

Food Science Club aims to investigate, educate about our food

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Luciano Pavarotti once said, "One of very nicest things about life is the way we must regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating." But how many times do we stop to wonder what it is that we are eating exactly? Every 35 days your skin replaces itself, every month your liver replaces itself, your body makes these new cells from the food you eat. What you eat literally becomes you. Hence, understanding your food is extremely important. That's exactly what the Food Science Club aims to do. With a diverse

array of events and activities, we not just plan on educating you about your food, but also make sure you have fun while doing it.

For all you food enthusiasts, this is a great chance to enhance your knowledge about processing of food products and get behind the scenes of food production. Know what you eat.

Food science, being a multidisciplinary field, comprises of chemical engineering, mathematics, industrial engineering, management, biochemistry, computer science, etc. The diversity in this field itself depicts the fact that Food Science Club is open to the entire IIT Community.

With the Food Science Club (FSC), you get a chance to meet professionals from various food companies, and learn about the

ideas that inspired them. Get to know how a product is being made and how innovation happens in a food industry. Under the charge of faculty advisor, Dr. Kathiravan Krishnamurthy, assistant professor at IFSH, and the leadership of Nikhil Mishra, who's currently pursuing his Masters in Food Safety & Technology, FSC is the first of a kind student organization at Illinois Tech from the department of Food Safety and Nutrition.

FSC will provide IIT students with the opportunity to be a part of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), which is a global platform for food science enthusiasts, and be eligible for various college bowls and international events. There's also a lot of scholarships to be won. Along with various

interesting events on-campus, this student organization will also organize a forum and an industrial visit per semester, information on which will be sent out to members on a regular basis. So, what are you waiting for? Come and join Food Science Club today.

For reaching out to students, both members and non-members, the Food Science Club will have its first Bog event on March 31, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Food will be provided.

For more information contact us at foodscienceclub@iit.edu. You can also join Food Science club on HawkLink, like our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter (@fscillinoistech), and Instagram (@fscillinoistech) for more news and information.



Photo courtesy of Food Science Club

Clubs find common ground at first student org presidents luncheon

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At the request of SGA president Rahul Wadhvani, the Office of Student Affairs and Office of Campus Life organized a luncheon for student organization presidents, hosted inside the MTCC Ballroom during regular lunch hour on Thursday, March 10. With invitations sent out to all 150+ currently active primary contacts in HawkLink, the resulting event was not intended to push any specific narrative or announce any new policy, but was instead simply a general gathering of student leaders for the purpose of discussing shared priorities, challenges, and strategies for the coming year. Most of OCL's current advising staff attended along with Dean of Students Katie Stetz and others involved in coordinating the business of student organizations, and about 40 student organization heads joined those staff members for the first of what is intended to be a series of

president-focused gatherings.

A few minutes after the official start of the luncheon, Associate Vice Provost for Campus Life, Ryan Miller, stood up to introduce himself to the group and kick off some collaborative discussion. With some aid from Dean Stetz, he outlined the purpose of the event and posed a few general questions about the challenges of student organization promotion and planning. After everybody present introduced themselves and the organization(s) they were representing, discussion turned to collaborative work that different groups on campus could engage in to form co-curated events and take some of the pressure off an individual organization to plan and promote a large idea on their own. Many organizations have been discovering the benefits of partnered events this year (especially Bog events, for which Union Board provides funding), and the participants in the luncheon seemed eager to branch out to more dual-hosted events.

That conversation led to another, more general topic: that of promotion and member retention. Vinesh Kannan, the president of Illinois Tech CEO, posed a question about recruiting board members and active participants for a brand new organization, a challenge that many in the room had dealt with before. The group openly discussed different strategies they had used for such challenging circumstances, and ideas for how to get students to care about specific topics that aren't bounded by a single academic major (like entrepreneurship, in the case of CEO). At this point Subarno Saha, the VP of Communications for SGA, presented the idea of creating a Slack for every student org president to join at will, with the intention of collaborating and sharing strategies for success. While the specific makeup of that Slack wasn't set in stone, the general idea was well-received.

Near the end of the event, the conversation turned toward more actively

negative aspects of student org business, such as continual challenges with Finance Board transparency. SGA members who were part of the presidents group were quick to point out some initiatives being taken to improve the resources available to student organizations (including the allowance of external individuals into Finance Board hearings, and the formulation of a student org-focused town hall meeting for later this semester), but time was running short, so the topic could not be as thoroughly covered as some would have liked.

OCL and Student Affairs plan to host at least one more Presidents Luncheon before the end of this academic year, with plenty more to come next year. This first event was very broad in scope, and the conversation within it was broad as well, but a precedent has now been established for what could be a very fruitful future of collaboration and collectivism among student organization presidents.

Undergraduate studies committee discusses pass/fail proposal, more at most recent meeting

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Every two weeks, a group of faculty members from across Illinois Tech's various disciplines meet along with representatives from the office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, University Faculty Council, and more to discuss actions related to undergraduate education issues here at the university. That group, the Undergraduate Studies Committee (UGSC), is tasked with setting the core goals of an Illinois Tech undergraduate education, planning and implementing policy related to expectations of faculty and student conduct, and formulating new initiatives to evolve this institution's approach to education. Beginning with the March 22nd meeting of the UGSC, TechNews was permitted to observe the group's proceedings for the purpose of student access to the information discussed within.

The UGSC is currently chaired by Dr. Kathryn Spink of the Biology department, who is tasked with organizing a conversation that often veers into philosophical territory. Even when discussing the most specific initiatives and plans, each representative present brings with them a unique approach to undergraduate education and a different outlook on what would best ensure student

success at Illinois Tech and beyond. The twenty voting members of the UGSC each represent a different academic department, with the exception of Gayatri Tawari, who represents general student interests as SGA's VP of Academic Affairs. Through the course of fast-paced, sometimes passionate discussion during hour-long meetings and additional off-the-clock negotiations, the UGSC crafts some of the most basic building blocks of this university's core programs.

At the March 22nd meeting, there were two important topics up for debate. The first, a proposal to introduce some pass/fail course options into Illinois Tech's free and technical electives, was originally brought forth by SGA, and is in its third iteration. The most recent published version of the proposal limited the number of such courses taken to three (with no such restriction for courses taken beyond degree requirements), and stated that a pass/fail grade would only impact a student's GPA if they failed the course in question. During the course of the discussion, as differing concerns were brought forth by various departments, the language of the policy became greatly expanded to account for the expectations of each stakeholder. The representatives of one department, joined by many others, supported a modification in which the department offering each particular

course would need to approve that course for pass/fail status before it would be offered as such. Additionally, most of those in the room supported a compromise in which the department of each student's origin would also have to allow certain courses to be pass/fail to meet their degree requirements. At the end of debate, it was agreed upon that Greg Pulliam, the Associate Chair of Lewis Department of Humanities and the group's Secretary, would present an updated language of the proposal at the next meeting which satisfied those points of compromise.

The second major topic for discussion during the meeting was a student petition calling for greater midterm feedback from professors above the 200 level. According to those present, the University Faculty Council had concerns about the petition due to its lack of regard for classes with nontraditional structure, such as IPROs or other project-based courses. However, the present members of the UGSC all reaffirmed their commitment to greater midterm feedback, though the general sense of the room was that formalizing that feedback process beyond 200-level courses would cause more problems than improvements. A number of individuals present stated that such a formalization could potentially even be detrimental to student performance, claiming that premature progress judgments

from professors could cause students to drop courses before actually knowing how they might progress later in the semester. It was also unclear how widespread the problem is, and to what degree students are missing progress indications from their professors at the time of midterms. The members of UGSC appeared to support the addition of clearer language to both the student handbook and to faculty training documents outlining expectations for midterm feedback and providing resources for students to directly address feedback issues (such as reporting to their department chair), but there was not enough time remaining in the meeting to thoroughly discuss what shape that language would take.

In addition to those substantive discussions, a few smaller items were addressed. Greg Welter, the Director of Academic Compliance and International Credentials for UGAA, reiterated to those present that DegreeWorks was not an official outlet for academic information, and was meant only as a guide. Additionally, Dr. Spink reminded present faculty to recruit members of their department for the upcoming Camras Quiz Bowl, in which Camras scholars face off against their professors. The next meeting of the UGSC takes place on April 12th, and all documents related to the organization can be found at iit.edu/~ugsc.