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CONCERT REVIEW

GZ show runs emotional gamut



Nicholas Luczak/The Polytechnic

MARISSA CARROLL, PICTURED ABOVE, JOINS several other artists for a compelling indie-rock concert.

Nicholas Luczak
Senior Reviewer

AS SOMEONE WHO IS A COMPLETE stranger to the indie music genre, I couldn’t help but feel a little out of my element at Ground Zero’s show featuring Tiny Blue Ghost. Fortunately, this anticipation was swept away as soon as I entered the venue. The CLASS building just below RAHP had been transformed into a room filled by bright lights and musical equipment, as to be expected. The Ground Zero group was both friendly and accommodating as they conversed

with guests over complimentary tea, coffee, and hot chocolate. The line up included an opening solo performance by Redd, some jazz-inspired rock from SCHMAVE, and a bold performance from the featured group, Tiny Blue Ghost. The show started promptly at 9 pm, with Redd taking the stage wielding his acoustic guitar. His performance was filled with passionate pieces utilizing an acoustic pop sound. His songs elicited feelings of both nostalgia and homesickness, drawing on memories of hometowns and heartbreak. This implicit theme of the duality of love

and loss really struck hard when he sang about the loss of a close childhood friend. Following his very personal performance, Redd was joined on stage by the rest of his band, SCHMAVE. With the standard composition of two guitars, a bass guitar, and a drum set, the band opened with “Hand Washed Clothing,” which featured dueling guitars mixed with the smoothly undulant voice of frontman Avery John. Their set was filled with bass-heavy jazz grooves, which punctuated every guitar riff so that the whole room was

bobbing their heads to the beat. The next group on stage was Tiny Blue Ghost. This band had a resoundingly loud and driven performance, leaving the crowd both amped up and engaged. The band seemed to start off with a mellow and serene vibe led by singer Marissa Carroll. They would then erupt into an energetic fervor driven by their obvious passion and enjoyment of performing. The members of the crowd couldn’t help but smile and dance along to their bubbly stage presence. After the bands concluded their performances, everyone stayed together and talked to other event-goers and band members. The enthusiasm with which the bands greeted their fans and had personal conversations with them really added to the open and inviting feeling of the show. As someone who has no experience in the indie rock genre and scene, I can confidently say that—although I might not have understood the music to the extent of a diehard fan—at the very least, I had a lot of fun. GZ Basement is having its last show of the semester, featuring No One and The Somebodies, Space Camp, Bruiser and Bicycle, and a solo performance by Luke Halloween on Friday at 8 pm. ♦

CONCERT REVIEW

Saint Motel’s Late Night Tour worthwhile

Anahit Hovhannisyan
Senior Reviewer

UPAC CONCERTS PARTNERED WITH UPSTATE Concert Hall to host singer and producer Mike Gibney, better known as GIBBZ, and indie pop band Saint Motel on Saturday, November 18. The venue, well-hidden and filled with people of all ages, featured a central bar and an off-center stage. GIBBZ started the night with popular songs like “Stay for a While,” “Someone Like You,” and his latest single, “Sca vred of the Dark.” Initially unfamiliar with GIBBZ, I was thoroughly impressed by his ability to multitask. Standing alone on the stage, he recreated each song entirely on his own, showing complete mastery and control of his art. Saint Motel entered the stage after an unsettling display of what seemed like ’90s commercials to introduce their “Late Night with Saint Motel” inspired by their album *saintmotelivision*. With pre-recorded clips of Johnny Pemberton “hosting” the show, the band played through their setlist, covering both old and new hits including “My Type,” “Move,” and “Sweet Talk.” For “Move,” Saint Motel invited the crowd to sing along to emphasize the “Move” lyrics in the song. Ultimately, the concert was worthwhile. The venue was more stuffy than I would have preferred, and the band was more difficult to see with the off-center stage. However, as a fan of

Saint Motel, I loved hearing the band live again. At the same time, I learned about GIBBZ and had the opportunity to hear his music in person. UPAC Concerts subsidized the tickets for this event, selling each ticket for \$10 in the Rensselaer Union. If you missed this concert, but would like to attend one similar in the

future, you can visit their Facebook page to stay updated. UPAC Concerts often hosts two to three concerts in Mother’s Wine Emporium and one subsidized event off-campus each semester—offering many opportunities to enjoy live music throughout the year. ♦



Anahit Hovhannisyan/The Polytechnic

INDIE-POP GROUP SAINT MOTEL PLAYS its hits for an audience brimming with RPI students.

EDITOR’S CORNER

Stand for freedom of expression at Rensselaer

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS AT RISK AT RENSSELAER. During this semester, we have seen the Dean of Students Office use the judicial process to target leaders of last month’s demonstration outside of the capital campaign launch, administrators threaten the grand marshal with expulsion for doing his job as the chief representative of the student body, and, most recently, a student organization face intense scrutiny over the content of its members’ speech.

This month, an RPI chapter of the conservative organization Turning Point USA went to the Executive Board to ask for Union affiliation. The E-Board spent hours discussing their application across two consecutive meetings, and it is possible that this process will be dragged into the next semester. Some students voiced concern that members of the organization said

things that made members of the RPI community feel threatened. Others cited actions of the Turning Point USA national organization as grounds for not approving Union affiliation for its RPI chapter. Denying a group of RPI students Union affiliation for those reasons is dangerous for the diversity of ideas on campus.

At the most recent Executive Board meeting, on November 16, I said that voting not to affiliate Turning Point would be very bad for freedom of expression on this campus. The Executive Board’s job is to help student groups through the affiliation or recognition process, not to look for reasons to deny their applications based on the content of their speech. In this situation, it is apparent that there is a disconnect between people with liberal

values, such as diversity and inclusivity, and people who claim to be progressive. Silencing a group because someone disagrees with the content of their speech is illiberal and authoritarian.

It is striking to me that people who claim to be in support of diversity and inclusivity can move so quickly to deny resources to a group whose views they disagree with. Limiting speech and ideas to those which are popular is a recipe for a more insular and less robust discourse. Relatively extreme ideas provide a point of comparison against ideas which are more widely accepted, and this juxtaposition

leads to an overall increase in the quality of ideas in a community. Attempting to deny resources to groups with less popular ideas does the entire community a disservice.

With this motion, the Board has an opportunity to unequivocally stand in favor of freedom of expression. Our representatives should take this opportunity to show that they can set aside their personal beliefs and empower the Union to support student organizations of all political leanings. It is not always comfortable, but we cannot compromise on the ideals that have, over time, led to a more free and just society. ♦



Sidney Kochman
Editor in Chief

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

What we can learn from suicide, addiction

A LITTLE OVER TWO MONTHS AGO, A FRIEND OF MINE committed suicide.

We became friends in middle school. We were both struggling with depression and general teenage angst. I had been self-harming for years, and he became my confidant.

At first, we enabled each other. He introduced me to his unhealthy coping mechanisms, and I introduced him to mine. Somehow, that progressed into a kind of tough love, with him calling out all of my bullshit and basically forcing me to get help. If it weren’t for that pressure, I’m certain I wouldn’t be able to say that I’m approaching three years of being clean.

We drifted a little. He got addicted to heroin and dabbled in other drugs. He would message me at odd hours and none of what he said made sense. It was overwhelming. I knew he was high, and it felt like he was far too close to overdosing. I had to resort to ultimatums.

He eventually got some of the help he needed, and was able to maintain sobriety for considerable amounts of time. He came so far in such a short period of time, and I have never been so proud of someone’s progress and commitment.

There would be the occasional slip-up, and there were a few serious relapses. But, the last I knew, he was doing much better. He had a job and was taking classes at our

local community college. We had plans to get together and catch up over Thanksgiving break.

It still doesn’t feel like it actually happened. I have lost far too many friends and acquaintances that were around my age to things like suicide and overdoses, and each loss is just as shocking and devastating as the one before.

The national drug epidemic is a tragic problem, and it is going to take so much—beginning with widespread legislative overhaul and a change in the attitude we use to approach these problems—to even make a dent in its influence. Sadly, but also thankfully, the death of an individual makes this a tangible issue to all of the people that knew them. It forces a dialogue focused around traditionally taboo and “shameful” topics like addiction, depression, and suicide. The absolute least we can do is embrace that dialogue.

When someone dies, it’s natural to want to romanticize that person’s life. It seems like there’s no purpose in remembering the negatives, as it’s too late to do anything about them. My friend was a wonderful, kind-hearted, nurturing person, and, understandably, that’s all anyone wants to think about after his death. But he was also addicted to drugs and faced a very imperfect system for handling that addiction. It’s important that we talk about those negatives, for the sakes of all the people who are—or ever could be—in situations similar to his.



Brookelyn Parslow
Managing Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Observed changes

DEAR POLY EDITOR:

200 students occupied the Pittsburgh Building—the administration building at the time. It was spring 1969, and we were protesting something about President Folsom’s position on the library. I was ensconced in a quiet corner on the first floor when Assistant Dean Carl Westerdahl entered the building to check on things. He came over to me and asked how I was feeling (not great). He felt my forehead and said, “You have a fever. You need to go to the infirmary.” I replied, with a smile, that he was not going to succeed in clearing out 200 students by convincing them that they all needed medical attention. He implored me to get myself checked out, but I resisted. Then he said, “If you go to the infirmary and are okay, I promise to let you come back into the building and resume your spot on the floor.” I was impressed with his genuine concern and sincerity (considering that he had a major headache of his own to deal with), and I marched over to the infirmary. My temperature was over 102 degrees, and I was diagnosed with strep throat eventually—but that is another story. So, I could not go back to the protest and I never had the chance to test his promise, but have always believed that he would have honored it. Soon after that, Westerdahl contacted me and asked if I would be willing to serve on the Student Judicial Board. From what I have read lately of the current administration’s treatment of students involved in the recent student union protest, the relationship is not what it was.

Michael R. Poulin, Esq. ‘73

Your contributions are valued! Send a Letter to the Editor to edop@poly.rpi.edu.

the polytechnic

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TOP HAT

Make your voice heard through Senate survey

HELLO, RPI! I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOYED YOUR THANKSGIVING break. Now begins the exciting time where we begin to wrap up the semester, and I wish everyone the best of luck with upcoming assignments, projects, and exams as we bring the fall semester to a close!

In the previous issue of *The Poly*, President of the Union Matthew Rand '19 and I shared a message regarding the alarming judicial actions being taken against student demonstrators. As of now, I have been made aware of at least 10 students being contacted by the Dean of Students Office for being present at a campus demonstration on October 11, 2017. As we expressed last week, we urge all students to know their rights, both as students of RPI and as granted by the United States of America. The "Student Bill of Rights," a part of the *Rensselaer Handbook for Student Rights and Responsibilities*, can be found at poly.rpi.edu/s/3makj.

Each year, the Student Senate and its committees produce a survey to provide students with the opportunity to make their voices heard, as they pertain to current student ideas and concerns, ongoing projects

in the Student Senate, and the general opinion of students on every aspect of campus life.

Though delayed this year due to unexpected issues that have arisen over the past few months, I'm excited to announce that the Fall 2017 Student Senate Survey is now live! Thanks to the efforts of the Student Government Communications Committee, the Web Technologies Group, and the committees that contributed questions, the survey will provide students with the chance not only to make their voices heard and to share their input, but also to set the tone and direction for major Senate projects in the coming year and beyond.

These surveys have previously been used to bring popular new initiatives to campus, such as the Capital District shuttles program and the prescription delivery service, and they have also contributed to major strategic plans for the Institute, such as the recent and ongoing renovations to residence halls.

The anonymous survey can be found online at <https://surveys.union.rpi.edu>. Students will be asked to sign in to verify that responses are unique; however, your identity will not be revealed or associated with your

responses. Additionally, all survey respondents are able to enter a raffle for gift card prizes, including a gift card to the bookstore! You will be provided the opportunity to optionally provide an email when submitting your response, but these emails will not be associated with any survey responses to preserve respondents' anonymity.

Only current RPI students are eligible to provide feedback through this survey; however, the opinions of the entire Rensselaer community—including faculty and alumni—are always welcomed and encouraged. As always, everyone is invited to reach out to me at gm@rpi.edu with any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas they may have. The survey will be open until December 13, 2017, so be sure to contribute before then!



Justin Etzine
Grand Marshal

Justin Etzine
152nd Grand Marshal

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The administration's offense to academics

FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM RPI's central administration each semester emphasizing the importance of academic integrity to the Institute. We are required to include testaments to academic honesty on our syllabi. This semester, I met with a member of the administration to note that these notices contain virtually nothing about such integrity, only what count as violations of it—cheating on exams or plagiarizing papers, for example. Last week's *Poly* article regarding Save the Union, and three letters to the administration by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education may explain why.

The central administration simply does not have a firm foothold in integrity territory. At least its actions and policies show no firm grasp of the concept, not even its honesty component. But as students are being held accountable for freedom, and the responsibility to resist injustice of all things, where is the administration's accountability? The outright lies told, the sneakiness, sleaziness of its attempts to take over the student union have been a disgrace to academic integrity. Their hypocritical violations of student rights, student freedom of speech and assembly, and academic freedom are an affront to integrity—not just lacking it, but spitting in its face. Perhaps it is they who should be before the Judicial Board.

Imagine restricting an area of the campus "to accommodate" events going on for donors on campus, actually canceling classes in the red zone for fundraising purposes, then charging students with trespassing for entering it—trespassing on their own campus? Are we to believe that current students are an uneducable predatory threat to past students—alumni donors? That this is what caused the "tense moments" Travis Apgar noted when he experienced the anxiety of "not knowing what would happen next" during the protest? Perhaps students would leap upon alumni from a grassy knoll, exsanguinating their corpses through the incisors?

The restrictive fences were put up to keep the protest out of sight and hearing of its intended audience. Does anyone believe otherwise? The president, with her obedient board in tow, is trying to effect the takeover of the Union. Does anyone doubt it? Is there any way to get an honest account of why from these people—to get the real reasons cleansed of disingenuous rationalization? I suspect not, considering that Assistant Vice President Apgar (there are assistant VPs?) lied to students about information he did not know they possessed. This is just as the central administration lied about selectively removing approved signage of Save the Union despite students and even a member of the Faculty Senate capturing it on video.

In my classes, students are asked to read my article in *Liberal Education*, the flagship journal of The American Association of Colleges and Universities in DC (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/gfx1y>). Here I note what small offenses students commit to integrity by cheating compared to college administrations and faculty in their business as usual—in their lying commitments in the catalogue. It demonstrates aspirations to a higher, more thoughtful and importantly self-critical brand of integrity than RPI seems even to conceive. We at RPI are not the general public, but a devotedly studious community. We are expected to think better and aspire more highly to adequate, encompassing views. The students do, in my 36 years of experience here, and the administration does not.

As FIRE indicated, the right of student free speech is officially violated by RPI's permit policy itself, not simply in the way administrators use it. Particularly offensive is the administration's denial of protest for being potentially disruptive. The free speech of protest is disruption by nature. As a result of such repression, it is the students' responsibility not to obey such policy lest they conspire in injustice. Those being charged to the judicial process are guilty of "cheerleading for justice" in MLK's sense, no more. But as I was informed by the president's cabinet members, RPI's policy is to focus on some tangential rule one may have technically broken, rather than to confront the real issue in a case and its own wrongdoing. A student has been charged with soliciting attendance at the protest I am told—yikes, what a dorm crime.

Freedom of speech is a communicative act. It is a right to speak to a certain audience and be heard, not the right to talk to one's bathroom mirror. Keeping protesters hundreds of feet away from RPI donors (behind a huge building that blocks their sight) violates that freedom, pure and simple. Urging fellow students to exercise their freedoms is an admirable practice.

Through all this, the administration has been proactive in its verbal support for "academic freedom," which extends well beyond First Amendment freedoms. Academic freedom includes advocacy of diverse and conflicting viewpoints and for acting on them non-violently. How does requiring freedom to get a permit, denying it on false grounds, then fencing it in—requiring it to jump over—show support? Freedom does not require a permit. No one has the authority to permit or deny it—it's self-authorized.

At the Union protest, I praised the Troy police to its assistant police chief for restraint—for letting protesters through its police line for

example. His reply: "We don't work for RPI or its policies. We're here to prevent violence. Do you see any violence or threat of it? Students have as much freedom of speech as anyone." Apparently the city police are clearer-eyed and more friendly to student activities than the students' own dean and school.

I can not for the life of me understand what administrators can be thinking in all this—their degree of apparent ineptitude. Why, working with the Board, would the central administration provoke a student protest in the precise week that they are kicking off their major capital campaign? Why would they try "rounding up the leaders" of the protest, in its aftermath, and participants who wouldn't "comply" with repressive orders? (Since I wore my "Not in Compliance" t-shirt to the protest, that judicial charge especially stood out for me.) Can the administration not foresee how students would react to these sorts of petty, recognizably authoritarian tactics? You'd think the administration would just want to put their shame behind them. Have they no sense of political strategy whatsoever? Do they give students any credit here?

Perhaps too much corporate experience has caused administrators to think that if you're in command you just tell people what to do and they do it. Indeed, isn't RPI itself a private corporation and our president its CEO? No. RPI is an institution of higher learning, which also is incorporated for tax purposes. That's a very different thing. And in education, administration is simply not in command. It exists merely to facilitate the real business of teaching and research at our school.

The Board's Union resolution letter praises the close collaboration between administrators and students in running the Union—also its importance in giving students excellent experience in leadership positions. Yet it questions student capacity to manage the Union's increasingly large size and budget. If so, an obvious option is to have administration financial personnel step up, using their expertise to consult more available for students running the show. Instead the Board proposes giving the president *sole ultimate authority* over a key Union function, other functions too, given RPI bylaws. The consultation option is not even hinted at though it would be the obvious alternative, the obvious way to accomplish all the goals the Board cites. This is an embarrassing oversight, either exhibiting incredible obtuseness or disingenuous commitment. Is there some reason to think RPI students lack the smarts to process and apply consultation from the RPI finance office? It seems the Board and administration doesn't expect students to be competent, expect them to be responsible, peaceful. Do they have any

respect for RPI students at all? We in the faculty do; we could help you.

Such inept and improper administration behaviors are an outrage and embarrassment to educators; their integrity-blindness a chief reason why. At least this is how my colleagues at places like Cornell, Stanford, Harvard, Tufts, alternate between the two reactions. The representatives of FIRE noted to me that they could not think of any other university in the country performing this badly on student rights. To see how we stack up relative to court decisions on the matter see: FIRE's response to refusal of permission to protest, including direct letter to RPI at poly.rpi.edu/s/oq4jz, FIRE's article on November 8 on continued issues at RPI including videos of Public Safety removing posters in the dark of the night at poly.rpi.edu/s/isfyy, and FIRE's latest letter to RPI on November 10 that addresses legal issues with RPI's actions at poly.rpi.edu/s/gewe3.

It's about time the administration came clean, don't you think? About time to drop the stale Trumpian excuse of fake news—that every critic of RPI "has their facts wrong" and "just doesn't understand us." It's unlikely that the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the AAUP, *Times Union*, *Troy Record*, and RPI's very bright, sharply investigative student leaders always get things wrong while administrators just can't help being right. No one believes this, no one believes you—the RPI administration has lost its credibility, a loss well-earned by being caught outright lying on multiple occasions. Instead of piecemeal protests on this or that Union issue, the administration's general lack of academic integrity may require a wholesale student siege against repressive policy and its application regarding student rights, status, and leadership at RPI. Perhaps the administration should come before a lie detector as well as the judicial process. Perhaps there should be a student town meeting having the president and Board ask questions.

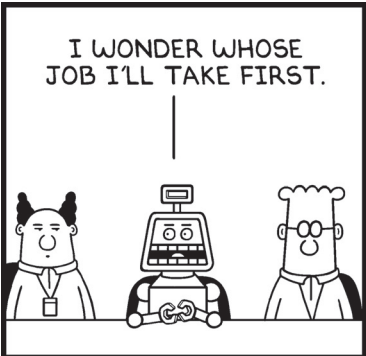
Incidentally, I should note before closing that integrity involves being true to lush principles of mutual respect, fair-mindedness, and fairness in the treatment of others, unvarnished honesty, egalitarian policies and practices, the demonstration of cooperative goodwill and willingness to listen sincerely, negotiate, seek consensus with others, the humility to admit when you are wrong and have made mistakes, proactive efforts to compensate for it, an aversion to hypocrisy—that sort of thing. Academic integrity applies these notions to educational practices, its freedom letting a thousand flowers of free thought and inquiry bloom.

Bill Puka
Department of Cognitive Science

DILBERT

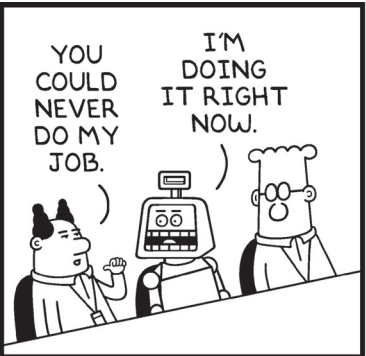
by Scott Adams

I WONDER WHOSE JOB I'LL TAKE FIRST.



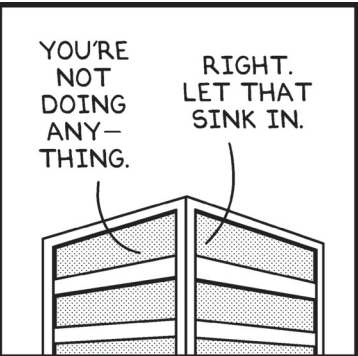
YOU COULD NEVER DO MY JOB.

I'M DOING IT RIGHT NOW.




YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING.

RIGHT. LET THAT SINK IN.




OUR FINANCIAL FORECASTER QUIT. I NEED YOU TO FILL IN FOR HIM.




I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO FINANCIAL FORECASTS.

NEITHER DID HE.

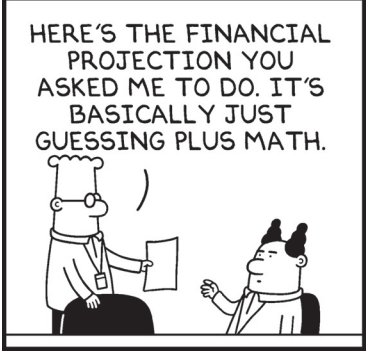


HOW WERE YOU MAKING DECISIONS?

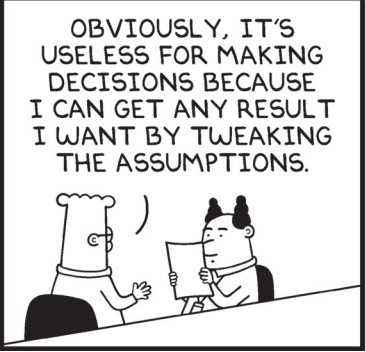
IT'S BETTER IF WE DON'T EXCAVATE THAT SEPTIC TANK.




HERE'S THE FINANCIAL PROJECTION YOU ASKED ME TO DO. IT'S BASICALLY JUST GUESSING PLUS MATH.




OBVIOUSLY, IT'S USELESS FOR MAKING DECISIONS BECAUSE I CAN GET ANY RESULT I WANT BY TWEAKING THE ASSUMPTIONS.



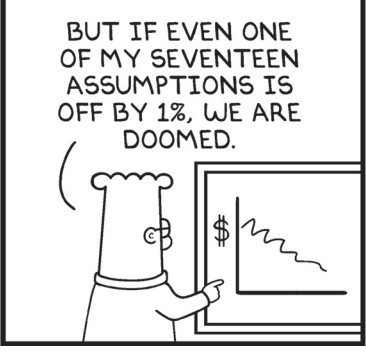
DON'T SAY ANY OF THAT STUFF WHEN YOU PRESENT IT TO THE BOARD TOMORROW.



ACCORDING TO MY HIGHLY UNRELIABLE FORECAST, WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

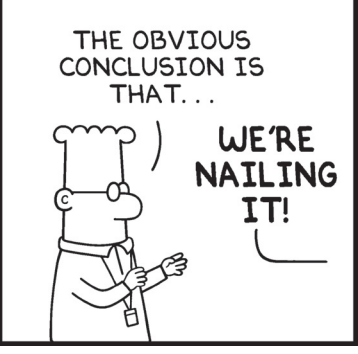


BUT IF EVEN ONE OF MY SEVENTEEN ASSUMPTIONS IS OFF BY 1%, WE ARE DOOMED.




THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION IS THAT...

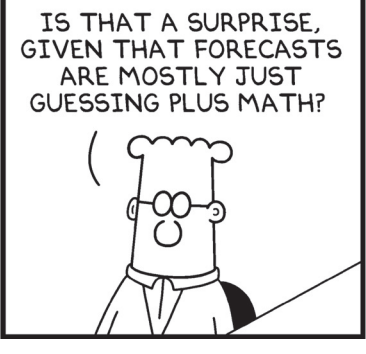
WE'RE NAILING IT!



YOUR FINANCIAL FORECAST TURNED OUT TO BE WRONG.

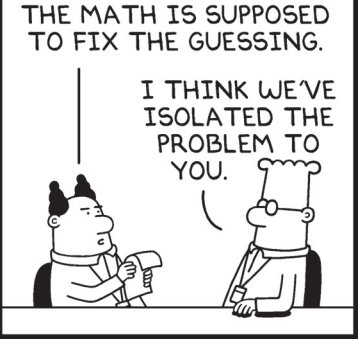


IS THAT A SURPRISE, GIVEN THAT FORECASTS ARE MOSTLY JUST GUESSING PLUS MATH?




THE MATH IS SUPPOSED TO FIX THE GUESSING.


I THINK WE'VE ISOLATED THE PROBLEM TO YOU.



I CAN'T GIVE YOU A RAISE BECAUSE YOUR FINANCIAL FORECASTS WERE ALL WRONG.




FINANCIAL FORECASTS ARE ALWAYS WRONG. YOU TOLD ME TO MAKE ONE ANYWAY.



IN OTHER WORDS, I NAILED IT AND YOU FAILED IT.

CATCHY.

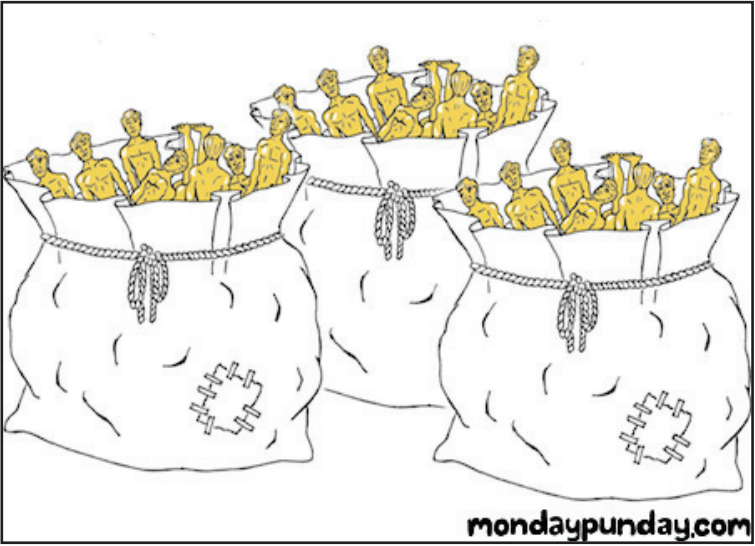


TOP TEN LIST

End of Semester Activities

10. Playing holiday music
9. Calculating if GPA > 3.0
8. Making self-deprecating memes
7. Not sleeping
6. Downloading “Syllabus(7).docx”
5. Calculating required final grade to pass
4. Opening 50 tabs
3. Quitting
2. Leaving RPI forever
1. Crying

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



SUDOKU

		3	5				7	
				9		8		3
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				2		7		5
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9							6	8
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	6				2	9		

Instructions

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

Last Week's Answers

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



CRYPTOQUOTE

XKCD

by Randall Munroe

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.
For example: SIVOISSWC = ENGINEERS

“Srl iort tncq Y jcs? Y jcs
roh erto, c brlzah nloevhe
qnrljcoe qr dr. Y ero’q ghco
qr dhq ro gs nydn nrvjh, ulq
Y’g qhaayod srl, Y er orq
ayih qnh ehhv. Y’g jybi rk
yq; qnhs’vh qciyod rwhv.
qnhs’vh ayih vcqj. Qnhs’vh
ehjqvrsyod qnh hbrjsjqhg.
Y jhh c ehce ehhv ro qnh
jyeh rk qnh vrce coe Y
qnyoi, ‘qncq’j c jqcvq.”

-Ehco Cvgyqcdh,

Dhq Rlq

WORDFIND

by Ana Wishnoff

Words can be found forwards, backwards, up, down, and in both diagonals. Ignore spaces.

Beatles Songs

F N T O Y A D R E T S E Y I G
V B O F H Y A T E R D A Y H H
O E U R R J H O A T Y O L P Y
L A O H E C A I R X C A N M O
P T T E T P Y N K A M B I P B
T L E T O P L M L C M A T E S
N H G I S D F Y I I A S N D I
O E E A B R E L S W L B Y A H
I S E W V U P I T Y R E T R T
T R E E O S A F O R N O N E K
U C R D I R C E A S E H O T G
L A I D U H D D A S T R Y H H
O S F Y B J U T W O O F U S T
V G I L Y E Y D I L L R E H R
E B R P R A L E T I T B E N W
R N T E E T R E H P L I U J Q
R K D R S L A S D F B V E A E
W L L L I W I L O I U Y J S C
E W I L M S E S D R B N G C D

- For No One

Get Back

Hey Jude

I Will

In My Life
- Let It Be

Misery

No Reply

Revolution

Taxman
- The Word

This Boy

Two Of Us

Wait

Yesterday

NEW SPORTS

CREATED FROM RANDOM EMOJI

 LAVABALL

 BLADEBALL

 FANCYBALL

 HORSE HOLE

 BASKETBALL SHREDDING

 EGGSPOTTING

 ALLIGATOR JUMPING

 MERFISHING

 TINKERBALL

 HEDGEHOG CURLING

 BURGER CLAMPING

 CONSEQUENCE ARCHERY

 OWLSTUFFING

 CANDLE EATING

 CONSEQUENCE GOLF

 SNAKE SHAMING

 HELL ESCAPE

 MULTIPLAYER AVOCADO

HEY, YOU KNOW THAT ASTEROID THAT TUMBLED PAST FROM ANOTHER STAR SYSTEM? IT'S APPARENTLY REALLY LONG AND SKINNY. LIKE A RATIO OF 6:1 OR 10:1.

WEIRD. WONDER WHAT IT'S SHAPED LIKE.

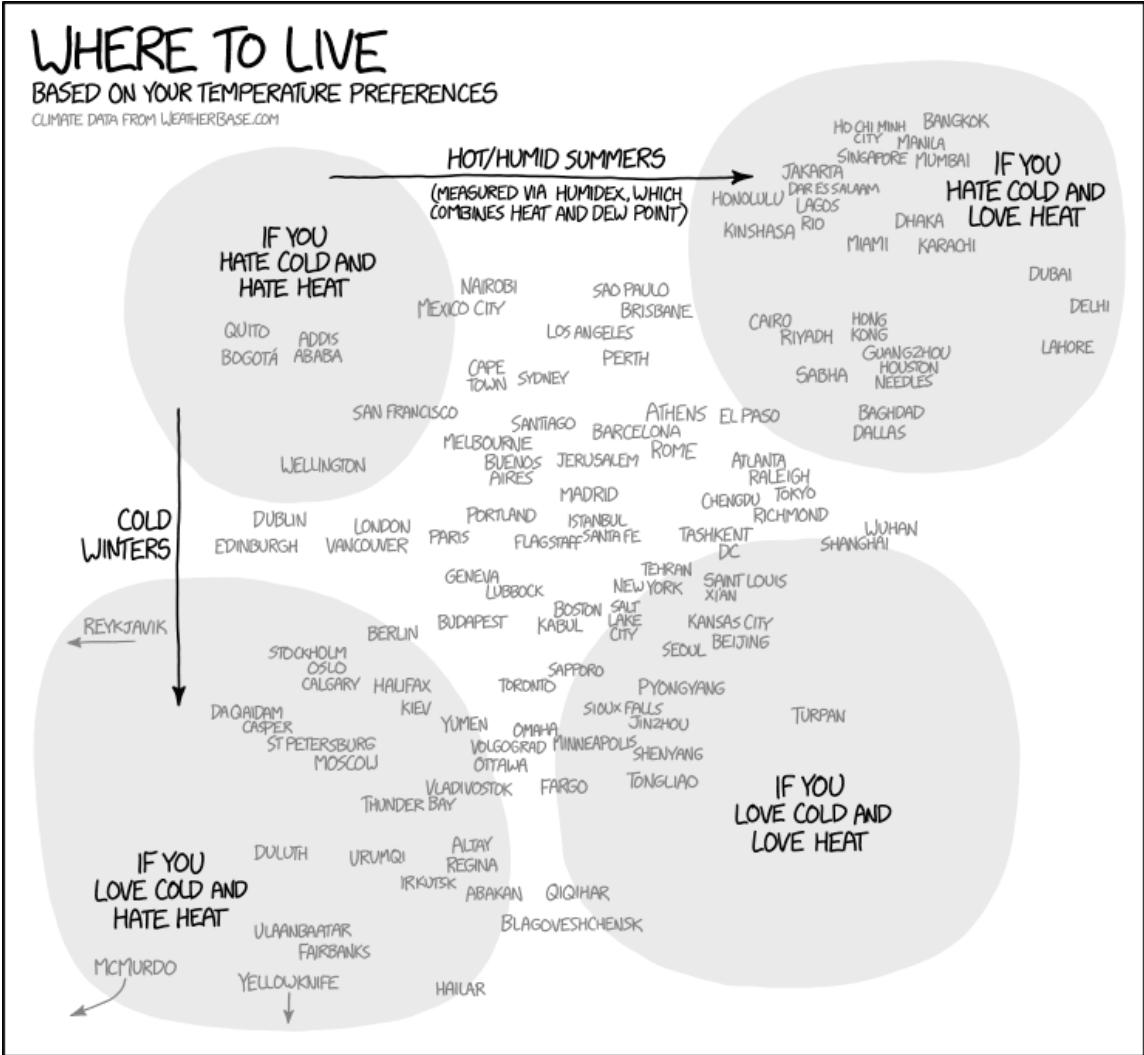
WITHOUT MORE DATA, IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO SPECULATE FURTHER.

SO...YOU'RE GOING TO?

ABSOLUTELY.

HERE ARE SOME OBJECTS WITH A SIMILAR SHAPE RATIO: THE 1:4:9 MONOLITH FROM 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY. A STAR DESTROYER. A HUGE EGGPLANT EMOJI.

A STATUE OF WEIRD AL. AN IPHONE XXXXX. VOLTRON. A GIANT SPACE COFFIN. BUT WHO COULD BE INSIDE? WE CAN ONLY GUESS. I'LL START: THIS IS ALL BASED ON HOW MANY DATA POINTS, AGAIN? ONE. BUT IT'S A PERFECT FIT!



Presenting:

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS

WANT TO GO EAT FOOD TOGETHER?

WE COULD ALSO SIT TOGETHER AND TALK WITHOUT EATING. I DON'T NEED TO EAT. I MEAN, I DO NEED TO EAT. BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO EAT WE CAN JUST TALK. I CAN EAT LATER.

Okay

IT TURNS OUT I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO DO THIS.

Sorry

STUDENT SENATE

Bylaws amended, SGCC roles outlined

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, THE Student Senate covered changes to policies, progress on updating shuttle routes and stops, and the potential for adding an online component to the Advising & Learning Assistance Center’s tutoring services.

The night began with the only substantial piece of business on the agenda: a motion tabled from the previous week regarding an amendment to Article IX, Section 8 of *The Bylaws of the Rensselaer Union Student Senate*.

This section outlines the Student Government Communications Committee, which is a standing committee of the Senate and the Executive Board that is “responsible for promoting the initiatives and activities of the Student Senate, Executive Board, Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, and Judicial Board.”

The amendment in the motion, which passed with a vote of 20-0-0 after multiple amendments to the original amendment itself, replaced the entire section.

Most of the changes were for consistency and clarification, but a major point of discussion in the meeting revolved around content changes to Subsection G and how they related to the role of the SGCC chairperson. There were changes made to that subsection that gave responsibility to “correspond with the SGCC chairperson” to members of other student government bodies and committees, which ultimately passed.

The full, approved motion can be viewed at poly.rpi.edu/s/72gbe.



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE PROPOSED amendments to the SGCC bylaws, outlining relationships between the chairperson and various Union bodies.

The Senate then moved on to the grand marshal report, in which Justin Etzine ’18 announced that meeting times will change next semester and that the Senate survey will likely be going out later in the week. Parliamentarian Jennie Miller ’19 also stepped down, so applications for the position are currently open. Stefanie Warner ’18 is currently serving as the interim parliamentarian, but Etzine is looking to appoint someone to the position by the end of the semester.

During committee reports, Student Life Committee Chairperson Hannah Merrow ’18 announced the Board of Trustees’ “new, reconvened Student Life Committee meeting” that she and Etzine will be attending on Friday. She was open to taking any questions from the Senate into consideration.

Facilities and Services Committee Chairperson Nancy Bush ’19 shared that Project Lead Lily Wang ’20 met with people from the Parking and Transportation Office about changing shuttle routes and adding new stops. The routes would still include the stop near the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, but it would be on the West Campus shuttle route instead. According to Bush, the changes will likely be tested over winter break and would hopefully make the routes more even.

Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson Risheel Gabbireddy ’18 said that he met with the director of ALAC, and there has been a positive response to the online drop-in tutoring. It would include a system that worked alongside ALAC, in which tutors would “be online in an ap-

proved platform to answer quick questions.” It may be piloted next semester. Gabbireddy also shared that all of the deans have responded back positively about an “all-RPI research symposium,” and that he has to start meeting with them to figure out the details.

During peer body and officer reports, the Graduate Council expressed that it has a vacant graduate senator position that it’s trying to fill.

Greek Senator Sean Ferracioli ’18 said that the Interfraternity Council elected an executive board that will be transitioning into its positions this weekend.

There were no special orders or new business, and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm. The Student Senate will meet next week at 8 pm in the Shelnutt Gallery. ♦

Corrections

On page 2 of the November 15 issue of *The Polytechnic* in the article titled “Specific updates to *Handbook* endorsed,” it was stated that the proposed *Handbook* edits passed 28-0-2. In actuality, the edits passed 20-0-2.

On page 3 of the November 15 issue of *The Polytechnic* in the article titled “Motion responding to Judicial inquiries tabled,” it was stated that the proposed *Handbook* edits passed 28-0-2. In actuality, the edits passed 20-0-2.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Turning Point affiliation debated, undecided

Jonathan Caicedo
Senior Reporter

THE UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ITS LAST regular meeting of the semester on Thursday, November 16 with a full agenda, including a presentation, the consideration of new club affiliations, guest speakers, and discussion about payroll increases.

Rensselaer Collegiate Store Manager Ken Palmer was the first to come before the Board, with a Follett Corporation-branded presentation addressing the rising cost of various course materials. Palmer outlined numerous purchasing options and resources the bookstore offers, such as rentals and price matching, that aim to reduce the cost of course materials for students. However, he stressed that the most significant factor in determining prices is how timely faculty are in submitting their course material lists.

The store typically begins its planning for the new semester roughly six months in advance, but orders for materials cannot begin until faculty members submit their lists of materials. There are various integrations that Follett offers with the Learning Management System and Student Information System that aim to make this process easier, but in communications with the Division of the Chief Information Officer, Palmer stated that

“[DotCIO hasn’t] fully understood the value” of them. Palmer also admitted that communication with faculty regarding the timeline for early course material submissions has been lacking, and he asked the E-Board for assistance in improving that communication. He said that the bookstore doesn’t have a direct forum to communicate with faculty, but “It is being worked on in multiple fronts.”

Professor Bill Puka then came before the Board, first following up on Palmer’s presentation by commenting that faculty are reminded to submit their course material lists semesterly, but with no “given timeline or sense of urgency.” He added that if there were an explanation as to why the early submissions of course materials are so important, the faculty would be inclined to submit information sooner.

Puka has taught at Rensselaer for 36 years, and he mentioned that during that time, he’s become very interested in “students’ rights and students’ power at the school.” He mentioned his involvement with Save the Union and the protests.

Overall, he stressed that he would like to foster a proactive movement to make the Union an “indispensable” resource to the Institute. To accomplish this, he suggested an initiative he discovered through his wife

called Shared Portals. The Portals, a project by Brooklyn-based company Shared Studios, are interactive spaces with audiovisual technology that connect with distant Portals to allow interaction between their users—as if they were in the same place together.

According to Puka, EMPAC Director Johannes Goebel expressed interest in creating a permanent Portal installation at EMPAC; however, he cited concerns over the lack of personnel needed to curate and maintain it. Puka mentioned that, under the control of the Union, a Shared Portal installation could be largely beneficial, bringing extensive news coverage and allowing students to connect with other cultures and individuals throughout the world.

Following Puka, Milena Gonzalez ’20 and Grace Roller ’20 represented Coding&&Community, a club which works with students in New York State’s Science and Technology Entry Program to teach the fundamentals of computer science and encourage those students, the majority of whom come from historically underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and math, to pursue careers in these fields.

Coding&&Community currently has 15 active members, eight of whom are instructors, with goals to increase membership as future events are held. The representatives

also mentioned plans to improve the club’s marketing to further increase membership and inform the Rensselaer community of their planned events, such as day long workshops and hackathons.

A motion to recognize Coding&&Community as a Union-affiliated club passed unanimously, with a vote of 17-0-0.

At its prior meeting, the Board entertained a motion to recognize RPI’s chapter of Turning Point USA as a Union-affiliated club, which ultimately ended up being tabled until the next meeting. President of the Union Matthew Rand ’19 mentioned that the Board felt there wasn’t enough information provided for it to come to a conclusion at the previous meeting. Rand possessed a document containing further information regarding Turning Point USA, which was addressed “strictly to the Executive Board.” Rand did not feel comfortable sharing it without Director of Student Activities Cameron McLean’s permission.

Rand was further questioned by members of the Board regarding the document. He stated that, while it contained only public information and the addressee was solely the E-Board, he still didn’t feel confident sharing it in an open meeting.

STUDENT SENATE

Tax Cut and Jobs Act effects addressed

Darby Burns
Senior Reporter

IN THE SENATE MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE ON Monday, November 20, the graduate senators presented an update on their council’s affairs, Grand Marshal Justin Etzine ’18 presented the proposed Student Senate budget for Fiscal Year 2019, and members discussed and voted to approve the budget with one minor amendment.

The update on graduate student affairs was presented by Graduate Senator Anthony Ashley. It was largely Ph.D.-oriented, as that’s what makes up the majority of the

graduate students at Rensselaer. He started with some background on what it means to be a graduate student. They are typically here for five to seven years, take anywhere from two to 15 classes, and end with a 100–200 page thesis. Their tuition is approximately \$51,000 per year, which is typically waived, and they are granted a stipend of \$21,500.

Ashley then went on to talk about how their taxes work and the bill that is currently going through the United States Senate—H.R.1, known as the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. He mentioned that this bill presents a serious issue for graduate students, because they currently have a

relatively low tax obligation. This is necessary because their income—the stipend they receive—just barely covers the cost of living. If the new bill passes, tuition waivers will be considered income, which will place them in the 25 percent bracket.

Next, Ashley discussed the role of the graduate council, saying that it is to communicate with the administration, participate in health insurance discussions, help with student-advisor relationships, and put together both professional and social events. He said that the relationship between graduate students and the administration is crucial because they require them to annually sign off on an increase to their stipend, which is necessary to cover the increase in the cost of living. He explained that that is why the graduate senators appear to disagree with the Student Senate—they feel that it would not be in the best interests of graduate students for them to take a side on the recent contentious issues.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the Fiscal Year 2019 Student Senate budget proposal, presented by Etzine. He said that this was the first time the Senate had ever presented its budget to itself and that, while their approval was not necessary, if they didn’t give it, he would withdraw the proposal in order to make the changes deemed necessary.

He said that the major changes to the budget were to reevaluate and modify goals in order to reflect current practices and priorities. The money for a couple of line items that hadn’t really been used in the past was shifted to more helpful initiatives and projects. The five goals of the budget

are: “The Student Senate shall be the chief legislative and policy-making branch of the Union,” “The Student Senate shall serve as the collective voice of the student body,” “The Student Senate shall pursue and support projects for the benefit of, and shall advocate on behalf of, the student body,” “The Student Senate shall develop and oversee the regulations governing all student government elections,” and “The grand marshal shall be regarded as the leader and the chief spokesperson for the entire Union.”

After Etzine’s presentation, there were two major points of discussion regarding the presentation and the approval of the budget. One was that several senators disagree with the budgeting of Union funds for the Senate polos, saying they feel it to be a misuse of the funds. Those in favor of budgeting for the polos, however, said that they feel that it is important for the Senate to be able to look professional and that not everyone may be able to afford them on their own. Several alternate ideas were bounced around, including not buying a full new set each year, and only replacing them as necessary, but the topic was eventually dropped.

Another point that was brought up was the number of mall shuttles in the budget. The number originally remained the same as approved the previous year, despite how much they are used. After some discussion, and Facilities and Services Chairperson Nancy Bush ’19 suggested that 12 or 13 would be a better number. A motion to amend the budget to include three more shuttles passed 18-0-1.

The motion to approve the budget passed 19-0-0. ♦



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE GRADUATE SENATORS PRESENTED on their responsibilities and struggles. (file photo)

E-Board: *Technician wages rise*

From **Page 6**

A motion to close the meeting to have the E-Board privately discuss the document failed 0-16-1, due to concerns with alienating non-members present at the meeting.

Tatyana Fortune ’18, one of approximately 17 guests in the room to discuss Turning Point USA, mentioned she joined the RPI chapter’s Facebook page this past summer. From her perspective, discussions on the page often ventured into social issues—discussions contrary to the club’s stated goal of discussing constitutional and fiscal issues.

Discussion further continued amongst Board members and guests around Turning Point’s national organization’s previous actions, and whether the Union should affiliate a club with such “inflammatory” tendencies.

Sidney Kochman ’19 mentioned that while he believed some of the actions of Turning Point’s national body to be “utterly reprehensible,” it would be “dangerous to deny a group Union-affiliated status based on the contents of their speech.” Similar comments followed from E-Board members, mentioning that the Executive Board is “not a partisan body” and shouldn’t make decisions based on personal opinions.

A motion was then made to table further discussion until the end of the meeting, since the Turning Point USA discussion went far over its allotted time on the agenda, which passed 12-1-3.

Ultimately, when discussion resumed again later in the meeting, members cited a clause in the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities* that prohibits the Institute or the Rensselaer Union from denying access or reducing funds as a “means of censorship or suppression of any lawful activity.” The Board decided that it would be more comfortable having Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Apgar, Director for Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno, and McLean present to properly discuss the motion and any implications the *Student Handbook* may have on it. A motion to postpone the motion until the next available meeting time with those aforementioned individuals present passed 12-2-2.

Following the lengthy discussion of Turning Point USA, representatives of the RPI Playhouse came before the Executive Board asking first for a reallocation of funds to purchase new wireless microphones and receivers that are compliant with new Federal Communications Commission regulations that go into effect in December. The reallocated money would come from a reserve account originally budgeted for a sound system multiprocessor expansion, which RPI Players Technical Director Nick Karalexis ’19 said was no longer available from any of the Union’s approved vendors.

A motion to reallocate \$2,000 from the original budget for the multiprocessor expansion to the purchasing of new compliant equipment passes 16-0-1.

The Players, represented by the same individuals as the Playhouse, requested \$900 to hire a choreographer for their upcoming spring musical. The Players’s Business Manager Anastasia Feraco ’19 mentioned that the choreographer from the spring 2017 musical failed to submit paperwork on time, and was instead paid from this fiscal year’s budget instead of last, leaving no money to pay for the spring 2018 choreographer. The Board then entertained a motion to give the Players permission to overspend their Goal C budget by \$900, which passed 13-3-1.

The Players also requested permission from the Board to switch to a new ticketing and reservation system called Tix, which would grant the Players the ability to process ticket sales “more efficiently and professionally.” The Players intend to raise prices of tickets by \$1 for in-person sales and \$2 for online sales due to the associated fees of credit card processing. The Board granted permission to the Players to use Tix with a vote of 14-0-3.

The floor was then opened to representatives of UPAC Cinema, who came with a proposal to increase the wage of technicians from \$10.40 per hour to \$12.50 per hour, citing minimum wage increases mandated by New York State. New York’s minimum wage will increase yearly by \$0.70 until 2020, and UPAC Cinema’s proposal will raise the rate directly to what it will be in 2020 so that further budgeting and pay rate adjustments would need not to occur until the 2020 fiscal year. A motion to approve the wage increase beginning in January 2019 passed with a vote of 17-0-0.

The discussion then expanded to include UPAC Lights, Sound, and Cinema, which came with a proposal to utilize money from the student employment fund to pay trainees. Paying trainees is now necessary due to changes in regulations from the Division of Human Resources. As long as the number of trainees and duration of training doesn’t unreasonably exceed historical trends, the Board granted permission to pay trainees with a vote of 12-0-5.

The floor then opened to Director of the Mueller Center Steve Allard for the director’s report. Allard mentioned that things are moving along in hiring assistant directors. After closing the meeting, a motion was made by the Board to approve the recommended candidate for the position of assistant director of student activities pending approval from Human Resources and the Division of Student Life. It passed unanimously with a vote of 16-0-0.

This meeting was the last regular Executive Board meeting of the semester. Regular meetings will resume next semester. ♦

The Polytechnic
will hold
elections at
3 pm on Sunday,
December 10
in our office,
RU 3418.
Contact Editor
in Chief Sidney
Kochman at
sid@poly.rpi.edu
with any
questions.