

# Groszman Reforms

Last updated April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **ARTICLE I. Proposal to Change Handling of Money Requests**

- Use preqab to designate requests as “recommended” if they meet the following criteria:
  1. The request is unanimously approved by at least 50%+1 of cabinet voting members at preqab
  2. The request comes from a committee (i.e. Activities Fund requests do not count)
  3. The request is for an amount no greater than \$200 or 33% of the committee’s budget
- All requests (and their designations) will be available to the College before Cabinet. Unless the college expresses concern about “recommended” requests, they will not be read at Cabinet prior to voting.
- Any requests submitted between preqab and Cabinet will be read (and discussed) at Cabinet. Whoever made the request must be present at Cabinet in order for the request to be approved.
- In weeks without a preqab meeting, all requests will be read (and discussed) at Cabinet.
- All requests are still to be voted on and confirmed at cabinet. All are to be printed in the minutes.

## **ARTICLE II. Proposal to Change Handling of Space Requests**

- Use preqab to designate requests as “recommended” if they meet the following criteria:
  1. The request is unanimously approved by at least 50%+1 of cabinet voting members at preqab
  2. The request is not for the Lower Commons, Upper Commons, or quad
  3. The request is not recurring
  4. The request does not have a time conflict with another request
- All requests (and their designations) will be available to the College before Cabinet. Unless the college expresses concern about “recommended” requests, they will not be read at Cabinet prior to voting.
- Any requests submitted between preqab and Cabinet will be read (and discussed) at Cabinet. Whoever made the request must be present at Cabinet in order for the request to be approved.
- In weeks without a preqab meeting, all requests will be read (and discussed) at Cabinet.
- All requests are still to be voted on and confirmed at cabinet. All are to be printed in the minutes.

### **ARTICLE III. Statement from Hanszen College on Voting for Student Association Resolution #4: To Support the Passage of the BRIDGE Act**

As a result of several Hanszen-wide conversations and a survey, Hanszen has decided to cast one vote YES and one vote NO for the Student Association's proposed Resolution #4: To Support the Passage of the BRIDGE Act.

Hanszenites are overwhelmingly in favor of the BRIDGE Act and are in full support of the protection of all members of the Rice community. Hanszen prides itself on inclusivity and respect for all, and even released a statement to President Leebron in January 2017 saying that "Rice should do all that it can to support DACA students".

This sentiment is completely separate from a widespread belief among Hanszenites that the Student Association has not sufficiently discussed whether it should represent the student body's opinions on external political issues or what the best way would be for it to do so.

Many Hanszenites are concerned by the precedent set by representing the opinion of an entire campus in a Resolution. Boiling down the opinions of each residential college into two yes/no votes from the President and Senator ignores the diversity of opinions in our student body and the nuance of the issues. This might lead to resentment, and eventually silence, from students in ideological minorities who might disagree with a piece of legislation but whose perspective is necessary in the healthy, robust debates that we strive for at Rice.

We propose a campus-wide discussion of what role, if any, the SA should be playing in representing the Rice undergraduate community on external issues, including the development of loose guidelines on what makes a particular issue fit for the Student Association to tackle. The Student Association should develop a plan including campus-wide surveying and town hall meetings to ensure that all voices are heard, respected, and acknowledged in statements about the Rice student body. Concurrently, checks should be designed to prevent the politicization of Student Association and residential college leadership positions.

Only after this discussion and the establishment of these guidelines, which the BRIDGE Act may very well fit into, should the Student Association begin to tackle external political issues.

## **ARTICLE IV. Financial Accessibility Proposal**

### Section A: Goal

One of Hanszen's values is inclusivity, which includes financial inclusivity. The goal of this program is to create a dialogue about socioeconomic diversity and remove financial barriers to being an engaged member of Hanszen.

### Section B: Approach

The Spring Semester will be a trial period for the two-pronged approach below. Necessary adjustments will be made before the plan is fully implemented in Fall 2017.

1. Reduction in costs for all Hanszen events
  - All Hanszen events, activities, merchandise to cost \$5 or less
  - Events and merchandise > \$5 to require Cabinet approval
2. Creation of Accessibility Fund
  - For students who may need additional financial support past the blanket subsidies
  - Opt-in via conversation with the Masters, money to be requested on a per-event basis through a secure online form
  - Money to be distributed discretely in a campus mail envelope in mailbox by Joyce

### Section C: Funding

Hard to predict how many people will opt-in to program and how much subsidies will cost. We don't expect committee subsidies to exceed \$2,500. The source of the funding will be a combination of the following:

- \$2,500/yr from Hanszen Endowments (currently unused, generate interest \$2,500 per year)
- <\$1,000/yr from Hanszen General Fund (currently we have a ~\$8,000/yr surplus)
- \$500 from the Dean Hutchinson's office, as start-up costs only for Spring 2017 semester

### Section D: Additional Considerations

- To protect student student anonymity, program managed entirely by Masters + College Coordinator (i.e. no students will ever know other student's financial information)
- Feedback on this plan will be collected at Cabinet, via survey, and at the end of the semester