executive Board with respect to national changes in higher education, finance, law, and club-specific opportunities
3. Increase student participation in E-Board committees by increasing their roles and responsibilities within the Union

Long term:

1. Begin to create a model for effective summer programming that will be improved and used for many years, with the goal of facilitating a smooth transition into the Summer Arch
2. Improve the relationship between the E-Board and the administration by facilitating open communication by students with a wide variety of administrations
3. Implement a long term budget planning strategy to be utilized by most clubs which will provide stability in times of financial burden, and assist new clubs in the budgeting process



In your own words, what do you feel are the roles of the President of the Union and the Union Executive Board?

Keegan Caraway

I think that the roles of the President of the Union and the Executive Board are primarily to deal with the finances of the union and interact with clubs to help them receive funding to accomplish their goals. I think in addition to this they are one of the avenues of communication between the administration and the student body.

Chip Kirchner

I think the roles of the PU and E-Board are twofold. The first is to ensure that the Union operates in an efficient and effective way. This includes allocating the activity fee fairly, but also providing support and guidance to the Union's members and student organizations. The second is the responsibility for representing the student body's interest in the Union and preserving its ability to operate. Just as other student leaders on campus, the PU and E-Board are figureheads and are meant to be an extension of the student body's concerns and intentions as they pertain to the operation of the Union.



What do you think are the incumbent President of the Union's strengths and weaknesses? What would you do to improve upon them if you were elected?

Keegan Caraway

One of the things I admire most about Nick is his ability to interact with people and get them to rally around; his ability to inspire is unmatched. The only thing I think Nick has struggled with this past year has been some slight organization issues. I have also enjoyed how much work he puts into making sure that information about student government reaches the public. To work on organization I would work to make sure that we don't accidentally have scenarios like not appointing representatives by their deadlines.

Chip Kirchner

I think Nick's greatest strength and the hallmark of his tenure is how well he inspired cooperation and determination in the members of his board. I have never had the opportunity to work on a team as well rounded, patient, and understanding as the 2015-2016 Executive Board. I think this quality also extends to the student body in general. Nick has an ability to guide the Union through turmoil in a way that conveys the respect we expect from other areas of the institute but also puts a hard line on our expectations of them.

This great strength might also come from what I consider one of Nick's weaknesses. Nick takes the huge burden of running our Union alone. This is a trait many presidents before him also had. There were plenty of nights where I saw Nick in his office until 3 or 4 in the morning just getting work done to help students. His dedication was extraordinary, but, in my opinion, the leadership of the Executive board is a team led by the PU absolutely consisting of the Vice President and the chairs of E-Board committees.

I plan to create more structure and responsibilities for chairs of E-Board committees and to include the Vice President and Senate E-Board Liaison in most of the work that I complete. I think structuring a small team to focus on specific issues I've noted in my platform and issues that the E-Board identifies as needing attention will create a much more effective network to meet the challenges we will face next year.



How do you plan to improve committee participation and get non-representatives more involved in the Executive Board?

Keegan Caraway

I plan on utilizing E-Board committees much more heavily than has been done in the past. In my opinion, the voting members of the E-Board are responsible for decision making, but the real work gets done in committees, as is the case in most forms of government. At the same time I want to hold regular meetings with committee leaders to increase the cooperation between each group. These changes coupled with an active approach to advertising and recruiting will hopefully result in a large increase in the amount of non-representative involvement.

Chip Kirchner

I think one of the best ways to get committee involvement is to start early in the semester with a lot of public information about the projects that have been worked on and will be worked on by committees. I have seen in my time here, the earlier committees form and start work the better they retain members and gain membership.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNION

What do you see as problems with the Union (in terms of clubs, building operations, et cetera), and what ideas do you have for fixing them?

Keegan Caraway

I know that right now we as a Union are in a pretty solid place financially and are enjoying a slight surplus in funds. I think that a future budget concern could be that some clubs are currently not building savings for long term projects, and therefore when larger equipment or larger projects need to be completed, clubs may find they are in a tough scenario for funding.

Chip Kirchner

Moving into next year, our largest issue will be communication. I think every student on campus realizes now just how important communication between student leadership and the administration is. I believe that administrative leaders have heard our concerns and see what can happen when students are separated from decision making. I do not expect the administration to involve the E-Board personally in every decision that they make ahead of time, but I intend to stress the importance of communicating changes affecting the Union to the E-Board. Bringing this back to my plans for a leadership team, I plan on having regular meetings in all

levels of the administration. Having three members of the E-Board represent our issues, we can accomplish a level of involvement never before seen between the two groups.

I think many of the issues the Union has also derive from its lack of space for student groups. Over the past two decades the number of clubs has more than doubled in size and the Union has taken on additional spaces on campus to account for it. There are still many groups who operate without storage space. The Business Operations committee is currently planning on expanding storage space in the basement of the Union, and I intend to do a thorough review of Union spaces to find more areas available for clubs to use.

How would you evaluate the current Union budget situation? What do you foresee as future budget concerns?

Keegan Caraway

I know that right now we as a Union are in a pretty solid place financially and are enjoying a slight surplus in funds. I think that a future budget concern could be that some clubs are currently not building savings for long term projects, and therefore when larger equipment or larger projects need to be completed, clubs may find they are in a tough scenario for funding.

Chip Kirchner

I believe the Union is very financially sound compared to previous years. Contracting the bookstore has created a

regularity to the budgeting operations that has not been seen in a long time. It also brings in a lot of additional income. Over the course of the next few years the maintenance and upgrade costs of the Union and its facilities will increase also, but this is very manageable with proper planning, just like most budgetary issues within the Union.

How do you intend to encourage students to fully utilize the resources of the Union?

Keegan Caraway

I intend to encourage students to fully utilize Union resources by encouraging them to join clubs on campus, take part in intramural sports on campus, and use the Mueller center as well as other similar resources. I believe the best way to do this is through publicity campaigns about when and where things are; when intramural sports seasons start, what events are going on in the union and Mueller center.

Chip Kirchner

I intend to increase programming focused on individual students. This would be things like bringing in larger concerts and comedians, or increasing workshops hosted by the Union. In addition to this, focusing a group like MAP committee to assist clubs in their recruiting process would also boost participation in student groups.

UNDERGRADUATE PRESIDENT

Why do you want to be Undergraduate President?

Eryka Greaves

I want to be Undergraduate President because I have been involved in student government since last elections and have enjoyed my time being able to work with other student leaders on campus. As this round of elections approaches I wish to be even more involved with the undergraduate class councils than this past year, and becoming the next UP is the perfect way for me to experience more and give back to the student body.

Describe your experience in student government.

I joined the 2017 Class Council last round of elections. Since then I have been involved in the Class Ring Committee helping to finalize the ring designs for our class, helped set up the Class of 2017 hockey night, and am currently involved in planning a Class of 2017 Spirit Day for this month (April).

List your campus activities, including levels of involvement, positions held, and awards.

Greek Life – Alpha Phi. Intramural Chair Spring '14 – Fall '15, Ivy Linker Chair Fall '15 - Spring '16

Ski & Snowboarding Club – Joined this past year, go on occasional trips to the mountains with the club.

Campus Jobs: Admissions Ambassador (Fall '15 – present) involves giving tours and talking to many prospective students and their parents. Mueller Center (Fall '13 – present).

Name three short-term (within your term of office) goals and three long-term goals (beyond your term of office) that you have for the Undergraduate Council.

Short Term: 1) Utilize time spent in meetings wisely by keeping to an agenda and preventing side/unnecessary chatter from prevailing at meetings. 2) Ensure that the other sections of student government are knowledgeable about the happenings in the Undergraduate Council. 3) Set up useful programming events to benefit student leaders on campus.

Long Term: 1) Keep good relations with the Graduate Student Council. 2) Ensure good relations continue between the individual class councils, and suggest the idea of more joint class council events (For example, the class councils all supported and sponsored the Chainsmokers concert coming up) 3) Expand the position to be a more visible “higher elected” student leader role.

In your own words, what do you feel are the roles of the Undergraduate President, the Undergraduate Council, and the Class Councils?

The roles of the Undergraduate President include heading the Undergraduate Council by calling meetings (currently biweekly, and when necessary), appointing a student to the E-Board, setting up programming events that are beneficial to the student body (usually geared toward student leaders on campus). Part of the role of heading the UC meetings includes making sure an agenda is followed to ensure all business is address during a meeting.

The Undergraduate Council's roles include making sure there is communication between all four of the class councils, and looking into any potential situations that affect more than just one class.

Class Councils are there to be the voice of their respective classes, putting on events and fun activities that bring the class together frequently throughout the school year. They are also in charge of deciding what the class ring will look like, and once senior year rolls around they are in charge of putting together big senior events like 200 Days, 100 Days, 50 Days, and all of Senior Week.

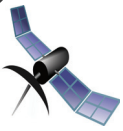
What do you think are the incumbent Undergraduate President's strengths and weaknesses? What would you do to improve upon them if you were elected?

I believe the incumbent Undergraduate President's strengths include letting the councils have a large say in the direction of the Undergraduate Council, providing more meaningful programming, and utilizing the council's time efficiently. One weakness is that she does not communicate as much or as well as she could with the other parts of student government (Senate and E-Board). If I am elected, I would make sure to attend open Senate and E-Board meetings as often as I can in order to stay informed with what else is happening along with making sure both of these groups know what is going on with the Undergraduate Council. I also plan on continuing her policy of letting the councils have a large say in what direction the Undergraduate Council heads in.

What is your opinion on the coterminal students' class dues situation and the recent efforts to split the money between the senior Class Council and the Graduate Student Council?

Since coterminal students are allowed to attend both senior class events and graduate events when they join the coterminal program, I believe a portion of their student activity fee should go to the graduate student council to help pay for those graduate events. I believe the proposal that was reached under the current Undergraduate President is fair in that the first step would be to split a coterminal student's dues proportionally to what the current undergraduate and graduate dues are. From there, planned efforts include working with the Office of Graduate Education to have coterminal students identify (Senior Class or Graduate), then let those two classes decide if that identification would exclude the student from participating in the opposite class events. I support this decision, especially the move from the initial split of dues to having coterminal students identify for better knowledge on how many will potentially attend Graduate events along with letting the Senior and Graduate classes make the ultimate decision on attendance to events.

ENDORSEMENTS



GRAND MARSHAL

After interviewing both candidates and holding many hours of discussion, *The Polytechnic* has chosen to not endorse a candidate for Grand Marshal. Instead, we will highlight the positives of each candidate, and discuss the negatives that prevented the Editorial Board from coming to a definitive conclusion.

On paper, Paul Ilori '17 is a strong candidate for GM. Among current Senators, his track record is extraordinary. Throughout his three-year tenure on the Student Senate, Ilori been the chairperson the Rules and Elections Committee, the Student Life Committee, and the Student Rights and Policy Subcommittee, and has sat on several others. Most recently, he has worked with student petitions and collaborated with administrators on projects such as residence hall access and reworking the inclement weather policy, and, while on R&E dealt with a complicated election season. His leadership has made a significant positive impact on the Rensselaer Union and the students within it.

What we were not pleased with was how Ilori conducted himself in his interview with *The Poly*. Ilori maintained an attitude that, we believe, is not appropriate for an interview, especially for candidate pursuing an endorsement from *The Polytechnic*. When Ilori entered the interview, he was haphazardly holding his belongings and proceeded to drop

them down off to the side. During the interview, his responses tended to be long-winded without uniting ideas and he generally did not conduct himself in what we would consider a professional manner. We worry that, if he was unable to take our interview seriously, he would not be able to conduct himself professionally when the matter is pressing. Although Ilori has shown through his accomplishments that he is capable of professionalism, we were disappointed that Ilori elected to forego that professionalism in our interview with him.

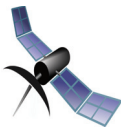
The Editorial Board was also less than impressed with fellow candidate Daniel Rogers '17. While we appreciate his mission to positively impact RPI as GM, he needs to take the position much more seriously if he wants to serve as an effective GM. Even before he came in for an interview, it was clear from his writing that he was woefully unprepared to serve as our 151st GM. His supplementary answers were riddled with spelling errors, grammatical mistakes, and lacked substance. He also neglected to submit any sample Top Hat editorials, a fundamental portion of the *Poly* GM Week submission, and he provided no explanation as to why he did not submit any, aside from not knowing what to write.

Naturally, one's writing ability alone is not significant enough of a reason to oppose a candidate. In his answers in

both the supplement and the interview, Rogers demonstrated insufficient understanding of the Senate, the GM position, and the overall operation of the student government. While we do not believe it is necessary for a candidate to serve as a senator before running for GM, the Editorial Board felt that Rogers still knew little about the position.

The Poly expects that, when running for the highest elected student official position in the Union, a candidate would take measures to ensure that they prioritize their campaign to demonstrate to the student body that the position is as important to them as they claim. However, Rogers proved the opposite. He failed to attend his scheduled interview and portrait session, despite confirming in his sign-up that he would be available for both. Furthermore, even when *The Poly* granted him a make-up opportunity for both, he was substantially tardy to the make-up portrait appointment.

As a part of GM Week 2016, there is a debate scheduled for 7 pm on Wednesday, April 13, in the McNeil Room between Ilori and Rogers. In addition to the synopsis we have detailed above, the *Poly* Editorial Board strongly encourages all students to attend the debate and make an informed decision on who they believe is best equipped to lead the student body over the next year.



PRESIDENT OF THE UNION

The Polytechnic endorses Chip Kirchner '17 for President of the Union. We feel that he presented himself and his platform well in our interview; his plans for office were clearly stated in his submissions, and his leadership experience and success as a leader make him the best candidate for PU.

Of all the candidates, we feel that Kirchner has the strongest platform. The thought and consideration he put into his campaign greatly impressed the Editorial Board. The suggested changes to the budgeting process, increased training and awareness of Executive Board representatives, and plans for increased student participation in committees are all changes we would like to see in the E-Board. His long term goals are also ones we wish to see come to fruition, which include smoothing the Summer Arch transition, establishing strong communication lines with the administration,

The Polytechnic endorses



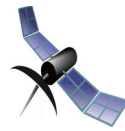
Chip Kirchner
for
PU

and implementation of long-term budgeting strategies for clubs. We also appreciate that these goals do not simply revolve around the Save our Union movement, which, while possibly essential to the future of the Rensselaer Union, is not the sole scope of the PU.

Outside of the E-Board, Kirchner has proven that he is a confident, capable leader who has the ability to realize the goals he has set. As chairman of UPAC Sound, he was able to increase membership from five to 25 members strong. During that process, he gained experience as a club leader; allowing him both to gain a working relationship with the administration, and understand the struggles that club leaders go through during their tenure.

If elected, we have complete confidence that Kirchner will be able to both serve the students and bring E-Board to new heights.

The Poly endorses Eryka Greaves for Undergraduate President. See her endorsement online at poly.news.



REFERENDA

The Student Senate has posed five questions to the student body as referenda on the GM Week 2016 ballot.

1. Should the position Executive Director of Student Activities have administrative jurisdiction over the Rensselaer Union?

The Editorial Board votes NO. The Rensselaer Union is an auxiliary service of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and should remain that way. For 125 years, the Union has been student-run, with guidance from the administration on legal and HR matters. No issues have presented themselves that warrant a change, and we strongly believe that the Union can further extend the student life experience without an Executive Director of Student Activities having administrative jurisdiction over it.

2. Do you support the addition of student elected recent alumni to the Board of Trustees?

The Editorial Board votes YES. We believe that having recent alumni on the Board of Trustees would help represent student opinion and prevent an information disconnect that has occurred in the past. We are seeking to open more lines of communication with the administration, and having recent alumni elected by students on the Board of Trustees take huge leaps toward this goal.

3. Do you support student access to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's bylaws?

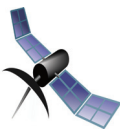
The Editorial Board votes YES. For an organization that we are a part of, we should have access to the rules they abide by. Other higher education institutions, both public and private, allow student access to their bylaws, and we see no reason we should not be granted the same.

4. Do you support restarting the practice of Student Senate discussion and endorsement of any changes made to the Student Handbook of Rights and Responsibilities?

The Editorial Board votes YES. While it is not the role of the Senate to write policy outlined in the Student Handbook, it should be the job of the Senate to listen to the suggestions and concerns of its constituents and express those opinions in discussion of Student Handbook changes. Restarting this practice would reopen lines of communication with the administration.

5. Should only student government—in conjunction with the Director of the Union—govern the future of the Rensselaer Union?

The Editorial Board takes no stance on this referendum. While we support the sentiment of the referendum, the Editorial Board was divided because of its wording. We believe that all students should be the ones governing the future of the Union; however, this referendum would suggest that only student government and Director of the Union should be in control, which we do not support. We feel that the Editorial Board would fully support a referendum that indicated only students, student government, and the Director of the Union should govern the Union's future.



GRADUATE COUNCIL

Graduate Council met with the candidates running for Grand Marshal and President of the Union. We asked several questions to each candidate regarding how they would involve and support graduate students in their goals for the Student Senate and Rensselaer Union. Based on their responses and platforms, we have decided to endorse a candidate for GM and PU.

The responsibilities of the GM are extensive. The GM serves as the leader of the Senate and guides Senate committees in their pursuit of student life, academic and facilities projects. While both candidates had ideas for committee projects, Paul Ilori '17 impressed us with his extensive work as a senator and Student Life Committee Chairperson. Under Ilori's leadership, the SLC has completed Residence Hall Access and Inclement Weather Policy Proposals. Ilori has completed many projects on other committees as well, gaining insight

into committee processes and developing working relationships with relevant Institute administrators. Furthermore, Ilori has identified communication as an issue between the student body and the Institute. With his goals, we believe Ilori will be able to improve student involvement on campus and revitalize methods of online communication with the student body.

In terms of graduate student support, Ilori has emphasized the need for improved communication between the Senate and the graduate student body. He hopes to reach out to graduate students using several avenues. Ilori suggested a closer collaboration with the Graduate Council, face to face interactions and other efforts, including posting common graduate student haunts on campus.

Our next endorsement is for the position of PU. In the past year, this position has

increased in scope. Previously, the PU oversaw the Executive Board and budgeting process for the Union Activity Fee. This year, there was increasing demand for the PU to liaise with Institute administrators and secure student representation in Institute affairs, especially those concerning the operation of the Union. Though each candidate emphasized their desire to work with the Institute, Chip Kirchner '17 has developed a plan of action that will provide solutions to problems students currently face.

Kirchner presented his plan for the E-Board, emphasizing an enhanced training program for the E-Board and a plan for Summer Arch. With more financial training, he hopes that the E-Board will have a deeper understanding of the fiscal policy of the Union and Institute. As PU, Kirchner also hopes to increase the leadership opportunities by delegating projects, meetings and tasks to senior members of the Board. We believe a

student like PU candidate Shannon Gillespie McComb '17 will be instrumental in developing and coordinating these projects. This hierarchy will provide a valuable experience to E-Board members and ensure student opinion is represented consistently to Institute leaders.

Additionally, Kirchner plans to review Union activities and programs so students get the most out of their activity fee, specifically those not involved in clubs. Kirchner also intends to increase communication with the student body, especially towards graduate students, by approaching students directly and working with the Graduate Council in event planning. The Graduate Council was excited to meet with these candidates, and looks forward to the improvements they may bring to RPI. We wish the best of luck to all candidates, and implore graduate students to vote on Thursday!