



## Inter-Residence Council General Assembly Minutes

For

Monday, March 03, 2008

Funded by Mandatory Student Activity Fees and the Student Association

Chair: Vinita Mishra SAIRC	Monday: 1:30-3:00 Tuesday: 11:30-1:00 Wednesday: 1:30-3:30 Thursday: 11:30-1:00, 2:00-3:00	Office Phone: 5854	Programming Coordinator: Danielle Forrest DHF1	Tuesday: 1:00-2:00
Vice Chair: Sarah Murtaza SM10	Monday: 10:30-11:30		NCC: Matthew Thackston MJT8	Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00-12:00 Wednesday: 12:00-1:00
Secretary: Katelyn Conway KLC10	Monday: 2:00-3:00 Tuesday & Thursday: 11:30- 12:30	IRC Office located in Monroe 29	NCC: Jessica Resnick JAS 44	Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00-12:00 Wednesday: 12:00-1:00
Treasurer: Sam Forlenza STF3	Monday: 10:30-11:30 Tuesday & Thursday: 3:30-4:00 Wednesday: 1:30-2:30		Advisor: Allison Moesel moesel@geneseo.edu	
CRC: Daniel DeHollander DHD1	Tuesday & Thursday: 11:30-12:30		Ex Officio: Thomas Johns NRHH President TEJ1	
			Ex-Officio: Sam Speed RBD SJS18	
Minutes # 18				

**Call to Order:** 7:01pm

**Attendance:** 30 of 31

**Also Present:** Patrick Fitzpatrick, Eric Vicari, Ralph Carrasquillo

**Approval of the Agenda:** 29 of 31

**Katie LeFevre:** I would like to add Patrick Fitzpatrick to the reading presenters for Saratoga's reading, item #37-0708.

**Approval of the Minutes:** 29 of 31

### **Reports:**

**Vinita Mishra:** I began transitioning Sarah into the Vice-Chair position. I have been helping with my conference duties, along with just general duties getting ready for this weekend. I attended the Limelights and Accent's LINES Ballet show on Saturday, which I thought was spectacular.

**Sarah Murtaza:** I met with Vinita to get specifics about the Vice-Chair position. I attended the 'Gay? Fine by Me.' panel discussion. I attended Putnam Hall's Hall Council meeting with Dan. I attended my first CRT meeting. I helped stuff binders for the conference on Saturday.

**Katelyn Conway:** I worked with the Public Relations Committee to finish the Newsletter, so thank you to those who helped out. I am going to pass it out now. Please take one per Hall and share it with your Hall Councils to see some of the things that other Halls did last semester! I met

with Vinita on Tuesday. I attended the Environmental Impact and Sustainability Task Force meeting as well as the SA meeting on Wednesday. I worked with Dan to revise and reformat the position descriptions for Hall Council positions. I attended the conference staff meeting on Friday and I helped stuff binders on Saturday.

**Sam Forlenza:** I briefly attended the SA meeting. I helped stuff binders on Saturday.

**Matthew Thackston:** I worked on things for the conference. I had a delegation meeting on Sunday. Jess and I wrote our event report for the Sub-Regional meeting.

**Jessica Resnick:** I worked on reading over the bids for Minis. I attended the last conference staff meeting. We held the last delegation meeting where we began making the banner, giveaways and good luck stars for the bidding schools.

**Danielle Forrest:** I worked on Sibling's weekend stuff. I wrote my event report for Coffee Talk. I went to SA.

**Daniel DeHollander:** I met with Coach Dotterweich to talk about reserving the pool for the Legends of the Hidden Temple program. I hosted CRT last Wednesday. We have decided that we are going to base our Legends of the Hidden Temple off of the legends of the Genesee Valley. I went to the Putnam Hall Council meeting on Wednesday. I did some work for the Hall Council Improvement Committee and redefining some of the positions for next year. I met with Nate from AC today to talk about Siblings weekend and CRT's Applebees Flapjack Breakfast. I attended Conference Staff last week and we stuffed binders this past Saturday.

**Allison Moesel:** The past week was busy with RA interviews and Carousel Day. I also met with Vinita and I hope you enjoyed the beautiful day!

**Thomas Johns:** I attended the conference staff meeting and the regional sustainability committee and we will be presenting legislation at the conference. Nominations were closed this past Friday and we had a total of about sixty people nominated to become members of NRHH. Thank you to all who nominated. Please remember to fill out any recommendations for those whom you nominated and good luck to everyone.

**Sam Speed:** I finished making the nametags, wrote my two speeches for the conferences, and sent in my RBD report. I also created the sponsorship page for the binder to thank everyone that has donated money to our cause. I went to Wal Mart with Vinita and Sam on Friday to buy snacks for the boardrooms and hospitality rooms, had a 1 on 1 with Lindsay, had our last Conference Staff meeting on Friday, stuffed binders on Saturday, and went to the security meeting on Wednesday. I created the volunteer and staff schedules for the weekend and dropped things off at the duplicating center to be printed. Today, I sent out an e-mail to the NCCs telling them which hotel they will be staying at and wrote an e-mail to Dean Sancilio telling him about the excess of people on campus this weekend.

### **Open Reports:**

**Jessica:** This week, Nassau Hall had its Pie an RA program. We raised \$65 for Relay for Life.

**Christina Miller:** Livingston is currently working on a panel of mental health, and we were wondering if anyone had suggestions for speakers. They can be students who feel comfortable talking about their own situations or professors who are knowledgeable about the topic.

**Sam Forlenza:** Jennifer Katz from the Psychology department would be good.

**Eleanor Carmeli:** If you have any other suggestions, please see one of us after the meeting.

**Alicia Jeffers:** I went to the No Laugh Track Required show yesterday, and it was very good.

### **Announcements:**

**Vinita Mishra:** Budget Hearings will be finished for all SA Organizations by this Thursday. I will be meeting with Dr. Bonfiglio tomorrow, so if you have anything you would like me to bring to him, please let me know. Gloria Lopez, the Assistant Director of Human Resources and Director of Affirmative Action will be coming to the Student Association meeting this Wednesday to dispel some myths about Affirmative Action. Our Open Discussion next week

will be the Student Association candidate speeches. Student Association elections are very important, as they are the eight people that you vote on to represent you. Each position plays an important role in representing the student population, so please keep that in mind and prepare some questions you may have for them. It is your chance to get what you need to make an informed decision. Last but not least, I will be spending the weekend as both Assistant Conference Chair and IRC President at the conference this weekend. I am really excited to see all of the hard work we have put in for the last year and a half pay off. I am also happy to represent Geneseo and allow the NEACURH region to see not only what an effective organization we have here, but the great campus we have as well.

**Sarah Murtaza:** I will be contacting CAS to talk to them about the end-of-year banquet.

**Katelyn Conway:** Moosebook is this weekend and I am extremely excited!

**Sam Forlenza:** Moosebook! That is really all that needs to be said.

**Matthew Thackston:** I will be working with Jess to go over bids and doing lots of things to prepare for the conference. We will be finishing our banner and other crafts for the conference. We will be attending and working at the Mini's Conference this weekend!

**Jessica Resnick:** I will be working on conference stuff all week. I will be finishing up the banner, giveaways, reading through the bids with Matt and taking notes on them and preparing for the boardroom. And, of course, I will be attending MOOSEBOOK!

**Danielle Forrest:** The Programming Committee will be meeting next week at 6:00pm in the Hunt Room. I will be doing a lot of work for the conference.

**Daniel DeHollander:** I will be going to the Monroe Hall Council Meeting tonight. There is a CRT Meeting this Wednesday, March 5, at 7:00pm in Sturges 111. I will be going to NRHH tomorrow and I will be meeting with Vinita tomorrow. We will be having one more binder stuffing party before the Minis Conference this weekend.

**Allison Moesel:** As some of you may know, the Race and Campus Culture Teach-In will be this upcoming Sunday, March 9th from 2:00pm-5:00pm in the College Union Ballroom. It is a great opportunity to come together as a campus community and discuss the larger issues surrounding race and power. Please take note of the readings available on E-Res that have been selected specifically for the teach-in. The course number is: cc113, the password is: important; so please check it out. Also, please do not forget that Housing Deposits are due March 28!

**Thomas Johns:** We will be having an NRHH meeting this week, tomorrow at 5:30pm in Welles 119. We are continuing to plan our Pay it Forward week and are beginning to bridge those connections.

**Sam Speed:** I have to print and read all the RBD choice award bids tomorrow. I also have a meeting with Sue Mallaber about final food plans. We will be having a laminating and binder stuffing party sometime this week as well. The RBD arrives on Thursday and people start checking in on Friday at 3:00! I AM SO EXCITED FOR MOOSEBOOK!

#### **Open Announcements:**

None.

#### **Treasurer's Time:**

RC Drawing Fund: \$3,970.54 > > > \$3,958.18 > > > \$3,445.25

Wellness Drawing Fund: \$1,500.00 > > > \$1,500.00 > > > \$1,500.00

#### **Bad Financial Standing:**

Erie, week 2 of 3

#### **Ingrid Rosalind Carrasquillo Award:**

Vinita: Last week, she went to Melissa Kaye.

**Melissa Kaye:** Yes, I missed the meeting because I had an Organic Chemistry test, so I gave her flashcards so that she could study. I also gave her a countdown to the conference, so whoever gets her this week can continue to cross off the days.

**Vinita:** This week, she goes to Bas Dekker for all of his excitement and enthusiasm at our meetings. This is new to him and we are glad to have his input. He was a fantastic help at Coffee Talk and we really appreciate all of the effort that he has put into everything that he has done. Mary, would you mind delivering her?

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**Item #38-0708:**

**Tom Richards:** In my 2 years as an IRC rep, I have never done a reading, so this is somewhat historic. We in Ontario care about our precious Earth so much that we are having a light bulb exchange. We are asking residents to bring down old light bulbs and replace them with fluorescent bulbs. They can get cookies as well. Anyone can get cookies. We are asking for 100%, but the total is very low and it is a noble cause.

**Alicia:** Are you getting them from Wal Mart?

**Mark Sperrazza:** We are getting the cookies from Wal Mart

**Rahul Singh:** Can students who are not Ontario Residents participate in the light bulb exchange?

**Mark:** Every Hall's President should have access to a whole host of light bulbs, so talk to your President about doing this for your Hall.

**Christina:** How many bulbs do you have, and how are you getting them?

**Alicia:** I am pretty sure that they are left over from the Live Green Day.

**Will Brotherton:** What do you plan on doing with the old light bulbs?

**Tom:** One of my suitemates is an environmentalist. He will take care of them.

**Rahul:** Do you plan on having any cookies other than chocolate chip?

**Tom:** No.

*~Tom leaves*

**Mary Rosch:** I think that their idea of baking cookies as opposed to buying pre-baked cookies is good because the smell will draw people to the program.

**Mark:** All joking aside, one of the problems that the Live Green Day had was that people did not want to bring light bulbs with them to exchange, so the cookies will be an incentive.

**Alicia:** I like that they are getting cookies. We were going to go door to door.

**Melissa:** People may not have wanted to carry a light bulb around and risk breaking it, but this is much easier since it is in the building.

*Reading passes 29-0-0*

**Item #39-0708:**

**Katie:** I am Katie and this is Patrick. We are planning an Appreci8 party for the Townhouses. We talked to NRHH and we decided that, as part of Pay it Forward week, we would have a party to thank them for a great year.

**Patrick Fitzpatrick:** We did something like this last year, and it was a great success and had a huge turnout. Unfortunately, it was so late in the year that people did not get to meet each other and possibly make new friends. We have a plethora of P's. They are picking up t-shirts, which Katie will talk about a little bit later. We will have poker, and the supplies for that are being provided by LateKnight. We will be painting the windows of the Great Room because they still say Welcome from move-in weekend. We already have the paint that we used the first time, and anyone can participate in decorating them tastefully. In order to show our appreciation, we will be allowing residents to give their friends paper plate awards. They are quite fun and they get

creative. It is a good time for everyone. We will also be playing ping pong which went over well last year. We are borrowing the table from Onondaga. We will be having pizza, which is probably the biggest draw for the residents. We will be getting 3 sheet pizzas from Wegman's, which is the most delicious and cheapest. Finally, we will be having pop. I like to call it soda myself, but to follow the P-theme, we will call it pop. We will be getting 9 2-liter bottles of pop. It is easier to recycle 9 bottles than hundreds of cans. We are also asking our residents to bring their own cups. We all have a fully stocked kitchen, so everyone will have one. We always have trouble advertising, but we thought of a couple of cool ways to get people interested. We are going to be blowing up balloons and putting advertisements inside and giving one to each townhouse with a note that says "Pop me." When they pop them, they will find the advertisements. We will also be using posters with the proper logos and the Hall Council will be going door to door.

**Katie:** Also at this party, we are going to be picking up t-shirts. Through Special Tee's with a discount from the campus advantage booklet and our RA's help, we are ordering 175 t shirts in 2 colors which the residents voted on. The price breakdown is a little confusing, but they are \$5.50 each. We are asking for \$2.75. When we email the residents the prices, we are going to tell them that the shirts cost \$4.00 each. The extra \$1.25 per shirt will be donated to the Saratoga Relay for Life team. The t-shirt design is included in the rationale. People voted on it and everyone agreed on that one.

**Patrick:** As you can see, these t-shirts that we are wearing are from last year, and they went over much better than we thought they would. We think that these will be even more popular.

**Katie:** We already have a large number of people interested so we are hoping to do very well.

**Mary:** I am confused by how much money you are actually asking for. The number you said and the numbers on the proposal do not match up.

**Katie:** We are donating the extra money to Relay for Life.

**Mary:** Is that allowed?

**Vinita:** They can fund raise for a charity, as long as it is not for the Hall.

**Laura Bugaj:** Since the shirts cost \$5.50, we are asking IRC to fund \$2.75 of each shirt and then asking residents to pay \$4.00. Everything over our break-even point is going to Relay for Life.

**Alicia:** Did you fill out a fund raising request form?

**Katie:** Yes.

**Eric Vicari:** It has already been approved.

**Megan Leahey:** 175 sounds like a lot of shirts. What will happen to the extras?

**Patrick:** We have around 200 residents. I will order 3 myself with the price being so low. These t-shirts from last year were less attention grabbing, and I believe that we sold more than 175 but we had some left over, so we are thinking that almost all of the residents will buy 1 and many will buy more. Also, they can be used as prizes for programs next year.

**Vinita:** Have you thought about doing a pre-sale?

**Patrick:** We gauged our numbers by how many we sold last year because we had a lot of people who showed up looking for shirts that did not pre-order.

**Katie:** We will be pre-ordering and then ordering extra:

**Christina:** Do you think the quality of the program would be effected if you took out the t-shirts?

**Katie:** Not necessarily, because I think the appreciation party and the ping pong party were 2 separate programs last year and they were both successful.

**Christina:** What made you decide to ask IRC for funding?

**Laura:** We want to thank the residents for how much they do for us. Most of the residents will not be here next year, and the t-shirts are a way to forge memories. We all voted as a group and the design was a collaborative effort, and it brought the hall council together.

**Christina:** Could you have done it through Hall Council?

**Katie:** We wanted to subsidize the costs for the residents as an added thank you.

**Vinita:** Just a clarification, IRC did fund the t-shirts last year and the logos are on them.

**Katie:** It is hard to get residents together and last year this worked really well and we wanted to see it happen again.

*~Katie and Patrick leave*

**Christina:** My greatest concern is the fact that they mentioned that the t-shirts do not affect the overall quality of the program. I think it is good, but I think there are more appropriate ways to get the t-shirts.

**Laura:** I want to mention that, with the shirts, I did not live in Saratoga last year, but you see them on campus and they have the logos, so they act as an advertisement for IRC and SA, and it is a way to recognize the contribution of SA in general.

**Eric:** We basically wanted to give something back to the residents that they would actually appreciate. We sent out a survey for people to vote on colors, and we got over 70 responses. That is a lot for Saratoga, especially for an email. That makes me think that we will be able to sell them and show our appreciation and remember Saratoga?

**Vinita:** I just want to remind you that we need to be talking about the program as a whole. I understand that the t-shirts are a part of it, but consider the overall quality of the program.

**Christina:** I think it is a very worthwhile program, but is there any way that we could amend the t-shirts out of it?

**Joey Sinchak:** I think that the shirts are a big part of the program, and they are very proud of it. They are raising money for charity and it is not much money. You get a t-shirt for Relay for Life and you feel unified, and this will be the same thing for the Hall. We have been trying to sell t-shirts in our Hall and it has been very difficult, and the fact that they are expecting 175 people to buy them is incredible.

**Vinita:** Just to answer that question, since you are the ones who vote on it, anyone can entertain a motion to amend the reading.

**Mary:** I am also concerned about the amount of the reading that is just going toward the t-shirts, because it seems like the residents are so willing to order the shirts, that if they were a little more expensive, they would still want to buy them. They are the bulk of the cost, and my concern is that if this became a complete trend and everyone wants their shirts to be funded, it would be more money that the RC fund has. I am not sure that I would want to fund the entire amount that they are asking for.

**Allison:** Please make sure that we are not discussing monetary value, but the quality of the program. The price breakdown is a part of it, but please talk about the program, not our budget.

**Samantha Feldmeyer:** I think it is a really good program, and the t-shirts are more of a memento. They are a way to remember this day, and the program itself is really good.

**Will:** First of all, how many residents voted for this?

**Eric:** We sent out one survey, and 30-40% of the residents responded. At the bottom, it said if you want a shirt, put your email, and about a quarter of our residents put an email down already.

**Will:** I just wanted to make sure a lot of people voted. I understand that it is cool, and I think the program will be a great success and I really appreciate the part that they are donating everything that they make to Relay for Life, because it is an amazing program. I think this is a great program and the t-shirts are a great memento. I think it will have a great turnout.

**Alicia:** Yes, the t-shirts are a lot of the money, but it looks like in the past they have done each half of the program successfully, and doing both together will be even better. I feel like even though they said it would not affect the program to remove the t-shirts, they do help to make it unique.

**Megan:** Everyone is concerned about the price, but we have to realize that a lot of it is going to charity and it is bringing the Saratoga community and the community as a whole together.

**Laura:** In response to what Mary said about the t-shirts being the center and asking for so much money for them, that is why we are doing it during Pay It Forward week. This is our way of appreciating our residents and then giving back to the community through Relay for Life. That is why we picked April 2.

**Christina:** I do think this is a very strong program, but the reason that I keep bringing up the t-shirts is that they have put on 2 programs in the past that were successful. I would like to see us take the t-shirts out, because this is just for them to supplement them, not pay for them. I do not want this program to fail because of the controversy of the t-shirts. I would like to put an idea out there to amend the program.

**Eleanor:** I would just like to point out that in the price breakdown, many of the items used are donated, and that shows that they took advantage of resources on campus including late knight and Onondaga. All of that would have been added to the total price, so there is a lot to be said for that.

**Melissa:** Maybe, instead of removing the t-shirts completely, we could lower the amount that they are asking per shirt. We could give \$1.00-\$1.50 instead of \$2.75 so that money still goes to charity.

**Vinita:** You fund quality programs regardless of what the Hall asks. If you think it is a lesser program because of the t-shirts, it does not necessarily affect the percentage.

**Eric:** I guess in terms of this being a quality program, seeing 40 residents at a party is good for Saratoga, but I want to see 125 people overflowing the Commons. We have so many activities going on at the same time so that we can bring the community together.

**Miranda VanOmmeren:** As far as the quality of the program, I am always amazed to see these programs in the townhouses. It is hard to bring people out of their houses and I am sure this will have a huge turnout. The money is there to be used and it should not be a huge issue.

**Tom:** I think it sounds like a good, high quality program and I motion that we call to question.

*~Mark seconds*

*Motion passes*

*Reading passes 27-2-0*

**Vinita:** Keep in mind that this is a 2 week reading, so you have next week to ask questions and discuss the program as well.

### **Open Discussion:**

**Vinita:** This week, I would like to go over logo policy, and then we will have a short open discussion. I know it can be confusing, so I just wanted to say that as you know, all IRC funded programs do require both the SA and IRC logos. If anybody finds that those logos are not on advertisements, your Hall will be put in BFS and I want you all to be aware of that. We have not talked about it in depth and it can get confusing. When you already have advertisements out before funding, we ask that you do not put logos on until after you receive funding which is what most of you have been doing, so keep it up. It is important for students to know that mandatory student activities fees are being used wisely. It also works as advertising for what we do here every week. If anyone has questions, feel free to ask now or speak to me anytime.

I would also like to know how your Hall Council attendance is at meetings and programs. If some of you are having trouble, maybe others who are doing well can offer suggestions. So how is attendance and how can you help each other?

**Rahul:** Door to door advertising always works, because you have to have a good reason to say no.

**Vinita:** How is your attendance in general?

**Rahul:** It is okay. We are a small Hall, so it is sometimes difficult, but we go door to door and try to get more people.

**Will:** Most of the time in our Hall, it is usually just the people who hold a position who attend meetings, but every once in a while we get other people who have ideas for programs. I would say generally, we have an average of 20 people a week at meetings.

**Tom:** I think that incentives are the best way to get people there. Free food and drinks is always a good way to get people there. In Ontario, we usually have about 10-15 people at our meetings.

**Mark:** Our last program had a very good turnout and the artwork from that was displayed at Coffee Talk.

**Tom:** Last week, we had a Roommate Game and we had at least a dozen pairs of roommates plus people watching, which was great.

**Vinita:** Did you do anything special for that program to increase attendance?

**Tom:** It was an RA program, so I do not know.

**Eric:** One of the things that we have been doing in Saratoga is having the events before the actual Hall Council meetings, or even have them during meetings so that we can get people there and then they can stay for a less formal meeting to interact with Hall Council.

**Amanda Greene:** In Onondaga, we usually have a big turnout. We have a Roommate Competition this week and have over 50 people signed up. We do a lot of advertising on mirrors and things like that.

**Tom:** Unique programs are always good too. In October, we had a haunted house and had a great turnout. If they are unique, interesting and fun, they usually have better attendance.

**Laura:** For Saratoga, since most of us do not have meal plans, food is a huge incentive because groceries are expensive.

**Vinita:** Are any Halls having trouble with attendance and need some suggestions?

**Will:** Just a suggestion to boost program attendance, have really unique and fun activities like the Know Your Roommate game and Pie your RA. We had one of the best turnouts we have had all year with the Pie your RA program. Great advertisements for unique, fun programs will get more attention and will get higher attendance.

**Eleanor:** I think another really great way to get high attendance is to have entertaining program, but to also have different programming that will appeal to everyone in the Hall. For example, you can have a Superbowl party, and then have a more serious program like a hall dialogue to appeal to other people as well.

**Tom:** I think it would be good to give out a little check sheet, and if someone goes to say 5 programs in a month, they will get a treat.

**Vinita:** Just keep in mind that you have each other as resources. If you have any concerns, you have each other and us as an executive board who have a lot of experience. Is there anything else?

**Joey:** If you have a program in a way that people have to walk through it, they are more likely to notice and stop by, especially if there is food.

**Dan:** One thing that will boost attendance and excitement is having enthusiasm about programs. People will be more interested if you have a positive attitude about it.

**Meaghan Rooney:** Free gifts also work well. You can give away little things from the Dollar Store. It is a great way to get people involved just by giving a little gift out at programs.

**Vinita:** Thank you all for your discussion.

**Allison:** One last thing, being on the Staff Recognition Committee means that I know when the Pro-Staff Recognition Day is, and they need to be recognized. Please note that this is a surprise, so do not tell them the date, but be aware that it is coming up. Again, just be a little creative and show your Pro-Staff member that you appreciate them.

**Amanda:** Does that include ARD's?

**Allison:** You can recognize them as well.

**Adjournment:** 8:09pm