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RENSELAER UNION

Chairman of Board emails RPI community

Resolution asserts RPI president's authority over Union director employment

Sidney Kochman
 Brookelyn Parslow
 Senior Reporters

ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, CHAIRMAN OF THE Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Board of Trustees Arthur F. Golden '66 sent an email to the RPI community and alumni to "eliminate any confusion about [the Union's] governance."

"The hiring (or firing) of the director of the Union—as is true for any important position at RPI—is the ultimate responsibility of RPI's president, and I and the Board want and expect Dr. Jackson to make that decision," Golden wrote.

He claims that the Union has changed since his time here. The Union is "more intertwined with RPI's educational programs" and "its annual budget is now in the millions of dollars." While Golden and President Shirley Ann Jackson expect to continue, in Golden's words, the "lab course" that is the Union, appropriate supervision is considered a necessity.

Golden concluded the email with a resolution from the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees that aims to settle questions about where the "ultimate authority for the Union resides."

The first declaration reads, "Any provision in the bylaws, constitution, charter, or other such rules, regulations, or governing documents of any Rensselaer-affiliated group that conflict with the *Bylaws* of the Institute are deemed unapproved by the Board and are superseded by the *Bylaws* to the extent they so conflict." In addition, Article VIII of the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute* states that "the president shall, as educational and administrative head of the Institute, exercise a general superintendence over all the affairs of the institution."

Declaration two expands on the *Bylaws* with, "In accordance with the general superintendence authority over all affairs of the Institute delegated by the Board to the president of the Institute, any decisions on the hiring, formal reporting line, removal, and other terms and conditions of employment of the director of the Union are to be made by the Institute under the authority of the president."

See UNION, Page 6

STUDENT SENATE

Constitution and Bylaws not in conflict



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE STUDENT SENATE DEBATED a motion to declare the *Union Constitution* free of conflict with RPI's bylaws, and ultimately voted to pass it 17-5-0.

Brookelyn Parslow
 Senior Reporter

ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, THE RENSELAER UNION STUDENT SENATE HELD ITS NINTH meeting of the semester. It opened with a report from Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18, in which he briefly addressed the current affairs regarding the Rensselaer Union that would be discussed later in the meeting. He also urged senators to try to represent the views of their constituents during this discussion, as opposed to their personal opinions.

During the single committee report, Student Life Committee chairperson Hannah Merrow '18 shared that the discussion on the revisions to the *Student Handbook* will be held during the SLC meeting on Wednesday, October 4 at 6 pm in the Student Government Suite.

The Senate then moved onto unfinished business, in which they revisited the motion that would endorse the revisions to the *Student Handbook* as they were presented by the Division of Student Life on September 25, 2017. After reading the motion, Etzine asked members of the Senate to raise their hands if they had read the document from cover to cover, and if they fully believed they could endorse it at the current time. When no hands were raised, Etzine asked, "Would it be responsible to vote on this motion at this time?" A motion to postpone until the next meeting then passed by overwhelming majority.

See SENATE, Page 6

EXECUTIVE BOARD

New freshman members join E-Board

Jonathan Caicedo
 Senior Reporter

ON THURSDAY, THE RENSELAER EXECUTIVE BOARD opened their meeting with Title IX training from coordinators Elizabeth Brown-Goyette and Larry Hardy. This presentation was virtually identical to the one given to the Student Senate on September 11 (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/he42y>).

Following Brown-Goyette and Hardy's presentation, *The Polytechnic* came to the Executive Board with a proposal that will allow it to serve advertisements on its website. This is currently not permitted under the Division of the Chief Information Officer's *Cyber Citizenship Policy*. It was made clear that this proposal was only to ask the Executive Board to reach out to Chief Information Officer John Kolb for an exemption to the online advertisement restriction on behalf

of *The Poly*. Questions were raised over the quality of potential advertisements, and their effects on the usability and experience of *The Poly's* website. The motion ultimately passed 15-0-1, and the task of reaching out to Kolb was tasked to *The Poly's* Executive Board Representative Majken Rasmussen '20.

The E-Board then moved to postpone the new reception and lodging fund passed in the new budgeting guidelines during the last meeting for the fiscal year 2019. The motion passed 17-0-0.

The third and fourth motions were to approve the appointment of David Davis '21 and Ryan Delaney '21 to the E-Board respectively, both motions passed 18-0-0.

The committee of the week was the Marketing, Advertising, and Publicity committee. Committee Chairperson Ida Etemadi '19 announced initia-

tives to send out bi-weekly surveys to clubs, with the goal to help those clubs publicize events and announce other accomplishments. Etemadi also announced plans to rebrand the Union, starting by creating a new logo and updating other promotional materials.

Finally, Matt Rand '19 gave his president's report, which acknowledged the letter Chairman of the Board of Trustees Arthur Golden '66 sent to the Rensselaer community last week. Rand had no further comment to offer to the E-Board at the time, and stated the hiring process for the director of the Union would continue. Rand also said that Vice President for Institute Advancement Graig Eastin will be coming before the E-Board to discuss Rensselaer's capital campaign launch.

The Executive Board meets Thursdays at 8 pm in the Shelnuttt Gallery of the Rensselaer Union. ♦

Editorial

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students deserve clarity

ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, THE RENSSELAER UNION STUDENT SENATE discussed the implications of the resolution released by Chairman of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Board of Trustees Arthur F. Golden '66. It also voted on and passed a resolution declaring that there is no conflict between the *Rensselaer Union Constitution* and the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*, with 17 senators for, five against, and no abstentions.

The Editorial Board believes that the Senate's decision was made too hastily to properly determine whether conflicts exist between the *Union Constitution* and the RPI bylaws. The ambiguity of the Board of Trustees' resolution created an opportunity for the Senate to ask for clarification—not only on the conflicts between the documents, but on the director of the Union approval process as a whole.

In the coming weeks, the Rensselaer Union Executive Board may vote to approve a candidate for the director of the Union position. At this time, the meaning of "approval" is unclear. To some members of the Senate, it is simply a "recommendation" that can be disregarded by the president in her final decision. To others, it is a necessary step in the hiring process that, if not obtained, could prevent a candidate from being appointed altogether.

The student body deserves clarification of the approval process—in a way that is more thorough than Article VII, Section 2, Item F of the *Union Constitution*—before the Executive Board can make an informed decision about how to proceed. In the *Constitution's* stating that the E-Board "shall approve the hiring and continuance of all administrative personnel of the Union," we hope that "approve" is synonymous with "ratify." However, in a situation of this gravity, hope is not enough. ♦

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Reflecting on summer jobs

I SPENT THIS PAST SUMMER MAKING other people's coffee. As a computer systems engineering major who had just finished his freshman year, if I had really tried, I could have likely done something in my field, making significantly more money than I did at Starbucks, and probably spent my summer at a desk writing code. So why didn't I? Mainly, because I wanted to do something different before I likely spent my whole life doing work in my major. Being able to say I was a barista at Starbucks means very little to future employers, other than proving that I am in fact willing to work and perform to my job description, even if it is listening to people's extremely specific requests on how to make their coffee. How do I reflect on my little summer job? Overall, I'm glad I had it, and I feel that I gained a lot of experience from it.



Joseph Lyon
Sports Editor

During the summer, I wanted a job that would not only earn me money, but also prevent me from just sitting at home for the summer doing nothing. I thrive on being busy and feeling like I am contributing to something. This job satisfied both of those requirements. However, while working there, I also experienced something else that I was not expecting. Starbucks allowed me to have a job where I contributed to the overall operation of the store, even if I was lowest on the totem pole. It took me a few weeks into the summer, working in that environment, until I began to realize that there was much more to this than what I was doing. In actuality, I was able to see how corporate Starbucks had engineered many aspects of the store to increase efficiency and decrease costs, and how my role fit into the overall operation of the store.

At no point was I unsure of what I should be doing, as everyone always had a job, and new seasonal drink recipes were so simple that I could walk in the day they were released and know how to make them already. Everything is planned out, and any barista can simply walk into another Starbucks and start working there without a hitch. This level of optimization comes at a cost, however. I can think of several occasions where some corporate requirement was just ignored by everyone at the store as it simply didn't fit in our specific work environment. It was very clear in some instances when a change came down the line that it was written by someone who has never been on the floor of a real Starbucks. Overall, I'd say working at Starbucks was a great summer job. If you end up with any job, I would recommend looking around you, figuring out more about your job, and really learning to appreciate how everything fits together. Always try to take something away from your experience, no matter what it is. ♦

Poly Snapshots

Photos and interviews by Crystal Vejar

The Question:

What's the most important thing you brought with you to college?



Julianna Alvarez
BIOL '20
"I wish I brought the sun and warmth. #FloridaLife"



Rebecca Nguyen
BCBP '18
"My T-shirt quilt."



Myron Rios
CSCI '20
"The pen I used to answer this survey."



Hannah Latourette
ECSE '20
"Myself. I couldn't be doing this without her."

Town Hall Regarding the Recent Events of the Union

Saturday, October 7th
12:00pm in the McNeil Room
of the Union



Get informed.

Student Government will be hosting an information session, as well as answering questions and opening up conversation to shed light on the Union's recent happenings.



Hosted by
Student Government

the polytechnic

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The Rensselaer Polytechnic is published weekly, except during holiday and examination periods, by the students of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as authorized by the Rensselaer Union. Opinion pieces in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute or the Rensselaer Union. All submitted material becomes the property of *The Rensselaer Polytechnic*. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for reasons of space, clarity, libel, or style and to compose headlines for all articles printed. "Letters to the Editor" must be typed, signed, and fewer than 500 words in length. "My Views" must be typed, signed, and between 500 and 700 words in length. The telephone number of the author is required for letter verification. All letters are due by 5 pm on the Friday prior to publication, and can be sent in a Word document attachment via email to edop@poly.rpi.edu.

TOP HAT

Regarding recent developments with the Union

TO MY FELLOW CLASSMATES:

Our school has been home to one of the last student-run unions in the United States for quite some time. By now, I am sure you have had the opportunity to read the message from Chairman of the Board of Trustees Arthur Golden and the attached resolution from the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee. Like many of you, I was greatly disappointed by both the stance of the letter and the ramifications of the declarations, as no input was sought from students



Justin Etzine
Grand Marshal

and the sentiment expressed a loss of faith in the student body's ability to responsibly self-govern the Union.

I would like to take a moment to share why and how a student-run union has been impactful to our entire community—students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators alike. Through a student-run union, our students have had the liberty to build their own meaningful experiences through freedom of choice; the persona of our Union frequently morphed as generations of students made it their own. They built and grew clubs and organizations based on their interests and developed leadership skills in the process. They defined policies for

Union operation. They met friends for lunch, conducted their banking, sought legal services, and shopped at the bookstore. For many, it was, and always will remain, a home away from home. All of these cherished qualities and traits came about because our Union had been student-run. These exist within the Union because students took the initiative and had the power to make them happen, and that is only truly possible through a student-run union. Our student-run Union was

the student experience at RPI. Until the recent resolution, we had the opportunity to have experiences similar to those of the students who came before us.

The Rensselaer Union thrived under student operation for over 127 years. Its main building was constructed in 1965 after the student body decided, by referendum, to increase the Union Activity Fee to fund it. The Union's role in our lives as students here far surpasses any individual academic or extra-curricular program. Even if you have only been on campus for a few weeks, I imagine you've already played a game of billiards in the

games room, studied at a table in the Rathskeller, or enjoyed lunch in the McNeil Room because our Union serves as the living room of the campus—a place made by the students, for the students.

The *Rensselaer Union Constitution* was enacted to govern our Union and served as the ultimate example of collaboration between students, administrators, and the Board of Trustees. This document depicts the role students played for well over a century to give our Union its honored student-run distinction. Additionally, it outlines the defined process for modification that includes steps the student government, student body, administration, and trustees shall take. Upon its inception, the *Union Constitution* embodied the gold standard for involvement and collaboration across our Institute and fostered shared governance. With this in mind, I am concerned that the recent events set a precedent for this collaboration to end, whereas the *Union Constitution* demonstrates that these decisions should be made collectively.

I have examined the situation with many students, members of the Student Senate and Executive Board, faculty, and alumni in hopes of building a plan for moving forward in light of this resolution. At this point, we

have concluded that the provision in the *Union Constitution* outlining the Executive Board's role in approving the hiring of Union administrative personnel remains in full effect, as the specification of approval does not conflict with the resolution's declarations. However, we are currently working to determine what provisions of the *Union Constitution* were impacted by the resolution, if any. I have reached out to Chairman Golden and other administrators in hopes of addressing questions we have encountered during this process.

Many of you have contacted me to discuss your concerns and questions about the resolution, its immediate effects, and its long-term impact. The breadth of students raising concerns and weighing in reminds me of how fundamentally important being a part of a student-run union has been to each of us, regardless of how or where we participate. I know many of you have been adversely affected by these recent developments. If you are in need of support or simply someone to talk to, please reach out to the resources available across campus, including the Counseling Center. And, of course, you may also always reach me at gm@rpi.edu; I am carefully reading every message I receive and appreciate them all. Please

share your input and opinions on the matter if you have not already. As always, I will keep you apprised of any developments.

Regardless of recent events, I urge you to conduct business as usual with our Union. For clubs, that means meeting and holding activities and programs that your members have come to rely upon and enjoy. For students, that means embodying what makes our Union the intricate and efficient enterprise that is admired and remembered fondly by our alumni. Please know that we are in this together as one Union; your student government is committed to representing your interests and priorities, especially those involving a student-run union. I have seen amazing things result from its members working on student-driven projects they are passionate about, and I believe our students can find solutions to current concerns by working together.

Like you, I am—and will continue to be—motivated by my undying love for our alma mater and a future for our Union.

Yours truly,

Justin Etzine
152nd Grand Marshal

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Response to Senate's Constitution resolution

TO THE RENSSELAER COMMUNITY,

On Monday, October 2, 2017, the Student Senate passed a resolution regarding the *Rensselaer Union Constitution*, claiming that there is no conflict between the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute* and the *Union Constitution*. The Graduate Student Council disapproves of this motion, with graduate senators vocally voting against this resolution. This action by the Student Senate is inconsistent with the Board of Trustees' September 27, 2017 resolution, notably Declaration 3, which requested that the *Rensselaer Union Constitution* and any other documents governing the Rensselaer Union be brought into conformance with the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*. The Graduate Student Council acknowledges the authority of the Board of Trustees to request such changes be made to the *Rensselaer Union Constitution* and requests the Student Senate initiate the procedure required to comply with the Board of Trustees' resolution.

The Graduate Senators sponsored a separate motion to this effect which failed to garner the requisite support for Senate approval. The differing perspectives between this motion and the motion that passed highlight a divide between the graduate and undergraduate student body on this issue. The Grand Marshal, who presides over the Senate, is the spokesperson for the entire student body—both graduate and undergraduate.

However, given the composition of the Student Senate, no resolution can pass solely on graduate student support. On issues where the graduate and undergraduate senators disagree, the body will always decide in the favor of undergraduates. It is because of this reality that there are many on the Graduate Student Council who believe that the Student Senate, and by extension the Grand Marshal, have difficulty advocating effectively for the graduate student body. In the aftermath of these events, the Graduate Student Council will examine options to better promote the interests of the Graduate Student Body outside of the Student Senate, starting with this letter.

The Graduate Student Council believes that the motion that was passed by the Student Senate does not build upon the growing relationship between the graduate student leadership and the Institute's administration. Cooperation between the Graduate Student Council and the Rensselaer administration in the past three years has resulted in significant improvements to the experience of graduate students at Rensselaer. The increases in the minimum academic year stipend for graduate students shows a sensitivity to the needs of graduate students and a recognition of their value to the teaching and research conducted at Rensselaer. Increased services tailored to graduate students from the Center for Career and Professional Development and a renewed focus on external fellowship and funding application support from

the Office of Graduate Education ensure graduate students at Rensselaer have the tools necessary to succeed when applying for highly competitive and prestigious awards. The creation of the dean of graduate experience position and Colleen Smith's appointment to the position represents Rensselaer's commitment to the success of graduate students. Since joining Rensselaer in 2015, Smith has consistently advocated for graduate students and led initiatives that have become integral to the Rensselaer graduate student experience, such as the Graduate Research Symposium. In conclusion, the Office of Graduate Education and the Institute's administration have shown a consistent interest in the growth and professional development of graduate students, and this growth was fostered by effective cooperation between the Graduate Student Council and the Institute's administration.

The Graduate Student Council acknowledges that graduate student education at Rensselaer relies on programs whose funding will be supported by Rensselaer's new capital campaign and believes this campaign will be critical to the actualization of the *Rensselaer Plan 2024*. We recognize this institution's impressive effort in securing the support we need to take our research and educational model forward, and encourage all to support it.

Respectfully,

The Graduate Student Council

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6

2021 ELECTION RESULTS

COMMONS DINING HALL
5 PM-7PM
DESSERT RECEPTION & MEET & GREET

DATA- DRIVEN

INFLUENCE

Hear from an
alumnus who
mastered the art
of technological
engagement

Wednesday, October 11
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
CBIS Auditorium
eship.rpi.edu/2017eoy

CULTURAL EVENT

Students dance, play



Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

MEMBERS OF CASA AND HKSA CELEBRATED Mid-Autumn Festival with food and games.

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

ON FRIDAY, THE UNION BASEMENT WAS PACKED with students as usual. Some were playing pool, others were eating food from Father's, while others still struggled to study against the noise of their peers. Some students, however, were filing into Mother's for another event: the traditional celebration of the year's harvest.

Jointly hosted by the Chinese American Student Association and the Hong Kong Student Association, the Mid-Autumn Festival was a festival of games, food, and performances. Walking in at 7 pm, I was immediately greeted by a sea of tables, with people sitting together, playing games, and enjoying traditional food. One of the draws of the event was the pre-ordering and delivery of mooncakes, which came from Hong Kong Bakery & Bistro in Albany, and were put straight into the stomachs of eagerly waiting students. Some mooncakes were also available for tasting, which were almost all gone by the time I got to them. At the start of the night, the games took precedence over everything else.

Mahjong, a traditional Chinese game, was the center of focus for me, as I had no idea how the game worked. It plays similar to Go Fish, with players trying amass predetermined combinations in order to gather enough points to guarantee a victory. Chinese poker was also played, which drew loud and excited crowds of onlookers.

At 8 pm, students took to the stage in the center of the room and performed a choreographed fan dance. The dance was light-hearted and serene, providing a nice break in between the fast-paced games and the upcoming big group Jeopardy game.

CASA member Vanessa Hannay '20 said that, to her, the Mid-Autumn Festival "is a time to reflect and be thankful for everything [she] has as well as a celebration of family, friends, and community." The event felt close and intimate, with everyone being friendly and willing to answer any questions that I had.

For people wanting to learn more about this event or looking forward to similar ones, I suggest checking out CASA and HKSA on Facebook. They both host fundraisers and food sales, with traditional foods and exploration of the customs of their people. ♦

DOWNTOWN TROY

Art pops up downtown

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reviewer

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, I FOUND MYSELF ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE PIONEER BANK building. I left the elevator and was greeted by a group of people that directed me to the makeshift gallery room. There was music playing, art on all of the walls, and a table in the center of the room with a directory of all the work, artists, and prices.

Troy Pop Up began in January of 2016 and featured only five artists at the time. Curator Tori Rodriguez expressed that the business aspect of being an artist is hard for many—showing work in a typical gallery can be a fruitless, discouraging process. Submission fees can be astronomical and, if the artist even gets accepted into the show, the formal setting often fails to give any feedback.

This style of pop up galleries is intended to be the opposite; Rodriguez aims to keep submission and showing fees low, currently at \$10 and an additional \$30 respectively. All transactions are also done through the artist, and Rodriguez doesn't take a commission unless they fail to show up. If you want to buy a piece or a print, you get the bonus of talking with and directly buying from the artist who made it. I prefer to have a story or experience associated with most of the things I buy, and this show created the perfect atmosphere for that.

Submissions from all media are accepted, and this show in particular featured acrylic, oil, watercolor, photography, digital illustration, and mixed media. The variety among the works was refreshing—a photograph of an abandoned warehouse hung next to an abstract painting, and recognizable sceneries in Troy were interspersed between landscape drawings. There were only 10 artists, as opposed to the usual 12 to 15, making this the smallest of the year.

Rodriguez expressed that she always wants more students to get involved, and for anyone who might be interested, the showing fee is \$10 cheaper with current student identification. For more information about submissions and future pop up events, visit <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/rug2h>. ♦

DOWNTOWN TROY

Community comes together to end hunger



Darby Burns
Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewers

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, THE 12TH ANNUAL Empty Bowls charity event was hosted at the Italian Community Center in downtown Troy. The event's main draw was the empty bowl itself; each ticket purchased let a participant choose a handmade bowl from a local artist from which they could eat their soup. After making a selection, participants could turn in their tickets and enter another room that was filled with different stations where soups from a wide variety of restaurants in Troy were being served.

The atmosphere of the event was light-hearted and fun, with loud music, raffles,

and pottery wheel demonstrations. Every room was packed with people young and old who kept up a constant cheerful hum of conversation. The soups themselves came from all sorts of places; European borscht, bacon corn chowder, and Italian wedding soup were in close proximity to one another, creating an interesting cross-cultural experience.

It's safe to say that the event was a huge success. There was a massive turnout, with hundreds of people lining up outside the center doors, eagerly awaiting its start. People continued to arrive and, fortunately, Empty Bowls was prepared with plenty of bowls and soup so that no one who attended was forced to leave empty-handed. Money was raised to benefit regional food banks. ♦



Crystal Vejar/*The Polytechnic*

LOCAL ARTISTS DONATED bowls which participants could select and eat from.

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Senate: Town hall scheduled for noon Saturday

From **Page 1**

Before the Senate moved on to new business, a motion to close the meeting passed 16–1–3. Immediately after, a motion to invite members of the Union back into the meeting passed by overwhelming majority.

After almost an hour of discussion regarding the Board of Trustees' resolution, the Senate voted on a resolution which stated that, "the *Constitution* is in full accordance with the declaration of the resolution," and that "no provisions of the *Constitution* conflict with the *Bylaws of the Institute*."

It also affirmed "the ultimate authority of the president in deciding the employment of the director of the Union," and "the Executive Board's involvement in the approval process for the hiring of a candidate for the director of the Union position," such that "a candidate cannot be hired without the successful completion of the approval process."

Finally, it confirmed "the integrity of the Rensselaer Union's status as a student-run Union." The resolution can be viewed in its entirety at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/zd69a>. The motion passed 17-5-0.

Some senators, largely through a motion that was released prior to the meeting but withdrawn after the previous motion's passage, expressed a desire for a committee to handle the interpretation of the Board of Trustees' resolution. While some people in support of the resolution claimed that they looked over all of the documents line by line and saw no conflicts, others thought it would be more appropriate for the Senate to collectively come to a conclusion with reasoning that would be laid out through the work of a committee.

There was also debate over the authority of the Executive Board in the process for hiring a director of the Union. Some claimed that the E-Board essentially had a "veto

power," and others thought of it as a "step in the process," wherein the president could not appoint someone the E-Board did not approve. These details, including a concrete definition of the word "approval" as it is used in the Senate's resolution, were not resolved in the meeting.

Lastly, Senator Joshua Thomas '20 moved to host a town hall meeting that would help constituents, specifically freshmen and sophomores, understand the current situation with the Rensselaer Union. A resolution to "schedule a town hall meeting before or during the week of October 9 in order to inform constituents of the recent events involving the Rensselaer Student Union" was charged to Vice Chairperson of the Senate Ellie Mees '19, with at least five volunteers, by a vote of 20-0-1.

On October 3, student government announced a town hall meeting regarding the recent events of the Union. It will take place on Saturday, October 8 at noon in the McNeil Room. ♦



Elena Perez / The Polytechnic

GOLDEN REMARKED that the Union has grown in budget and importance since he was a student at RPI. (file photo)

Union: Potential conflicts in Constitution

From **Page 1**

Taken together, the first two declarations create ambiguity around multiple subsections of the *Rensselaer Union Constitution*. Section 2, Item F reads, "[The Executive Board] shall approve the hiring and continuance of all administrative personnel of the Union." As this may be in conflict with the Institute's bylaws as expanded upon in declaration two, and declaration one deems any conflicting provisions as "unapproved," Item F could be deemed "unapproved" by the Board of Trustees.

Additionally, some of the provisions of Article V of the *Union Constitution* are also potentially superseded, given declaration one. For example, "a majority of the Executive Board may bring charges against the director" may conflict with declaration two's affirmation of the president's ultimate authority over the "terms and conditions of employment" of the director of the Union. It is unclear if the *Union Constitution's* outlining further restrictions on the powers of the director also conflicts with declaration two, leaving the validity of the Article V provision, "the director may not veto any Executive Board action," in question.

In declaration three, student government is "requested to take appropriate action to ensure the *Rensselaer Union Constitution*, and any other documents governing the affairs of the Rensselaer Union, are brought into conformance with the declarations of this Resolution" in order to "avoid continued misunderstanding." To modify the *Union Constitution*, the Student Senate must pass an amendment with a two-thirds majority. Then, a majority of voting students must approve the amendment in an election.

If the requested amendment were to fail, the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute* would still supersede the *Union Constitution*. ♦

The Polytechnic will hold elections at 3 pm on Sunday, October 15 in our office, RU 3418.



Come dance with RPI Ballroom at our
**Social Dance
Cha Cha**

**Saturday, October 7 @ 7 PM
Academy Hall Auditorium**

\$2 Early Bird Sign-Up: tinyurl.com/oct7social
\$5 at the door

No partner or experience necessary!

Sports

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Winning streak extended to six



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

THE RENSSELAER ENGINEERS CONTINUE a strong season. (file photo)

Jacob Kaplan
Senior Reporter

RENSSELAER WON 2-0 AGAINST SKIDMORE COLLEGE AT HOME ON Saturday. The win extends the Engineer's undefeated streak to six games and puts them at 6-2-1 overall for the season.

The first half was scoreless, but both teams did make several attempts. Dali Alarian '18 had a shot stopped and the rebound from Emily Dunn '19 went high. In the second half, Alarian scored the first point of the game in the 62nd minute with a left-footed shot into the top left corner of the goal, giving Rensselaer the lead and Alarian her first goal of the season. In the 86th minute, Jacqui Richard '20 served the ball to the front of the net where it was kicked in by Bethany Hanson '18, doubling the Engineer lead and giving Hanson her second goal of the season. With only four minutes left in the game, Skidmore had no chance at closing the gap, giving Rensselaer the win.

The Engineers ended with a 18-13 shot advantage, 10-5 on goal, and 7-3 in corner kicks. Goalie Joey Lyons '20 made eight saves, with four in each half.

Rensselaer will be away on Saturday to face off against Union College. ♦

MEN'S SOCCER

Soccer squad skids

Engineers tie Thoroughbreds

Jacob Kaplan
Senior Reporter

RENSSELAER TIED SKIDMORE COLLEGE 1-1 on Saturday. The draw puts the Engineers at 6-2-1 for the season.

Rensselaer controlled the ball for most of the first half, letting Brandon Pirog '20 score in the 29th minute after a pass from Austin Betterly '20. The Engineers failed to widen their lead in the first and second half. Skidmore almost failed to close the score gap until the 89th minute, where they finally worked past Rensselaer's defense and made a shot that was saved by goalie Matt LaBranche '20, but made the rebound in. The game went into overtime. Skidmore made two serious attempts at taking the game, but had one shot saved and another miss.

The game ended with Skidmore having a shot advantage of 11-9. The Engineers had 2-1 in corners. Matt LaBranche had three saves.

The Rensselaer Engineers are away today playing a game against St. Lawrence University, but will face off against Union College this Saturday at home. ♦

MEN'S HOCKEY

Engineers play exhibition game

Hockey loses preseason match against Saint Mary's University Huskies

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reporter

THE RENSSELAER MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM PLAYED AN exhibition game for their first showing against Saint Mary's University on Saturday at the Houston Field House, with the new season beginning on October 13. The Engineers played a strong game, but in the end were unable to grab a win, ending the game with a final score of 1-2.

The Saint Mary's Huskies pulled ahead in the first period, plowing through the Engineers' defense to score, moments before physically plowing into Rensselaer goalie Chase Perry '19.

The Engineers made several unsuccessful attempts to tie up the game over the remainder of the first period; Jared Wilson '18 came close when his shot bounced off the crossbar.

RPI managed to sneak in the equalizer right at the beginning of the second period. Viktor Liljegren '18 managed to score after a cross-ice pass from Will Reilly '20. The Engineers could not keep up the momentum, however, and the Huskies pulled off another goal in the end of the second period.

Into the third period, the Engineers found themselves unable to score, despite some advantages and strong plays. This included a 5-on-3 power play in the third period, and, in a

last ditch effort, Rensselaer pulled their goalie Linden Marshall '21 to have an extra attacker in the closing minutes of the game, leaving the net open. However, they could not manage a connecting shot on goal.

Marshall impressively blocked all 15 attempts made by Saint Mary's after he was placed in the net at 31:08. Rensselaer saw a valiant scoring attempt by Jared Wilson '18. Perry also had a significant contribution to the team when he managed 12 saves during the time he was in the goal.

The Engineers begin their season officially with a two-game series at Ohio State University on the weekend of October 13 and 14. ♦

Comics

SUDOKU

8		9	1					
		1	5					3
	5				2			
	9				3		5	4
	2	5				3	8	
7	6		8				9	
			6				4	
	3				7	5		
					9	2		8

Instructions

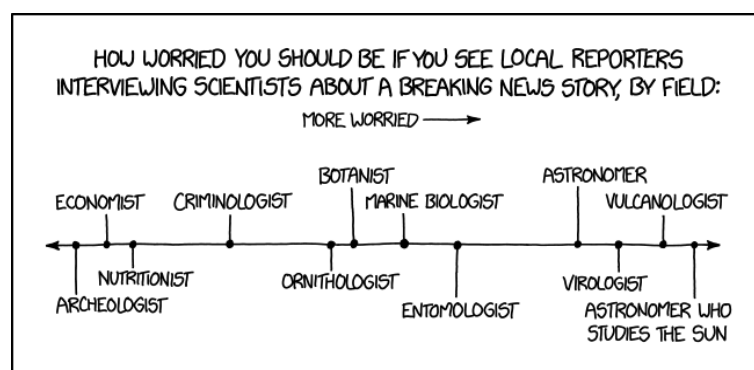
Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 sub-square contains exactly one occurrence of the numbers 1 through 9.

Last Week's Answers

8	7	9	1	3	6	4	2	5
2	4	1	5	7	8	9	3	6
3	5	6	4	9	2	8	7	1
1	9	8	7	2	3	6	5	4
4	2	5	9	6	1	3	8	7
7	6	3	8	5	4	1	9	2
9	8	2	6	1	5	7	4	3
6	3	4	2	8	7	5	1	9
5	1	7	3	4	9	2	6	8

XKCD

by Randall Munroe



CRYPTOQUOTE

A Cryptoquote is a simple substitution code where each letter that appears may stand for a different letter. The substitutions are consistent throughout the puzzle. Punctuation is not translated.

“Xsh nrughp fmfi f xhuchv, phhq
jaxjph shcxhne, xrkhvsjaw xsh rauh
gahm vr dh vcyh... dyv usrxh vr
ercwhv.”

-Urdd, Jauhqvjra

Features

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

PIZZA

Nicholas Luczak
Staff Reviewer

This past weekend, members of *The Polytechnic* Rex Hu '19, Darby Burns '21, Serge Piskun '20, Crystal Vejar '20, Nicholas Luczak '20, and Joseph Lyon '20 sought out some of the most popular pizza slices in town in an attempt to write a comprehensive, side-by-side comparison review. The four places were DeFazio's Pizzeria, I Love Pizza of Troy, Amante Pizza, and Big Apple Pizzeria.

We decided to base our decisions on the taste of the cheese, sauce, crust, and the visual appeal of each place's plain slice, as well as their two most popular specialty slices. We will first address and rank the places based on their plain slices, followed by their specialties, and conclude with a holistic ranking.

I Love Pizza of Troy

I Love Pizza of Troy is known as a convenient spot for students living downtown, as it sells by the slice and closes late at night. Although they had a rather flavorless crust, the sweet sauce was coated with the standard mozzarella expected of a pizza joint. Although the plain slice left much to be desired, there wasn't much wrong we could find with it.

When we requested I Love Pizza of Troy's most popular specialty slices, we were recommended the buffalo chicken and the deep-dish pepperoni slice. We concluded that the deep-dish slice, although not bad in any way, wasn't impressive enough to go into detail about. We were surprised by the buffalo chicken slice, which was spicy but not overbearingly so. Another plus to the buffalo slice was that they also used chunky real blue cheese, as opposed to the ranch dressing that is so often pushed by subpar establishments.

Big Apple Pizzeria

Big Apple Pizzeria is the definitive late-night campus favorite. We expected this slice to at least be mediocre in terms of quality, but we ended up being very disappointed. This pizza failed at every metric of success we had established. We felt that the dough was chewy yet somehow thin, that the sauce was barely present, and that the cheese was just there—not adding to the experience in the slightest.

But as many of us know, Big Apple Pizzeria is better known for their specialty slices. We got the the chicken, ham, ranch, and barbeque pizza, and the french fry pizza. The chicken, ham, ranch, and barbeque pizza was pretty mediocre. It had a sweet sauce, and all of the toppings were concentrated towards the middle of the pizza. Although it may not seem all that enticing, the french fry pizza really differentiated itself with well-cut, well-seasoned fries that weren't soggy, a good amount of sausage, and a decent crust.

DeFazio's Pizzeria

DeFazio's pizza was a favorite going into this review, as they are often regarded as the premier pizza place in the Troy area.

They did not disappoint. Unfortunately, we only managed to get a plain pie due to their policy of not selling slices. Our testers immediately noted that the pizza had a healthy serving of delicious sauce which was distinctly chunky, containing small slices of onions and tomatoes. The crust was slightly burnt due to it being cooked in a wood-fired oven, which gave it a pleasant crunch and flavor profile. The cheese was not overbearing, but still managed to be inexplicably cheesy. The thing that really set DeFazio's apart from the rest of the crowd was their liberal usage of herbs, giving it both a superior visual appeal and a fantastic aftertaste.

Results

We could talk about pizza all day, but we started this review with the goal of ranking each pizza place in terms of flavor and quality. Although we did grade the pizzas based on the quality of the slices, we also considered factors such as its convenience and price.

At the bottom of the ranking we had Big Apple Pizzeria, which sadly really only shined through with french fry pizza. The saving grace for Big Apple Pizzeria is very late closing time and extreme proximity to campus. Our third favorite was I Love Pizza of Troy, which manages to be convenient, but thoroughly average. In the end we decided that Amante Pizza was overall the best, leaving DeFazio's at a very close second. Although this may be contentious, we believe that, due to its late night hours, consistently high quality pizza, and convenient location, Amante Pizza is, as a whole, superior to DeFazio's. Although some may say that DeFazio's has a better pizza, we argue that their distance from campus, their restrictive delivery policy, lack of single-sized options, and their relatively early closing time make it a less favorable option for students.

Amante Pizza

Amante Pizza really blew us away, and definitely set itself apart from the rest. We found that this had our favorite sauce. It was sweet, with herbal notes, but not overbearing. In addition, the cheese was definitely more present on this slice in a way that other establishments couldn't replicate. The crust was another surprise. Although it was not burnt like DeFazio's, it managed to have a very pleasant crunch to it.

With such a strong plain slice, we were excited to try Amante's two specialties, the chicken, bacon, ranch slice, and their chicken parm slice. The latter was fantastic. It had a nice base with quality chicken and cheese, but really shined through with the ricotta and marinara sauce. Unfortunately, we were surprised to find that the chicken, bacon, ranch slice tried to do too much, resulting in an unseemly flavor. The bacon must have been smoked to excess, because we all agreed that it tasted more like smoked salmon than bacon.



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9/19, 2-3, Fishbach Rm, Library
9/20, 10-11, Union 3511
10/17, 2-3, Fishbach Rm, Library
10/18, 10-11, Union 3511

Co-Term Info Sessions:

9/19, 3-4, Fishbach Rm, Library
9/20, 11-12 Union 3511
10/17, 3-4, Fishbach Rm, Library
10/18, 11-12, Union 3511

If you're interested in attending, please RSVP:
Email lallyms@rpi.edu.

Contact: Shari W. Quinn 518-276-6947