



Ithaca College Student Governance Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, 12/4/2023| 7:00 P.M. in Campus Center Taughannock Falls Room

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Roll Call: Carli McConnell, Rishabh Sen, Quinn Tufino, Noah Strathman, Caleb Cackowski, Olivia Jones, Molly Hankinson, Asata Rothblatt, Ava Casell-Lapetina, Eva Horst, Utkarsh Maini, Lili Chalfant, Joslyn Forcione, Nikki Sutera, Baneet Pukhrambam, Noah Kamens, Kathi Hodel, Cameron Small.

Approval of the Minutes: Baneet makes a motion to approve last week's minutes (11-27-23), Eva seconds the motion, motion passes 12-0-0.

New Business

- **Community Session**
- **Guest Speaker**
 - Luca Maurer is the Executive Director for Student Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and teaches in the Sociology department.

Structure of Students Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging:

- 2nd floor of Job
- Excited about doing this work at IC because it is not new.
- Excited about the college as an institution envisioning this work strategically for the first time.
- Standing on the shoulders of people who have been doing this for years.
- In the past it was behind the scenes but now we are doing this because of the structure.

Recent Accomplishments and Projects:

- Setting up the new space
- Campus Climate Study
- Book Reading and Talk had a great turnout.
- Making Land acknowledgment meaningful
- Filling the third position in the office. Soon, we will be fully staffed!

Questions:

Nikki: Last spring, we had Grace here talking about a program. I am wondering if this is still happening.

Luca: Grace did amazing she is still here and still wonderful. She worked fast therefore the two-year fellowship was done in one. We are now in search although to fill this position and continue the work.

Rishabh: I had a question about the Campus Climate Survey. Was the data different then last year with the students who took it?

Luca: We know that it is less then last year. It is in double digits. But we do not know all the information yet. I do know more faculty and staff took this than students. Last time we did this survey there was a lot of intense driven discontent. We thought that last time was a strange lip. A lot was happening at the same time at that point. We are hoping this test helps us set strategies in the center for the future.

Lili: I wanted to know what you have learned from all your committees.

Luca: That's a great question. On many committees that I am on we are looking at goals and tangible outcomes. We assess and measure to make sure we are completing our goals. There are somewhere things that is more concrete than others. One of the reasons the biased outcome team exists is actually due to previous climate surveys. I am in the coaching role on this committee. We do not investigate which some students get upset with but we will supply resources and support. Sometimes in committees, we set goals for a year and then make sure it follows through. An example is if you saw we are putting religious holidays on the school calendar. Each of us on the committees brings to the table different experiences and backgrounds. It is a strategic and coordinated effort.

Noah: Thank you so much for being so passionate. You have made so many students feel that much safer. My question regards to the religious and spiritual life role have you found anyone yet?

Luca: We have been searching. We will have a nationwide search. I am right now the behind-the-scenes role. If you have any questions you can come to me. That role is coming very soon.

Nikki: You have talked about strategies. Is the goal a five-year plan?

Luca: I am glad you asked that. I like it when things work in steps. This institution when things happen that all of the ism's the school functions exactly the way it was designed. I do not mean individual people. However, left on auto-pilot institutions such as IC were built this way. Yes, to a five-year plan. We are trying to give voice and address everything up to this point. Yes, there will be a plan but will it be 5 years one year one week? The needs of the institution's students are 110% with everything they are bringing up. These same things have been happening for years. It shouldn't be that students have to keep bringing these things up again and again. This will take effort and I want to do it strategically.

Carli: I was going to ask about other initiatives that the last climate survey tackled that we are seeing today.

Luca: Yes! As for equity and inclusion, there is constantly a change of group of people. There is not one way to make sure all students have the same baseline. There was not one overall universal way that new students joining our community would have a baseline. We added the DEI module before coming to campus. There is the online module and other events that take place during orientation. The climate survey told us that last time and now since then we want to make sure that students are completing these courses and doing these experiences. Those components have come into play this year showing the rate of completion and types of students likely or unlikely to complete it. As well as how we can support them in completing it. As you can see, I am very excited about this. I have worked all my life in collaborations using my power and privilege in order to better. Sometimes that work is not done in a straight line. Having an actual office will be able to track these things and make things apparent when things need more work.

Molly: I appreciate everything your office is doing. My question is are the resources for students confidential?

Luca: That is a great question. Anyone can walk in our office and welcome them to resources and support. If it is stuff in regard to sexual assault. It is a space where they can share anything and it will stay private if they want it to. There is someone with the role that they have to leave this confidential. There are confidential resources available and I can direct students to these people.

Rishabh: I wanted to ask about an article in the Ithacan. I wanted to know if your office as seen it and what actions are being put in place.

Luca: Yes, everyone has seen it and the thing I was struck by is that these things students are discussing are not new. Additional students are sharing experience too. This shows that the college despite the efforts still has work to do. We in 2018 and 2019 have been in this place where we are helping students with similar experiences, but we weren't doing it in the way we are now. Sometimes people on campus look at people with the name Equity and Inclusion as a flu shot. Bringing us in for talks which is super important but its only the first step. We want to prepare people to understand what does this mean at your position. Given that initial discussion what do you do moving forward, Higher education in general thinks the box is checked off after a talk. We want to move it to what can we do next. But again, I was deeply saddened and unfortunately not surprised in what people encountered. Things will stay the same. It takes effort.

Nikki: I have a point of information on some action that School in Music Theater and Dance is scheduling listening sessions. The communication part of it is being represented with an open conversation. This should be the start to creating change.

Lili: what goals are you looking forward to?

Luca: We are waiting for the climate survey to come back, and it will help us formulate a plan. The consultants looking at the surveys only do that. Therefore, they will be able to compare us to the other 700 colleges using this survey. We can see if we are behind and what we are doing right and wrong. I would not have stayed here the last 20 years if I didn't believe things weren't moving forward. It takes time. More coming soon and the consultants will be doing presentations anyone can attend.

Rishabh: If we want to get in touch, can we email you directly?

Luca: Yes! You can email me directly. You can catch me in the hallway, stop by. I am happy to chat with you. I really mean it you all are doing incredible service.

*Announcements

* Adriana's introduction (Chair of Social Justice and Sustainability)

5 Minute Break

- **Confirmations**
 - Senate Chair

Lili talks for two minutes**

Lili: Hi guys, I am Lili. I am 20 years old, and I have been the Park School Communication Senator for 2-3 Semesters. I am a RA, I graduated with a concentration in leadership. The main goal I want is for the campus to have a strong leadership team. I have some actions to complete it. Thank you.

5 Minute Q&A:

Noah: Did you want to talk about anything else since you ran out of time?

Lili: Yes, thank you definitely mental health focus and writing bills is most important. I want to emphasize our goals. Not mine because this isn't about me it's about the students and addressing those needs.

Rishabh: You talked about your involvement can you talk about initiatives you have seen?

Lili: Last year I was not involved but being on committees this year has been great. With learning the Constitution helps to plan what to move forward. Having vision is great but it doesn't lead to results. I want to create change.

Molly: Is there anything in The Constitution you would change?

Lili: I am satisfied with the changes made so far. Maybe clearing up language.

Joslyn: Is there anything you want to highlight in high school?

Lili: My senior year was during the pandemic, so it was really about making face. Leadership as a group collaborative effort. It is most important to get the voices heard. I got my previous school mental health day and got a mask worn properly.

Nikki talks for 2 minutes**

Nikki: Hi guys my name is Nikki Sutura. Some things I have done is creating new MTD Student Advisory Council, Creating a SGC for Music students, Planned implemented collaborations for pianist, I am the music director for IC voice stream where I am a voice for this group. I organized a huge concert with over 100 people in it, 1.5 years on SGC, and have had meetings with Eleanor.

5 Minute Q&A:

Noah: Can you expand upon the committees you have been on?

Nikki: Yes of course I've been apart of Campus Affairs and Academic Committee.

Rishabh: Could you expand a little more on the overlap of skills and experiences?

Nikki: The craziest thing I have done is the Styles concert. I have sent mass emails, organized the performers, and met with multiple parts of the team. I was able to create a fantastic product.

Caleb: Can you expand on the committees you have started?

Nikki: The School of Music Theater and Dance is my favorite. My big project last year was to create a council that represented all of the different districts of both schools so that everyone is completely covered. We discuss larger issues and are working on a uniform body and performance to bring the school together. The center for music there is now people elected.

Executive session begins: 8:18 PM

Executive session end: 8:37 PM

- **Miscellaneous**

Continuing Business

- Miscellaneous
- Senator Reports: Kathi, Asata

Asata: The most exciting thing I have is that we met last week with our next steps on where we are going to take this. I feel very good about the people I am working with.

Kathi: I have been working with the hygiene products bill. I want it to be good. I will finish over break.

Officer Reports

- President of the Student Body
 - I met with President Cornish last week, and we didn't have a lot of updates to talk about. I may have a meeting with her next week as well as with the climate

action meeting. For the BIPOC Center it was announced that there is a national search for this role. Marsha is available for anything regarding that.

- Vice President of Campus Affairs
 - I had a meeting in which I discussed the searches for the roles in Religious and Spiritual life and the BIPOC Center. I sent an email to Park about the Pilot Program and working on training students. Thank you to everybody in the Campus Affairs Committee. Lastly, Adriana is now in the Chair role and I will meet with her once a month.
- Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - Last week we had the first meeting for the Accessibility initiatives, so I am excited about that. I will also be meeting with the Provost.
- Vice President of Business & Finance
 - There are 20 budgets for Wednesday.
- Vice President of Communications
 - Last week I met with Eleanor to make a handbook for new Senators. It should be a great way to make things clear. Also, I will email Luca for if they want me to make an infographic and share on our account.
- Vice President of Residential Affairs
- Senate Chair
- Chief of Staff

Open Agenda:

Noah K: I learned today that Ithaca College was the first college to have three Lead Certified buildings on campus.

Quinn: Does anyone have questions for the Provost?

Nikki: Maybe ask about the December graduation rate?

Carli: Changes in the curriculum for transfer students?

Asata: Maybe discussing our Accessibility Act?

Joslyn: Will we keep our Senator spots for next semester?

Carli: Start thinking about if you want to stay in your position. You can stay in your position until end of the spring semester. And re-run if you want to continue in the fall.

Ava: Say I want to change my position, is that possible for next semester?

Carli: We can talk about that after the meeting.

Joslyn: Have you talked to Rishabh about the Accessibility Committee?

Carli: I am tomorrow!

Rishabh: I would love to extend my services for help with next year and transition material. How are you all feeling as Senators in this meeting? Thumbs up Thumbs down Thumbs sideways.

Nikki motions to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment: 9:01 PM