

Kensselaer Union
Executive Board

Attendance

9/20/17

Date

- Matthew Rand, President of the Union
- Rasika Ekhalikar, Vice President of the Union
- CJ Markum, Graduate Rep
- Erica Lane, Class of 2018 Rep
- David Raab, Class of 2019 Rep
- Anissa Choiniere, Class of 2020 Rep
- Andrew Waltzer, Class of 2021 Rep
- Ida Etemadi, Club/ICA Rep
- Kay Sun, Club/ICA Rep
- Ciera Williams, Club/ICA Rep
- Majken Rasumssen, Club/ICA Rep
- Ananya Murali, Club/ICA Rep
- Brookelyn Parslow, Club/ICA Rep
- Caitlin Kennedy, Member at Large
- Caroline Ringel, Member at Large
- Jared Segal, Member at Large
- Brian Mansaku, Member at Large
- Christopher Maria, Member at Large
- Matthew Heimlich, UC Rep
- Ezra Teboul, GC Rep
- Joe Venusto, Senate E-Board Liaison
- Ryan Delaney, Club Financial Advisor
- Deepika Senthilnathan, Club Financial Advisor
- Cohen Davis, Club Financial Advisor

[Handwritten signatures for each name listed on the left, written on horizontal lines.]

E-Board Meeting Minutes

09/28/2017

Title IX Training

Larry Hardy, SPHR:

We will discuss reporting, resources, the general policies

Rensselaer is expected to eliminate harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct, address its effects, and prevent its occurrence

The policy prohibits sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette, JD (Human Resources Specialist):

We love to ask and hear question

What is harassment?

Caitlin:

Repeated and unwanted contact or attention

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

What is an example?

Chris:

Trying to contact someone when they don't want to

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Any examples of sexual harassment?

Ciera:

It could be as simple as repeated sexual comments that could create a hostile environment

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

If I walk into Larry's office and I say "You look good today", have I sexually harassed him?

I probably made him feel uncomfortable, but does it create a hostile environment?

Larry could report that or just say that the comment was inappropriate

However, if I do it multiple times a day and it becomes pervasive

What only has to happen once in order to fit Title IX?

Caitlin:

If there is threat or coercion, it is immediately inappropriate

Brookelyn:

Doing this in a public setting could make you feel like you aren't welcome in the public space or humiliate them

Kay:

The message could be extremely sexually explicit

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

What about naked photos?

These could constitute as sexual harassment and is severe

We are seeing it much more these days, especially including the spreading of these naked photos

Very severe includes any sexual contact without consent

What is the classic answer?

Ciera:

Rape is the immediate answer but sexual contact also covers other forms of contact

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Our policy is broader and covers more than criminal law, but under our policy, all of this is sexual assault

The next form is intimate partner violence

Andrew:

This could include physical or emotional violence

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

What is an intimate relationship?

Ciera:

It includes people who have a social or emotional bond

Larry Hardy:

If people go out and have fun and do not touch at all, does that constitute a relationship? Where is the line between friendship and intimate relationship?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

This is a grey area because there may be a level of heightened emotional intimacy

What if we don't spend time together at all? What if we just have sex twice a month? Would this be an intimate relationship?

Policy includes any relationship that has any form of heightened emotional intimacy or any form of sexual contact

Ciera:

Where would you draw the line with familial relationship?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

There is domestic and dating violence

Domestic violence does not have to only mean sexual partners; it can also include familial relationships

What is emotional abuse?

Kay:

When the partners devalue each other

Larry Hardy:

What if I confess my love to Elizabeth and become upset and threaten harm to myself after being declined?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

This would be manipulative and emotionally stressful

Brookelyn:

Is revenge porn covered?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Of course

Sharing of nude photos or videos is covered under the student sexual misconduct policy

What is stalking?

David:

When you follow someone around campus

Ciera:

Obsessive behavior on someone's whereabouts

Kay:

Obsessively keeping up with people over social media

Larry Hardy:

What if I am friends with someone and we have the same class schedule?

Would this be considered stalking?

Jared:

The details matter, but if he simply has to be at the same place then he has a reason

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

What if we have the same classes, but he always sits very close to me and stares at me eat my food?

At this point we probably need new details

He could just be very socially awkward

It all depends on the intent

Larry Hardy:

What if I ask and you don't respond and I keep insisting and sending messages and then wait outside of your class for you to get out

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

This would be reasonable to have me fear for my safety to an extent

Any questions?

Kay:

You said the intent matters, but in sexual misconduct, the feeling of the person being harassed matters the most, so how do you deal with that?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

The intent part is for the stalking, but does not really apply for the other types of sexual misconduct

What do they all have in common?

Matt Rand:

A lack of consent

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

What is consent?

Kay:

An explicit yes

Caitlin:

There does not have to be an explicit yes to everything such as friendship

Andrew:

It is an agreement between people to keep the next actions on the same page

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Who has read the sexual misconduct policy?

It is 36 pages long and it is very important to read it for yourself

The definition of affirmative consent is very long but these are the important pieces

Silence or lack of resistance is not consent, words or actions that create clear permission, must be a knowing voluntary, and mutual decision

Kay:

It can be verbally asked

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Can actions constitute consent?

Larry Hardy:

What if I invite someone over to my room and they take their clothes off?
What have they consented to?

Ciera:

All she has consented to is you seeing her with her clothes off

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Has she consented to any sexual activity?

No, she has not

Action can be used as a form of consent, but it is an unclear area

Please use your words

This policy on obtaining affirmative consent

Consents: positive, clear, voluntary, unambiguous, requires a clear yes (verbal or otherwise), consent to one act doesn't imply consent to other acts, consent may be revoked at any time, consent may not be obtained by threat or coercion, may not be obtained by someone who is incapacitated

Brookelyn:

How do you handle consent between two people who are incapacitated?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

It depends on the level of intoxication and who initiated among other details, and it is often difficult to come to a conclusion

How to determine if someone is clearly incapacitated?

Larry Hardy:

Visible signs of loss of neurological function

Kay:

If there are signs, the best choice is to not go forward

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

What if the opposite party cannot see the signs or the signs are not very visible

Incapacitation: physical or mental inability to make informed rational judgments

Caitlin:

Could you still be held responsible if you did not know the other person was incapacitated?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

The policy looks to see if it should have been reasonably known that someone is incapacitated or if they showed signs of being incapacitated

Ciera:

Regarding established relationships, how is that handled for individuals in a long term consenting relationship if they go to a party and come back together

Larry Hardy:

At schools, we are not seeing strangers dragging each other into alleys

We are seeing cases where parties already know each other and it does include people who are already together

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Other things to know:

Amnesty – no individual participating in the complaint or investigation process will be subject to conduct charges based on their admission of drug or alcohol use

Use of alcohol or drugs is never a defense

A person's sexual activity with individuals other than the other party will not be considered

Emotional Support – complainants and respondents are entitled to bring a confidential advisor and/or emotional support person with them to all meetings, interviews, and other proceedings

Ciera:

Where does the line get drawn in using drugs as a defense if both parties are intoxicated?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

It's very complicated and is decided on a case by case basis

All students get to decide whether they want to participate in the investigation and we try to keep as few people in the loop as possible to maintain privacy

If I am investigating an allegation where there were thirty other people, I am not going to contact thirty people

We are going to contact as few people as possible to protect privacy

Interim Measures and Accommodations can be made to assist whether they participate or not

Caitlin:

What if they are in the same courses?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

If it's a large class, they will use different doors and do things in different places, or they can switch classes, or do independent study

Informal resolutions are available in cases that do not involve sexual assault or physical violence such as moving residence hall or no contact orders

Can anyone tell me what bystander intervention is?

Matt Rand:

See something, say something

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

What if someone is trying to walk away with someone who is visibly incapacitated?

Kay:

You can interrupt the situation or talk to the friends they showed up to the party with

Usually there is a sober host who will step in

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

At a bar there is always the bartender or the bouncer

Non-confidential reporting - Title IX liaisons, "responsible employees", Public Safety, External Law Enforcement

Confidential Reporting - the student health center and counseling center, office of religious affairs, Rensselaer county sexual assault 24/7 hotline (external)

Caitlin:

Is there a timeline or time limit for reporting these things?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

As long as one of the members of the case is still a student, we still have jurisdiction

John Caicedo:

What if someone is accused off campus?

Larry Hardy:

They can be prohibited from campus or if they are an alumnus, they can be banned from alumni events

We can work with law enforcement to place a restraining order

We can also place a complaint and work together with other college institutions

Since Feb 1, 2015 - May 31, 2017 19/33 assault cases involved alcohol

57% of cases involved policy violations

What do you do when you hit a yellow light? Speed up?

We could have a disagreement between who is at fault, but we know one thing and that is that the people in the vehicles will get hurt

Do not put yourselves in risky situations and help out your friends too

We would much rather discuss policy with you than have you participate in the investigation process

Ciera:

When you call public safety and ask for a counselor, do they ask for your name and RIN?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

Yes, they do, but all they know is that you are requesting a counselor

They will not know what you are calling about

Dean Apgar:

Public Safety does create a report when directed to them, they will create a report for the Title IX Coordinators

Caitlin:

If the student says they don't want to report anything, can they choose to not take action?

Elizabeth Brown-Goyette:

They will be given all of their options, rights, and resources, to make sure their wellbeing is taken care of first

Kay:

Are there any directions or instructions on what to do immediately after a sexual assault or harassment case?

Elizabeth:

There is a section on evidence collection on the website as well as the student sexual misconduct policy

Forensic exams can be obtained for free from Samaritan hospital and they are entirely confidential for 24 hours a day

The Poly Proposal

Majken:

They are asking for a formal request through us to CIO in order to sell ads through the website

Sidney Kochman:

This is just to let us know about our funds before printing

Kay:

What if you received left over money from ads for that week?

Sid:

This money would just go into the rest of our ad funds and would help us save for conferences and events

Chris:

If you have been contacted by various advertisers already, what is the process?

Brookelyn:

There is usually already a running relationship between the local businesses and the poly ads

We would be a little pickier with online advertisements to make sure they still fit into the Poly's website and newspaper to maintain quality

Sidney Kochman:

We don't want to go to something generic like Google, we would prefer to build on the relationships we already have

CJ:

Down the road when you are not here, four or five years down the line, do you think the Poly staff will still have the expertise to continue something like this?

Sidney Kochman:

We have been working on documentation and I do not think that online ads will add too much to the duties of the Poly

Kay:

The Poly is not Union funded because you are self-funded, but if you have left over money already, why are we adding more?

I don't think this is consistent with the original intention of ad revenue

Sidney Kochman:

We use it for sending people to conferences and getting new equipment

Martha:

The Poly is not union funded and the money goes into Poly reserves

Ciera:

Can someone explain the policy in the first place?

Sidney Kochman:

RPI network resources cannot be used for profit, but we can apply for an exemption and this is the process they wanted us to go through

They said they would prefer for this to be a yearly request to go along with our budgeting

Jared:

Is CIO a regulatory body?

Sidney Kochman:

Ads would not be passed through the CIO specifically before posting

Martha:

Someone will be paying attention to the website, but it won't be passed through a body before being posted

Caitlin:

Will the Poly have to come through the E-Board every year?

Majken:

Steve and Cameron have both expressed their support for this

CJ:

I am in favor of the idea, but I am worried about the precedent

What if the outdoor club deciding they want to put ads?

Matt Rand:

Every club can come and ask for that request, but it will always go through the CIO to see who has space for ads on their website

Ciera:

They already sell ads, so they should be able to put their print out ads on the online website as well

I check out the website but not the paper copy

It is not a new thing all together

Jared:

The precedent is not that big of a deal since it is not a union funded club

My initial concern was who is regulating the ads and avoiding clickbait

Kay:

When I was in the Poly, the members were all very committed

They will follow regulations and when they don't have enough money, they still put out a digital version to get the news out, so now they will be able to raise money from the website too

Majken:

This would primarily be to support the Poly to keep them from struggling on making ends meet

MOTION TO ALLOW THE POLY TO SELL ADS FOR THE WEBSITE PASSES 15-0-1

Budgeting Guideline

David:

How would we publicize these new guidelines?

Matt Rand:

I can send out the new budgeting guidelines

Rasika:

Last week we passed the new budgeting guidelines that including increased monetary funds, but they are being postponed so clubs don't come to us in masse asking for funds

MOTION TO POSTOPONE THE NEW RECEPTION FUND AND LODGING FUND UNTIL FY19 PASSES 17-0-0

Freshman Appointments

Matt Rand:

We have new appointed Freshman members

Andrew and Chris were appointed by the senate on Monday

Cohen:

I am from Delaware and I'm a computer and systems engineer

I did this kind of stuff at my small high school

I wanted to continue my work but on a larger scale

Andrew:

I'm from Danbury, Connecticut about three hours from Boston

I was president of the community service club and I went on a gap year through Europe before coming here

Ryan:

I am from Rochester, NY and I'm a physics major

I like snowboarding and eating

Chris:

I'm from Massachusetts and I'm about 72 miles away from Boston and I used to live in Portugal

I worked on my school's executive committee which is very similar to this

I worked in crowd control in Amherst for the Sanders Campaign and I'm also a computer science major

I also really like Thai food

MOTION TO APPROVE DAVID "COHEN" DAVIS TO THE E-BOARD PASSES 18-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE RYAN DELANEY TO THE E-BOARD PASSES 18-0-0

Matt Rand:

Deepika will be joining us as another non-voting club officer and she will hopefully join us next week to introduce herself

Director's Report

Dean Apgar:

There is no report

is wearing cool socks (ノ●ワ●)ノ*:° ✧

Senate Report

Matt Rand:

Joe is not here

John:

There was a presentation by VP Eastin and E-Board appointments

MAPS Committee

Ida:

MAP Committee will be meeting every other week and the new times will be announced on the website

We just finished designing the GM|PU Brunch or Breakfast invitations

Stemless wine glass will be given out at the Brunch or Breakfast

After the brunch, we will be working closely with Maria to go through due process to create a new Union logo

We are also looking at doing Instagram takeovers by students when exciting things are going on around campus

President's Report

Matt Rand:

We are still moving forward on hiring the new director of the Union

Vice President Eastin will come by next week to speak on the Capital Campaign

All of the student body is invited to the barbecue and the ice cream social

Nothing is required for you all to do specifically

Member Reports

David:

Please scan in with your ID

CJ:

Does the E-Board have any say in the chair of the hiring committee?

Matt Rand:

It was a joint appointment

Jared:

There is hockey game tomorrow night with free skate

Rasika:

This weekend has Troy Night Out and the admin office is selling tickets to Tape Face

Can committee heads fill out the WhenIsGood?

Motion for member of the week to go to Kay and Majken

KAY AND MAJKEN ARE MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

Matt Rand:

Tuesday at 5:00pm there will be a meeting with Outing Club where we will clear up all the issues

Kay:

Are club assignments changing with the new freshman?

Matt Rand:

The focus is to take the load off of the committee chairs

Erica:

Do we have a date for budgeting?

Martha:

I sent you the schedule a few weeks ago

The preliminaries are due November 17th

Matt Heimlich:

2019 had their ring unveiling recently and class of 2020 is having an apple picking event soon

Brookelyn:

The mid-autumn festival is tomorrow evening in the union and jazz is also performing tomorrow

Anissa:

Join policies committee please

Kay:

Rasika has a calendar that she can send out



Agenda
September 28st, 2017

1. Roll Call @ 8:00 PM
2. Welcome
3. Presentations
 - a. Title IX Training – 8:05 PM
 - b. *The Poly* Proposal – 9:00 PM
 - c. Freshman Appointments-9:20 PM
4. Reports:
 - a. Director's Report
 - b. Senate Report
 - c. President's Report
 - d. Committee of the Week- MAPS
 - e. Member Reports

Contingencies FY18 Beginning Balance \$32,500
Contingencies FY18 current balance \$31,167.00

Contingencies FY17 Beginning Balance \$32,500
Contingencies FY17 this week \$32,500

From Sid Kochman, Editor in Chief of *The Polytechnic*:

“*The Poly* would like to put ads on our website to help cover the costs of equipment and the paper edition. According to DotCIO, commercial benefit through the RPI network is prohibited, and given that our website is at poly.rpi.edu and our server is hosted on campus, we cannot currently do this. However, section 5.4 of the *Cyber Citizenship Policy* states:

‘Special exemptions may be granted for activities [for the benefit of a commercial third party] deemed aligned with Rensselaer’s interests. The Chief Information Officer has the authority to grant exemptions.’

John Fisher (director of information security) got back to me [Sid], saying that the way forward here is to have the Executive Board make a request to CIO John Kolb for an exemption on behalf of *The Poly*, which he believes will be granted.”

If this were to pass the Board, Majken Rasmussen, as the Executive Board Representative of *The Poly*, would be tasked with this formal request to CIO John Kolb.

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Motion # 1

Date: 9/28/17

I move that the Rensselaer Union Executive Board make a formal request
of CIO John Kolb to allow The Polytechnic to sell
ads for their website

So moved by:


Signature

Majken Rasmussen
Printed Name

Seconded by:

Anissa N. Choinière
Signature

Anissa N. Choinière
Printed Name

For Against Abstaining

15 - 0 - 2

Motion Passes/Fails

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Motion # 2

Date: 9/28/17

I move that the Rensselaer Union Executive Board postpone increasing
the reception fund and lodging fund as
described in the Union Club and Organization
Policies and Guidelines until FY 2019.

So moved by:

Anissa N. Choinière
Signature

Anissa N. Choinière
Printed Name

Seconded by:

Erica Alane
Signature

Erica Alane
Printed Name

For Against Abstaining

17 - 0 - 0

Motion: Passes/Fails

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Motion # 3

Date: 9/29/17

I move that the Rensselaer Union Executive Board approve the President of the Union's nomination of David "Cohen" Davis to the position of Club Financial Advisor.

So moved by:

Rosalee SIKM
Signature

Rasika Ekhalikar
Printed Name

Seconded by:

Matthew Heimlich
Signature

Matthew Heimlich
Printed Name

For Against Abstaining

18 - 0 - 0

Motion: Passes/Fails

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Motion # 4

Date: 9/28/17

I move that the Rensselaer Union Executive Board approve the President of the Union's nomination of Ryan Delaney to the position of Club Financial Advisor.

So moved by:


Signature

Rosita Ethadikar
Printed Name

Seconded by:


Signature

Erica A Lane
Printed Name

For Against Abstaining

18 - 0 - 0

Motion: Passes/Fails