

# Ripon College Student Senate Agenda for October 24, 2012

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Old Minutes
- III. Committee Reports
  - a. Secretary Allen:
  - b. Treasurer Kaounas:
  - c. Vice President Davidson:
  - d. President Kiessler:
  - e. Dean Ogle:
  - f. What's Up With Your Group
  - g. One Fund Talk Back
  - h. Student Activities Report:
  - i. Miscellaneous Committees
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
  - a. MLK Week 2012 One Fund
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Open Forum
- VIII. Adjournment

# Ripon College Student Senate Minutes for October 10, 2012

## Attendance Record:

|                     |                              |                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Brian Fritsch- 0    | Andrew Miller- 0             | Amy Lindsey- 0     |
| Alexander McNeil- 0 | McKenzie Trelka- 0           | Nick From- 0       |
| Zachary Muench- 0   | Andrew Carballo              | Adam Orth-         |
| Logan Soich- 0      | Shanalijah Hernandez- 0      | Austin Oliver- 0   |
| Alexandra Haen- 0   | Ryan Rieber- 0               | Matt Koch- 0       |
| Tyler Hopewell- 0   | Kamelle Van Der Leest- 0     | Rebecca Ramage- 0  |
| Jennifer Keller- 0  | Diakeishaye Murphy-Gunnels-0 | Alexander Hagen- 0 |
| McKala Kiessling- 0 | Hannah Erdman- 0             |                    |

- I. Call to Order
  - a. 6:30pm
- II. Approval of Old Minutes
  - a. Senator Erdman: Move to approve.
    - i. Senator Van Der Leest: Move to second the motion.
- III. Committee Reports
  - a. Secretary Allen: No report, just sign in.
  - b. Treasurer Kaounas: The one-fund stands at \$56,497.95.
  - c. Vice President Davidson: No report.
  - d. President Kiessling: Thank you to everyone who sat for the elections for senior class board. We will be going over the ballots tonight after senate.
  - e. Dean Ogle: No report.
  - f. What's Up With Your Group?
    - i. CCF: We've been fortunate to have many community pastors come to CCF for our crusade worship. We hope to continue that and as we did in past years, we would like to have some professors. Saturday we had our international revival event. The choir came and speakers from various countries were very happy to be here and hope to return in the future. For the rest of the semester we are looking to do apple picking like we usually do and some food drives.
    - ii. Ultimate Frisbee: We play Monday nights at 8 right out here and then Fridays at upper sadoff at 4. Currently we have about 14 members.
    - iii. Pre-Law Society: We are going to a conference that has about 40 to 80 different law schools on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. So if any of you guys are interested email me or Tyler Schwartegger, and you don't have to be a part of the group to come.
    - iv. IRC: Some of us were able to meet with George Tenet when he was here and we were able to have a nice discussion with him. We are working on getting submissions for our international relations journal. Things are in the work in planning our crisis simulation for next semester. We are also working on trying to get a couple speakers to come to campus, so I will be hopefully working with President Messitte in a couple weeks.
  - g. One Fund Talk Back
  - h. Student Activities Report
    - i. Secretary Allen: Last week for Softball and flag football. Captains meetings for inner tube waterpolo and indoor soccer this week. Just under 50 students participated in the 3 on 3 basketball tourney! Have a great fall break!
    - ii. Senator Ranes: Are they still looking for building managers?
    - iii. Secretary Allen: It's not on the report so I'm not sure.
  - i. Miscellaneous Committees
    - i. Trustee Committee on Advancement: We held our meeting last Friday, where the big discussion was the new website. Ripon College is getting a new website, it is still being in the working phases right now but it will be officially launched at the end of October where it will be considered the beta phase where it will be open for about 2 or 3 weeks so students can give feedback. And then it is going to be officially launched at the end of November. We are trying to improve alumni relations and increase the number of donations given to the campus because only one-third of our alumni give back to the campus.
    - ii. Kyle: Who is in charge of the new website, is it that new fellow?
    - iii. Matthew: Yes.
    - iv. Kyle: Have you seen the new website yet?
    - v. Matthew: Yes I have.
    - vi. Kyle: Do you know if there is a sustainability page because it's been talked about doing that in the past and I know the president has talked about it.
    - vii. Matthew: They didn't go into details about a sustainability page but they have made it more easily accessible so if you wanted to donate or you wanted to see where your donations are going, or if you donated to annual fund per say what your contributions do to the campus. Their goal was to make everything accessible on the main page.

- viii. Senator Carballo: Is that for the portal or just the website?
- ix. Matthew: The entire website. They didn't go into detail with the portal but I think the portal will just be the same.
- x. Dean Ogle: The portal is just internal and is not being updated.
- xi. Faculty Committee: We also talked about the new website coming out and we also had a recap of all the trustee committees that were held and a lot of discussion was on sabbatical and then there would be replacements for professors that were going on sabbatical or not. The president said he wants to get 275 students for next years and that would help with our deficit that we are currently going through. He has also brought up the idea of summer classes as well as online on classes which probably won't affect us for a few years but it is something to look forward to. There has been talk about redoing our science as well as our athletic building. Lacrosse might become a collegiate sport here.
- xii. Academic Standards Committee: Over the last couple of meetings we have revised the faculty coaching, the language for viewing coaches. We also have been looking over departmental reports.
- xiii. Trustee Committee on Infrastructure: On the issue of building a new Storzer and Farr Hall, there has been a little bit of talk about that in the trustee meeting. They have brought in 10 architect firms and have narrowed it down to just a couple of them to get a plan on what they would be specifically looking at in the next few years for what goals we want to have. There has been talk after these building to also renovate the library as well, we also discussed the renovations made to the library and the trustees were very impressed with the renovations made to the library. They were also impressed with the new commons that we have. Lastly we talked about technology in the classrooms. More and more students have experience with online classes and online interfaces, so maybe not going to online classes but switching over to be able to get some outside class teaching to supplement stuff that is in class.
- j. President Kiessling: I hope all of you got my email, we are adding the Judiciary Board Approvals as item B under new business.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

a. EGOR One Fund

- i. The beehive collective is a non-profit and they come to different campuses to talk about different social justices and environmental issues. We had them here last November. They essentially create these massive murals on different issues. They are not scientific or business or politically motivated at all. They really have a holistic message on issues. We want to bring them back so they can talk about meso America. EGOR is supplying a lot of the funds and we are co-sponsoring with the ELP, Sophia is here with them. It will be the Tuesday after fall break. We have a list of about 50 professors who have expressed interest. It will be in Todd Wehr 104 at 7pm. If you have any questions let me know
- ii. I wanted to talk to you guys a little bit about what the ELP is doing, not only did we provide some funding for it but we are also looking at adapting a program with local schools. Essentially we are having students come, they are going to be a part of this presentation, and they are going to learn. The ELP has a really close connection with the schools and they are really thrilled to have this opportunity for their kids. It's something these kids really haven't seen.
- iii. Senator Erdman: Move to approve.
  - 1. Senator Van Der Leest: Move to second the motion.
- iv. Senator Ranes: I move to make this a Roll Call Vote.
  - 1. Senator Van Der Leest: Move to second the motion.
  - 2. Passes 15:7:0
- v. Senator Riebe: Last year during the one fund talk back that EGOR did, they said that you only had 15 students attend the event. So I am just curious, if this passes tonight, the event is going to be the Tuesday following fall break, so there is not really a lot of time to promote and get students aware. So I am just curious on what you going to do with such a little amount of time, because realistically will have three full days of students being on campus. I am wondering what you guys are going to do?
- vi. Last year, it was a last minute deal and they happened to be in the area, there was little promotion and they were just here in the evening. This year with the ELP we opened the lunch event and they are going to hang up their artwork all over the commons. I do have a list of professor that I will contact tonight or tomorrow. We have the posters designed and ready to be printed. There will be a lot more flyers this year, and I am hoping it will be a lot better.
- vii. Senator Riebe: Is the funding from this organization going to make sure this group goes to the charter public school or is the Ripon school district going to be paying for that?
- viii. I don't know the details of that. A lot of times they visit areas and people pool together the resources, what we have tonight is for our event and Wednesday night they are hoping to go to Lawrence. With the charter, I don't know what their plans are at this point.
- ix. Senator Hagen: My constituents and I both like this idea and I just have a question for Sophia, is director Bloomer hoping for the entirety of the to attend this event or is it just for a specific sub group?

- x. We are not requiring it from our members and it's designated to a specific sub group, everyone is welcome to come.
- xi. Senator Erdman: There have been one funds in the past we have had speakers in the past go the high school, there is a precedent for that, I just want that to be known.
- xii. Senator Koch: My guys and I are very much supportive of this as well. One thing I just wanted to point out, the thing that is appealing to this and the rest of my constituents, we really like that you guys took the initiative to pitch in your own money and we also like there is more than one group that has an interest in this. It shows you guys are looking at this quite well.
- xiii. President Kiessling: Since there is no one else on the speakers list, we will move onto the Roll Call Vote

1. Roll Call Vote

- a. Ranes – Yes
- b. Messerschmidt – Yes
- c. Carballo – Yes
- d. Murphy-Gunnels – Yes
- e. Hernandez – Yes
- f. Lindsey – Yes
- g. Haen – Yes
- h. McNeil – Yes
- i. Ramage – Yes
- j. Oliver – Yes
- k. Hagen – Yes
- l. Riebe – Yes
- m. Koch – Yes
- n. Orth – Yes
- o. Miller – Yes
- p. Trelka – Yes
- q. Keller- Yes
- r. M. Kiessling – Yes
- s. Erdman – Yes
- t. Van Der Leest – No
- u. Fritsch – No
- v. Soich – Yes
- w. Muench – Yes

2. Passes 21:2:0

b. Judiciary Board Approvals

- i. Tonight we are asking for the approval of the five adjudicators as well as the approval of our Sergeant at Arms.
- ii. Senator Erdman: Move to approve.
  - 1. Senator Van Der Leest: Move to second the motion.
- iii. Senator Ranes: I move to make this a Roll Call Vote.
  - 1. Senator Van Der Leest: Move to second the motion.
  - 2. Fails 3:18:1
- iv. Passes 23:0:0

VI. Announcements

- a. Senator Ranes: As most of you have probably noticed out in front of the bookstore and at lunch in the evening, the Mr. Ripon group is doing change wars. You can donate some change and you can donate it towards different classes. Whatever class raises the most will be announced the night of the event, we are also looking at doing a point incentive toward members of the contest who are members of the class who wins but we are not a hundred percent sure on that because of some logistical issues.

VII. Open Forum

- a. Laura: I'm here tonight representing 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Tri. I know it is really hard for senators to represent their constituents when constituents don't email you and don't get in contact with you. I know it's hard and difficult. Maybe there is a better way for you to get in contact with your constituents and think about different ideas about doing that. With that being said, I brought it upon myself to gauge my floor, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Tri, which I am a constituent of, on the whole controversial Karl Rove issue, and I decided to have people sign a piece of paper that they voted "no" for Karl Rove. I ended up getting 22 signatures out of about 36 constituents, who voted "no" for that, and I recollected them to say they did know what they voted for and then I also collected 8 other signatures that said they didn't have time to contact me to sign "no" for it. They are respectfully asking our senator, Senator Haen, to resign because she is not representing us, as a floor. And we also want all senators to know in general that your job is to represent your constituents, it's not to vote on how other senators want you to vote, it's not about how you want to vote, and it's definitely not to vote on party lines. So just keep that in mind each time you vote and thank you.
- b. Senator Riebe: There has been a lot going around about student senate, I know that twice from this meeting Senator Koch here, our esteemed colleague, has stated how proud he is of the work we are doing here. I just have to echo his sentiments; I think we have all been doing a great job here this semester, in discussing the issues here and voting on them. And obviously now there is an issue

come up in a number of cases from where I understand where there are constituents who are angered at some of the jobs some of us here on the senate are doing. But I would just like to say that regardless, and I trust Allie that you have been sending out emails and I know you have because my sister is one of your constituents and someone doesn't want to respond to an email, that's fine but let's not go and attack them and say they should resign because their constituents aren't voicing their opinions before the senate meeting. You know I am reminded when a bunch of angry people decided they wanted to go walk around the capital building after a certain governor decided to pass some reforms. Then they had a recall election and he won again. There are all these people up in arms and you know it seemed like a bad thing and everyone was against it but where were any of these people before any of this happened? It's one thing to go after the fact and say, hey I don't like this, but if you have an opportunity to make your voice heard and you don't use, than how are you supposed to expect your senator to follow that? We have senators on this floor who are following what their constituents are saying, at the time of the meeting, and to go and expect people to resign, based on how they feel after the fact, quite frankly is ridiculous and I don't think we should be supporting that what so ever. Allie you have done a great job as a senator, as everyone else on this floor regardless of how you voted. I don't think anyone in this senate should be ashamed of how they acted this year, or should be ashamed of how they voted. And to suggest otherwise would be completely false. So congratulations to you guys for being awesome on the student senate this year, don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

- c. President Kiessling: The Executive Board takes everyone's opinion very seriously here and we would like to meet with you, Allie, and Laura personally to discuss this issue in-depth and come to some sort of agreement, because we want constituents to be happy and we want the senators to feel they are being valued, so before this gets out of hand, just know we will address this to both ends.
- d. Senator Ermdman: I just wanted to remind everyone, you may all think we are doing a really great job and a majority of the people in this room do exactly what their constituents want but obviously something is wrong if we consistently have people coming in here saying we are not doing our job. I have sat in here for three years, I have never seen people be this unhappy with what's going on. Obviously we are not all doing our job, so everyone that is, great. For those of you who don't know what's going on, have a meeting, figure out some other way, because a lot of people just delete emails. Come up with something. Honey Zaw used to do a facebook page, she would put everything on facebook and they would like it. How many of you spend all of your time on facebook? Come up with ways to be creative, this is our money, not just the 24 of us, the entire student body. We need to do what they want to do, not what the 24 of us thinks is important.
- e. Treasurer Kaounas: I guess the appropriate question to ask Allie would be why did you vote otherwise to what your constituents asked you?
- f. Senator Haen: Well I got emails telling me that Karl Rove, this one fund, is important to certain constituents. I only got one email explaining why it was a bad idea and I thought that if people cared enough about the one fund, it's such a big one fund and they could tell me about and not just sign a piece of paper.
- g. Treasurer Kaounas: Were you presented with the piece of paper before the meeting Allie?
- h. Senator Haen: Yes.
- i. Senator Koch: Look guys, I am getting really tired of sitting in here every week and being criticized of not doing my job. I am doing my job just fine. You walk down, my constituents are one board with this, if you feel the need to ask them, then by all means I guarantee you that they will tell you I am doing my job. I am not representing myself, I am representing them. And as for what is going on right here, it shows an incredibly poor character to call a senator out because of a vote. It's my understanding she had the interest of this college at heart, as did we all. Again, I am going to say, this is at least week three or four, the Karl Rove vote was a tremendous investment for this college. It is going to be good. It's going to happen in February now, I think that is when the date is set, you got to have a little faith in this, this is going to be a huge victory and a huge success for this college. You notice the people coming in and complaining are the same minority over and over and over again. This is a matter of a few people who didn't get their way, started a facebook page and got upset. You're not always gonna win everything. You win some and you lose some, and you got to understand this now. I am tired of people coming in here and telling me I am not doing my job, I will challenge them every single time because that is not true, we are doing our job. I encourage everybody, go back share with anybody you know who is so adamantly against this even though it is passed now twice, tell them that it is over, you win some and you lose some.
- j. Senator McNeil: I just wanted to say with all due respect to all parties here that I think there is a time and place for everything and I don't think the time and place to call out individual senators on the way they vote and ask for a resignation during a senate meeting. I think it is somewhat disrespectful and to a certain degree it sort of ruins the tone we have here, I think we all respect one another and think we all recognize we have the privilege to be here. I think we have earned that privilege. So I just want to point out to anyone else who feels the need to call out individual senators in the future, I just don't think this is the time and place to do that. I want to echo the sentiments of my Hall Director, I think if you were go around to constituents and just offer one possibility of do you not support this, you are going to get a much more negative reaction if you just up and down ask them, which I understand Senator Haen already did. Her feedback was, as she suggested, I think she has no wrong view in her case and I think it would be ridiculous to ask her to resign.
- k. Senator Miller: I would just like to point out that the level of knowledge that senators are able to put out before the meeting and then you know it's just basic, it's just what they have on their little sheet

here. So then that is why you have the meeting so you can ask questions, get more information from the people presenting. So maybe that new information will change minds and the people who are concerned about the price of a speaker might be happy knowing Karl Rove got booked for 10,000 dollars and not 15,000 dollars.

- l. Senator Ranes: First, I would like to remind people that we are here as a group and when people are addressing us they are addressing us as a group, they are not addressing us individually. Second, I would also like to point out that some claims need proof to back them up. Finally I would like to note that this is my first time at this table and the reasoning that I am here is due to the resignation of former Senator Hopewell. He wrote a letter to the editor that also served as a letter of resignation, that is on page 9 of the College Days. And if you are looking to hear an opinion that talks about at least why some people on campus are unsure if senate actually represents them. If you would like to hear an opinion on it, I suggest reading that. Personally I think some of the things in the letter might be claims that need proof to them, at the same time, it is something that is enlightening to read, coming from the mouth of a senator, not a constituent, and the views that are expressed are something we need to versed in before we continue discussing whether or not we are properly representing our constituents, how we can properly do it and things of that nature. Because this is the view of somebody who was a senator who still thinks the system does not work.
- m. Senator Hagen: I think the idea of going around to your individual constituents and talking to them in person is a great thing and just if a commuter student randomly came up to me with a list of signatures about something or another, I would kind of question it's validity and whether or not they signed it just because I myself wasn't there to witness, I wasn't the one getting signatures. I think that should at least be taken into consideration.
- n. Laura: Can I just mention again, I didn't say it in my speech right away but I did give the signatures at 2:30pm, so she had about 4 hours to go around and ask people about the vote with the other signature. I understand that is a huge point but as a member of the faculty of Ripon College, as a Resident Assistant, I would hope my word would be taken somewhat seriously and that I am somewhat of a valid person to collect signatures.
- o. Kyle: I am really happy you guys are having this conversation. I don't want to beat a dead horse as the former senator said but I want to echo what Senator Erdman said, I sat in this chamber for four years, I started as a senator, I was the Vice-President, I was the Treasurer, I've seen a lot things happen in this chamber and Senator Erdman is correct, there hasn't been this amount of questions from constituents and I don't want to be political, it is a political issue and I respect Senator Riebe and Koch for acknowledging, most of you argue in your jobs and I thank you for that and most of your constituents know you are doing your jobs. But there are some senators who are being questioned and there is a reason for that, thank you Senator Ranes and Erdman for realizing that but Matt it's not a personal attack on you, it's just a general idea. When I was a freshmen I know the year before there was a very negative connotation about student senate. And some of us worked very hard to switch that to make it positive. And for the most part I know the past couple years, and I know some of you are younger and don't know, it's changed and Dean Ogle can attest to that. It's generally been more positive over the years. This is kind of turned into a big fight and be careful what you say and keep your personal views out of it, and do what you were voted to do please.
- p. Tyler: I just wanted to say, this isn't a personal thing but I think Laura, her being here and saying that, and I know it kind of sucks to get called out like that, but I think for people who call her disrespectful, I think that is very rude because being a constituent, she is voicing her concerns and I think they are all concerns that need to be addressed. Obviously she is a constituent and it's her senator's job to hear these issues and I think for people to call her disrespectful for doing it here, I mean obviously same issues, there is a time and a place for it. I think if you want to call her disrespectful maybe do it when it is not on the record, thank you.
- q. Laura: I was also directed to Student Senate versus Hall Council by Misty and Molly Gruetner because there is nothing in the constitution of removing a senator or how to handle this. I don't know if formality is a thing so I am taking it as it comes and trying to voice my opinion of our constituents and of people I live with and seem to do what's fit.
- r. Senator Haen: You live two doors away from me, I don't see why you couldn't just stop by and ask me about it.
- s. Senator Riebe: Four hours isn't a lot of time and I don't know what Allie's schedule is like but I know if someone handed me something four hours prior to a senate meeting, I would not have time to vet the list properly or anything like that. And at the same time we are talking about what is appropriate behavior at a senate meeting. It may be calling someone rude or something like that is disrespectful but I would argue swearing in an open senate meeting is worse.
- t. President Kiessling: We talk about respect here a lot at Senate. I know I bring it up a lot every week and I know other people have been bringing it up and I think we just need to remember that our personal emotions and things don't need to come to play at the student senate floor. I think our discussion was headed way out of hand and I think that people realize that, yes, this is still senate, we need to be respectful. I think our conversations at the end were much more respectful, so let's keep them like that.

#### VIII. Adjournment

- a. Senator Erdman: Move to adjourn.
  - i. Senator Van Der Leest: Move to second the motion.

#### IX. 7:14pm

