**STUDENT SENATE**

**Student Senate overrides E-Board policy on livestreaming, recording**

**Brookelyn Parslow**  
Senior Reporter

On **Wednesday, the Student Senate resolved to make all public meetings open to recording.**

The motion was rewritten to consolidate all $440 for the tickets and $430.28 for the travel expenses into one fee. Class of 2019 Representative David Raah ’19 brought up that those going to the competition rearranged their travel and lodging plans so that they could be in compliance with Union policy in the hopes of receiving more funds. He also said that, “just know that if you approve everything, that you are changing the decision that was made to the budget.”

The motion to “allocate $870.28 to provide the full cost of admission and a 60-40 travel expense split for four members of the Gaming Club to attend the WBC in July,” passed 11-1-1. Next to come before the Board were the Global Medical Brigades asked for a 40 per-cent subsidy of the cost of a bus round trip to the airport necessary for them to go on their trip to Honduras to provide medical aid and relief there. They also asked for a loan for their travel and lodging plans so that they could be in compliance with Union policy in the hopes of receiving more funds. He also said that, “just know that if you approve everything, that you are changing the decision that was made to the budget.”

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Flying Club budget balanced**

**Darby Burns**  
Senior Reporter

On **Thursday, the Executive Board had a busy meeting; it approved the motions for several clubs, along with a new IC/Club representative.**

The meeting started out with a motion from the RPI Flying Club asking for the funds to balance their budget. Due to a delay in processing, a series of charges went to this fiscal year as opposed to last fiscal year when they occurred. These were charges for a national competition that took place in May of last year. Because of the delay, the club ended last year with a very large surplus in their budget from all the dues that were intended to go towards these expenses. Director of the Mueller Center Steven Allard said that the club, “did absolutely nothing wrong,” and explained that this kind of things happens occasionally for events that take place late in the fiscal year.

There was a brief discussion of where the funds should come from, resulting in the motion to “allow the RPI Flying Club to overspend their budget by $3563 to balance the budget to account for costs incurred by last fiscal year’s NIFA Competition to Goal A Program 3 CW AW,” that passed 13-0-0.

The Gaming Club came before the board for a second time asking for money to cover the cost of entrance and travel for their attendance to the World Boardgaming Championships. The club had gone before the Board previously on February 1, asking only for a subsidy on the cost of admission to the competition. The motion then was tabled to give the club the opportunity to come up with a complete estimate of the cost including travel. In the discussion of the motion, it was questioned whether the funds should come out this year’s contingency fund or next year’s.

The motion was rewritten to consolidate the $440 for the tickets and $430.28 for the travel expenses into one fee. Class of 2019 Representative David Raah ’19 brought up that those going to the competition rearranged their travel and lodging plans so that they could be in compliance with Union policy in the hopes of receiving more funds. He also said that, “just know that if you approve everything, that you are changing the decision that was made to the budget.”

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**ON WEDNESDAY, THE STUDENT SENATE RESOLVED to make all public meetings open to recording.**

Many senators agreed that if information is sensitive enough that it should not be livestreamed or recorded, the Executive Board should exercise its ability to close the meeting.

President of the Union Matt Rand ’19 made aware of the resolution via an email following the meeting, in which Grand Marshal

See **SNEEZE**

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**See BOARD**

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The Senate discussed Raind’s appointment of Deepika Senthilnathan ‘21 as a club/ICA representative of the Executive Board. The motion to approve the appointment was tied 8-8-2, which then left Ertzine with a vote. He abstained and the motion failed 8-8-3.

When asked to share a few words about herself, Senthilnathan expressed that she is “really excited to bring forth [her] ideas and support them by voting.” Her introduction was followed by a series of questions from members of the Senate.

When asked by Sperazza to elaborate on the aforementioned ideas, Senthilnathan shared that, “during our meetings when we would recognize certain clubs, we would all have, like, an open discussion about how we feel. Some of my points that might be made would be more relevant and backed up with a voting right.”

“I’m a little worried about attendance. I was curious if you have any plans in mind as to how you could attend regularly,” expressed Warner later in the discussion.

Senthilnathan responded and said that she is currently only involved in the Indian Students Association and that they only meet a couple times each semester, so it won’t get in the way.

According to the Executive Board meeting minutes that are posted online at poly.rpi.edu/$email— which contain attendance sheets—Senthilnathan was present at five of the 11 meetings that have occurred since she joined the Board.

The Senate meets on Wednesdays at 8 pm in the Shelnutt Gallery.
Editorial

DERBY

Pl shares Executive Board’s justification for banning recordings: privacy, comfort

Hello everyone! I apologize for my recent lapse in coverage due to my personal schedule. As much as I wanted to check in and catch you all up to date, usually, I like to start with a few pleasantries, but given all the information to get through, I will get started right away.

First, for anyone who missed it, the Union Annual Report Committee, a joint committee of the Senate and the Executive Board, successfully worked through the Union Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019 to the Senate last week. That document was passed by the Senate and the report was forwarded on to Vice President Le Norman Strong and the Interim Vice President for Student Life, and has now been reviewed by Dr. Jackson in anticipation for review by the Board of Trustees. For anyone who is not familiar with the overall process for submitting the Union Annual Report, what I outlined above is the traditional route that the document takes on its way to the Board of Trustees. Once the Senate approves the document, the President of the Union releases the report to the Division of Student Life, specifically the Vice President and Assistant President for Student Life for forwards the document to the Division of Finance, as well as the Office of the President. Once the leadership of all the aforementioned divisions reviews the document, the report is finally submitted to the Board of Trustees for their ultimate review and approval. As of now, that is where the document is and once the Board of Trustees have had a chance to review it, I should have an update for you all!

Secondly, I have noticed and received a lot of confusion regarding the Executive Board’s decision to restrict the ability to freely express our opinions without interruption our meetings that was ultimately overruled by a decision of the Senate. I want to be clear that the Executive Board did not act to restrict the rights of the public. The Board never sponsored or supported a discussion regarding the endpoint of Student Life for giving anyone the freedom to record any phone call or conversation in which that person is involved. This includes public meetings of the Board. Any instances from biased parties.” I could not handle the groupthink. I could not handle the distraction from being one of the only people on the Board unopposed to accountability and transparency. I tried my hardest to just fight the good fight and speak up. I stand alone, but I could not do it anymore.

On the bright side, your right to record and livestream public meetings has been restored by the Student Senate! Please exercise those rights and pay attention to the Board’s decisions—that is your money that they are working with.

Matthew Rand
President of the Union

Editor's Corner

Since resigning from the Rensselaer Union Executive Board, I have had a bunch of people ask me why. In the Board’s most recent meeting, President of the Union Matt Rand ’19 said, “It was a decision made with much consideration and as a person who has been on the Board for so long, I wanted to make sure this was our decision.”

On February 8, while I was still a member of the Board, amendments to the Special Rules of Order were proposed and passed requiring anyone recording Board meetings to “make it known to everyone present at the start of the recording” and “immediately stop recording when asked to do so.” They also gave the president of the Union the authority to require that all copies of recordings be deleted in his presence.

It further prohibited the livestreaming of any meetings. The end of the policy included the following statement: “These policies are adopted to ensure the privacy of any party presenting sensitive financial or personal information to the Board and to allow the Board to freely express its opinions without interruption from biased parties.”

The amendments passed with a vote of 15-1, which means the only person who voted no was I. This policy was later overturned by the Student Senate with a resolution that passed unanimously.

In his Derby, Rand responds to the confusion surrounding the Board’s decision. In it, he writes, “I want to be clear that the Executive Board did not act to restrict the rights of the public.” This is bluntly false. These meetings are open to the public. New York State law on recording is one-party consent; anyone has the right to record any phone call or conversation in which that person is involved. This includes public meetings of the Board.

By requiring these recordings to be announced and giving Rand the authority to “request” that recordings be deleted, the Board is doing nothing but restricting the rights of the public.

Rand explains that the decision was made because it creates the “best possible environment for us to conduct business.” He later elaborates, “It helps protect the members of the Board who have to make these personal decisions.”

This topic came up multiple times while I was on the Board. When I moved to reduce the minutes from the closed meeting regarding the Outing Club, many members expressed that they didn’t want their individual names attached to their words. Frankly, this never made sense to me. Why are you on the Board if you cannot confidently and publicly—stand behind the reasons for your decisions? Why are you on the Board if you do not want feedback on that reasoning so that you can improve for the sake of your constituency.

You are not a member of the Board for you. You are a member of the Board because people elected a president of the Union who is the de facto leader of the Board and the Board should trust the million-dollar budget of the Union. The President of the Union then picked you, because he felt you were well-suited to represent and oversee the millions of the student body’s—goals. I am not saying being a member of the Board should be a dreadful experience, but there are undoubtedly going to be difficult, uncomfortable times. When those times come, the Board should never prioritize their comfort over the fundamental rights of the student body.

So, yes, I left because of time constraints. But, I also left because I could not handle the Board’s near-unanimous desire to “freely express its opinions without interruptions from biased parties.” I could not handle the
**EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS**

**Glass blowing checked off bucket list, studio added**

_I like glass. I started glass science research during my freshman year at Rensselaer, eager to learn something new and foreign. I walked into this field blind, as naïve as a freshman can be, but with open hands. Since then, I’ve learned how to make glass and how to explain its behavior. Most importantly, I’ve learned how finical it is—and in some sense that’s a trait we share. Outside this technical window of perspective, I’ve always found the art of glass special. A “bucket list” item of mine, you could say, has been glass blowing._

_Last year, I visited the Corning Museum of Glass and felt like I had found a home I was never looking for. The museum is huge. It’s an amazing pot (or crucible) of science and art—a perfect equilibrium. Throughout the day, professional glass blowers show off their craft in demonstrations. Surrounding by furnaces at 1500 degrees Celsius, the artists hold long pipes with molten glass on the end, constantly spinning them to keep a smooth, spherical shape. I didn’t have a chance to make my own art piece—even though the opportunity was there for me to try—but I walked out itching to experience it myself._

_Last semester, I crossed glass blowing off my bucket list. I found a small art studio in Canaan, New York and made no excuses. The goal was to make a paperweight, and I could choose up to four colors to use. Let me add, when someone asks you to pick four colors, you suddenly have no idea where to start, and the decision process may take roughly 30 minutes to an hour (but that could just be me). Anyway, the instructor was very skilled in the art, having worked in glass blowing for 20+ years, and he explained the science behind how colored glasses interact. It was interesting to learn about glass from an artist’s perspective. When it came to the lesson, and after I (finally) picked my colors, I was handed a pipe with molten glass at the end and told to roll it inside the furnace. The pipe wasn’t heavy. Instead, the challenge lay in rotating the pipe at a constant rate and maintaining a balance. A lot of glass blowing has to do with gravity. There is actually a surprising amount of physics involved, even if it’s just based on intuition and experience._

_I loved it. I have my paperweight on my table as a reminder of my achievement—however wonky it came out. I’m incredibly happy that I tried glass blowing after having wanted to do it for so long. It’s important to remember that even as busy college students, we can set out to complete our non-academic goals. Our college careers are so short, but that doesn’t mean we can’t make the most of them. For all we know, the excuses will never end._

_Although I’ve crossed “glass blowing” from my bucket list, I’ve added “glass blowing studio” to the top. Is it unreasonable to want a glass blowing studio? Yes. Do I care? No._

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**Poly Snapshots**

Photos and interviews by Nicholas Luczak

**The Question:** What’s your favorite emoji?

**Evan Weatherly**

ELEC ‘20

**Sydney Sobol**

CHEG ‘20

**Santiago Davila**

CHEG ‘20

**Tiffany Hsi**

ELEC ‘19

**Xavier Boudreau**

CSYS ‘20

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**Editor inconvenienced by Canadian tendencies**

_When I was in Canada over Spring Break, some friends and I decided to take advantage of the 18+ drinking age and go on a pub crawl. For the uninhibited, a pub crawl is an event where you buy a ticket that covers a free drink and cover fee for a few different clubs, with the caveat being that you only stay in each bar for about an hour. Our crawl cost $29 Canadian Dollars and went to a bar and three clubs. Throughout the entire event, one thing prevented us from having a good time: servers being unreasonable._

_We got to the first bar a bit late, and had a bit of trouble finding the pub crawl guides. When we finally got to them, they gave us a free drink and sent us on our way to find a table in the already crowded bar. Then, when we ordered the signature deal, 25 shots for 25 CAD, the bartender looked at our money, looked at us, and turned away to serve some other customer. Apparently, since we didn’t include a tip with our initial purchase, we were deemed unservable. In our American eyes, this was highway robbery._

_Maybe this is the case back home, we wouldn’t know; only one of my friends was over 21 and she doesn’t go out to bars. Either way, the act of turning away a paying customer due to them not tipping before receiving any actual service is baffling to me. Tips should be reflective of a job well done; when the customer feels like the server did the best they could and provided at least satisfactory service. I won’t say to reserve tips for over-the-top service, as servers aren’t paid enough to go without tips (a whole problem by itself which needs addressing). But I am saying that servers should not expect a tip before the service is given in the first place._

_I assumed this would be an isolated incident, but it happened to at least one of my friends at every bar we visited to. At one of them, the bartender flat out took the drink back, and left my friend fuming. At the fourth bar, we just gave up and didn’t order anything. I came home from this experience jaded and apprehensive about going to bars here once I turn 21._

_The only hypotheses I have about the bad Canadian service is due to the pub crawl itself. Maybe the bartenders were fed up with the influx of American tourists and decided to do whatever they wanted to them. But even that, while understandable, isn’t a good thing to do when you’re in the service industry. Something has to change._

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**Camp out in the Union on Tuesday nights if you want to be featured in our Poly Snapshots!**

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**Features**

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Black Panther’s successes: political commentary, talented cast, characters**

Weston Brousseau
A Special to The Poly

As the newest installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Black Panther* is a true work of art and a gold standard of what superhero movies should be. One of the cardinal problems (the kryptomite, if you will) of the MCU—really superheroes as a whole—are writing problems. However, the villain Erik Killmonger, played by Michael B. Jordan, is one of the more compelling characters I have seen in any superhero movie, villain or otherwise. Killmonger serves as the movies political commentary on the world today through his juxtaposition with *Black Panther*, played by Chadwick Boseman, and his own character arc.

The movie does an excellent job of speaking to the nature of what it means to be the black anywhere, but in it particular focuses on America’s own history with African Americans. Killmonger plays an african-american son of a Wakandan native, and he follows an almost revenge story throughout the movie. His revenge story is both a personal grudge against T’Challa, or Black Panther, but also a revenge story for the history and oppression of black people. However, the story does not let the political commentary hinder plot or character development.

The characters in *Black Panther* have some incredible writing behind them that is only highlighted by the uber-talented cast. For example, Okoye, played by Danai Gurira, is probably one of the most badass women to hit the big screen this year, and her presence is felt from the moment she steps on screen to the moment the credits roll. Gurira isn’t the only notable actress, as both Lupita Nyong’o and Letitia Wright seem to steal the show from Boseman. Nyong’o, who plays T’Challa’s love interest, is a wonderfully written character even if Nyong’s chemistry with Boseman seems to be lacking throughout the film. Wright, however, shines in her interaction with Boseman as they bring a great sibling rivalry into the film. And Boseman’s portrayal of T’Challa is almost as great, if only limited by Boseman almost overplaying the stoic nature of the king of Wakanda. Regardless, some of the fight scenes in this movie were among the most visually appealing I have ever seen; and director Ryan Coogler should really be applauded for doing such an excellent job.

*Black Panther* is a truly amazing movie that has been blessed with a talented cast and complex story. Jordan’s acting is especially noteworthy as one of the most interesting and complex villains the MCU has to offer. However, Jordan is complimented by the story that really gives him and every other character room to shine and develop.

I highly encourage that everyone go and see this film, but for MCU fans this film is an absolute must-watch.

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**CLUB SPOTLIGHT**

**SWE Outreach rewarding, educational**

Pragati Pant
Staff Reviewer

Earlier this semester, I attended my first Society of Women Engineers’ Outreach Committee. As a member of SWE, I wanted to check out what this committee was about. The main goal of the club is to reach out to the local youth, and share our passion for science and engineering with them. They are responsible for volunteering and running events that involve educational, hands-on experiments. Even though I am a new member, I am definitely enjoying my experience so far on the Outreach Committee.

This past Saturday, SWE Outreach held Girlbusters Day, an event in collaboration with Girl Scouts. As you may be able to tell from the name of the event, it was based on the popular TV show *Mythbusters*. Just like in the show, the focus of this event was to see if common myths could be busted. The girls from Girl Scouts were given proper instructions and materials to conduct small experiments among their peers; these results were then recorded to conclude if the myth was busted or not.

Since the event was run mainly by SWE Outreach, I had the opportunity to help present the experiments to the girls. One particular myth I enjoyed busting was “Can you cook an egg on the sidewalk?” To demonstrate this, committee members had to come up with an approach to mimic a sidewalk, since we couldn’t use an actual sidewalk. The final decision was to use a slab of concrete and heat it to the approximate temperature of a typical hot summer day. An egg was then cracked on this surface to see if it would cook or not. After a few minutes of waiting, the Girl Scouts came to the consensus that the egg was not cooking. While this was such a trivial experiment, I would say that everyone had fun planning it as well as following through with it.

Other myths included were: “Can you predict the outcome of a coin flip?” and, “Do soda, coffee, or tea stain your teeth?” Throughout the entirety of this event, the most important part was to involve the young scientists and show them that science is part of our everyday lives.

Altogether, Girlbusters Day was a fun, educational experience. I enjoyed my time with all the girls, getting to know them and their interests in science, and helping run the experiments. Because members of SWE Outreach come from different majors and science backgrounds, I was happy to see how we were able to bring together our ideas to make this event enjoyable for everyone. And although this was only my second event with SWE Outreach, I am definitely going to continue being a member of this committee.

This is a great club to meet other women in engineering and science, as well as get to know the local Troy and Albany communities better. Additionally, all the members are very inviting and would love to see other female students involved in our events.

If you are interested in volunteering or planning events with the local youth, this might be the place for you. Feel free to stop by at one of our weekly meetings on Thursday nights at 7 pm in room 3502 in the Union!
ALBUM REVIEW

Timberlake is bringin’ country, flannel back

AMIDST HIS EVER-ENCOURAGING PERFORMANCE AT THE SUPER BOWL LII HALFTIME SHOW, Justin Timberlake released his fifth studio album, Man of the Woods—listed first in the Billboard Top 200 this week. Named after his son, Silas, meaning “of the forest” in Latin, the album was inspired by Timberlake’s home roots in Memphis, Tennessee and dedicated to his family.

Three singles were released in the month of January to prepare fans for the album. “Filthy,” a song featuring an EDM style, was first released January 5. Next came “Supplies,” a hip-hop inspired song about being dependable and resourceful, filled with vocals in between verses. Lastly, on January 25, Timberlake released “Say Something” featuring Chris Stapleton along with a music video. Largely different from the previous two singles, “Say Something” incorporates guitar melodies, and a folk sound. Overall, Man of the Woods offers a variety of tracks reminiscent of Timberlake’s pop days and possibly reveals a new side of the artist.

Four music videos accompany the album, one for each single and one for “Man of the Woods.” Most notable is the six minute video for “Say Something,” which was filmed live in one continuous take. Set in the Bradbury Building in Los Angeles, the video features Timberlake as he builds the melody first using a drum controller, then vocals, and then an acoustic guitar. He walks through the building, passing birdcage elevators and wrought iron staircases occupied by fellow musicians, until Chris Stapleton makes an appearance. The video ends with an accompanying 60-person chorus, filling the room with a warm tone. On another note, the video for “Man of the Woods” contrasts the poetry of “Say Something” with silly dancing and a scene with multiple Timberlakes portraying different roles. With a light-hearted theme, this music video shows Timberlake’s versatile style.

Stapleton was an accidental artist featured in the album, as he was originally included in the project to assist with songwriting. Having contributed to “Morning Light,” “The Hard Stuff,” and “Say Something,” Stapleton was asked to sing as a part of the collaboration. In an interview with Billboard, Stapleton says, “I really just went out to Los Angeles to write songs with him ... It came out great. I had a blast with him, he’s a great creative force and one of those guys that if you get a chance to work with him, you should.”

Information for an album tour starting in March has been released. Timberlake suggests performances for the tour will strictly take place in arenas. “I wanted to do the show in arenas because I wanted to bring the outside in,” says Timberlake to Jimmy Fallon in a Tonight Show interview.

In a brief video trailer, Timberlake says, “It’s personal,” indicating the importance of this five-year long project. Ultimately, his matured persona shines through in this album, introducing a new country perspective—and a daring new look with flannels and beanies. Who knows where Timberlake will go next? 😊

MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Florida Project
Recommended by: Brookelyn Parslow

Baby Driver
Recommended by: Nicholas Luczak

John Dies at the End
Recommended by: Serge Piskun

ALBUM MENTIONS

Fabulist
Recommended by: Serge Piskun
Jonathan Cacedo

What Everyone’s Thinking
Recommended by: Maria Kozdroy
First World Problems

10. When your GrubHub takes forever to deliver
9. When The Polytechnic finishes at 6 am
8. When your Uber cancels on you
7. When your coffee is too hot
6. When RPI takes-backsies on snow days
5. When it’s too hot/cold in lecture halls
4. When the wifi takes 5 seconds to connect
3. When your 8 am is at 8 am
2. When the Snapchat update is trash
1. When your two-day shipping takes three days

Join us at our closing nights in RU 3418 on Tuesdays at 7 pm.