

## TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF  
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Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

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## Faculty resolution on diversity, a criticism

## Reno Waswil

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

It is quickly approaching one year since the previous Illinois Tech Provost, Alan W. Cramb, was inaugurated as the ninth president of the university, picking up the baton from John L. Anderson, who had held the position since 2007. Having been a student enrolled at the school for two years before the inauguration, I had, naturally, noticed a few changes that could be linked to the changing holder of the position, as one might expect from a new president trying to make a defining mark. A few of these changes I found somewhat minor and humorous, such as the renaming of the coffee, fruit, and pre-packaged pastry spread in the lobbies of the academic buildings on Mies (previously Main) Campus on the first day of Final's Week from "Pat Anderson's Finals Breakfast" to "Mrs. Anna Cramb's Finals Breakfast;" it makes sense, sure, but the politics of it seem a bit chuckle-worthy.

Then, some of the changes seemed significant. It may only be my singular evaluation of things, but Cramb, at this point in his presidency, seems much more open and available to students and student concerns than was Anderson. There is always room for improvement, but Cramb's establishment of the President's Student Advisory Committee (PSAC) as a transparent, and, ultimately, student-chosen group of individuals, as well as the influx of emails from the President's Office since Cramb's inauguration to keep student's generally more informed of administrative changes and business are just a few attestants to my evaluation.

And I would cite more updates from the President for the purposes of keeping students, faculty, and staff more in-the-loop of administrative news as a beneficial method of creating a larger sense of school community, which is why I make a point to read them when I do receive them.

It was because of this that I took a keen notice to the curious email from President Cramb last week. For those paying attention, several factions of the school (or at least many of the students) actually received a total of three emails from President Cramb last week, and although I did form opinions about the other two (one of which was a celebration of fulfilling donorship goals and the other was an announcement to students wishing to vote in the election this November), I was compelled only by the third one, received last Monday morning, to generate some commentary. This email was part of a series of emails which

include the header "President's Updates," and shared a resolution on diversity and respect that was passed at the last Faculty Council meeting of the spring on April 21.

The email was short, and the resolution went: given President Cramb's commitment to respect within the university community "regardless of gender, race, background, country of origin, religious affiliation, immigration status, orientation..." as was affirmed in his "University Update" on November 20, 2015, as well as Illinois Tech faculty's observation that respectful diversity strengthens us as a community, that the faculty would, therefore, remain unwavering in their commitment to "welcoming students, faculty, and staff, whomever they may be."

What got me about this email was the stark dichotomy of how little the statement actually meant to the deal that was being made of it. The only message I could takeaway from this email was that the faculty "is still pro-diversity, and that won't change," which is an absurd thing to make a point of saying without any context. The resolution, passed unanimously, now actually appears as its very own tab, under the header "Faculty Statement on Diversity," on IIT's "Office of the President" webpage. Navigating to the website, in addition to this new tab, I also see what I assume to be a pre-existing "Commitment to Diversity" tab, which leads to a page harping on basically the same point.

Before I continue, I'd like to restate that I do see more announcements like these as a beneficial practice in increasing the interest of students in taking an active part in the Illinois Tech community. However, I see it as only being beneficial if these announcements, somehow, allow us feel including and responsible in the decision processes and not just as outsiders being fed down patronizing news, and furthermore, that these updates don't be of a nature that allows them to be, more or less, meaningless, and to fade into aggrandizing noise. These are two criticisms that, I argue, can be fairly levied about this particular update.

Why was news, may I ask? Am I to understand that, prior to this, there was not an expectation of respect regardless of affiliation among our faculty? This seems contrary to what I have been told time and time again, enough to cement this already almost universally supported idea of a university-wide "commitment to diversity" in my mind as meaningless noise. Perhaps there was some explanation for this resolution in context of specific issues in the school (a few having been

brought up by students at the last President and Provost Forum), or plans for real-world effects or enforcement of said policy in the future. This was not made clear in this email, and these issues still remain, with or without this new resolution, as contentious as they was before.

Additionally, I may be mistaken, but the only other email I received with any reference to the Faculty Council was in a "President's Update" email from October 16, 2015. In this email, there was, actually, what I believe to be meaningful information conveyed. There was never, however, any establishment in that or any other update I recall that resolutions made by such a council merited the publicity that this one did. This was, in fact, the first resolution of this council that I've ever heard of, and the implications of these or other resolutions that may or may not have been made in the past is a mystery to me.

According to Soren Spicknall, the TechNews writer assigned to cover Undergraduate Studies Committee (UGSC) meetings, this "respect and diversity" topic was actually also discussed within the UGSC last spring stemming from the poignant discussion had at the last President and Provost Forum around the topic. There were, however, administrative barriers to making any immediate concrete changes to university policy, and I may speculate that such barriers resulted in the final Faculty Council resolution to emerge in the way that it did. Although this may have been the case, I was, sadly, unable to find any reference to this in last spring's UGSC minutes to offer any details or proof.

Despite this realization, I am still unsatisfied. I commend President Cramb putting such a focus on communicating with the students body and expending so much time to do so, but I am unsatisfied by some of the methods he chooses to do it. I do understand that asking for active student representation in administrative decisions is an idealistic request, and that, perhaps, we can expect nothing more than occasional self-applause of the university's positive features in the forms of mass emails for the sake of shallow advertisement. I prefer to think of the reality of the situation as somewhere between these two extremes, and hope that the school comes to progress towards the former. In doing so, I invite any response to my questions posed about the nature and meaning of this resolution, and hope to receive a public response in this paper.

## Office of Campus Life hosts first leadership development event for Fall 2016

## Alexandra Detweiler

TECHNEWS WRITER

Were you curious about the picture of Kim Kardashian and Taylor Swift that was posted by the IIT Campus Life page on Facebook? Were you drawn towards the sound of Taylor Swift music coming from MTCC's Executive Conference room last Thursday? You may be interested in learning about the new leadership activities that are happening this year.

Over the summer, Patrick Fina with the Office of Campus Life was tasked with "revamping the leadership program." Because of this, Fina is kickstarting a series of leadership workshops that will use pop culture as a method to talk about what leadership is and what makes a good leader. Using real life examples will not only be more applicable to students' lives but will provide the opportunity to talk about tough decisions that people such as celebrities have to make. The first leadership workshop of the year was on Thursday, September 8th. It yielded a surprising turnout of about 20 people and tasty sandwiches were provided for all.

At the beginning of the luncheon, Fina addressed us by asking who could define leadership in two seconds or less. None of us stepped up to the plate. Leadership is a hard concept to define, vague and indefinite, and Fina understood this. After letting individuals share their own opinions, Fina said that his

own definition of leadership was "that feeling you get in your gut when you know you're making a hard decision. Where you're worried you might disappoint someone. Where you're worried that you're going to make the wrong choice. Or maybe you're so nervous because you know you're making the right choice, but it's going to come with consequences."

Speaking of consequences, we discussed how Taylor Swift learned about consequences over the summer. For those of you who don't know--and care enough to learn--Taylor Swift and Kim Kardashian (on behalf of her husband Kanye West) were recently involved in a heated feud over social media where Kardashian fans ignited the Twitter hashtag #KimExposedTaylorParty and Taylor released a single statement asking to be excluded from the drama.

Regardless of which celebrity was actually in the wrong, we discussed our opinions on who was acting like the "leader" in the situation throughout the lunch. After all, it is sometimes the leader's job to step out of the drama and sometimes the leader's job to step up to defend your family. In the end, the group decided that both Swift and Kardashian had acted as the leader in their own way.

We examined how our perception of a leader is shaped by the identities they hold. For example, both Swift and Kanye are artists; that's why we're paying attention in the first place. In addition, their racial backgrounds differ as well. There's Taylor, a white, former

country music artist from Nashville, Tennessee suburbs, and, according to Fina, "Kanye, who claims he is god, from the Southside of Chicago." It was interesting to analyze how the identities that different leaders have can shape their actions.

The workshop as a whole was very enjoyable; the atmosphere in the conference room was warm and welcoming. All ideas were accepted and discussed. However, I was not well versed in the drama involving Swift and Kardashian beforehand and felt lost throughout parts of the discussion. Some aspects of the ordeal were explained, but it was assumed that the audience already knew a substantial chunk. So if you're like me and aren't a pop culture guru, brush up on your celebrity drama before attending the next leadership event.

Keep a lookout for other events like this one. The "Day of Be a Better You" will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 24. RSVP through HawkLink and you will be eligible to take a Strengthsquest, a tool that helps you identify where your natural skills lie. The next leadership luncheon will be on Thursday, October 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event will involve the concept of vulnerability and discussion will be centered around Drake and Rihanna.

## Do you know the difference between UNICEF and Circle K?

## Alexandra Detweiler

TECHNEWS WRITER

If your freshman self was anything like mine, a lot of things confused you about Illinois Tech. What were the random wooden benches scattered around campus? What was the deal with "less is more?" Why did everything have to be an acronym?

But among other things, one thing that had me scratching my head was the difference between UNICEF and Circle K. During this year's student involvement fair, I spent some time squinting between the two booths and trying to discern what made each unique. Two groups of nice, enthusiastic college students looking to do volunteer work. How was anyone expected to make a decision on which to be involved in? A coin flip?

Fortunately, both organizations' presidents were willing to meet with me and

help me understand the difference.

Martae Marshall, president of Circle K, understood my confusion. He pointed out that "the objective [of each] is not different. The way UNICEF is structured is different than Circle K." There are several 'tiers' of Circle K that differ as one grows older. Builder's Club is for those attending middle school, Key Club for high school students, Circle K for college students, and Kiwanis International for those older than that.

In the past, Circle K has done a multitude of volunteering activities, such as going to the Ronald McDonald house to read and do activities with the children and helping out at the city farm to pull weeds and plant crops. In the future, Circle K has a myriad of new projects planned, all of which involve outreach events like cleaning up the city and teaching children.

UNICEF, on the other hand, focuses

mainly on children. In fact, UNICEF stands for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and it has been at Illinois Tech for only three semesters. However, the organization already has an impressive track record. One volunteering highlight of UNICEF's past is Keen Chicago, where UNICEF members spent the day playing with children with disabilities to keep them active. Last year, UNICEF attended the national conference in Washington, DC. Out of about 75 organizations, they won most knowledgeable organization, in only their second semester.

According to Wildalene Serin, president of UNICEF, "Every day, about 17,000 children die from preventable causes such as poor water conditions and malnutrition. UNICEF's main mission is to make that number zero." Each month, UNICEF has a country and an issue of the month. Their three committees--education, fundraising, and public relations--

work together to organize and advertise this event. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the cause in that specific country. This month, UNICEF's country is Mali and the issue is underage child marriage. So expect a fun event before the month ends that will help combat this issue.

However, while Circle K and UNICEF do have their differences, I was surprised to learn that the national chapters actually work together when their issues overlap.

Interested in joining one or both? Circle K meetings are on Thursdays in Wishnick Auditorium from 12:50 to 1:40 p.m. UNICEF meetings are also on Thursdays, from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. in LS240. Look up UNICEF @ Illinois Tech on Facebook for further updates.

## The Bog, after an over two-year run, will no longer be open on Saturdays

## Reno Waswil

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Illinois Tech's signature recreation area, bowling alley, and bar, The Bog, located in the basement of Hermann Hall, has been a casual meeting and lounging spot, venue for musical and performance acts, and space for group parties and get-togethers for years. During weekdays when classes are in session, The Bog is host to the Commuter Lounge: a period when The Bog's recreation area, stocked with video and board games, pool and ping pong tables, and amenities like a refrigerator, microwave, etc. is open for students to visit at their leisure. During regular hours, the bar and bowling alley are open for use, and attendees are welcome to partake in the occasional special events that may be hosted in the area by any number of student organizations and sponsored by Union Board.

The goal of maximizing the usefulness of the space to the student populous has resulted in adjustments to The Bog's

hours of operation over the years. Some may recall that, prior to spring of 2014, the Bog's regular hours were exclusively Thursday and Friday evenings from 5 pm to 1 am during the school year. However, in an attempt to give students more weekend dining options, The Bog's management extended hours to include Saturday nights from March 1 to April 5, 2014.

The following two academic years, Saturdays during the months between October and March were added to The Bog's semesterly schedule--September and April being deemed as having moderate enough weather that students would more likely seek off-campus dining options if inclined. This trend was believed to continue into this academic year as well, though inklings of unsatisfactory attendance had already surfaced. It wasn't until this past summer when management decided against continuing the Saturday operations, and they elected to return to the Thursday and Friday schedule as it had been previously.

Correspondence with the leading OCL member involved in The Bog's

operations, Alex Carlson, helped uncover the factors behind the change. "The decision to cancel Saturdays" she writes, "was a joint effort between Campus Life and Sodexo, based on the lack of attendance we both saw over the semester."

Although efforts were made to increase attendance to the Bog on weekdays--such as the introduction of Union Board's weekly instructional dance event "All the rITe Moves" last year--attendance remained modest. "On Thursday and Friday nights, our hourly counts normally peak with at least 100 students," Carlson elaborates, "on Saturdays, we rarely saw more than 40 students." However, as a side-note, "All the rITe Moves" is expected to continue this year on a different day.

Union Board, which began booking student organization reservations of the space for the fall last semester, sent all of the organizations that requested Saturday bookings emails notifying them of the change in July. They were given the option to reschedule their events for another date, for

which there was still a number of openings available from which to choose. According to Carlson, all of the funding that Union Board was given to cover programming of The Bog on Saturdays was returned.

When asked if the change would at all impact the workers at the Bog, Carlson explained that no additional staff was hired over the summer, knowing that there was a chance of The Bog's hours decreasing, and so, "our student staff should not see much of an impact on this."

Although unfortunate, this was not a decision made lightly, nor was it made temporarily; Carlson concludes, "this year we will go back to regular hours of Thursday and Friday. I do not anticipate a change in the future." With any hope, students that did regularly use The Bog as an on-campus dining option on Saturdays in the past will be able to adjust without too much trouble, and student organizations will be able to fit their planned events in with the space's new schedule.

## Corrections

Union Board's Hawks Coffeehouse continues into its fourth year, now on Wednesday nights

In the previous issue, I wrote an article about Union Board's (UB) bi-weekly performance event, Hawks Coffeehouses, changing from Tuesday to Wednesday nights this semester, but I had some of my information wrong. I claimed in that article that one of the reasons behind the change was "to better coordinate this event with other regular on-campus UB event 'Wishflix' a monthly movie event on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in the Wishnick Hall Auditorium." After speaking again with UB's Music and Dance Chair, Citlalli Bueno, I learned that, in fact, the movie event was being changed to Tuesday evenings, and that Hawks Coffeehouse was changed to Wednesdays so that the two did not correspond. Additionally, I learned that the

location of said movie event was being changed to the Perlstein Auditorium, and that it would, as a result, heretofore be called "Pearlstein Premiers." The following dates of both events will be, for Pearlstein Premiers, 9 p.m. on September 13, when the movie "Deadpool" will be shown, and for Hawks Coffeehouse, 7 p.m. on September 14, with student performers. I apologize and hope that no one who read the article was misled too much.

Illinois Tech breaks ground on Kaplan Institute, first academic building addition in 40 years

The front page article in Issue 1 of TechNews which came out on Tuesday, August 30, mistakenly stated that the Institute of Design (ID) will remain at the Downtown Campus following the completion of the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship. In fact, ID will have a home at the Kaplan Institute on Main Campus, where its graduate programs will reside, whilst also continuing to have programs based at the Downtown Campus. TechNews offers its apologies for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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