Election results revealed, new student organizations approved at SGA Senate meeting

political advocacy organizations which opposed the teaching of intelligent design and creationism theories in public schools. Pastafarianism, as the religion is called, is legally recognized in a handful of countries, but was ruled not to be a legitimate religion in the United States in an April 2016 court decision.

The students presenting FSM at Senate began their time with an introductory video explaining some of the basics of the religion (which include an all-powerful deity taking the form of spaghetti, and the annual celebration of "Talk Like A Pirate Day"), then demonstrated a specific plan for on-campus events and for an organized Executive Board to carry out leadership duties. Senators' questions for the group largely revolved around the inclusiveness of their activities (to which presenters answered that all were welcome at their events, and as members in their organization), and whether they had coordinated at all with Lynne Meyer, the director of Spiritual Life and Diversity in the Office of Campus Life. The primary speaker for the group stated that Meyer had actually been the first to suggest making the group an official student organization, and that they had been working with her throughout their development. After a very brief private discussion primarily focused on the organization's impressive structure and vision

so far, Senate voted it through by a margin of 10 for, 3 against, and 3 abstaining.

Following each new student organization vote, the SGA Executive Board presented in turns. President Leo Sukkar took time to simply thank the outgoing Senate, and encourage each member to continue involvement in SGA in some way. Since only one Senator had run for reelection, this message was intended for the vast majority of those present. Following Sukkar's comments (which were bolstered by similar words from Executive VP Kamdar), the VPs of Academic Affairs, Communications, and Student Life presented jointly, briefly introducing information about their committees for potential incoming Senators. Akash Raina, Academic Affairs VP, highlighted his committee's work formulating the pass/fail proposal the previous semester (to be implemented in Spring 2017), and indicated that his committee's close relationship with Illinois Tech's Provost, Frances Bronet, and the university's Board of Trustees allowed them to push for student-led academic initiatives. Communications VP Jelani Canty put a focus on community service in his committee, as well as fostering a positive relationship with student organizations in this academic year (especially media organizations TechNews and WIIT). Student Life VP Qianran He spoke primarily about the launch of and continued improvements to the HAWKi app, and welcomed any new Senators to join her committee to improve the daily lives of

students at Illinois Tech.

Before election results were to be announced, there were two important items still to get out of the way. Finance Board Chair Sung Min Choi Hong summarized the first Finance Board hearing of the semester, in which $142,583.72 was approved of the $255,714.22 requested by student organizations. He explained that any organization wishing to appeal their decision could first talk to Finance Board, then file a petition with SGA's Judicial Board if they were still unsatisfied.

Piggybacking off of that topic, Judicial Board's recently-approved Chief Justice, San Dinh, put forth three individuals to fill the vacant slots in his Associate Justice Roster: Mohammed Samir Siddique, William Gordon, and Shreya Jha. Each candidate was questioned about their motivations for becoming a Justice (notably, Siddique mentioned that he is a current Kent Law student looking for on-campus experience in similar areas), and Dinh was asked about how the candidates were recruited (through an email sent when Senate nominations opened last month). The slate of Justices was then approved by a Senate vote of 14 for, 1 against, and 1 abstaining.

Finally, it was time to reveal the victors of this year's Senate elections, which featured a higher total turnout of voters than either of the previous two years choosing between a total field of 20 candidates (drawn from 88 nominations). The winners are listed

below in descending order of total votes, separated by the college they represent:

Applied Technology - Caitlin Simpson and David Sobel

Architecture - Savannah Brown

Business - Boran Chen and Ethan Castro

Engineering - Alyssa Deluca, Kislay Bhagat, Franklin Nwaezeigwe, Golzar Shobeiri, Richard Opara-Ndudu, Jacob DiGiorgio, and Jillian Edwards

Human Sciences - Trixie Weiner

Science - Gina Oberoi, Nathan Jones, and Sydney Smith

Some colleges did not have enough candidates to fill their entire constitutionally-mandated number of Senators, so those openings will be advertised and filled through Senate votes later in the semester. Each Senator represents the voice of the students in the College they represent, and are meant as a contact point for student issues arising from each college. New Senators (and all current SGA members) will be participating in a mandatory retreat on Saturday, September 24 to orient them to their role, and business will proceed as usual very soon for the 2016-2017 academic year.