

TechNews

Student newspaper of the Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

OPINION 2
 CAMPUS 2-5
 SGA 5
 SLIPSTICK 7
 SPORTS 7

LIFE, HACE present networking workshop

Zaira Ortiz
 TECHNEWS WRITER

On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, you may have noticed that between 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., campus was a bit quieter than usually it is. You may have thought that the quietness was due to the weather, students hiding in their dorms, or even professors letting students out of class a few minutes early. The truth is that all the cool kids on campus were at the Networking Do's and Don'ts Workshop organized by the Latinos Involved in Further Education (LIFE) and Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE).

As the event began, students immediately filled all the seats in Wishnick 116. As the student traffic increased, LIFE and HACE members served free Chipotle to all attendees. The atmosphere in Wishnick 116 serenaded students with the soft musical sound of chips crunching in the background. In a professional setting with a talented speaker and Chipotle food, there was no better place to be on campus. Once the food was served, it was show time! Guest speaker Bruce Mueller took the spotlight at 5:30 p.m..

Forty-six students attended the workshop, ranging from first years students all the way to graduate level students. The di-

versity was immense, but even in a room that could not hold a more diverse bunch of people, Mueller was able to deliver valuable information that catered to the professional needs of

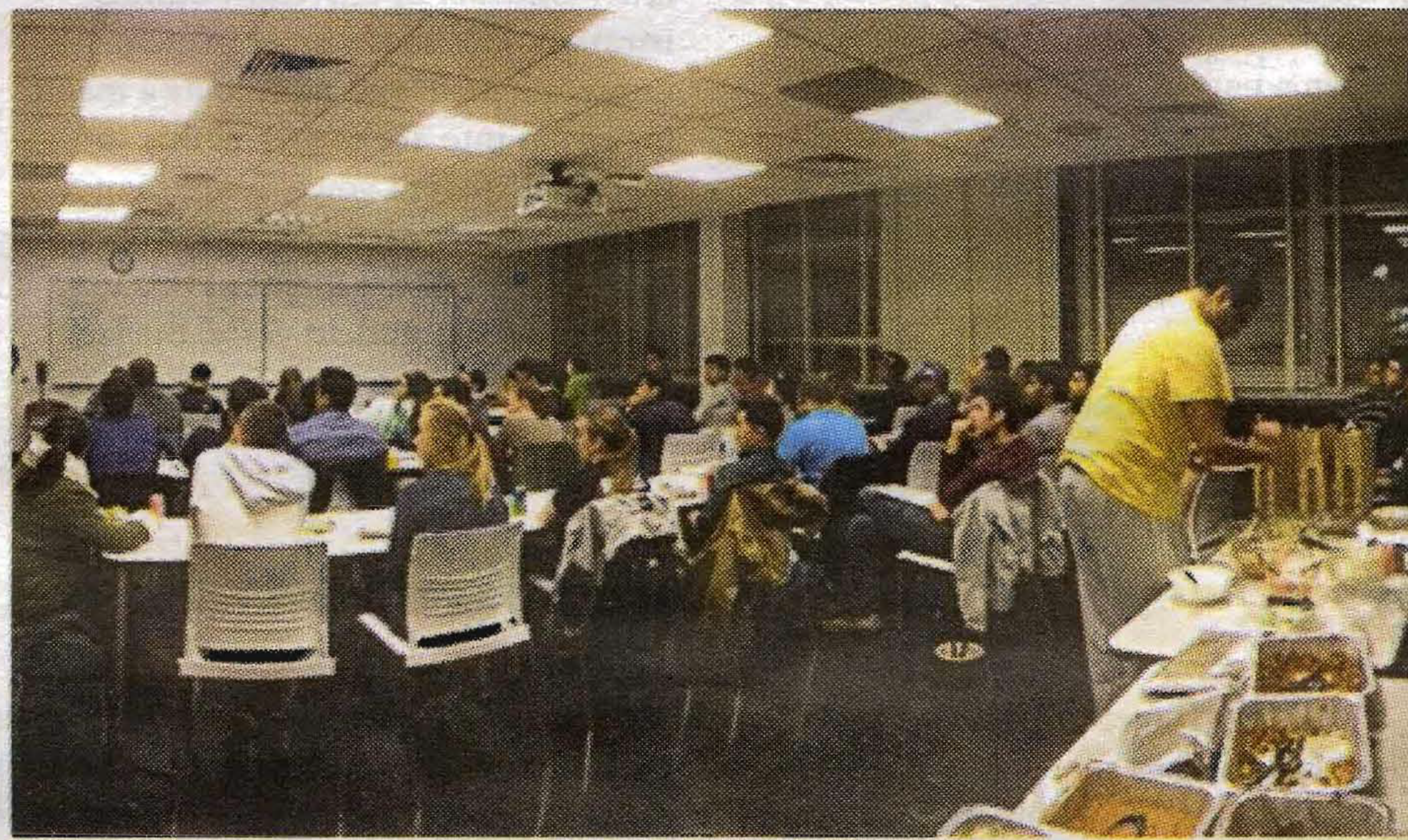


Photo by Zaira Ortiz

everyone there. To list a few examples of the diversity, the room was filled with business students, engineering students, architecture students, humanities students, first years, second

years, third years, fourth years, graduate students, and so on. In an engaging environment, students of all backgrounds found themselves participating actively in the workshop. Some

students took notes, others were actively engaged in conversation with the guest speaker, and others had a lot of fun while learning. The energy in the room was incredible.

Before attendees left, they were required to take a brief survey describing their satisfaction with the workshop. The first question on the survey asked whether or not students liked the workshop. With yes or no as the only two options, everyone who attended the networking event unanimously responded with, "Yes." In addition, the yes was such a strong yes that students felt inclined to leave comments of appreciation, enjoyment, and love for the event on the comments line.

The Networking Do's and Don'ts Workshop is symbolic in many ways. First of all, it is a symbolic representation of the diversity within IIT, and how that diversity is nurtured, encouraged, and valued. Second, this workshop represented professional unity within the IIT community, and how within IIT we already have a network surrounding us. Finally, it represented how successful and fun an event can be, when students become involved. The Networking Do's and Don'ts Workshop held by LIFE and HACE was the perfect student output to IIT's professor input.

If you want to know what professional tips were given at the Networking Do's and Don'ts Workshop follow LIFE and HACE at IIT on Facebook. Also, if you missed this workshop don't worry. LIFE and HACE are planning more!

TechNews application demonstrates unprecedented administrative overreach

Kyle Stanevich
 BUSINESS MANAGER

"This is ridiculous," said Kori Bowns, current Editor-in-Chief of TechNews, when discussing the application process for WIIT Station Manager and the TechNews Editor-in-Chief. For the first time ever, the selection process for these positions are being held by the Office of Campus Life (OCL) instead of the student organization. Within TechNews, many are furious by this most recent staff overreach.

I am not involved with WIIT, so this article will not focus on it, and instead will tell the story of TechNews. However, the WIIT Station Manager, Kevin Zheng, did not seem to have any trouble with the change, saying "Organizations like WIIT, TechNews, Union Board, Student Government Association (SGA), Greek Council, etc. get a yearly operating budget for their student organization and in exchange the school gets some say in how the organization is run."

For many years, the TechNews Editor-in-Chief has retained their position until they graduated or determined it was a good time to step down from the position. The precedent for the process indicates that the current Editor-in-Chief reaches out to TechNews advisors and key staff and students to organize a small panel to interview possible candidates. TechNews is IIT's student-run newspaper, and just like any other student organization, the organization is internally responsible for their own executive board. There is no third-party interfering with the way the executive board is elected, nor would any organization want this in the first place. The people who are most involved know how the organization oper-

ates; therefore, they know what kind of people will guide the organization down a successful path.

However, this time around, the Editor-in-Chief of TechNews is not being appointed in the usual way. The Office of Campus Life is heading up the process to find the next Editor-in-Chief. While OCL's Ryan Miller has been on the TechNews selection panel in the past, the Editor-in-Chief leading the process invited him because of his involvement with the university and organization.

Even though OCL has been partially involved in the past, TechNews has always retained complete control of the selection process. This selection, however, TechNews staff were kept out of the loop. The Editor-in-Chief had no knowledge of the OCL-initiated process until a few weeks ago, nor did the rest of the staff till she organized a debriefing about what had happened.

Unanimously, the TechNews staff agreed that OCL was overstepping their bounds. What's worse is that the application was made without involving any of the TechNews staff. More importantly, the TechNews advisor, Gregory Pulliam, was not aware of the application until the Editor-in-Chief informed him. While he does take a hands-off approach for advising, something that TechNews appreciates, he still is kept in the loop about TechNews happenings. Especially given that he is a faculty advisor, he should have been notified of this.

Even if OCL wanted to run the selection process, they should have at least contacted someone from TechNews to determine what should be asked on the application. For example, one of the questions asks, "How will

you attract new editors to TechNews?" However, this is not what TechNews needs at the time, just the opposite. They have an excess of editors, just barely making enough ad revenue to pay them all. A more appropriate question would have replaced "editors" with "writers." Another question asks about an applicant's leadership experience, but this is not the most important prerequisite for TechNews. According to the Editor-in-Chief, her job is less about leadership than it is management and sticking to the weekly production schedule and making sure TechNews hits the newsstands on time every Tuesday morning.

According to Ryan Miller, Associate Vice Provost for Campus Life, "The Editor-in-Chief gets to manage a budget of advertising dollars." This is not true. The Editor-in-Chief has very little to do with the finances of TechNews, and instead is all done by the Business Manager, Kyle Stanevich, and the faculty financial advisor, Vickie Tolbert. If some time was taken to ask exactly what the Editor-in-Chief of TechNews does, or just to visit the TechNews staff job descriptions online, these problems could have been avoided, assuming TechNews was willing to have a change in leadership at this point.

These problems might stem from Katherine Knight. According to Ryan Miller "Campus Life has taken a larger role in advertising the positions this time around due to Katherine Knight, a graduate assistant, working in our office this year. Part of her responsibilities is to help student media organizations in their work with the IIT community." It is great that there is a person in charge of assisting student media outreach the IIT community, but that does not mean that an

unprecedented application process for the organizations should be organized. If TechNews was having trouble reaching the student body, or had become separated from the needs of the IIT, then at least there is a designated person to get advice from. However, this is not a problem TechNews has at this time.

Knight had previously tried to contact TechNews leadership to learn general information about TechNews by setting up meeting, but they were unable to get a meeting time set up. Maybe if she were to mention that OCL was considering selecting a new Editor-in-Chief on behalf of TechNews, this meeting would have been given a higher priority. As it stands now, it is too late.

For most students, their reading experience should not be affected by this application process, assuming that an involved and capable member of TechNews is selected (ideally Bowns), or OCL decides to cancel the TechNews application. But it does bring up one question of where IIT is willing to go.

If they are willing to stick their hands into the internal workings of TechNews and WIIT, what else are they willing to do? Appoint the SGA president? Make obscene requests of the Greek houses, and deny resources for service-based IIT organizations? These are just a few examples of what could happen if problems such as this are never dealt with. Without student opposition, administration will continue to weasel their way out of sticky situations by bullshitting the students, instead of taking time to listen to concerns and attempt to correct any problems.

(More opinions on Page 2)