

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Attendance

4/13/17

Date

Chip Kirchner, President of the Union

peasant ✓
(Miss you)
(Self)

Chip

Shannon Gillespie McComb, Vice President of the Union

Shannon Gillespie McComb

Amanda Youmans, Graduate Rep

Amanda Youmans

Conrad Moss, Class of 2017 Rep / MAP Chair

Conrad Moss

Erica Lane, Class of 2018 Rep

Erica Lane

Matthew Rand, Class of 2019 Rep / Policies Chair

Matthew Rand

Ananya Murali, Class of 2020 Rep

President of the Union
(Allegedly)
Tol

Ananya Murali

Ines Roman, Club/ICA Rep

Ines Roman

Stephanie Kern-Allely, Club/ICA Rep

Stephanie Kern-Allely

Kay Sun, Club/ICA Rep

Kay Sun

Luke Kuprenas, Club/ICA Rep

Luke Kuprenas

Rasika Ekhalikar, Club/ICA Rep / BusOps Chair

Rasika Ekhalikar

Ciera Williams, Club/ICA Rep

Ciera Williams

Chris Hoskins, Club/ICA Rep

Chris Hoskins

John Fantell, Member at Large

John Fantell

Anissa Choiniere, Member at Large

Anissa N. Choiniere

Caitlin Kennedy, Member at Large

Caitlin Kennedy

Majken Rasmussen, Member at Large

Secretary

Majken Rasmussen

Dan Rogers, UC Rep

Dan Rogers

Jen Church, GC Rep

Jen Church

Thomas Alappat, Senate E-Board Liason

Thomas Alappat

Jack Wellhofer, The Polytechnical

Jack Wellhofer

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Guests

Martha McElligott

Hua Uehara

CJ Markom

Anastasia Feraco

Bryan Johns

Rensselaer Union Executive Board Meeting Minutes April 13th, 2017

RPI TV Training Recommendation

Presented by Chip

- Sent out email to E-Board, recommended that the board review leadership issues with RPI TV, require leadership training and conflict recommendation, review exception for the club having 40% community members
- Prompted by email sent out from RPI TV. Included in letter from Chip
- Chip feels apology included unnecessary excuses and blame on a single student; has examples from RPI TV over the course of the year
- March 29-requested that “their” mugs be delivered to them prior to debates after being told that the mugs would be given out at voting by another staff member
- Mismanagement of debates; involved current membership failed for the debates
- Early Feb- leadership was misusing campus facilities, entering areas of Field House they were not allowed to enter, entered the playing area during hockey game without permission
- E-Board voted to open closet on Union third floor, RPI TV claimed closet as their own when it was not, were told to bring a request to the E-Board, but approached students/staff members as if they were already allowed to move in when they had not been granted permission
- Questions:
 - Why change number of community members?
 - Representative of the culture of the group; assumption that there is a link between community members. Just a recommendation to look into the exception
 - How did you end up with this task and how did you collect this information?
 - Been CC’d on or sent from other people in the Union, no formal process so did it at the end of his term
 - How many students?
 - Four students
 - Do you think this training will be effective given the change in leadership?
 - There’s more going on than just one person; spans multiple “generations” of leadership of RPI TV, there are other examples from other years
 - How long has this been happening?
 - Before Chip came into office
 - Have they done anything to resolve this on their own?
 - Does not know
 - Did they ever respond to this?
 - They understand the concern and they are looking to cooperate however the E-board needs them to
- Letter also says: The active president of RPI TV will be notified of the times when conversation will happen (not present)

Motion 1: RPI TV will need to attend leadership training

Wording/ language:

- Chip suggested they shouldn't be able to use their FY18 funds until they do this
- Word "all" will be tricky, maybe 2/3? Or All Executive TV
- Maybe "activity fee paying students"
- Cannot require community members to attend these, we can recommend that they attend
- "All" is a bit harsh, putting the burden on the Archer Center
- RPI Ambulance required officers/executive board and if anyone wants to run in future office they should go
- Restricting community membership-would that hinder the club?
- That will be in a different motion
- Chris (rep)-because of the way the club is structured, he feels that the incidents that are outlined could be done by anybody in the club, so everyone needs training
- This is not in response to a single student's actions, so does not need to be a J-Board case. Someone would have to submit a case saying specific students did this.
- Before we make a concrete decision, we should have a member in here to represent them
- Talk to TV First, but should motion to recommend that they go through this conflict resolution training
- Who will review RPI TV?
 - Make a motion to have someone spearhead a review of RPI TV's recommendation
- Does this need to be done this week? No?
- Important to be discussing it now, but should wait to form a committee, etc until after talking to RPI TV
- Important that this group of people make this decision because we went through this year

PU rules first motion of the night out of order

Rock Raiders Club Recommendation

- Engineering team that focuses on robotics in the shape of rovers
- Working on Engineering design, manufacturing, programming for students interested in that field
- First project team formed in 2015, unofficially recognized
- Gained interest, 20 members, but not officially recognized yet
- Questions:
 - When was the beginning? 2015
 - No known risks, so do you have a safety quiz allowed for machining?
 - Go through the already established quizzes
 - Would be nice to have a list of students for safety
 - School of Engineering would take majority of responsibility; lots of young members so make sure they receive the training, as well

- For some groups we encourage you to have an advisor
 - Glenn Sanders is their adult

Motion 2: Approve RPI Rock Raiders to be Union Affiliated Club

Wording and language?

Merits?

14-0-2

Motion passes!

Motion 3: begin review of RPI TV's operations and leadership and present recommendations if necessary. Lead by E-Board rep and PU

Wording?

Merits?

Conrad prefers to table this until after we get to talk to them, wants the full story

Point of motion is that we are going to look into it and talk to them further

Sends a clear message that we care about this and deserves action from the E-Board

A lot of the issues have been very publicized and gone beyond just the E-Board and taking this step is important

Chip's letter said they would be notified and they weren't, so feels bad passing this motion without talking to them

Needs to be more of a conversation instead of us "accusing them" and they are "defending themselves"

Think about the message others will receive

Motion 4: table Motion 3 for one week

Merits?

Go grab a rep right now?

The original motion falls in line with the letter from Chip

Wants discussion to happen with the group themselves. Doesn't want to hold a review of a group without their participation

Motion does not say why a review will be taking place

Has Matt had the chance to sit down with the president?

No, not yet

People can see the context of the motion within the minutes (hey that's these); tabling this gives the impression that we are just tabling this

No matter our intentions, others may see this motion how they choose so we should consider that

Cannot assume they will take it negatively; they said they are willing to work the the E-Board

This isn't positive news, so does not mind if they take it negatively

Motion 5: Call to question Motion 4

16-0-0 passes

5-10-1

Motion will not be tabled

Back to motion 3 discussion on merits:

- If the President knew this was happening, he would be here right now
- Pay attention to if this was the action of the entire club or one person...this was the actions of multiple individuals within the club; great questions, that's why we should be doing a review
- This motion is to open a discussion
- Queue is closed

12-1-3

Motion passes!

Phalanx Proposal-Chris Hoskins and CJ

- Prior to the event, original plan was to have RPI TV present, have the Alumni House do all of the sound and have an outside photographer
- RPI TV: decided to use outside vendor because the president had just resigned; he had expressed concern because three events were going on that day because he was unsure if there was enough equipment. Decided to set up a camera and have it unmanned, but then discussion made Phalanx unsure whether or not they had RPI TV booked close to the event. Decided to move on and have another group record it
- Sound: Week before the event, the sound system kicked during another event, Media Ops was unsure if they could fix it or change it and because the President, Cabinet, Members, Students, Faculty was going to be there, they asked Media Ops to do the sound but because of Accepted Students day they could not be present. Reached out to different company
- When budgeting for the event, was able to give out \$75k to faculty and to honor them. They are unable to touch that budget; somehow the funds for the photographer ended up in that account so could not pay for the photographer.
- Martha- the gift fund is the Darrin Fund Endowment, it is run out of the VP Student Life's Office. They started planning a year ago with separate budgets for the Tapping and for the Darrin. They thought they could pay for the photographer out of that account, but apparently could not be. Literally just found out
- Traditionally they ask that the student photographers, but because of the amounts of awards and anniversary of the event, they contracted an outside photographer.
- Not a closed event, anyone from Institute and community can attend.
- Questions?
 - Reason to hire Live Sound instead of UPAC Sound?
 - In general, go to Student groups first but this was the first time they needed Sound. Media Ops did not have the ability, Sound was also unavailable with Accepted Students day. This was upsetting because they prefer student participation
 - Tapping has been going on for over 100 years, historically had an endowment, but now the endowment is underwater so for every \$150, \$115 is taken away.

Normally would not go to the board for this, but things did not work out to that day; grasping to figure out how they are going to pay for this

- If we do give them money, they are not a funded club
- What was the plan when everything fell apart?
 - Reached out to Alumni House, went to Cameron to see if there was special event money, Martha is unsure of where to go from here
- If we don't fund this?
 - Pay out of Phalanx account and overspend it, would jeopardize next year's ceremony, trying to figure out a five year plan
- Phalanx needs updating, planning to try and make sure that this does not happen again, want to remedy this so it does not happen again
- Underwater means?
 - Donated money is invested but when the market crashes the fund loses value; this fund lost main original investment. When value of the endowment goes below the original sum, they take the money back
- Where do you get income from?
 - Inducted member pays (\$20 or \$30), active members pay \$5 to continue to become active members
 - Usually lose half the membership of inductees because many are seniors
 - Number for next year will be 12 or 13
- If we don't pay, how will you cover this cost?
 - No clue. President already supports the jackets cost
 - Plans to have a fundraising plan
- Would a plan for repayment of this from the Phalax society be an acceptable way to handle this?
 - It's a solution but you can't count on donations; every newsletter asks for donations and just are not getting them. If they get some Institute support things will be better. Does not want to hold them to a repayment if they cannot pay it back
- Did you know this would be conflicting with Accepted Students Day?
 - Planned last summer, so did not know this would be a conflict
- If motion comes before us, do the members of Phalanx and White Key have to leave?
 - In a perfect world, yes, but Shannon argues that newly inducted members are not part of it
 - Still a conflict of interest no matter how small
- Contingencies are very high right now, but Erica would like them to completely re-budget if we give them this money.
- Cannot hold them accountable because they are an Affiliated group
- What are some things that Phalanx does for the community besides the root beer?
 - We attempt to bring Alumni back, choose recipients of new awards, including ability to get scholarships through awards, support different organizations on campus, volunteer,

- EMPAC has reached out, assist with activities fair
- Anyone can write a motion!
- Conflict of interest for White key and Phalanx to vote: do we have quorum if they leave the room/don't vote?
- Understand what you are voting for and what the implications of your vote means; if someone finds a conflict of interest with this vote, it can be brought to the J-Board for a decision. Nothing concrete/concrete policy
- Robert's Rules of Order for Conflict of Interest: person should not vote, but he or she cannot be compelled to refrain from voting

Motion 6: RU E-board approve emergency funding to the Phalanx Honor Society of \$2,385

Wording or language?

Specify what fund: from contingencies

Merits?

They're an affiliated group, Union has not responsibility, Restricted membership, Inez does not feel the need to support it

Shannon-with the towels, tradition argument. The tapping ceremony has been growing, special culture of RPI. This is part of RPI Identity as much as towels. Alpha Phi Alpha received emergency funds for a similar situation.

Conrad-One of the traditions is open to everyone, the other is open to a select few, this does not fall under Union funding (too restrictive)

Luke-one is a tradition of a Union funded club and the other is a tradition of RPI as a whole and not necessarily under the Union

Ciera-this should be the responsibility of the University

Kay-if we have enough contingencies, we should not restrict, but also really torn because we shouldn't always make exceptions, but at the same time the E-Board should see the value of the Society to the Students on campus

Ciera-one suggestion would be to have this be repaid

Idea of loan fits the idea that we support them, but student activity fee shouldn't be going to Phalanx because they do restrict membership

Open event, anyone can participate, many students attended.

Motion 7: Call to question

Tommy-sounds like gross negligence, doesn't believe that the group deserves funds

Hoskins-recap of the discussion

Motion 6 Fails 0-8-4

Motion 8: Loan for the Phalanx Honor Society for the \$2,385.00 to be repaid to the Union by the beginning of FY 2020

-Ciera: Are you okay accepting this loan on the spot?

-CJ: Cannot comment, would like to bring it to the group to discuss. Remember, this was a special celebration, were expecting to have access to more funds than we did.

-Martha: Budget was built, would have been fine. These were emergency situations, student groups were not available. Not an option.

Reworded for Phalanx acceptance

-Luke:

- Erica:
- Caitlin
- Kay: Remember Players

Motion fails

0-10-2

Playhouse Reallocations

- Reallocate \$125 from repairs and costume cleaning into Fabric Organization, use to buy more boxes for costume storage
- Board is hearing this today because Matt did not approve on his own; the purpose of money is changing so brought before the board

Motion 9: reallocate \$75, \$35, \$12 within the budget

15-0-2

Motion passes

- Reallocating \$1000 to two different places
- Last year fly system broke, previous board gave \$1000 emergency to fund. So this money was not used to repair
- \$100 go to buying more tape for the playhouse
- \$900 go to buying general equipment: use it to replace outdated and old equipment and get stuff they are in dire need of e.g. printer, new first aid kits
- Questions:
 - Comments on the form?
 - Get some things done that were recommended to be done for the fly rigging system
 - What Joe thought hadn't been done-most of the things had already been done. Everything has been repaired that needed to be repaired
 - Club knows what they need best, no risk to doing this
 - Dan doesn't see this as fair to other clubs that had this same thing happen to them
 - Fun facts: purchasing deadline had already passed, so would need to give you the permission to purchase the printer
 - Remembering the \$1000 from contingencies because it was a matter of safety
 - They need these things eventually so why not now?
 - Should be encouraging these clubs to reallocate
 - Can we add the part about approving the printer?
 - Was this an error by the E-Board during budgeting?
 - Nope. Emergency-going to fix their fly rigging, was already budgeted during the five year plan

Motion 10: reallocate \$100 and \$900 within the Playhouse budget and approve their purchases

Wording or language?

Equipment purchases vs. General purchases; edited the motion to specify

Merits?

Make sure we have the timeline right on the historical thing

14-2-1

Motion passes!

- Players offered by HASS department to do a joint production of Our Town. Business Manager was in charge of the money; after the show was over, told RPI Players they could use the extra funds.
- Want to move the money over to funds for their Spring show; 100% convinced they will get audited for this. If anything happens it's HASS that will foot the bill
- Martha wants him to reallocate the exact amount
- Questions:
 - HASS transferred money directly into their accounts
 - Wanted to talk to everyone about it
 - Not enough information for the motion, will be coming back!
 - Avenue Q starts next weekend!

Reports:

Director's:

None

Senate:

- Appointed interim chairs for all the committees
- Established a policy review committee to look at how the senate operates and can be improved

President's:

- Now that transition is happening, please complete transition documents, upload transition documents while they are there
- If you are sticking around, please consider reapplying to the board
- One meeting left (ish)

Motion 11: Approve Rasika as VP of the Union

Do you want this? Yes

16-1-0

Motion passes!

Member:

- 29 page document so read and make opinions: Procedural Budgeting Guidelines
- ECAV After dark is next week!
- Rasika is no longer Bus Ops Chair
- Push applications onto your friends, encourage them to come to next Thursday's meeting
- If you worked with clubs, ask the treasurers if they want to be on the board!

Meeting adjourned



Agenda
April 13th, 2017

1. Roll Call @ 8:00 PM
2. Welcome
3. Presentations
 - a. RPI TV Training Recommendation– 8:05 PM
 - b. RPI Rock Raiders – 8:25 PM
 - c. Phalanx Proposal – 8:45 PM
 - d. RPI Playhouse Reallocations – 9:05 PM
4. Reports:
 - a. Director's Report
 - b. Senate Report
 - c. President's Report
 - d. Member Reports

Contingencies FY17 Beginning Balance \$32,500
Contingencies FY17 current balance \$18,278.65

Contingencies FY16 Beginning Balance \$27,528
Contingencies FY16 this week \$7,320.30

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Motion # 1

Date: 4/13/17

*begin review
recomm*

I move that the Rensselaer Union Executive Board require that all Activity Fee paying
RPI TV members ^{of RPI TV} undergo leadership and conflict
resolution training with the Archer Center for Student
Leadership. ~~to be~~ to be completed before ^{the start of} FY18 ^{SKA}
In addition, with conditions to be outlined upon
communication with RPI TV.

So moved by:

Stephanie Kern-Alley
Signature

Stephanie Kern-Alley
Printed Name

Seconded by:

Ines Roman
Signature

Ines Roman
Printed Name

For Against Abstaining

Motion: **Passes/Fails**

Ruled Out of Order

[Signature]

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Motion # 3

Date: 4/13/17

I move that the Rensselaer Union Executive Board begin a review of
RPI TV's operations to be reviewed presented to
the E-Board and leadership, and present
recommendations if necessary. The review will be led
by the President of the Union and RPI TV's E-Board
representative.

So moved by:

Stephanie Kern-Arley
Signature

Stephanie Kern-Arley
Printed Name

Seconded by:

[Signature]
Signature

Ciera Williams
Printed Name

For Against Abstaining

Motion: Passes/Fails

12-1-3



Rensselaer

Charles Kirchner
President, Rensselaer Union

April 6th, 2017

TO: Jason Lee, President of RPI TV

FROM: Charles Kirchner, President, Rensselaer Union

RE: Recommendation for Review of RPI TV

Due to the nature of communications with members of the Rensselaer Union that occurred on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 10:38 PM, in which RPI TV issued an apology for the mishandling of the GM Week primary debates, I am formally recommending to the Executive Board that all of RPI TV's members undergo leadership and conflict resolution training with the Archer Center for Student Leadership or similar prior to beginning club operations and usage of club accounts in Fiscal Year 2018. I am also recommending that the terms of RPI TV's exemption from Executive Board rules regarding high levels of community membership be evaluated and reaffirmed if necessary. If the Executive Board chooses to hear these reviews, the acting president of RPI TV will be notified of meeting times during which discussion will take place.

The excerpt of email correspondence from April 3 prompting this recommendation is as follows:

"Daniel Bruce resigned the office of RPI TV President effective 5:00 pm today, at the commencement of the debates, an event he was slated to produce. The membership was not informed of his resignation until 10:00 pm. Despite his own prior commitments and his role as producer, Dan neglected to gather volunteers for the production prior to the event. Furthermore, he decided that the best course of action was to leave equipment in the McNeil Room unattended while the event was in progress, with absolutely no notice whatsoever. In his stint as president and the chief representative of RPI TV, he repeatedly failed in his duty to uphold the mission of the organization. As a direct result of his continued dereliction of duty, the Executive Committee voted to initiate impeachment proceedings against him before learning of his resignation."

This email was sent to all primary PU candidates, officers of UPAC Sound, officers of UPAC Lights, members of RPI TV, the President of the Union, the chairs of the Rules and Elections Committee and GM Week planning committee, RPI TV's Executive Board representative, and two members of the Rensselaer Union administrative staff.

In my view, a majority of the information sent in the cited paragraph was unnecessary to convey a reason for mismanagement of the event or an effective apology and was instead disparaging against a fellow student in response to their behavior unrelated to the issuance of the apology. These actions are in striking opposition to shared values of the Rensselaer Union and expectations of club leadership. I view this correspondence as a reflection of the behavior of the organization as a whole over the course of this year.

Chip Kirchner
127th President of the Union

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rensselaer Union | 110 8th Street | Troy, NY 12180-3590
Phone (518) 276-6505 | Fax (518) 276-6920 | Email: PU@rpi.edu

Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Motion # 2

Date: 4/13/17

I move that the Rensselaer Union Executive Board approve RPT
Rock Raiders to be a Union Affiliated
Club

So moved by:

Erica A Lane

Signature

Erica Lane

Printed Name

Seconded by:

Anissa N. Chainiere

Signature

Anissa N. Chainiere

Printed Name

For Against Abstaining

Motion: Passes/ Fails

14-0-2



Policies Committee

RPI Rock Raiders Recommendation

Club Contact: Judy (Zhaoyi) Zhang, zhangz17@rpi.edu, 718-290-6222

Policies Committee Representative: Erica Lane, lanee@rpi.edu, 508-857-9231

Club Purpose: The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute(RPI) Rock Raiders provides its members the opportunity to compete in rover robotics competitions such as the University Rover Challenge by the Mars Society. Through participation, team members apply academic and professional knowledge toward a real world challenge, and further expand their skillsets as a result.

Membership: Judy Zhang (President), Aquiel Godeau (Vice President), Glenn Saunders (Faculty Advisor)

2 members from the class of 2017, 3 members from the class of 2018, 6 members from the class of 2019, 8 members from the class of 2020.

The club intends to use Union advertising and community to bring students into the club that may not have heard about it. They plan to expand our membership through recruitment at Accepted Students day and the Club Fair as well as through advertising via poster and social media. They retain their membership by ensuring each of our individual members has an active and mutually beneficial role in the organization.

Club Operations: Their goal is to compete in and place well in the annual University Rover Challenge, and in the process provide members with the skills that will prepare them for possible future careers related to rover robotics. Their organization provides RPI students with the opportunity to compete in the University Rover Challenge and to learn new skills in machining, computer assisted design(CAD), electronics organization and accounting, a wide variety of software development methods, including practical use of Robot Operating System, and much more.

Risk Management: There are no known potential risks associated with RPI Rock Raiders.

Future Budget: RPI Rock Raiders does not intend to ask for a budget.

Summary: This club is looking for support from the Union to advertise to people that would want to join the club but don't know it exists because it is supported by the engineering department. They are pursuing affiliation in order to officially establish the club and expand their resources to better serve the members and the organization's various needs. This club has a dedicated membership and will only grow stronger by having the Union to support to foster its growth and programs.



Policies Committee

Recommendation: It is the recommendation of the Policies Committee that the Executive Board approve the RPI Rock Raiders as a Union Affiliated Club.

Approved: 4-0-0, 10-April-17

Present:

Erica Lane (Chair), Caitlin Kennedy, Anissa Choiniere, Keegan Caraway

Absent:

Matthew Rand, Luke Kuprenas, Ananya Murali, Stephanie Kern-Allely, Chip Kirchner, Dan Rogers, Amy Corron (Non-Voting)

The Following is a suggested constitution for Rensselaer Union Recognized or Affiliated Clubs.

Articles, Clauses, or Sections that are underlined are mandatory for any and all Club constitutions. Additions may be made to these Articles, Sections, or Clauses but the underlined Articles, Sections, or Clauses may not be altered.

CONSTITUTION OF THE RPI Rock Raiders, VERSION #1

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this organization shall be "RPI Rock Raiders" hereafter referred to as the Club.

ARTICLE II. Purpose and Lifetime

Section 1. Purpose

- a. [The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute(RPI) Rock Raiders provides its members the opportunity to compete in rover robotics competitions such as the University Rover Challenge by the Mars Society. Through participation, team members apply academic and professional knowledge toward a real world challenge, and further expand their skillsets as a result.]

Section 2. Lifetime

- a. The Club shall cease to be recognized or affiliated with the Rensselaer Union 12 months from the adoption of this constitution unless:
 - i. a new constitution is adopted by the Club and subsequently presented to and approved by the Rensselaer Union Executive Board or delegated authority;
 - ii. or this constitution is presented, with this section removed, as the permanent constitution of the Club to and approved by the Rensselaer Union Executive Board or appropriately delegated authority.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1. Equal opportunity and Hazing

- a. It is the policy of the Club to provide, to the maximum extent feasible, equal opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability for all aspects of the Club's activities.
- b. Hazing, reckless or intentional endangerment to health, or forced consumption of alcohol or other drugs for the purpose of initiation into or continuing membership of the Club is strictly prohibited.

Section 2. Definition of Membership

- a. To be eligible for Regular Membership, a person must be a registered student of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and have paid the Rensselaer Union Activity Fee for that semester or be