

## 11/8/18 Senate Meeting Minutes

### Roll Call

Senators Davis, Harrod, Kuster (3<sup>rd</sup> absence), and Heuer were absent.

### Approval of Agenda

Approved unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 10/25/18 approved unanimously.

### President's Report

President Brinker suffered a broken tail bone and infection, so he was unavailable for the past two weeks. No other updates.

### Treasurer's Report

The 3pm Senate Finance Committee meeting is cancelled because Meghan will be speaking at the compassion event being held in the atrium.

### Committee Reports

**Government Operations Committee:** Prakash summarized the government operations committee meeting held on 10/25/18. He stated that the process for removing a senator who can't make the meetings will be ironed out in a constitutional amendment. If a student misses three consecutive meetings, and the absences were unexcused by the Director of Student Life, the senator will be removed after a senate vote. The person will be replaced by someone who ran in that same academic field of study but didn't get enough votes. If no one is available, an election will be held within a week.

**Health and Wellness Committee:** Amina updated the senate on the health and wellness committee. As of now, they are still searching for enough committee members and finding a time for meetings that works for all.

**Safety Committee:** The senate's campus safety committee will not be meeting anymore.

### Student Life Director's Report

Laura has no updates at this time.

### Old Business

Meghan stated that the geology club speaker funding E-vote was suspended and postponed.

### New Business

Carroll wanted to address the dollar menu in the cafés and possible items like cheaper lentil/beans options. Cory said we talked about this in teams. Laura said that unfortunately, there is no structure available to implement this initiative. She said it wouldn't be financially feasible because Student Life doesn't currently collect a commission from café sales and Student Life has little control over Lancer, the

food service operator. However, the food shelf is open to all students. There are no consistent rules about eligibility to use the food shelf, so no student should be turned away. Water and microwaves are always available in the cafeteria. Laura said that Lancer may be open to offering healthier food options in the future.

### Open Discussion

**Lockers:** Karla likes the idea of having lockers for students to use (for free) in order to help students staying for long periods of time. They need a place to store heavy books, coats. Cory Bartelt agrees that it would be a beneficial convenience, but he isn't sure about the actual amount of need for it. He proposed that RCTC could assign padlocks that have duplicate keys to prevent lockouts. He expressed a desire to discuss this in teams and table in the atrium. Faisa Mohamed suggested a poll would help us address this and other needs that students have expressed. Cora Casper suggested that electronic combination locks would really help if funding would permit that. Meghan stated that the finance committee will address the locker issue.

**Art Submissions:** Kevin spoke about how students make great art every semester, but a lot of it just gets thrown away. He wants to develop a way for the college to display the art long-term and auction off artwork that students want to sell. Proceeds could go toward a variety of great causes. Cora stated that many students would be interested in that. Students could buy art from each other, and people from the community could also buy some.

**Garbage Cans w/ RCTC Symbol:** Kevin brought up the desire to buy garbage cans with Student Life money. The cans would have RCTC branding and be positioned around campus. He said that they would make the college look better and make students want to continue attending RCTC. Kevin said we should adopt a "spare no expense," approach when it comes to improving the campus.

**Organizational Structure:** Kevin brought up the need to create a chart that clearly describes the organizational structure of RCTC leadership and faculty positions so that students know who to contact. The student government leaders would also be on the chart. This could be on the website to make it readily accessible to all. Karla agreed with this. She said it's hard to find out how to contact faculty about programs, classes, and absences.

**Food Insecurity/Menu Rotation:** Kevin suggested we address food issues on campus by changing the menus occasionally, in accordance with changing seasons and cultural preferences. Laura suggested the Know-Me club should be consulted about offering the foods of different ethnicities. Amina brought up how a fridge for students would be helpful for cultural norms and address the need for access to perishable food. Karla and Kevin opposed this because of concerns over spoilage, theft, and college pranks.

**Community Garden:** Kevin proposed that the senate work on establishing a community garden to brighten up the campus and provide a way for students who live in urban areas to grow their own food. Flowers could also be grown there. Cory suggested that we talk with the 4 daughters winery and orchard about partnering with RCTC. This is a Christian-affiliated orchard with the desire to partner with others; it is located a few miles south of Rochester. Cory also stated that the community garden would be a great way for pre-med school students to obtain volunteer hours needed for competitive admissions. Karla agreed that a garden would brighten up the campus and make use of wasted space around parking

lots, buildings, etc. Meghan stated that it was a great idea, but it would take a lot of work and be very hard to establish. She said that at least two faculty or staff members would need to commit to running it when students leave. She also said that there is no funding for this. Space for maintenance equipment and lawnmowers would limit the space needed for a garden.

### Announcements

**November 17<sup>th</sup> LeadMN Opportunity:** Drew informed us about the six spots available for a Southeastern MN Region conference in Red Wing. It runs from 7am-7pm. Meet people from Winona, Riverland, Red Wing, and others.

**Groundbreaking for Plaza/Memorial Hall:** Celebrated by the campus on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with media and local politicians.

**Fast and Orderly Speaking:** No issues with that today.

**Respectful and Understanding:** We must remain respectful and understanding during discussions with our peers. This should be practiced in-person and online. When an idea is shot down, it doesn't mean that the person suggesting it is being attacked. All ideas are welcome. We are all on the same team.

### Adjournment

2:42pm.