

Ripon College Student Senate Agenda for September 26, 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
 - a. Heavy Metal Society Constitutional Revision
- V. New Business
 - a. Parallax One Fund (#2)
 - b. CRU One Fund
 - c. Ripon College Independents One Fund
 - d. Ripon College Libertarians Intent to Organize
 - e. Ripon College Democrats One Fund
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Open Forum
- VIII. Adjournment

Ripon College Student Senate Minutes for September 19, 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	Diakishaye 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 Murphy-Gunnels: Move to second the motion.
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Secretary Allen: Can everybody who is speaking in the back please talk a little louder and sign in please.
 - b. Treasurer Kaounas: The one-fund stands at \$72,021.56. Budgets should be 100% accessibly by Friday.
 - c. Vice President Davidson: No report.
 - d. President Kiessling: There have been a lot of questions on how to access the minutes on the portal, you have to add the Student Senate as one of your groups, anyone can join, and then you can click on the upcoming meeting to view the one-funds. Otherwise on the main portal page we have all the agendas and those are always posted Sunday afternoon.
 - e. Dean Ogle: I would remind the senators the same thing we talked about during the orientation and as a reminder to returning senators of the importance of doing your best to make yourself known to your constituents and making yourself available to your constituents if in fact they want to give you input on upcoming agenda items. The quality of Senate and the decisions that are made here since it is a completely student run organization is in fact dependent on the degree to which you do that. Generally, in most years, that brings into question the quality of senate. It really makes a difference and I encourage all of you to do that.
 - f. What's Up With Your Group?
 - i. SSA: This semester we are going to be bringing in the co-presidents of the freedom from religion foundation in late October to speak on campus. They are coming for free of charge. We are also looking to coordinate with a few of the other groups on campus.
 - ii. Table Top Games Club: We have been having a massive turnout every weekend and we are have been organizing lots of events between ourselves with the Magic the Gathering card game and we are also going to be going to the Chimera Hobby Games shop in Fon du Lac.
 - iii. SMAC: We have had about six events so far, with pretty good attendance. We meet every Thursdays at the commons. Otherwise things have been going well.
 - iv. The Network: Next week is the LGBT history month and basically we will have an alumni come and speak for us and we will also have Professor Smith speak and hopefully Professor Hudson as well. We will hopefully be hosting the movie MILK and we will also be having other activities.
 - g. One Fund Talk Back
 - i. SMAC: We did Springfest last April and it went pretty well despite pretty poor conditions. We still had about 3 to 4 hundred people show up, so it went pretty well and we wanted to thank Student Senate for giving us the money.
 - ii. Orientation Committee: We got some funds from you guys for brining comedy sportz on during welcome week. Thank you guys, we had a pretty good turnout.
 - h. Student Activities Report
 - i. Secretary Allen: Transportation sign-up deadline for Fall Break is October 3rd. IM Flag Football and Softball are in the middle of their seasons. Dodge ball competition on 9/19 in Storzer at 9pm. We encourage participation in homecoming and inauguration events next week. Watch for more information via email. Please like the Student Activities Office on Facebook – facebook.com/ripsonsao – there is great information on events and there will be contests and other fun stuff coming soon! The Student Activities Office is looking for Building Manager – the application is available on the campus job board on the portal.
 - i. Miscellaneous Committees
 - i. Faculty Committee: The meeting was held on September 11th, it was the first time the meeting was held during the golden hour. There is a slight financial situation in the near term. 250 full time students were expected and only 215 actually made it one campus,

which kind of put a damper on projections. Currently a quote from the meeting is that the college has a revenue problem, not an expense problem, so there is going to be some things the college is going to be looking for to gain more revenue. There is currently a budget short fall and they are expecting two more years of short falls and President Messitte said he doesn't asperity mode. Even though we are having short falls we are going to be keeping all the faculty and all the expected hires. The biggest take away I took from the meeting is that the endowment now stands at 64 million and it stood at 38 million in 2008, and also the faculty talked about a lot of new things coming up.

1. Dean Ogle: One thing I'll throw out just so you understand, the first meeting of the year I explained how the college funds itself on an annual basis which is the budget Mike is talking about. 75% comes from student revenues, so if the budget is built on 250 new students and there are 215, you recognize there is going to be gap. The other thing that is important to not is that a school like us is really fortunate to have alums and other that have built that endowment to the level that is has. It is also the case that sometimes gifts come in, so as that has happened over the recent years, what the college has done is put some of that money into a reserve account. So you have your regular budget money, your reserve account, and then you have that 64 million dollar endowment, so looking forward the way to pay the bills is to tap into the reserve account which is thankfully there. It's not like we are going to get to the end of September and not have money to pay the bills, that's not the case, it is just that you have to account for the budget you built the previous year that now has a gap there. Which can reversed one year from now with the upcoming first year class.

IV. New Business

- a. Heavy Metal Society Constitutional Revision
 - i. I have printed out new copies for the senate. For the most part the reason we are making these changes is because we would like to broaden our horizons. Two of the founding members have now graduated and the third member has left the group, and those three people were very heavy in to heavy metal. There are still some of us who like heavy metal but a lot of us would prefer the focus to be less on heavy metal and more on the appreciation of music in general. That's is why we would like to change our name to the music appreciation society and that's why our goals are being changed as well. I am willing to take any questions you may have.
 - ii. Senator Erdman: Move to approve.
 1. Senator Murphy-Gunnels: Move to second the motion.
 - iii. Senator Erdman: Move to amend the heavy metal constitution al revisions to what was handed to us.
 1. Senator Carballo: Move to second the motion.
 - iv. President Kiesslering: Is this accepted as friendly?
 - v. Yes.
 - vi. President Kiesslering: We are now going to start discussion on this amended constitution.
 - vii. Senator Erdman: Move to approve.
 1. Senator Van Der Leest: Move to second the motion.
 - viii. Passes 23:0:0

V. Announcements

- a. IRC: International Relations club is going to be having its second meeting of the year. It's going to be at 12:15 in B12 and it is right across from SOA. We have some general business to go over and then we are going to be talking about the recent events of Libya and Egypt and what that looks like for the U.S moving forward.
- b. BSU: The Ripon College Black Student Union is having ice cream tonight in Johnson main lounge if you want some. It starts at 7 and goes until 8.
- c. Democrats: The Ripon College Democrats are planning to see Barack Obama speak this Saturday in Milwaukee, if you are interested just email me!
- d. Dean Ogle: There are new tables and new chairs that are still supposed to be coming for the dining hall. The first order came last Friday but the whole area will have the new chairs and there is going to be booths that are also on order and all the new tables. We are hopeful this will occur prior to the inauguration.
- e. Equestrian Team: The Equestrian Team is holding a practice squad this year and so you don't need any horse experience if you would like to learn how to ride a horse. I believe the cost is 10 dollars a week and the club pays for half of your lesson and then you pay for the other half. If you are interested email Ricky Nogle.

VI. Open Forum

- a. Paul Meuer: I'm actually here to talk about senator responsibilities because I was one out of quite a few people that didn't see any notification last week about certain things going on in senate. Quite honestly this hasn't been the first time it has happened. Constituents knowing what is going on in Senate is the responsibility of the senator to let their constituents know on what they are going to be voting on. It is your duty to represent our voice. I am not blaming an individual, I am blaming how this group functions as a whole, because this has been going on for a while. Basically I am here to make a suggestion on how we can improve communication. First let's outline senator responsibilities. Can someone tell me what the responsibility of a senator is?

- i. Treasurer Kaounas: Tell them what is on New Business!
- b. Paul Meuer: So last week, why wasn't this done?
- c. President Kiessling: Paul, do you have any suggestions for the Student Senate because this isn't a class.
- d. Paul Meuer: I know, I am just educating you on your job.
- e. President Kiessling: You are definitely making your point but let's move onto the suggestions.
- f. Paul Meuer: Ok, a suggestion. A simple way to inform your constituents is email. Email them and let them know what's up, right? It's one thing to say it, but are you actually going to do it? There needs to be some sort of way to regulate and to make sure that responsibility is being upheld, so send a carbon copy of an authority figure on senate, let them know you are doing your job. I think we need to make a change in how the process has gone, so that people are more responsible. So I don't know what the motions are but I think some of you might suggest to put that in the constitution.
- g. President Kiessling: I think that might be better handled by the Hall Council and the SAHDs. They are a division of the Senate and they are the ones responsible for electing and giving us the senators, so I think they should hold their senator accountable.
- h. Paul Meuer: I want to see something implemented, having a carbon copy sent to maybe you, to make sure senator are withholding their duty.
- i. President Kiessling: I certainly think that is something that you can implement on the Hall Council level. I think that would be kind of pushing the boundaries of the student senate itself. I think it is a little too controlling of the Student Senate to implement that on all the senators, because there are certain senators that reach their constituents in different ways.
- j. Paul Meuer: So I talk to them, then what happens?
- k. President Kiessling: I believe Hall Council have their own operating rules and how they run, you would have to talk to them about that.
- l. Senator Erdman: Typically the SAHD is in charge of Hall Council for the area and the SAHD will either hold the meeting or you can elect a president. When I was on TAJ Hall Council we had our own president that had nothing to do with Senate. That is a really great time to have face time with your senator, that way you can talk to each individual, SAHD, or president and they can be the ones that hold the senator accountable.
- m. Paul Meuer: Personally I think that something needs to change in the process and I don't know if that is necessarily the responsibility for people that don't get this information. I think it should be implemented here, now, so for the future this doesn't happen again.
- n. President Kiessling: If you would like, you are certainly able to submit a constitutional amendment and they are due Wednesdays at 6pm and they would go on as a regular business item.
- o. Paul Meuer: Ok, are there any questions?
- p. Senator Hopewell: I do think that even if someone does have a carbon copy, like if you received a carbon copy and you went ok, Senator Hopewell emailed his constituents, if it's something I am involved with and all my constituents say no, don't vote for that, I don't know if there is some accountability. You can do roll call votes and that has some authority in senate. If you do implement the email and the roll call vote, I think it is kind of counteractive. You can't have one without the other.
- q. Paul Meuer: So can a roll call be called at any time?
- r. Senator Hopewell: For each issue you would just call a roll call vote.
- s. Paul Meuer: Is that something that can happen more often?
- t. President Kiessling: If it's brought up by the senators.
- u. Senator Erdman: I think you also have to take into account each senator represents 40 to 50 students depending on where they are living. So if you get 5 responses back and a majority is vote that may not be popular among the people, that is where a lot of the issue comes in. Sometimes people don't take the step to be active before it happens, they aren't proactive enough.
- v. Eric Smith: For me it was frustrating to find out about something that seems so monumental of a vote afterwards. I do second what Paul was saying, if there were senators that didn't even know who their constituents were, it seems a little bit funny to me that the vote happened at all. If maybe the word hasn't gotten out about something, it would be appropriate to postpone the vote for the next meeting. Secondly I think we can all recognize apathy can be a disease on Ripon Campus. I think that in fairness you have to recognize when something is a little bit of a bigger deal. I know I sent an email to Dean Ogle and I would wonder if it would make sense possibly when we are voting on something that is above a certain amount of money, would it make sense to allot it a little bit more time? Give people a chance to sleep on it and a chance to talk to their senator about it. So we have a chance to not be apathetic. Maybe another thing would be we could wait during the first meeting and not vote on something like this. I think that a lot of what happened surrounding last week is kind of blown up into people pointing fingers and saying that this is a political issue. To me it is about how thing went down and not getting a chance to say anything.
- w. Treasurer Kaounas: I appreciate you guys coming here. I appreciate the group you guys made and I understand that a bunch of senators are probably feeling upset because they feel targeted but I want everybody to understand that this is truly a beautiful thing! My biggest recommendation to Eric and all of you guys that are here is that you guys have the power to tell your senator this. I like that you guys discussed a couple of different options here, recognize the power you guys have. You guys really have the ability to talk to your senators. I know that some of us weren't aware that some of the senators did not know who their constituents were up until the point of when we had a vote, and things happen. To a certain degree you guys can't necessarily blame the people who are sitting around this table because there were circumstances that they did not see. I also want the senators to

understand that it is very respectable for members of your own student body to have the confidence to come up here and tell you what is going on, I think that is really important and I urge you guys to respect that.

- x. Senator Koch: Thank you guys for coming in tonight and voicing your opinion, however, I want to remind everybody this is a good thing and now if anyone has been following the stuff that has been written on these facebook pages about that, I got to tell you I'm not pointing fingers at anybody but don't write some of those things. Writing those things doesn't help the cause, I assure you, it doesn't help your cause out, it makes you look bad. So don't do that and I am going to ask you guys to keep it civil on there too.
- y. Eric Smith: People took that word protest and freaked out. Facebook like everything else is an outlet for free speech and people wrote stuff on there that was totally irrelevant and out of line, and I apologize for that. We will keep that in mind for sure.
- z. Dean Ogle: I did want to follow up on one point you made, it really mirrors something I was concerned about years ago, and we did it this year. I always worry about the beginning of the year because there is such a turnover in this group and it takes people a while to understand it and to get connected. In senate years ago the senate would actually meet the first full week of classes and we have actually pushed that a week later for the reasons you were actually advocating. Mostly to allow more time for the procedural stuff and that is something we can look at in the future. It sometimes though rubs up against if a group has something immediate that they need to deal with and they need to wait 3-4 weeks in the semester. So I think it is always something that can be considered looking forward because there is some risk on going too fast on some stuff. The other thing I wanted to remind senators of is kind of a teaching moment procedurally, if a one-fund is presented you can be in favor of it but you want to change it, you can raise your hand and say, I amend the motion to "x" amount of dollar or wording. That is some of the control you have as senators, so you don't always have to sit there think I am completely in agreement with this or I completely disagree with this, there are some maneuverabilitys. No that is all subject to the rest of the senator whether they agree with it and then votes are taken. As you look to the future, that is a procedural thing you can do, adjusting upward or downward. Then there is the second and discussion on it. Then the discussion leads to a vote on that amendment whether it passes or not, then you move on from there.
- aa. Paul Meuer: I was little intense but I just wanted to hit the point because things like this have reoccurred repeatedly over the years and my main message is to increase communication and get more people involved because apathy is a huge problem on campus.
- bb. Adam Meyers: My first semester hear my senator would always email every time something came up. He didn't really get that much response but I would always take the time to respond to every item and I think it is really important to give the students a chance to do that. Now everyone can't come to this meeting and that is the reason why I think senate exists.
- cc. Kyle Ruedinger: I don't want people to feel targeted, I think today's lesson from the students was communication. I was a senator for a year, I know a lot of students don't care but what Paul said, at least make the attempt. I think the biggest problem from last week was that there was over \$30,000 worth of one-funds up for grabs but a lot of students didn't know about it. I don't know why the vote happened when some of you didn't know who your constituents were and I also don't know why a roll call vote didn't happen for things that are large amounts of money. This has been a great conversation and I am glad you guys had it.
- dd. Ben Ranes: Every issue of the College Days, except the first issue of the year, has the Student Senate Rewind where anybody who picks up the College Days can see what was talked about in Student Senate, what the votes were and anything else. We also like to try to add to that if you have the time you can come up to the Student Senate chambers and sit in on the meetings and I think now that I will see if we can also a reminder that everything that goes up for vote on senate is also on the portal and people can check that in advance as well. That is just a reminder for people that you can see what had gone on without going to the portal and it is also a reminder for people that they can come here as well. It is written and edited by two people who come to every senate meeting. It's a great mostly unbiased resource.
- ee. President Kiessling: Again you guys, a lot of great points came up tonight, we had a really good Open Forum discussion. I would like to remind everyone to contact your constituents and with that I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

VII. Adjournment

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

VIII. 7:12p.m.