Student Senate

New official Union logo approved

Nicholas Luczak
Senior Reporter

The Student Senate opened with a busy agenda of special orders including a ceremonial motion, ratification of a composting proposal, approval of the new Union logo, and the discussion and vote on proposed constitutional amendments.

In the interest of time, initial committee, peer body, and officer reports were skipped and the Senate immediately moved onto the special orders of the day.

Graduate Student Michael Gardner motioned to close the meeting to non-senators. This was met with resistance as, according to Gardner, “Students have already presented their concerns.”

Prior to the the presentation of the composting proposal, there was a motion to close the meeting to non-senators. This was met with resistance as, according to Gardner, “Students have already presented their concerns.”

Once the motion failed, the new logo and the reasoning for the change was presented. According to the new logo, the decision was made to change the Union logo was because the original wasn’t “the administration supported one of the candidates with the

Human Resources Interview Committee’s prepared interview questions prior to the interview.” The email states that when confronted, Vice President for Human Resources Curtis Powell “attempted to deny the allegations entirely.” After Ezzine, President of the Union Matthew Rand ’19, and Caizoo told Powell that there were “multiple witnesses and evidence to the contrary,” Powell was said to have “fabricated” other narratives that the “student committee knew to be false.”

Caizoo concluded in the email that the “search has clearly stagnated” and that there “has been a complete elimination of shared governance on the RPI campus.”

This email further adds to the growing list of concerns surrounding the director of the Union hiring process, which is seen as flawed.

In an email to The Poly, Powell wrote that he was “disappointed to learn of Mr. Caizoo’s misrepresentation of the facts, and that he has breached our confidentiality agreement with regards to our search process for the position for the Director of Union for Rensselaer.” At the time of publication, Aggar had not responded to our request for general comment.

A link to the full text of Caizoo’s email is available at poly.rpi.edu/s/caizoomail.

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

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Candidate given interview questions

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The Rensselaer Union has been without a director of the Union since early 2016. (File Photo / The Polytechnic)

Travis T. Aggar in the most recent Senate meeting. According to Caizoo, these comments “made it seem as though the administration is willing to work with students to hire a new director.”

“I want to be clear that this has not been the case for several months,” wrote Caizoo.

The instances referenced surround the process for hiring a new director of the Union, which has included student involvement through interviews since September 12, 2017.

The first of these is that Grand Marshall Justin Ezzine ’18 requested a meeting with Chairman of the Board of Trustees Arthur F. Golden ’66 to discuss the Executive Committee meeting motion passed in September.

This request was “deferred.” According to the email, the “most concerning” instance was how “the administration supplied fabricated” other narratives that the “student committee knew to be false.”

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SENIORS DISCUSS amendments proposed by Internal Reforms Committee (file photo)

From Page 3

The first amendment with two versions had to do with administrative staffing. “Version A” was written by the members of the Student Senate and elaborates on how to hire council staff. They aimed to create clear guidelines for the senate to hire their own staff and to ensure that the staff hired were as much like the students on the council as possible. They felt that this would ensure that the Senate could be run by the students and for the students.

First on the agenda was the Senate, which met at 6 pm on Thursday in the Shelnutt Gallery. The Senate has been working on these amendments all semester, and today they held a vote on the three amendments that were proposed.

Amendment I was to amend the Senate bylaws to allow the Senate to vote on the amendments at any time with a two thirds vote. This would allow the Senate to approve the amendments at a later date, rather than having to wait until the next meeting to vote on them. The amendment was approved on a two thirds vote.

Amendment II was to change the Senate bylaws to allow the Senate to approve the amendments at any time with a two thirds vote. This would allow the Senate to approve the amendments at a later date, rather than having to wait until the next meeting to vote on them. The amendment was approved on a two thirds vote.

In the discussion for the merits of the motion, the majority of the talk was centered around the need to specify that the director is an employee of the Institute and that the Union by changing that the director of the Student Senate and elaborates on the need for “Version A” of the amendment. Several members of the Senate voiced their concerns over the wording in the “Performance Review Input” section in “Version B” saying that, “In a manner pre- sented to me, it would not be clear what the results would be. Amendment III aimed to mandate that the president of the Senate be a graduate student for at least a semester, and to ensure the smooth operation of the council. When a straw poll was taken, it was clear that there was a consensus, and the proposed amendment was approved in an official vote of 18-0-0. Amendment IV aimed to modify procedures that the Graduate Council should be able to skip this step in approving their bylaws changed without Senate approval.” Graduate Council President Anthony Ashley responded, “This isn't a power grab at all, this is just an attempt at a change in our bylaws… The check will always exist; why are we doing this is because this process is procedural, and we don't want to go through the effort.” Concerns over why the Graduate Council should be able to skip this step in approving their bylaws were discussed, but in the end the Senate voted in favor of the amendment 19-0-0.

The proposed amendments can be seen online at poly.rpi.edu/amend2018. The Senate will meet again in the Shelnutt Gallery this Wednesday at 8 pm.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dance Team funds approved for nationals

Darby Burns
Senior Reporter

ON THURSDAY, THE DANCE TEAM RECEIVED ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO HELP COVER THE COST OF ATTENDING nationals, and the Global Medical Brigades asked for the rest of the money necessary to cover the cost of a bus to the airport for their trip to Honduras.

First on the agenda was the Dance Team, who came before the Board asking for additional money to help reduce the cost of attending nationals this year. They had already received $4,000 from the Board for the competition. This year was the third year the team attended nationals and will be the first year that they attend nationals.

Next, they talked about the fundraising efforts they have made to raise money to cover the cost of the trip. They held an event called “Dance Day,” which partnered with Boolegger's Bar & Grill to bring a food truck to campus, held two 50/50 raffles at men's hockey games, and came back to campus early to work concessions for other men's hockey games. Additionally, dues for the club are $350 per person and, according to the presenters, dancing is a sport with a lot of individualized costs that don’t get factored into budgeting.

When asked how many people were going, they informed the Board that it would be 11 dancers—the entirety of the team—and two coaches. At further questioning, it was revealed that the coaches were required to go for safety reasons, and that the cost of covering the trip for the coaches was factored into the estimate they provided.

In the discussion for the merits of the motion, the majority of the talk was centered around how much the Dance Team should be given. Considering that they had already been given money for the competition, Director of the Mueller Center Steve Allard informed the Board that the only thing that they were looking more to get the costs down to around $400 or $500 as opposed to receiving full subsidy. It was also brought up that, because giving any money would be going over the policy of $4,000 for national competitions, it would require a three-fifths majority vote.

After further consideration of the funds and how various potential amounts would affect how much each individual Dance Team member would have to pay, the motion to reallocate $1,375 from travel contingencies to the Dance Team for the national competition passed 11-3-3.

Next to come before the Board was the Global Medical Brigades, asking for funding for their domestic travel costs for their trip to Honduras. They had come before the Board two weeks ago with the same request and received the full amount. However, the Board was informed that when they attempted to purchase the tickets two days prior to the current meeting, the club found out that the quote they had received was only for a one way trip, not a round trip. When they attempted to use the money that they had already been given to put down a deposit for a reservation, they did not have enough money to pay for the entire trip and each member would have to pay more than they already had to cover the additional cost.

They mentioned that they had originally wanted to use funds from the “weR Global” fundraiser, but found out that their alumni contributions were well below average. With some further discussion, the E-Board approved the motion to reallocate an additional $850 from contingencies to the RPI Global Medical Brigades to subsidize the round trip busing cost to the airport 14-2-1.

During the director's report, Business Administrator Martha McElligott reminded everyone that clubs are running out of time to make large purchases with the funds that they have in their budgets.

The Executive Board meets every Thursday at 8 pm in the Shelnutt Gallery.

The GLOBAL MEDICAL BRIGADES CAME before the Board for a second time asking for money to subsidize their bus trip to the airport to Honduras. (file photo)
Hello everyone! We are joining you this week to talk together about how the Senate and the Executive Board plan to address issues regarding transparency and accountability in our organizations. You spoke, and we listened. We are committed to addressing these problems, which are so frivolous. Assuming a conservative estimate of 10^10 atoms in the observable universe, you’re roughly 10^1000x sexdecillion (that’s 1 followed by 53 zeros) of everything that’s ever been, is ising as a woman, large as the Earth, or who you should make to lifelong friends. Make friends. Take care of others. Be spontaneous. Try to be happy with yourself, be satisfied with the things you've ever wanted to do. It's true when they say 'you're your own worst enemy.' Think of some of the worst things people do to you, and make that you're too afraid to do it. Or that you're too nervous to do it. Or that you're too afraid to fail. Or have a lack of motivation. It doesn't really matter. It's the reason—there are some things you want to do, but aren't doing because of yourself. You're the only one stopping you. How are you going to change that? Overall, the thing I want you to try and think about is how are you going to be the best you can be, and how can you make this your best? I'm not advocating that you should make rash, irrational choices—remember each and every decision you make has the potential to impact you and those around you. As much as I'd love to drop out of RPI and go pursue sheepherding in mountain. By migrating from a world where you must make the decision right here and now, and I'll just lead to further difficulties down the line that might make it tougher to reach your goals and to be who you want to be. It's true that many of our problems are so frivolous. Assuming a conservative estimate of 10^10 atoms in the observable universe, you’re roughly 10^1000x sexdecillion (that’s 1 followed by 53 zeros) of everything that’s ever been, is ising as a woman, large as the Earth, or who you should make to lifelong friends. Make friends. Take care of others. Be spontaneous. Try to be happy with yourself, be satisfied with the things you've ever wanted to do. It's true when they say 'you're your own worst enemy.' Think of some of the worst things people do to you, and make that you're too afraid to do it. Or that you're too nervous to do it. Or that you're too afraid to fail. Or have a lack of motivation. It doesn't really matter. It's the reason—there are some things you want to do, but aren't doing because of yourself. You're the only one stopping you. How are you going to change that? Overall, the thing I want you to try and think about is how are you going to be the best you can be, and how can you make this your best?
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What would your rap name be?

Photos and interviews by Nicholas Luczak

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BCBP ‘21
“Slim Sista”

Clifford Hartman
MECL ‘19
“Big Red”

Michael Savini
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“Don’t have one, but I DJ as ‘Mykroh’.”

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DILBERT
by Scott Adams

TOP TEN LIST
Things not to do over Spring Break

10. Renew
9. Homework
8. Be transformative
7. Print The Poly
6. Go outside
5. Change the world
4. Exist
3. Drown
2. Squirrels
1. Come back to RPI

WORD FIND
by Weston Brousseau

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

Saint Patrick’s Day

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

Clover
Dublin
Gaelic
Gold
Green
Guinness
Ireland
Leprechaun
Lucky
Paddy
Patrick
Rainbow
Shamrock

Have a safe Spring Break!
ON-CAMPUS EVENT

Genericon: unique, inclusive, organized

Nicholas Luczak
Senior Reviewer

This weekend, students found themselves walking into or around the Dunn Communications Center and wondering, “What is going on?”

Genericon is in its 31st year, and never fails to draw all types of people—from the dedicated furry, to the anime-obsessed, to the hardcore gamer. As you might have guessed from its name, the convention aims to be broad, to encourage as many fandoms to express their passion as possible. The 48-hour event offers a wide range of panels, video game competitions, role-playing events, and performances that cover all sorts of topics.

I must admit, I love Genericon. I don’t consider myself a big nerd, anime enthusiast, or hardcore gamer, but every time I go to this convention, I find myself leave with great stories and good feelings. It’s definitely not for everyone—one you might be surprised by the creativity. For some of the regular attendees, the most beloved cultural icons, from Pokémon to Star Wars, and the most obscure to the dedicated furry, to the bravest convention-goer from attending, but trust me, Genericon is much more than a spectacle.

Genericon hosts many events, but the most popular are the Cosplay Masquerade, the dance, and the games tournaments. The Cosplay Masquerade is the event where everyone, which seems to rub off on even the most jaded person. There is an aura of inclusivity and excitement for everyone and everyone is there like no other—it’s got something for everyone and the support of the dedicated—and seriously-cosplayers share their creativity. The contests line up to show off their imaginative implementations of whatever they thought would be the coolest costume. From the most obscure to the most beloved cultural icons, from Pokémon to Star Wars, and everything in between, cosplayers covered the gamut of all our favorite characters while showing serious skills in their creations.

The Genericon Dance featured a total of four different well-known DJs and a lot of fun, eccentric con-goers. It’s one of the few places where you can see Deadpool breakdancing next to Rick and Morty. Another place where you can see the passion and excitement of the con-goers is in the gaming competitions. From traditional games such as Magic: the Gathering to Settlers of Catan, competitions were going almost nonstop during the weekend; any fan of good old-fashioned fun with boards, playing cards, and dice would surely appreciate it. But if videogames are more your style, the event had you covered with nail-biting Super Smash Bros. tournaments and fun Nidhogg 2 sessions.

No matter your interests—or lack thereof—I can promise that, as long as you go with an open mind, you will find yourself surprised and feeling good because of the wholesome vibe. I think that Genericon is unique in its ability to be a truly accepting space; if you want to be a cross-dressing video game character or an eight-foot-tall demon warrior, you can find like-minded people who are there to support you and marvel at your ingenuity and creativity. For some of the regular convention-goers, this event is like no other—it’s got something for everyone and everyone is there to support you—there is an aura of inclusivity and excitement for everyone, which seems to rub off on even the most jaded person.

Thanks to Rensselaer Science Fiction and Anime Club’s fantastic work organizing the event, and the support of the dedicated community of diverse enthusiasts, Genericon distinguishes itself as one of the best campus events of the year. But please don’t take my word for it—check out Genericon next year and you might just find yourself as enthralled as I was.

DRINK REVIEW

Trendy alcohol option underwhelms in taste

Maria Kozdroy
Senior Reviewer

After seeing multiple Facebook news articles saying about Angry Orchard’s new Rosé Cider, I really wanted to try it. Five days later, I finally got the chance; a friend of mine purchased a variety pack of ciders, and lo and behold, the newly acclaimed Rosé was in the pack.

First off, the color of the beverage itself is a pretty pink, typical of a rosé drink. I took my first sip with excitement, only to be a tad underwhelmed. It reminded me of a champagne and not so much an Angry Orchard Cider. Made from a variety of apples, including rare ones from France, I was expecting an exotic apple taste, but failed to find it. It’s worth saying I tried it, as it has been hyped up tremendously, but I think I’ll stick with the classic crisp apple flavor next time.