

General Student Alliance Meeting Minutes

10/7/09

President Barchus starts the meeting at 5:08pm.

A vote was passed to not approve the minutes every meeting, because we have found it is unnecessary.

A discussion, questions and a vote to keep the current ExComm on until the spring, the majority approved the vote, one opposing vote, three abstaining.

Programming board results were announced, and we are very excited to have a new programming board!!

Standing committee and department representative elections discussed and will be finalized by next week.

Curriculum discussion, from Nate – discussion about what was presented to the Board of Trustees and Nate opens up the floor for questions and comments. The issues that came up were as follows:

- More communication between majors
- Too involved in your own major
- Make it more possible to double major! (Because it's too hard)
- Synching the major studios together within majors, so that electives line up, and are therefore more open to non majors
- Spending a semester in another major
- TECHNOLOGY
- Include Brown's class schedule with ours
- Sneaking in to use other department's equipment – there should be a standard for sharing these resources
- If there is training, it should be limited
- The mentality of work first, be a person later, needs to change
- Wintersession: Get rid of it! Extended the semesters and be able to concentrate more with less pressure.
- Wintersession is sort of for throw away classes and is unproductive
- Being able to use shops after you have taken a class in that department
- Longer breaks
- Wintersession is a good time to figure out what you are doing in your own practice
- The mentality of the full semesters is much different than that of Wintersession
- Rescheduling of classes during Wintersession

President of the school John Maeda is here to address the students about the strategic plan. He talks about the current economic situation and financial issues that could arise. John talked about how this affected RISD specifically and the process of repair. He said we have a long Operational To Do List. Each year it costs more to run RISD, and each

year we have to do more things to pay for it. “Building a justifiable case for creativity in a changing world” is an important quote he pointed out in the discussion. John talks about critical thinking and critical making, and we are known for our busy lives but not for our leadership, and these are the areas he will focus on in his strategic plan.

Short discussion about the Senior gift and senior week.

Kellie Riggs, Misha Kahn and Jack present the idea of having a sale that would have high-end products for sale and different ideas for setting up that possibility. They need student interest to know they have support from their peers.

Materials Library is a new idea and two grad students are working towards getting this on its feet.

President Barchus ends the meeting at 6:39pm.