



## Official Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Student Senate

February 27, 2009 | 04:00pm

Union 3606

1. Meeting started at 4:13 pm, quorum not yet reached
  - a. Introduction of senators
  - b. Quorum reached at 4:14pm
2. Grand Marshal Report
  - a) Recent Events
    - a. Uprise at Five
      - i. Put it together under 24 hours
      - ii. Thank you for all the help from Residence Life staff, Greek students, and everyone else
      - iii. Made sure the protest was within lines of the DOSO requirements
        1. Prefer 48-72 hours notice, for the future
      - iv. Released Press Release to local media
        1. Media coverage from Troy Record, Times Union, Local channels 10 & 9
      - v. Would like to release another press release on conclusion of events
      - vi. "Re-visiting the Requisites" document is available on Student Senate document management site, [documents.studentsenate.rpi.edu](http://documents.studentsenate.rpi.edu)
      - vii. No response yet from administration
        1. Laban Coblentz responded before rally began
        2. Board of Trustees were notified and discussed rally beforehand
    - b. Residence Life staff

### 3. New Business

- a) Where do we go from here?
  - a. Student Senate Fact-Finding Teams
    - i. Suggestion was to find answers to a lot of open questions, we know very little of the policies that we find objectionable.
    - ii. From audience, approximately 16 were interested in participating.
    - iii. Questions/Problems
    - iv. Who is in charge?
    - v. Send fact-finding team to ask them for info
    - vi. Respond to results
  - b. Poly full-spread
    - i. Potential to work with the Polytechnic as well as the Statler & Waldorf
    - ii. The Poly considering page coverage of the rally that would include photos and quotes, Ed/Op waiting for letters to come in
      - 1. Will be receiving both administration and student input
    - iii. Coverage of the event can be found at [rpitv.org](http://rpitv.org)
  - c. Discussion on CLASS & other Student Life initiatives
  - d. Student Referendum
    - i. Discussion on what sort of questions would be asked
    - ii. Referendum is placed on a ballot to vote no earlier than 30 days, later than 60 days. 20% of student body must vote to make it an official vote, can be placed on the ballot with approval of 2/3 of senate or 10% of students
    - iii. Anyone interested in helping with student referendum, contact Michael Zwack at [zwackm@rpi.edu](mailto:zwackm@rpi.edu)
  - e. Press release
    - i. DOSO estimated there were 800 students at rally

- ii. Another press release should include student response from all of those involved with the event.
- iii. The poly received a statement from Dr. Knowles regarding the demonstration. Senate/E-Board Liaison Zaik read the statement aloud.
  - 1. Apparently was only sent to the poly office, neither the GM or the PU received release
    - a. Request that any press release that are related to the student life should be sent to the student leaders & student government organizations
  - 2. Questions on if there has been an RA room rate “plan”
- iv. Student residence life staff met with financial aid, RA funding would be covered under the “Rensselaer Supplemental Award”
- f. Ad-Hoc Committee
  - i. Julie Hawkins, Residence Life (hawkij2@rpi.edu)
  - ii. Josh Greenman, Press Releases (greenj7@rpi.edu)
  - iii. August Fietkau, Fact Finding (fietka@rpi.edu)
  - iv. Kara Chesal, Steering Committee (chesak@rpi.edu)
- g. Compilation of press coverage

#### 4. Press/Visitor Q&A

#### 5. Adjourned- 5:34 pm

# Members Present

## Graduate

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Ben Cohen  
Dan Horvath  
Jaron Koppers  
Jessica Jones  
Christina Laskowski

## Class of 2009

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Charles Emala  
Brian Zaik  
Timothy Sprock  
Josh Greenman

## Class of 2010

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Sara Brown  
Corey Stall  
Kyle Mackenzie

## Class of 2011

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Michael Zwack  
William Jones  
Ashley Meenaghan

## Class of 2012

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Lee Sharma  
Alexandra McGregor

## Other Members

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Katelyn Reepmeyer, Panhel Representative  
Jonathan Babiec, IFC Senator  
Michael Wallace, IC Senator  
Brian Michalski, CIO