



## Inter-Residence Council General Assembly Minutes

For

Monday, April 14, 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 # 23				

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

**Attendance:** 29 of 31

**Also Present:** Dr. Easton, Kevin Hahn, Jeff Ferrara, Nikki Lynn, Ben Delozier, Katy Arroya

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

**Katelyn:** Under tabled business, item #45-0708 should be listed as a tabled reading. It should read "Be it resolved that the Inter-Residence Council allocate up to \$70.00 from the RC Drawing Fund to Putnam Hall for 'Putnam Hall's Pic-a-nic,' first and only."

**Mark Sperrazza:** I move to untable item #45-0708.

*~Kyle Rodrigues seconds*

*Reading is untabled 27-0-0*

**Eleanor Carmeli:** I motion to amend item #51-0708, where it says RC President, it says Eleanor Carmeli, but it should say Matt Motyka.

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

### **Reports:**

**Vinita Mishra:** I have been transitioning Katelyn and imparting all of my knowledge to her. It has been going well. The Student Association Executive Committee has been looking over the budgets for all of its funded clubs. The drafts should be in each club's mailbox. If you are part of

an SA Funded Organization and you would like to make changes to your budget, you have that ability. Appeals are due April 16.

**Sarah Murtaza:** I met with Vinita to discuss the banquet. I completed the invitations and sent out most of them. I finalized the food with CAS.

**Katelyn Conway:** I met with Dan and 2 members of GEO to discuss the Recycling Coordinator position on Hall Council. I helped sell Legends of the Hidden Temple t-shirts on Monday and Tuesday. I met with Vinita on Tuesday and Thursday. I attended the SA meeting on Wednesday.

**Sam Forlenza:** I sat at the Legends of the Hidden Temple table and sold a few t-shirts.

**Matthew Thackston:** I went to the travel agency with Jess. We worked on things for Nationals. I attended the NRHH Meeting and voted on OTMs. I also attended the first meeting of the Resource File Index Committee on Friday and began scanning documents.

**Jessica Resnick:** This week, Matt and I tried to book flights to Nationals but there were a few complications. I sat at the Legends of the Hidden Temple table and helped Dan sell t-shirts.

**Danielle Forrest:** I finished an SA fundraising request form, and worked with Sam to realign money for the campus cup. The realignment was approved. I went to the SA meeting. I worked on my End of the Year Report. The Programming Committee is doing a great job planning the Campus Cup.

**Daniel DeHollander:** We sold t-shirts this week and we exceeded our goal! Shirts will be in by our GLK event! Tonight is the Applebee's Fundraiser Dinner! Thank you to everyone who already went to Applebee's! I attended NRHH this past week and I also went to a leadership conference at RIT on Saturday.

**Allison Moesel:** Last week I worked on Staff Recognition events, met with Vinita, prepared for Housing Selection and attended our Hall Council's Relay for Life fundraisers. Congratulations to all of the Halls that were represented this weekend at Relay for Life which raised over \$72,000!

**Thomas Johns:** NRHH had a meeting this past week where we voted on OTMs. We have also been working on our banquet for our new members and are close to finishing membership selection.

**Sam Speed:** I worked on the wrap-up report and helped with the resource file index on Friday afternoon. I also attended The Pillowman and Forever Plaid this weekend.

### **Open Reports:**

**Will Brotherton:** I went to Relay for Life on Saturday night, and it was really cool, I had a great time. I was unable to raise a lot money, so I made up for it by walking for 10 straight hours.

### **Announcements:**

**Vinita Mishra:** Gloria Lopez, the Associate Director of Human Resources and the Director of Affirmative Action, will be coming in next week to talk about Bias Related incidents.

**Sarah Murtaza:** I will be attending the SA meeting this week. Please send me pictures for slideshow at the banquet at sm10@geneseo.edu.

**Katelyn Conway:** I will be meeting with Vinita. I will be meeting with Danielle. I will be attending the SA meeting. I will be sitting at Housing Selection on Wednesday and Thursday. I will be meeting with Dan, Vinita and Sam to talk about the Hall Council Improvement Committee. I will be working on the Resource File Index on Friday. I will be attending the Campus Cup on Saturday.

**Sam Forlenza:** I am working on our budget appeal. I am sitting at Housing Selection on Tuesday and Thursday. I am attending the Hall Council Improvement Committee meeting.

**Matthew Thackston:** We will be finishing our event report for Minis. We will be working on Nationals Affiliation. There will also be another Resource File Index meeting this Friday. I will not have office hours on Wednesday, but to make up for it, I will have extra office hours on Thursday, from 10:00-11:00am.

**Jessica Resnick:** This week, I will be sitting at housing selection on Tuesday and Thursday. I will be attending CRT with Dan and working on the Resource File Index on Friday.

**Danielle Forrest:** I will be meeting with various people about the Campus Cup. The Campus Cup is Saturday, April 19 from 2:00-5:00pm. If the contract goes through, we will be getting an inflatable gladiator set for the Campus Cup. I will be going shopping for stuff for the Campus Cup Thursday at 3:00pm, and the volunteer pre-meeting is Friday at 3:30pm in CU 322/323.

**Daniel DeHollander:** Legends of the Hidden Temple teams can still sign up for the pre-team challenge in the College Union this week on our bulletin board. There is a CRT Meeting this Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7:00pm in Sturges 111. Please ask your Hall Council Presidents if they need help with anything. Legends of the Hidden Temple is a pretty crazy program and they have been doing a great job putting it all together.

**Allison Moesel:** As a final reminder, Housing Selection takes place this week. Four, five and eight person suite selection takes place Tuesday, April 15, six person suite selection takes place on Wednesday, April 16 and general housing selection takes place Thursday, April 17. Please note, selection begins at 7:00pm all three nights and takes place in the Ice Arena. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to me after the meeting, or contact your RD/AC.

**Thomas Johns:** NRHH will be hosting a GOLD session tomorrow about Recognition in our everyday lives at 12:45pm in CU 319. We were very excited to have twelve OTMs submitted for this past month. The following OTMs have been passed on to regionals: "2nd Floor B-side Residents" for Community of the Month by Deanna Richards, "Cookies and CFLs!" for Educational Program of the Month by Kim Bilinski, "Vinita Mishra" for Executive Board Member of the Month by Matthew Thackston, "Class of 2010 Officers" for Organization of the Month by Jenny Whittaker, "Colleen McNamara" for Resident Assistant of the Month by Brittany Nasradinaj, "International Student Services Office" for Spotlight of the Month by Arunima Ray, and "Brendan See" for Student of the Month by Rebecca Coons. Congratulations to all and keep on recognizing!

**Sam Speed:** I will be sitting at housing selection on Wednesday night and helping with the resource file index again on Friday. Also, I will be going home with my housemates this weekend to celebrate Passover so I am going to miss the Campus Cup, but everyone else should go! It is going to be a great event!

#### **Open Announcements:**

**Joey Sinchak:** Please bring information about the Campus Cup back to your Halls. In order for this to be successful, we need a lot of teams, so please make sure you are talking about it.

**Mary Rosch:** Steuben is ordering our Hall t-shirts and that should be done this week. We are also having a Green Week next week, and our Hall Council will be planning a trivia program hosted by Bas and I.

**Sarah:** The Redefining Beauty program is this week. Please make an effort to come to the talks!

**Tom Richards:** This Thursday at 8:00pm, the International Relations Club will be meeting in South Hall.

**Sam Speed:** This Friday at 8:00pm, the Student Music Association is putting on a show in the Sturges Auditorium.

**Laura Bugaj:** I talked about this earlier this semester. The tutoring program that we were running is over, but now we are looking for camp counselors to work with students over the summer. You get paid \$1,000 for 2 weeks, and we really need counselors, so if you or someone you know is interested, go to the Xerox website.

**Joey:** What are the dates?

**Laura:** It will be July 14-25.

**Will:** I would like to reemphasize what Joey said about needing volunteers. We really need a lot of people there helping for the Campus Cup on Friday and Saturday.

**Eleanor:** Wednesday during all college free hour in the Union, Hillel and MAC will be cosponsoring a Peanut Butter and Jam sandwich-making drive that will be a lot of fun. It will be very sanitary, and you can make a sandwich to donate. The campus cup is this Saturday from 2-5 and you should all come!

**Tom Johns:** AAC will be hosting a discussion on the 7 values that Geneseo has on Wednesday. Lunch is included, and you will be broken up into different groups to discuss the 7 values. If you are interested, email aac@geneseo.edu so that we can get an estimate of how many people will be attending.

**Alyssa Briscoe:** This Friday from 10:00pm-2:00am, there will be a 1950's Sock Hop in the Knightspot.

**Dan:** This Saturday is the LSA dinner. I will be dancing, so come check it out. Saturday at 10:00pm, the Steuboga staff and GLK is hosting Change Your Clothes, Change Your World. You can bedazzle your clothes and learn about reducing impact on the Earth. We will also be handing out spot a mug raffle tickets if you are seen using a reusable cup.

**Alicia Jeffers:** My birthday is on Sunday.

**Joey:** She is not going home for her birthday so that she can be here for the Campus Cup, that is dedication.

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

RC Drawing Fund: \$2,333.97 > > > \$2,228.97 > > > \$1,622.49

Wellness Drawing Fund: \$1,500.00 > > > \$1,425.00 > > > \$1,425.00

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

Niagara, week 2 of 2

Monroe, week 2 of 2

Erie, week 2 of 3

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

**Vinita:** Joey, would you like to tell us if Sam added anything?

**Joey:** I do not remember, but she can tell you next week.

**Laura Pentoney:** She added a plane ticket because she is in Bermuda for the week.

**Vinita:** This week, she goes to Sam Forlenza. Quite often, all we hear from him here is Bad Financial Standing and Treasurer's Time, but he does a lot behind the scenes. He has done a lot with the Constitution and By-Laws, he always puts the organization first, he is always there to help the executive board and he has a great sense of humor. Thank you for everything that you do!

#### **Open Discussion:**

**Vinita:** We have a guest speaker. Dr. Easton, the Dean of Residential Living is here.

**Dr. Easton:** Vinita said that there were people interested in discussing our transition in housing. I do not like the term "themed housing," I prefer Residential College System. Themed housing is something rather different. It sounds more like an amusement park. It suggests that every single place is going to have its own particular ideal. I do not think that is the direction we are going toward. We are talking about affinity groups within Halls that allow students to think of themselves as a community including Faculty members that are interested in students' lives and working together toward a common goal. Dante House has a focus on global service and citizenship. It will be made up of one third first year International students, one third first year honors program students, and one third first year students who have applied to live there. It will remain a quite study Hall and it will still be open over breaks for International students, it will just have a focus on global service and citizenship. The second house we are moving toward is a writer's house, which will be open by application to all majors across the spectrum. Anyone can

apply, it will not be by major, it will just be for people who enjoy writing and want to share that. That is where we are going with Residential Housing. Are there any questions?

**Sam Speed:** Can you explain the purpose behind putting all of the honors students in one house?

**Dr. Easton:** This year, Residence Life saw something terrible happen to incoming honors students. They are waiting until very close to the deadline to accept their places in Geneseo. Offers are made in April, but many are looking at other colleges as well. The majority of this year's honors students did not pay their deposits until May 1, which is on time, but it is late compared to when people typically pay them. Those of you who were first year students this year who paid your deposit somewhat later, you probably ended up in a triple. It was rough in the fall. One of the things that is advantageous is that you may not end up in a triple. We wanted to avoid that by guaranteeing them a room in a house where they would not be tripled. Speaking with the heads of the honors program, we talked about the goals of the honors program and how they could better be put in place by grouping the first year students in one house. We adopted the honors program goals for the entire house. Only one third of the house will be honors students, and Wayne Hall is located in the middle of a triangle of mainly first year students with Onondaga and Niagara, so it was both to serve the housing and the educational purpose of the program that we have done this. For people who are currently in the honors program, it seems odd, but people who are coming in will not think it is odd because it is the only way that they know. They will not necessarily be roomed together since two thirds of the residents will not be honors students.

**Rahul Singh:** Will regular incoming students be placed in Wayne?

**Dr. Easton:** It was done by application. I believe that all of the slots are filled. Incoming students received a brochure with their housing materials that told them how to apply. There may be 1 or 2 spots left, but I know it was close to being filled.

**Rahul:** Can honors students decline?

**Dr. Easton:** Not this year. We will see how it goes. If a student has medical need that cannot be met in Wayne Hall, they will not be forced to live there.

**Shane Melvin:** To me, removing the possibility of honors students being placed in a triple seems discriminatory against non-honors students. Will triples be as big of an issue with Erie being open?

**Dr. Easton:** They will be less likely, but there will probably be some. We will not have the same problem that we had last year.

**Will:** I understand that Dante House will be in Wayne Hall, but will it be all of Wayne Hall?

**Dr. Easton:** Dante House will be the virtual community, but Wayne is still the building. Think of ways that people can understand an affiliation with each other.

**Mary Rosch:** When you were considering creating Dante House, did you talk to the honors students already in the program?

**Dr. Easton:** No.

**Mary:** They would understand the pressures of being honors students and could tell you if they enjoyed living with other people or with honors students.

**Dr. Easton:** They will be with others.

**Mary:** But they will be with every other first year honors student.

**Dr. Easton:** I have been teaching here since 1984, and we try new things all the time. It is hard if you are in one position to imagine what things might be like with a change, so I am asking for a little faith to try this. One of the things about having staff professionals is to talk with the students if it is not working.

**Joey:** You mentioned having a writer's house next. If that is successful, will there be others?

**Dr. Easton:** Students can talk about other communities that they are interested in, but not necessarily having other themes. The writer's house is common in a few other places. It allows people who have a common interest to share a living space. We want to make it possible for first year students to live in such a place. People can sign up to live in that house as opposed to others.

Everyplace else, you cannot homestead unless you are in a room or suite, but that is not true for the houses. Freshmen will also be able to homestead.

**Will:** What will be the requirements for getting into the writer's house?

**Dr. Easton:** I have been working with some staff members and I have met with tutors in the Writing Learning Center to develop an application, and the students insisted on having a short essay portion explaining what your interest is in writing and how you would contribute to the house.

**Tom Richards:** What is the general reaction from students in the honors program?

**Dr. Easton:** I have heard mixed things from current students. They do not imagine themselves living in such a place.

**Tom:** Can incoming students imagine themselves living in such a place?

**Dr. Easton:** They are going to have to.

**Alyssa:** What will be the standards for measuring if this is successful? These students will not have any standards to compare it to.

**Dr. Easton:** Assessment is not the same as evaluation or opinion. We will say what is it that we are trying to achieve and how successful are we at achieving those goals. We are building a community with shared interests, building a community in which people are engaged with faculty outside of the classroom, building a small community that very much takes interest in the standards of that community, and those are measureable. We can see if they happen and how successfully they happen.

**Alyssa:** Why is it only limited to honors students since you apply as an incoming student? Why is it not open to the entire campus?

**Dr. Easton:** It will be on a first come, first serve basis for new students.

**Eleanor:** Why is it only for first year students?

**Dr. Easton:** It was because of size issues. There are less than 100 beds in the Hall.

**Miranda VanOmmeren:** What building will be the writer's house?

**Dr. Easton:** It will be in Seneca Hall.

**Christina Miller:** As far as RA selections, are you planning on having a separate process to match people who have those same ideals?

**Dr. Easton:** RAs will be chosen by the normal process. In this case, the AC Kim Harvey selected the staff, and she kept in mind the ideals of the house when choosing the staff. Whenever an RA is offered a position, they are given the opportunity to decline the position. They can choose to live elsewhere and not be an RA.

**Alicia:** As you know, Suffolk and Wayne share an AC. Maybe in order to encourage them to meet more people outside of Dante House, you could encourage more collaboration between the Halls.

**Dr. Easton:** It will definitely have its own collaboration with the first year triangle. There will be multiple opportunities to meet other people.

**Abby Mayer:** Will they still have the option to choose to be roommates?

**Dr. Easton:** They will still have those options. There is a little bit of wiggle room to accommodate those situations.

**Eleanor:** For students who are already on campus and get opportunity to become honors students later in their college career, will they be able to live there?

**Dr. Easton:** It will only be for first year students. Those are the kind of people who we would like to see as RAs in the building, but at this point, for next year and possibly in future years, we can consider that. Upperclassmen would not be required to live there, it is just a first year experience.

**Sam Speed:** There has been talk of moving classrooms into Halls or having professors or advisors spend time in Halls such as Wayne.

**Dr. Easton:** They already do that. I have taught a class in Onondaga for an entire semester. A lot of INTD 101s are taught in the Halls. I very much hope that we can get faculty advisors into the Halls.

**Joey:** You mentioned that, in the writer's house, they would not have to go by the normal housing rules of homesteading and priority rules. Do you think that is unfair since Seneca will be the newest Hall?

**Dr. Easton:** Housing is certainly unequal on this campus. There is Jones Hall which is in poor condition, and you are right, it is not equal. Is it fair? I think we will have a system that will make it fair that will very much want people to be rewarded for good work and for commitments to community. It is a privilege.

**Eleanor:** A lot of the principles and ideals that you mentioned that will be stressed in Dante House are good to be shared with the entire campus. Is Residence Life looking to turn another Hall into a thematic Hall with those same ideals?

**Dr. Easton:** About a year ago when I was interviewed for this position, I laid out my ideas for this and I thought that I would have every person in a Residential setting, but I decided to start slowly. This is a pilot program that we are trying, and the reason I was interested in including the honors program is that, for me, it has always been a testing ground for the whole college. When I was wearing my last hat for the last 7 years, I was coordinator of the INTD 105 classes. The first year writing program came out of a student meeting on curriculum reform where students requested instruction in writing. Honors 102 is the reading and writing course, it is the same idea for honors students. It basically becomes the model for the rest of campus. This is not to say that it would restrict where people live. There is little interest in mandating people to live in certain places. One of the traditions here is that people choose where they want to live as they gain seniority. We have progressive housing here as well starting in corridor style Halls typically and moving to suites.

**Mary Rosch:** You are talking a lot about communities and creating new ones, and having been an on campus resident for 3 years and being on Hall Council and IRC, it feels like a slap in the face that you want to create communities when Hall Councils are in place to do that. It happens naturally with students from all different walks of life who come together and go to Hall Council and they are not bound by the classes they are in or their outside interests and they put on programs and have fun and going home can be relaxing, so I am not sure why the focus is not more on working with the communities that are already in place.

**Dr. Easton:** I am not sure why our ideas are at odds with each other.

**Mary:** There is a selection process based on who the people are and not who they want to live with and where they want to live.

**Dr. Easton:** Out of about 990 incoming students, this is only affecting about 30.

**Mary:** But this is a trend that will be encouraged in the future. You are grouping people together based on what they look like on paper.

**Dr. Easton:** It seems to me that we can integrate that sense of community that you are talking about with other interests. I know this is new, and that many students think of the classrooms here, and leaving that behind when you go home. It will be more integrated and you will not leave it behind as much. The things that you talk about in class are important. You are a part of a group of citizens on campus who are interested in sharing those ideas together.

**Mary:** It seems like you are creating a world that is not real. After their first year, these students will be thrown into a different lifestyle. Where you work is not usually like where you live. You are placing them in a very sheltered community.

**Joey:** I think that what you are saying is that it creates more of a familiar environment where similar people can bond. It is not necessarily artificial, but it will make it easier to transition, and I feel like that is a good thing.

**Will:** I had a question about homesteading with the writer's house. Once you are accepted, are you there as long as you want to be?

**Dr. Easton:** You can stay there as long as you want to unless you fail to be a good citizen.

**Will:** With what you were saying with integrating school and Residence Life, for me, like you said, I go to school, and then I go home and forget about school work. For me, going back to my room is a break or relaxation period. I would feel imposed upon by my school work if I was living in a place where my Residence Hall was focused on the same ideals as the classrooms.

**Dr. Easton:** That is a good point. One thing that I have explained is that the same is true with any Residence Hall program. If something is going on in your Hall, you are not mandated to join it. No one will force you, but the option is there. I can understand your concern, but I think that you will find that it is not suddenly going to be less relaxing. It will still be fun.

**Will:** I like the idea of integrating the two, but I do not want to see it mandated. By forcing all first year students to live in Dante House, that would make me feel like my own private time was being intruded on.

**Dr. Easton:** One of the requirements of the honors program is that they will be involved in volunteer work and community service, and Dante House will provide an opportunity to accomplish that. We have different levels of learning outcomes for first year students and upperclassmen. When setting up service programs for first year students, they are new here and do not know the resources available to them. You present them with something and they learn about how to do it, and then as sophomores, they know about those resources.

**Shane:** When you say first year students, do you mean transfer students as well or just freshmen?

**Dr. Easton:** Just freshmen, but that is a sexist term.

**Shane:** As far as the application process for the writer's house, I see a situation where people who are good at writing assignments but who do not necessarily enjoy it would apply just to live in the newest Residence Hall. Do you have any ways to avoid that?

**Dr. Easton:** Others were concerned about that, and we will be talking to a lot of students to combat against that. Being a good student includes not breaking rules of conduct, and it seems to me that the students, through their Hall Council, can set standards for the Hall for people to get involved. In that case, students that live there will not be helping the community by doing that. It is tough, and a lot of people will say it is the newest hall on campus and will do anything to get in.

**Tom Richards:** Is there any talk of raising the standards for the honors program with this change?

**Dr. Easton:** I have no say over that.

**Tom:** It seems that it should be stricter if this happens.

**Dr. Easton:** Yes, that is a good point, especially when they are getting special privileges.

**Christina:** You mentioned that you have a vision of specialized housing around specific topics.

**Dr. Easton:** There are several possible topics, for example, there are groups interested in living together who all care about sustainability.

**Christina:** I love the idea of integrating school with Residence Life, but for example, I am a Spanish major and I have a lot of friends who are not. If I were secluded in a Spanish major house, I might not be friends with those people. In your ideal college, how do you see specialized housing going?

**Dr. Easton:** I use the term Residential College Housing. The houses do not need a specific academic goal. There are other things such as sustainability. There could be houses not having any particular theme or focus, but just a group of people put together with faculty that have an interest in this. The faculty members will not be there all the time, this is just a way to extend the academic relationships. Your example of majors is very good. Currently, Spanish majors can live together in Ontario, and for some, this is a very special opportunity, but it is not mandatory. We would never group common majors together mandatorily. It sounds like we are going to stop giving people choices, but that is not so.

**Rahul:** Are other Residence Houses that are themed going to remain the same?

**Dr. Easton:** The Science and Math house has disappeared, there was not a lot of interest in it.

**Miranda:** The students did not play a major part in coming up with these programs. At the end of the year when you evaluate the program, will residents have a say in how they liked it?

**Dr. Easton:** It will be considered, but it will not be the determining factor. At the end of a class, you evaluate it, and if a lot of people do not like it, do we stop teaching it? No, we reevaluate it and change things about it. Student input is important, but it is not their decision ultimately.

**Amanda Kurtis:** I have a friend who is an avid gamer, and currently Wayne Hall has a gamer suite. In the future, will there be only academic houses or will there be other houses for things like that?

**Dr. Easton:** It is not mandatory. If you want to form a suite of common interest, that is encouraged. People are always free to do things like that. We will not take away your choices. I suspect there are faculty members who are interested in gaming, and they may find residents in Dante House that they can connect with. When naming possibilities for houses, Dante came to me easily because he was an outsider, and he was someone who struck out against the institutions of his day. He wrote a very famous political poem, so he is the epitome of someone who does community service and builds community.

**Abby:** I heard that there will be community meals in Dante House. How will that work?

**Dr. Easton:** People will go to dining halls just like anybody else. From time to time, the house will organize dinners. It is just like you taking everyone who lives together in a suite or on a floor in a Hall, getting CAS to get us a place to sit aside and eating together. We have been hosting dinner discussions where people can go, but are not mandated, and this will be similar to that.

**Tom Richards:** Say a large group of friends and I have an interest in a certain house, is the college willing to listen to potential ideas for houses from students?

**Dr. Easton:** Yes, in some respects. I do not think that interest in certain houses would travel through generations. Certainly, clustered students gathering together who might be in a house could study a common topic. They could do that, but there would be a disconnect between the house and those people.

**Eleanor:** You mentioned that the Math and Science House disintegrated. Can you explain why that happened and if you think those concerns are valid for these new houses?

**Dr. Easton:** The Math and Science House was basically set aside as an affinity cluster of rooms without faculty members. One of the things that make the Spanish and French suites work is that there are TAs living there. There is faculty associated with the new houses who are interested in the common goals, so that will help. Otherwise, it is just putting a bunch of students together. I would never discourage people with common affinities from living together.

**Shane:** Will the requirement for first year Dante students be changed for commuters?

**Dr. Easton:** No, commuters are exempt from having to live in Dante House as well as those who have disability needs.

**Deborah Bertlesman:** It scares me as a student who plans to live on campus for all 4 years that my Residence Life is being compared to a statistics class. Student opinion should be a huge factor.

**Dr. Easton:** Students are taken into consideration, but you do not run the show. There are people who spend a lot of time studying and considering how to structure a Residence Life experience and have students participate, and I am saddened to hear that you are expressing fear, because I think that people are perhaps getting nervous about things that they do not need to be.

**Lindsey Wiltse:** I find it to be somewhat rude that you did not ask students opinions before doing this. You are basing the Dante House off of how well the goals are met. If you are bringing a bunch of first year students in that are interested in the honors program but do not have interest in global service, there are only 30 spots open for students to apply. Why not make an entire house of students who could apply?

**Dr. Easton:** That is a good idea. This is just the first try.

**Mary Rosch:** Why did you pick Wayne Hall? I know that I lived in Livingston my freshman year, and the b-side was substance free. I think that would be easier to fathom for the first year than with students living in Dante House. They would still have access to what it is like living in a Residence Hall that does not specify a specific purpose. Why is that not the case? Why are they so secluded and separated.

**Dr. Easton:** Someone will always live in Wayne Hall.

**Mary:** Why is it not a more centralized location that is a full-on Residence Hall including any students?

**Dr. Easton:** Wayne Hall was picked based on size.

**Mary:** What does that do for the Hall? Why is it not a section of a larger Hall?

**Dr. Easton:** This is the first time that we are trying this, we wanted an enclosed unit. Substance free is a different thing. This is more about privileges. It is an interesting point, but Wayne Hall has traditionally been housing for international students and will continue to be.

**Mary:** Why is there not more of a transition? This is an extreme.

**Dan:** Katelyn and I co-chair the Hall Council Improvement Committee, and that will be around next year. While the residential curriculum has not changed the goals of Hall Councils, it has encouraged Halls to put on programs that have more educational goals. Is residential housing something that may affect the programming goals of Hall Councils, or will the Hall Councils be able to plan any programs they want?

**Dr. Easton:** That will still be up to the Hall Councils.

**Dan:** I was just wondering if they would be advised in a different direction by their advisor if their goals will be more about educational programming.

**Dr. Easton:** We will not impose things on people.

**Emaline Johnson:** You said that you are starting small and thinking about other things.

**Dr. Easton:** Yes.

**Emaline:** That is what scares me. I do not like that idea.

**Dr. Easton:** You are getting distracted by the idea that the writer's house has a specific set of goals. Dante House hardly has anything like that. They have interest in global citizenship, but they are free to engage in any other interests that they may have. Organizing people into a house system is another way of drawing together people from outside Residence Life into Residence Life.

**Emaline:** I just see keeping people the way they are as keeping diversity rather than grouping people together.

**Dr. Easton:** They will still have a choice.

**Emaline:** If the whole campus is centered around residential housing, how can you choose to live anywhere else?

**Dr. Easton:** Right now, you are choosing Halls which are just buildings. They have communities.

**Christina:** You are saying that you want a Hall with relationships. Are you looking at getting faculty members who may even potentially live in the Hall or will it be that there is a faculty advisor who has greater contact with the Residents?

**Dr. Easton:** That is more what we will see here. People will say things such as in Genesee Hall, our community will have a specific name. It is an opportunity for people. Since the first models are so old, they have a different physical structure, but a pretty good example is Northwestern University. They do not necessarily have faculty living in the Halls, but they have close affiliations. The houses do not have set ideas every year, they can change from year to year.

**Vinita:** I understand that this is a passionate topic, but keep in mind the general rules of how we talk to each other.

**Eleanor:** You said that you wanted to ensure that Dante House will be double rooms only. Why will they be guaranteed double rooms? Why are they being given a higher priority?

**Dr. Easton:** It is a privilege to be invited into the program. It is not egalitarian.

**Eleanor:** You spoke about opportunities and resources available in Dante House. Will they be exclusive to Dante House?

**Dr. Easton:** I do not recall what I was talking about.

**Christina:** You said that, as incoming students, they would be made more aware of the resources available to them. If you have a resource guide for Dante House, would you be willing to distribute that to the rest of campus?

**Dr. Easton:** Things like that will not be held to Dante House alone. We have staff to organize it. I am hoping that people will see things happening and want to bring them into their own Halls.

**Laura:** I just had a question or concern about greatly considering student input in this program. In later years, honor students may find that the students are not enjoying this program, but that may trickle down to high school seniors who may decide not to come here because of this program.

**Dr. Easton:** I understand those concerns. Every college has certain requirements. Certainly when students participate in assessments at the end of the year, we take that into consideration, but it is not the only consideration. When you decide to come to Geneseo, you agree to take certain courses that may not be mandatory at other colleges such as Humanities. If the student says that they cannot stand reading Plato, they may not want to come to Geneseo. The honors program here is a stricter curricular program than most other colleges. If a student looks at that, they may decide that they do not want to come to Geneseo. They may look at Geneseo and decide that they want a bigger choice of where they want to live, so they may not come to Geneseo. Students always take all of those things into account. The staff has been looking at the academic curriculum and they believe that it is just as important. Some people are not going to like it. I do not mean to be dismissive because I am not, but it is true of every part of your college experience. There are some things that people like and some things that they will not like.

**Laura:** So those things have not been taken into account yet?

**Dr. Easton:** Let us try it for a year and see how it goes.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Item #45-0708:**

**Rahul:** I forgot to add the CAS grant into the price breakdown last week. We are having a picnic on Saturday. It is designed for the Hall to get together.

**Allison:** What different kinds of food and activities will you have?

**Rahul:** There will be football, hopscotch and other activities. For food, we will have hot dogs, veggie burgers, hamburgers, etc.

**Christina:** The event is soon. Have you done any advertisements and will logos be used?

**Rahul:** Posters and emails have been used. We will add the logos.

**Tom Richards:** Can residents from other Halls come?

**Rahul:** It is only for Putnam Hall residents.

**Eleanor:** I would suggest that you encourage recycling.

**Rahul:** We will. We are also asking people to bring their own plate.

**Serge Berig:** I call to question.

*~Mark seconds*

*~Dissent*

**Vinita:** Until everyone's questions are answered and the new price breakdown has made its way around, we will continue question and answer. Everyone can look at April 7's agenda.

**Eleanor:** Do you have volunteers to run the program?

**Rahul:** Yes.

**Will:** Where are you getting the grill?

**Rahul:** Our AC has a grill that we are using.

*~Rahul leaves*

**Allison:** Really quickly, I know this is an extended meeting, but we really need your help in making sure that these are quality programs, so please stay with us.

**Mary Rosch:** I think it is really good that they received a CAS grant because it is a program that usually requires a lot more money for food, so that is the way to go.

**Tom:** It sounds like a quality program and I wish I was a Putnam resident.

**Will:** When on Saturday is it taking place? It might conflict with the Campus Cup.

**Vinita:** Keep in mind that we are discussing the reading.

**Alicia:** I was glad to see that they submitted it early so that they had time to make revisions before the reading had to be done.

*Reading passes 28-0-0*

**Item #46-0708:**

**Vinita:** You have your minutes from last week to go over the changes. We did add something about the federal law as per your request, so it is now included in the constitution. If you have any other questions, I am here to answer them.

**Rahul:** Can we still put amendments into the constitution?

**Vinita:** That is what you are voting on, so if there are changes you would like to make, you are able to discuss them.

**Rahul:** You can give the IRC chair the power to appoint someone to pass messages to other reps.

**Vinita:** I think that you take that upon yourselves and it is successful.

**Christina:** I would like to comment on that. People do take it upon themselves, but I think as far as transparency goes, that could prevent dialogues from taking place in open discussion.

**Vinita:** The meetings are open, so discussion is not just closed to reps.

**Eleanor:** I was an attendee to the Constitution and By-Laws Improvement Committee, but I just recently had another idea. I was wondering how people would feel about, specifically for programs that were offered over a certain amount of money, submitting a wrap-up report to see how they went and what could have been improved. Not to put extra pressure on you as Reps, but it is good to improve communication between Halls. Also, I would like to know if IRC's funds are being used in good ways.

**Vinita:** That is highly encouraged during open reports. Also, if you ever have a question in open reports or after meetings, please feel free to do so.

**Eleanor:** I know we check our minutes, but I occasionally forget about programs that happened a while back. Making it mandatory might help.

**Katie LeFevre:** I just wanted to say that is why Katelyn and the PR committee put together the newsletter. We asked for input and had to find a lot of information ourselves because people did not submit write-ups.

**Eleanor:** I know that there are ways to do so now, but I was just thinking of a supplement, not a replacement.

**Vinita:** This is something that can be discussed. I understand that you are not asking that it be put into the constitution right now, but it will be addressed.

**Joey:** I agree with Eleanor. It could improve how people view programs so that they will take it more seriously so that they could come back with a success story. Sometimes we know that a program might not be as much as you hoped, and that might encourage you to make it better.

**Vinita:** This can be discussed after the meeting since it is not going to affect the reading.

**Christina:** If we were to vote for or against this, what would be another appropriate way to go about this issue to enforce it? The Constitution and By-Laws are the only way to enforce things. If the only way that we could make something like this mandatory is to place it in the constitution, I would like to know that now.

**Vinita:** They are set up as ways of having something for the entire group to understand the format and function of a meeting so that everybody understands their role. If you feel that is an integral part, then it can be added. However, if there is an ad-hoc committee formed and responsibilities

are taken on by reps, you have the ability to do things like that. If you feel that it will help the organization move along, there are other avenues.

**Christina:** So as far as an official way that this can be enforced, this is the only way that it can be done? If we wanted to have a follow up report be put into policy, this would be the way to do it?

**Vinita:** Yes, if that is something that you wanted in policy, it would have to be put into policy this way.

*~Vinita leaves*

**Christina:** The point that Eleanor was trying to make for using program reports, I just want to put it out there, we can either leave this until next year or we can potentially have an amendment, but I want to make sure that everyone is aware of our options before we move forward.

**Sam Forlenza:** There is a third option. If it is something that you want to discuss, you can speak with the Executive Board whenever and we can work it out.

**Christina:** If that is another option, I am definitely for that. I just wanted to make sure that we all knew our options.

**Mary:** My comments about the reading last week still stand. I think the constitution is very strong and the revisions are minor which indicates that it is strong as is and we should pass it.

**Eleanor:** I have a question. If we were looking to change the constitution, and we vote to pass this and it will not change for an entire year, is there a way to hold off on voting or is that not an option?

**Sam:** At this point in time, we could pass the constitution and then continue discussing that change, however, there is an issue of timing because the Constitution and By-Laws must also pass in the Student Association, and there are only so many meetings left. We are always open to discussion and we are willing to discuss it for next year.

**Mary:** This is something that we can all start implementing whether it is mandatory or not. We can start reporting things informally. That is how a lot of changes seem to be made in IRC. We can agree as a council to start implementing this without having to make any constitutional amendments, and that would make it more likely to carry over next year.

**Joey:** The reason that we vote on this is because we could potentially not pass it. If there are only 2 weeks left in the year and it has to go through SA, is that a good thing? If we were to not pass it, how would that effect it?

**Sam:** You would not fail the Constitution, just the changes. We would keep the Constitution as it is right now.

**Christina:** So you are suggesting that maybe the discussion on this could start sooner next year?

**Joey:** yes.

**Christina:** I support that, and that will be up to the people who are here next year.

*Reading passes 27-0-0*

**Item #47-0708:**

**Vinita:** We discussed this at length last week, so you can review your minutes. If there are any questions, let me know. There are a couple of things that I would like to make a friendly amendment to. As far as formatting issues, I would like to fix the indentation on the first page under Article I, Section I, A, 1, 2 and 3 to match the others. The other thing I wanted to discuss was electronic advertising. I wanted to reiterate that that term comes from SA policy, and it is an all encompassing term. I wanted to make sure I addressed that concern.

**Mary:** Was there any discussion on if Halls would be put in Bad Financial Standing if they did not advertise that a program is funded by SA/IRC on facebook?

**Vinita:** There is no mechanism necessarily to watch that, but if it was brought to an Executive Board member or an SA member, since it is in our By-Laws, they can be put in Bad Financial Standing. We will not be policing that, but if it is brought to our attention, they can be put in Bad Financial Standing.

*~Vinita leaves*

*Reading passes 27-0-0*

**New Business:**

**Item #48-0708:**

**Mary Bock:** Jones Hall wants to try to liven up our main lounge a little bit, so we want to do a mural, and instead of doing one particular design, we want to have a fundraiser and block off one wall into squares. People can buy a square and paint whatever they want and it will stay there. The money will go to the Free Arts of NYC. It goes to help kids get involved in the arts. All designs must be approved by Hall Council first so that nothing inappropriate ends up on the wall.

**Mary Rosch:** Have you filled out a fundraising request form?

**Mary:** Yes, and we also filled out a mural request form.

**Will:** Will someone be able to put other things such as photos if they enjoy photography?

**Mary:** It will just be painting.

**Shane:** You mentioned that this would be permanent. How would you ensure that?

**Mary:** Our RD said that as long as nothing is inappropriate, unless next year someone votes to paint over it, there should not be a problem. It will be up to the Hall.

**Shane:** Last year, we all put our hand prints on a wall and they were painted over.

**Mary:** That was one of our concerns, but we looked into it and it should stay up.

**Eleanor:** How many squares will there be?

**Mary:** I am not sure.

**Eleanor:** It is obvious that you should try to accommodate as many residents as you can.

**Amanda Kurtis:** Will people be limited to one square each?

**Mary:** We have not thought about that, but I will bring it back to the Hall Council.

**Mary Rosch:** It says that you are buying 25 different paints. Are they just different colors?

**Mary:** Yes.

*~Mary leaves*

**Mark Sperrazza:** When she first said mural, I thought it would be somewhat of a hassle, but this seems like a very effective way to do it and leave a lasting impression on the Hall while contributing to Free Arts. I think it is a great program.

**Laura:** I think it is a good way to encourage community and it is a good way to pass it on to the incoming students next year.

**Mary Rosch:** I think that the program is excellently suited to the organization that they are raising money for. It is a way to get students in the Hall together as well as raise awareness of other issues in the world.

*Reading passes 27-0-0*

**Item # 49-0708:**

**Amanda Greene:** Basically, we wanted to have a big end of year celebration for our Hall. We are having a barbeque as well as a powderpuff football game with male cheerleaders, other outdoor activities, tie dying and other activities. Everything was priced from CAS, Wal Mart and Wegman's. We are getting a grill donated from CAS and we also received a \$100 CAS Grant.

**Eleanor:** I am not sure who wrote up the rationale, but I was just wondering, since kosher food cannot be cooked on the same grill as the other food, do you have a second grill?

**Amanda:** I believe we have 2.

**Christina:** Regarding the veggie burgers, some vegetarians will not eat the veggie burgers if they touched the grill, so the easiest way to avoid that problem is to put foil down.

**Rahul:** Where is the grill coming from?

**Amanda:** It is coming from CAS.

*~Amanda leaves*

**Mary Rosch:** The barbeque looks great, and it is great that they are getting a CAS grant and have other activities going on at the same time so people can do different things, but still be out there as a Hall.

*Reading passes 27-0-0*

**Item #50-0708:**

**Christina:** I know it has been a long meeting, so I will keep it short. As you can see in the rationale, nearly 1 in 2 SUNY Geneseo students reported feeling too depressed to function at least one time throughout the school year. That statistic is from 2005, but based on discussions with individuals in health and counseling, it has remained around that. There will be a panel discussion to de-stigmatize the issue of mental health. I know several of my friends have had issues, and they did not seek help as soon as they should have. We have 2 experts speaking. Bob Hawkes from the Department of Psychology at Strong Memorial Hospital is speaking. He is a Geneseo alumnus and he is donating his services. We have Dr. Katz from the Psychology Department here at SUNY Geneseo speaking about resources on campus. Our very own Vinita will be speaking about personal experiences and a Livingston resident will be speaking as well. This is very near to my heart. Last year, one of my friends attempted suicide, and it is very important to address this issue on campus.

**Alicia:** Since this is being held in Newton, is it open to the whole campus?

**Christina:** Absolutely. I am working on getting endorsements from different departments. The Provost has already endorsed it, so hopefully professors will encourage their students to go. It is during all college free hour and there will be free food. It will be fun. Bob Hawkes is an entertaining guy, Dr. Katz has helped with a program in our Hall in the past, you have all seen Vinita here, and Eleanor's roommate will be involved and she is in MTC and is wonderful as well. We have put a lot of effort into this. We are hoping to get 200-250 people in attendance. We advertised by word of mouth, but we plan to mainly use electronic forms of advertising. We do not want our budget frozen, so after tonight's meeting, if this reading passes, there will be a facebook event advertising it.

*~Christina leaves*

**Mary Rosch:** I think this is a great program and Livingston has done a great job getting this together and combining with other resources available on campus. I think it will be a great program and it is very well planned out.

**Amanda Greene:** I think it definitely seems like they put a lot of time and effort into this and it will benefit the campus. It should be a great program.

*Reading passes 27-0-0*

**Item #51-0708:**

**Eleanor:** Ready? Aim. Fire! You can come on Thursday, April 24 to engage in paintball in Rochester. Upstate Escapes is busing 44 lucky Geneseo students to Rochester. We have the facility reserved from 8:00-11:00pm. The price is \$32 per person, but with IRC funding, they will be \$22 per person. This will include equipment, air cartridge refills and paintballs. Tickets will be on sale at the ticket window. We already received a \$300 Upstate Escapes grant that will take care of the transportation. As far as advertising, posters will have logos on them, and chalking and list serve emails will be used. The bottom line is that you should come. It is a way to de-stress, it will be a good time, it is close by, and you can just put a t-shirt on over your gear and have a really cool shirt.

**Mary Rosch:** I am just wondering, on the RC drawing fund form, it says that the remainder of the event is being covered by the Upstate Escapes grant, where is the different coming from?

**Eleanor:** The original ticket price of \$32, times 44 people should add up to \$1,408.00.

**Mary:** Would it be minus \$300?

**Eleanor:** It would be subtracted, but not from the admission cost.

**Mary:** It is \$32 time 44 people, but how does the \$300 fit in?

**Eleanor:** It looks like they are being added, but that is not the case. We have already received the \$300 for transportation, so if we do not receive IRC funding, the price per person will be \$32 and that will cover the cost.

**Mary:** I am confused how the remainder will be funded, if there is one.

**Christina:** Transportation will cost \$300. That is covered by Upstate Escapes. Then the first number of \$32 is the original price, the second number is the reduced price of \$22. We are asking for \$440 from IRC to lower the ticket prices. Those numbers are just there to show you the big difference in ticket prices for the people who participate.

**Joey:** As a question, would they have to include the \$1708.00 in the breakdown?

**Vinita:** We ask that everything be reflected in the entire price breakdown.

**Joey:** So would they have to change the total amount and then the percentage would be lowered?

**Vinita:** As long as everything is reflected and we can see how everything is laid out, it is all right.

**Serge:** If you accidentally break a paint ball gun, would the price cover it or will you have to replace it?

**Eleanor:** I do not see how someone would break it. I can call them and ask them if insurance is covered.

**Ben Delozier:** You will not be charged. They have insurance for those kinds of things.

*~Eleanor leaves*

**Will:** I think it is a great idea, especially since I know quite a few people who were excited about laser tag, but could not go, so they now have another opportunity.

**Miranda:** I think it is a quality program that is open to the whole campus, so the fact that everyone has the opportunity to go, I think it should be voted for.

**Mary:** I like that they made a getaway on a Thursday night, because a lot of people are looking for something to do and it will be a great way to spend some time.

*Reading passes 27-0-0*

**Dan:** Before we adjourn, whoever was talking during the Constitution discussion, I made a note about that responsibility going into the IRC Representative's position for next year and the Hall Council Improvement Committee will discuss it.

**Adjournment:** 9:31pm