



Ithaca College Student Governance Council
Senate Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 28th, 2022 | 7:00 P.M. in Campus Center Taughannock Falls Room

Call to Order: 7:01

Roll Call: Max Powers, James Zampetti, Austin Ruffino, Lila Weiser, Kalena Yearwood, Grace Madeya, Nick Viggiani, Noah Richardson, Tessa Kurtz, Harley Grossman, Himadri Seth, Lauren Hitesman, Mary Holland-Bavis, Lorien (Ithacan), Leila (Ithacan), Angelica Carrington (guest speaker)

Approval of the Minutes (3/21): Tessa motions to approve, Nick seconds, motion passes 6-0-0

New Business

- **Community Session**
- **Guest Speaker:** Angélica Carrington (Center for IDEAS)
 - Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change
 - Created in 2018 by Professor Eversley Bradwell
 - Mission is to empower marginalize students through culturally validating spaces, educational opportunities, and expanding the global perspective of IC students
 - Value education, empowerment, and engagement
 - IC Voices: highlighting student activists
 - Peer educator program: peer to peer workshops on various topics.
 - IDEAS lounge on third floor of campus center open for all students
 - African Latino Society on first floor of West Tower
 - The IDEAS hour: peer educators navigating social justice
 - Ithaca Achievement Program: geared towards students of color and provides a community space, scholarship, educational opportunities.
 - Coffee with the Director: opportunity for students to meet with Director Carrington one on one
 - Question from Austin: Are there resources your office provides that are underutilized?
 - Answer: There's a form on Engage where people can request to collaborate with the Center. Very interested in and willing to work with student organizations
 - Question from Lila: In what ways can SGC best support your office?

- Answer: Spreading awareness about the office. Many students are not aware that Director Carrington is not a mandatory Reporter, so students can share bias incidents, etc. with her. If students are feeling not connected to campus, the Center is another good resource.
 - Question from Himadri: Some professors don't understand the international student experience. How can we support professors in this?
 - Answer: IDEAS works with other offices on campus that work more directly with professors and curriculum
 - Will bring up with the office to discuss a workshop on this topic.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Spring 2022 Elections
 - Engage forms open April 4th, will be open until April 15th
 - Every seat opens in Spring elections for the next academic year
 - Tuesday April 12th in the SAC is an information session
 - Student Feedback Survey Results Discussion

Continuing Business

- **Senator Reports**
 - Tessa Kurtz
 - HSHP Deans Student Council meeting
 - Gender neutral bathroom bill has been sent to Luca and he has sent feedback, meeting with sponsors of that bill later this week
 - Social Justice and Sustainability Committee working on set of accessibility bills
 - Working on finding time to meet with CAPS director
 - Vincent Tavernese
- **Miscellaneous**
 - SGC Schedule & Bills
 - 4 meetings left for the current Senate, so if you have bills please send them to Austin

New Business (8:00 PM)

- **Guest Speaker: Bonnie Prunty (Dean of Students)**
 - Oversee residence life and student conduct, case management, New Student and Transition Programs, Counseling Health and Wellness
 - Work with student emergency relief fund, JED initiative
 - Housing changes taking effect in Fall:
 - New senior and graduate student housing initiative in response to vacancies on campus and feedback from students that living on campus is cost prohibitive. Also, COVID specific, some students who may have taken a year off, etc. don't have a housing cohort. Also provides flexibility for students who may not be on campus the entire academic year.
 - Eastman Hall will be all singles (around 60 rooms) and low-cost. \$9990 for the year (fall and spring) which includes housing, meals,

and bonus bucks. Students can live here for a block or a semester as well as a full year.

- Hoping to have students work together to provide feedback for this pilot program
- Full for next year and have around 20 students on the waiting list
- Emerson Hall will also be available for housing next year. Usually sophomore and junior housing
 - Boothroyd and Terrace 13 will be used for COVID response
- Two new residential learning communities
 - Open Pages: transgender and non-binary RLC in West Tower. Seems to have high engagement so far
 - Health and Wellness RLC in Rowland for students committed to health and well-being.
- Sophomore housing selection will continue to go out in Spring.
- Reduced the number of double bedrooms in Circle majority (converting 5 person apartments to 4 person). Based on student feedback
- Will also continue to eliminate 3 person apartments per student feedback
- Question from Noah: Based on constituent feedback, there seems to be a need for an RLC specifically geared towards students of color.
 - Answer: Eileen Harrington Roth is the person in the Residential Life Office who works with RLC. The office has noticed RLCs are much more successful if the community comes from within the student want, so if a student group brought this idea to her it could be possible.
- Question from Kalena: Will Eastman be improved at all before the senior and graduate housing? Also, there are concerns about how sanitary Emerson will be by next fall. Lastly, given the traumatic experiences some students had in isolation, knowing the hall was deeply cleaned may be helpful.
 - No plans to update Eastman.
 - Every residence hall is deeply cleaned every summer, but Dean Prunty will talk to facilities and see if extra precautionary measures can be taken.
 - We do know that COVID is not transmissible via surfaces, but it does make sense that students would feel better knowing the cleaning level.
- Question from James: Since there is a waitlist for Eastman, is there discussion over opening a second location?
 - Over the summer, students will inevitably decide not to return to campus, so we don't want to risk opening a second location that would then have many vacancies.
 - There is potential for expansion in future years.
- Health and Wellness initiatives ongoing on campus:
 - In the Fall semester, record number of students using iCare system (Case management system). Worried about timely outreach, so hired an additional case manager (there are now three people).
 - JED campus initiative: foundation surrounding suicide prevention on college campuses/promoting positive mental health. Four year process including surveying students and benchmarking results to find places where the institution is not adequately focused.

- Healthy Minds Survey and self-assessment showed that Ithaca College had a few of these gap areas.
 - For example, we don't have an easily accessible hub of information regarding health and wellness,
 - No centralized hub of information regarding leave of absences,
 - no on campus recovery RLC.
 - IC lacking a drug collection process (i.e., for prescriptions in students dorms that they may not be using anymore).
 - Tuition insurance program in case you have to take a leave you will get some tuition return
 - Break away closet rods
 - Reevaluating after hours emergency response so the Office of Public Safety isn't the first response
 - Action steps: Instituting a mental health week the week before exams
 - Piloting a drug drop off program on April 29th
 - Students may enroll in the tuition insurance program hopefully starting next year
 - Sanvello app: health and wellness app specifically focused on stress management, reducing depression and anxiety
 - Available to all students and faculty. If you use your Ithaca College email address, automatically gain access to advanced version.
 - Around 5% engagement currently
 - American College Health Association Survey: participate in this every year, provides insight into student wellness, mental health, and substance abuse on campus
 - Wellness Leadership Council contains faculty, staff, and students. Purpose is to better coordinate a health and wellness model for the campus. Would love more student representatives on this council, reach out to Dean Prunty if interested.
- Question from Kalena: Have the steps we've put in place so far resulted in decreased suicide attempts/ideations rates on campus?
 - Answer: Not sure about exact numbers, but new initiative for next year is to survey any student who comes into CAPS or Hammond regarding a mental health check-in.
- Question from Tessa: Students don't always know what resources we have; how can we best communicate the resources we have?
 - Answer: The information is in orientation and on magnets on residence hall doors, as well as on the website. Let's Talk program information gets shared via posters and Intercom. The centralized hub will also hopefully help get information out. If you have any ideas for how to make this information more accessible, reach out to Dean Prunty.
- Question from Abby (guest): There's a pre-health student organization on campus which may have students interested in joining these efforts. Is the substance drop-off planning to be a recurring event?

- Answer: there's a process to go through to get a drug drop-off box. The area has to be supervised with surveillance cameras but the long term plan is to keep it permanent if this event is successful.
- Question from Abby: Has there been discussions around making medical trainings sponsored within this school?
 - The college is not certified but is looking at this training in the future.
- Question from James: With regards to breakaway rods in closets, is there any discussion over the exposed pipes in dorm rooms?
 - Answer: Those pipes are for sprinklers and enclosing them would create a maintenance issue, so the solution goes beyond just breakaway rods.
- Cortaca 2022:
 - Conversations around sponsoring a weekend excursion in New York City surrounding Cortaca.
 - Surveying students to see if this is something students want, so SGC should help promote this.
- Question from Kalena: Have you explored the safety concerns of this?
 - Answer: Haven't gotten that far.
- Question from Himadri: Would this be a possibility outside of Cortaca (since the game itself takes a big chunk of time students would have in the city)?
 - Answer: Yes, and it's under consideration.

Officer Reports

- Vice President of Campus Affairs
- Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Vice President of Business & Finance
 - \$56,641 left in account
 - Fall funding still open
- Vice President of Communications
 - Communications Committee meeting tomorrow
 - Regarding health badges, haven't heard anything from Samm Swarts yet
 - Social Justice and Sustainability Committee looking at accessibility bills
 - Meeting with Ben Stroud from Eco-Reps to collaborate on Ithaca College Green New Deal
- Senate Chair
- Chief of Staff
- Student Trustee
- Residence Hall Association Designee

Open Agenda

- From Mary: Jump-Start has expanded to 14 programs and is looking for Jump-Start leaders
- ORC discussion over "vote of no confidence." Bring your thoughts to the next meeting or message on Teams.
 - When voting, there is currently the option to vote "no confidence," and if that has more votes than the candidate, that candidate is not elected. ORC

is having discussions over getting rid of this, with potential replacement options being making questions not required, etc.

- James: is there a way to modify the option? Because we should have a way for students to express no confidence in candidates.
- Grace: When there's only one candidate, there should still be an option for voters. An option is instead of being able to skip questions, each candidate can have a one sentence space on the ballot to explain their platform
- Kalena: Many students don't do the research or pay close attention to elections but having the vote of no confidence does hinder candidates. Could we provide the vote of no confidence option just for Executive Board voting?
- Austin: We will come back to this discussion next week

Adjournment: Noah motions to adjourn (8:58)