



Ithaca College Student Governance Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, 10/30/2023| 7:00 P.M. in Campus Center Taughannock Falls Room

Call to Order: 7:02

Roll Call: Carli McConnell, Rishabh Sen, Quinn Tufino, Noah Strathmann, Caleb Cackowski, Ty Anderson, Olivia Jones, Molly Hankinson, Muhammad Arshad, Ava Casell-Lapetina, Eva Horst, Nikki Sutura, Baneet Purkhrambam, Noah Kamen, Kathi Hodel. Sarah Boniche (arrived halfway)

Approval of the Minutes: Kathi makes a motion to approve the minutes from last week 10-23-23, Eva seconds the motion, motion passes 7-0-0.

New Business

· **Community Session**

In attendance: Caleb Cackowski assistant- Paris Agiomavritis.

· **Guest Speaker**

- Melanie Stein: Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Summer Academic Onboarding:

- Why we did it:
Recommendation from the Center for Student Success and Retention team to support student success.
Summer and Orientation 2022- Negative, stressful.
Summer 2023 goal: Eliminate stress and complaints experienced in 2022; set up for academic success.
- How we did it:
Academic Interest Survey required of all students.
Consistent plan for messaging and follow-ups with students
Active collaboration across schools in planning and implementing every step of the process.
“All the students are all our students.”

- How did it go:
85% of students submitted an Academic Interest Survey.
Process: Ability to respond to schedule irregularities
Significant reduction in stress and anxiety from students and caregivers.
Ithaca Seminars: 25% of students made specific section requests; honor 75% of them.
87% of students stayed in ICSM that was registered to them.
- Lessons Learned:
Learned information about tweaking the survey.
Need to communicate with internal stakeholders.
Resources for add/drop in Homer and navigate Homer in general.

Questions:

Molly: What questions were asked in the survey? Were they all academic-based? Or based on scheduled times.

Melanie: I am not sure about that. I can certainly bring that forward. Often we can try but to be real I don't think many people want 8 am so we can't leave those classes without anyone in them.

Caleb: Have you been working with the department chair on the "How-to's"

Melanie: This happens with both the departments and college-wide support and programming.

Ty: This question regards Spring registration. How is this going to go? I know it can be overwhelming with only three days of orientation for transfer students.

Melanie: There has been talk on this. Doing better with transfer students. This process is a little bit different than the fall semester. It's a challenging and different problem. But we are working on this too.

Rishabh: I have gotten feedback from my residents. Largely happy about major classes but have voiced concerns about the autonomy of the schedules. Could it be changed to a recommendation to the students?

Melanie: This is the way we think about it. This is our suggestion if you are happy, you keep it. If you want to change it here is how you change it. We are not trying to take away autonomy. For these students, I say why didn't you change the class? Maybe we can change what we call it. Maybe mentally first years do not want to change it.

Eleanor: What has your office seen in regard to this process? Now that people are here on campus looking at registration for next semester, are there any changes?

Melanie: No big changes, it's hard because we cannot do a controlled study. I was looking at midterms in comparison to this year and last year. There wasn't much of a

difference. We are trying to look at data points to see if these students are doing better. My office mostly has just gotten feedback from dean's office and the students.

Nikki: I wanted to piggyback off of Rishabh. I think one thing about first years losing autonomy is that the process of registration can be really stressful. I am a music major and have to fight for class. Therefore I love the recommended schedule idea. I appreciate it because it helps get used to registration without putting it all in at once.

Melanie: This is definitely something we have earned. We are now thinking about what is best for students and sessions that can guide them to help them change the recommended schedule. We now recognize that this would have been helpful.

Paris: Has there been additional stress for duo majors?

Melanie: I am not sure I haven't seen this case. I am not sure how it would be handled. I am sorry.

Molly: I think Homer Connect would be good to introduce to not only students but maybe even the parents. A zoom or something can be made in order for students and parents to learn this information. Also, I was wondering how these were made are there one and one or is this something just made to fit?

Melanie: In the past, there was one on-ones. Now there is not. It would cause a huge workforce in the summer. Ideally, we would love to do it. We just do not have the workforce to do this. That is why the survey was so important. We used it as guided questions.

Eva: I am a first year. I as first year thought it was set and stone and not recommended. So changing the name in Homer would be beneficial.

Carli: Creating a schedule was hard in my first year but I figured it out by looking at classes and figuring it out on my own outside of my major. I think a rundown on degree work and Homer would be very beneficial as a student.

Melanie: I think we do have modules and resources but I am not sure if they are somewhere parents can get to them or not.

Rishabh: I just had a quick suggestion. Could there be an extension to add a drop period for these first years?

Melanie: I think it goes both ways. There is a value to more time but for first-year students to come into a class several weeks late could be a burden for these students. There is a team looking at these timelines now. Something that is being looked at is a unique or different circumstance for the first years.

Nikki: I was curious about what you and the rest of the Presidential Cabinet are planning for future of IC success?

Melanie: The building of the Center for Student Success has been a big project. They are now in the tunnel. It was very purposeful making it easy to be found. Staffing has increased severalfold. There has been a challenge with the tutoring because of some transitions but the new person is there now and much better staffed than last year. The dream is to have enough staffing so that every student has a student success coach. It's a long-term goal of helping students.

Ty: Do you know what percentage those are?

Melanie: 83.something percent of students are still here from first years to graduation. We want it to be up to 90%. We feel we lose students for the wrong reason. We want to raise that up.

Ty: I am taking high level classes in my degree. We don't have tutors or TA. Is there any help there that is happening?

Melanie: It is hard to know without the details. But when those advanced classes are taken Junior and Senior. Sometimes it is hard to find people who are still here who have taken this course. What class is it?

Ty: Calculus Three.

Melanie: Wow! We should be able to find some tutors for this course. Maybe faculty aren't having tons of people asking about this course. I will investigate.

Ava: I am in the Exploring the Option class. There are YouTube videos out there. But they do need updating because they are 5 or 6 years from the past. I think updating will help.

Caleb: Point of information the video itself is not filmed very well to which makes it less accessible.

Paris: Is there specific schools struggling with high-stress rate more than another?

Melanie: No I think most of the programs at least music and theater have a rigid curriculum being pre-registered to the bulk of their classes. They are the ones we weren't seeing stress. We are hearing it more from non-needed classes unrelated to the majors. It wasn't an accident that we started it on the Exploratory. There was no guidance for these individuals. We tended to see stress where there were choices. We wanted to get rid of the anxiety to have students have something they could work off of.

Quinn: I had a question about feedback from the first years. Is there a way to get feedback from advisors and RA one-on-ones as well?

Melanie: Yes, there has been talk. All of it has been filtering up.

Molly: There are bullet lists for some majors recommending courses. Are these available for all majors? I know there is one for mine specifically.

Melanie: Many majors do this but definitely not all of them do it. There has been a lot of talk about advising. Conversation about collaborations for better advising tools for faculty. We are looking to build every faculty member an advising site. How to be better at sharing the necessary materials.

Five Minute break

- **Confirmations**
- **Miscellaneous**

-Important Information for all SGC members:

- Attendance reminders.
- Guest Speaker reminders.
- General Reminders.

-SGC Meeting Scenarios presented by Rishabh.

Continuing Business

- Senator Reports:
Nikki- I had my meeting with Dean Hogan. We mainly talked about the newly instated Student Government within the school. We have been talking about ideas we will be working with with that group. I have been working with the Campus Affair Committee on the student initiative. We have been talking about different programs within the business school. Besides that, I am planning on running for Senate Chair next semester.

Officer Reports

- President of the Student Body
 - **Carli:** I do not have a ton this week. To reiterate what Rishabh said this week if there is something you as Senators want to learn more about just reach out. The campus climate survey is also still out so please fill that out. Thank you.
- Vice President of Campus Affairs
 - **Rishabh:** I have an assistant and it is Eva! We will be working together on some very exciting things. Programming some events and future plans for SGC. Also, start to think about next year because people graduate and positions open. Also, fill out the survey like Carli said. There is so many prizes for the survey. The student Mentor pilot program in Park school is being discussed as well. If you want to be involved we meet Wednesday at five. Thank you.
- Vice President of Academic Affairs

- **Quinn:** Hi, I had my second meeting with the Provost in which we talked about what she was presenting in this meeting. I have spoken to her about tutoring as well as resources for students who speak English as their second language.
- Vice President of Business & Finance
 - **Carli:** In need of more members for the Appropriation Committee.
- Vice President of Communications
 - **Caleb:** I met with Carli and am working on recommendations for CORTACA this weekend. I also have an assistant Paris! I am focusing on some content and posting about the Climate survey as well.
- Vice President of Residential Affairs
 - **Ty:** I have spoken to the BIPOC Center about getting messages before finals. I also was going through survey data about their least favorite things about residential life and facilities. The main issue is that they are understaffed.
- Senate Chair
 - **Eleanor:** Senator One-on-ones will be next week. There are sign-ups sent out in a link last night. I will start sending out individual emails if not everyone signs up. If you have questions about anything regarding the Constitution or anything we talked about in the reminders please email me or come talk to me at the end of the meeting.
- Chief of Staff
 - **Olivia:** Email me your photos for the website.

Open Agenda

-Molly: There is a Professor in Park School who has been sick and they haven't had an in-person class yet. A lot of the complaints that have been gotten is that seniors did not sign up for this asynchronous class.

Caleb: What class is this?

Molly: She emailed about being out for the first two weeks. She canceled again after the two weeks were out.

Paris: Maybe they can try to test out professors. Doing a switch to help.

Rishabh: I would say maybe reach out to the department chair and let them know your concerns. Within SGC you reach out to Lili who is the Park Senator or even reach out to Quinn who is the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Molly: Thank you guys.

-Rishabh: We have been running these little helpful PowerPoint for Senators. I have two questions. How is it going? Has this helped at all? What else can we be doing? Thumbs up or thumbs down.

Noah K: I came in at the last meeting last year. It was kind of scary. I think seeing that meeting and then seeing the points you all hit. I think you all have been great at discussing what is going on.

Rishabh: How would you feel about chatting with people who have been here for longer?

Noah K: I think this is definitely helpful when writing bills. I enjoyed my one-on-one with Eleanor. I think onboarding has been good and has been helpful. Whether it is in the meeting or not I think both is helpful

Molly: I think you guys have done a very good job. Now we just have to take it and know what to do next on it. I think the training has been really good. Now we got to go out and do it. Which is scary.

Ava: For me, it's been well. I just want to know what I do from here. This is what I am stuck with.

Rishabh: Personally, I have had those moments. Some type of outreach is important. Talking to them about this could be important. Doing take over for IC is also important. If your friend is complaining about it I am sure others are too.

Eleanor: Yes chances are you can pass it off to an E-board member and we know what to do.

Ty: I've figured out the best way to do this is to think about your peers. I think about what people want in these halls and I just bring it to the table. I ask them how they feel and talk about it to those of higher power.

Noah K: Is there any pathway between people in the role and people who used to be in the role. Is there an available contact list?

Rishabh: We don't normally have that due to the fact that a lot of them are Alumni. For E board members we have transition materials. Would this be helpful for Senators?

-Carli: What would you like me to talk to the President Cornish about?

Molly: Facilities. I have a hole in my ceiling.

Ava: We have a ladybug issue and the bathrooms are gross.

Confirmation of Paris on Appropriation Committee

-Paris: My name is Paris. I am a dual major. I've done financial budgets. I go to the Dean and get feedback etc. I have done producing for some projects and take into account budgeting.

Questions:

Carli: Appropriations does a lot with organizations, and we manage a quarter of a million dollars. Do have experiences surrounding this at all?

Paris: I have some experience with recording and writing down information regarding clubs.

Nikki: Are you available on Wednesdays at 7PM?

Paris: Yes.

Nikki motions to enter executive session, Baneet seconds the motion, motion passes 7-0-0.

Nikki motions to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting, motion passes 7-0-0.

Adjournment: 9:05 PM