

TechNews

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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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SUBMISSIONS

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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The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews' policy and standards. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsiit.com.

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Response to university administration's justification for new addition to protest policy

Wes Ludwig

ILLINOIS TECH STUDENT

Having had the opportunity to read the information from Dean Stetz in Soren's piece last week, I'd like to once again offer my comments. The addition in question: II.A.9.d in the handbook section outlining the student code of conduct was added as part of a larger effort to update the language of the handbook motivated by the need to maintain compliance with Title IX regulations for gender and sex discrimination. The manner in which these edits were carried out illustrates my concern for the role of the student in decision making at IIT. These changes were made in a meeting that didn't solicit student representation, let alone input, and were confirmed and added to the handbook autonomously. I understand the often prohibitive effort that attempting to get an uninterested party's input takes, discussion of policy especially is often mind-numbing. However, these changes do affect the liberties of the student body and as such I think that they could have at least been pointed out in a meaningful way, rather than left to the students to find and collectively imagine the worst in a vortex of Facebook angst. But hindsight is irrelevant. How will we now move forward having seen the displeasure, concern, and fear that this caused for students?

I will allay discussion of the specific problems of interpretation that the policy raises for now in order to propose a series of ideas on how the school could more effectively represent the interests of the student body in these types of institutional decisions. But first, a comment on a statement that was attributed to Dean Stetz in last week's article (referring to students concerned with the intentions of the new policy, and its possible effects on student rights) "when there's a group of people who don't trust, I don't know to respond in a way that will build that trust." I don't think that the relationship between a student and

administrator should be one of trust. I cannot trust an administrator to hold my interests above their own, because if the choice were between the interests of the students and the interests of investors, it's safe to assume that administrators will choose to keep their salaries over losing their jobs. We shouldn't be asked to just believe in our hearts that administrators won't choose to use vague policy to silence groups and individuals. We shouldn't be asked to imagine a totally different set of rules than those that are laid out because of how we're told something will be handled in practice. Ours should be a relationship of mutual respect, and that respect should be apparent in the way that our input is sought out and manifested as well as in written policies on how the university can treat its students. I should not have to take an administrator's word that something seemingly indiscriminate in its application will be applied with great concern and sensitivity. I won't, I don't believe they're capable of doing so. With that being said, my suggestions follow:

A collection of areas of concern should be determined by SGA and the Office of Student Affairs (OSA): areas which pertain to interests of the student body, as such they will require a student representative to be present or to be consulted before ratifying any institutional change in those areas. These representative positions could be distributed within SGA or PSAC as seen fit, and could fall to the appointment of SGA administrators (these appointments should not be under the control of professional administration).

A permanent position (or multiple to represent undergraduate as well as graduate students) should be made on the Board of Trustees for a student representative, likely a high ranking officer from SGA. This position will hold equal voting weight with the other board members and can be used to introduce issues for action.

I would now like to turn my attention to the issues of the policy itself. It may be a lawyer's advice to keep wording as vague

and encompassing as possible so as to allow for the most maneuverability in any case of application; that's what I would do if I wanted to create a system where I can win regardless of actual circumstance. That principle has been faithfully applied to this policy, focused on the word disruption, which is at no point further defined in order to give a frame of reference for enforcement. In fact, Dean Stetz's defense of the policy is only her good word that the kind members of administration will only deign to enforce this nebulous policy when it suits them. My apologies, that is "when an action was unsafe". Why then is it that the word unsafe, or danger, or violence never appear in the language of the policy? When the only way that a policy makes sense is to not enforce it, what good is the policy (other than as a convenient back door for the university to separate itself from undesirables)? The only sign of good faith that the OSA could offer now is a collaborative rewrite with representatives of student government.

To the student who commented anonymously about vocal protest possibly devaluing his education in Spicknall's article last week:

You should thank protesters for the free service they provide in educating you on what I imagine is a much needed outside perspective. If we can't be bothered to even literally hear the complaints of our own colleagues and contemporaries, we deserve no place as decision makers and actors of change in society. Our education is (unfortunately in our world) a privilege, and we have an obligation to use our privilege to help others.

I do hope that other students, faculty, and administrators will offer their own opinions against (or with) mine, so that we may have a discussion on these important considerations of the relationship between our academic, administrative, and political realities. I will continue to offer my opinions on these matters and I hope others will join me.

CAMPUS

Kappa Phi Delta holds fundraiser for breast cancer awareness

Andrew Adams

TECHNEWS WRITER

Anyone walking through MTCC last week would have seen tables of old clothes, assorted used knick knacks, and other odds and ends, all hanging under a sign that read "Kappa Klearance." This strange assortment of items were being sold by Kappa Phi Delta, as part of their annual campaign to raise support for breast cancer research and awareness: Paint IIT Pink. All the proceeds from Kappa Klearance went to Lurie Children's Hospital.

According to Kyra Keigher and Madina Tahmas, two women who helped run the sale, this is the second time that Kappa Phi Delta has held a garage-sale style event. "We

were giving away a lot of old clothes anyway, so we figured we should put them to good use," said Tahmas. According to Keigher and Tahmas, the sale went well, which can be explained both by people supporting the cause and by people simply needing a good deal on a sweater - which was apparently the top seller.

Paint IIT Pink will continue across the next week. The campaign, according to a post on the Facebook page for the event, is "focused on honoring breast cancer survivors and fighters, and also raising money for breast cancer research." The week will continue with more fundraising opportunities, including sales of raffle tickets, baked goods, and support pins. T-shirts to support the campaign will be sold until October 10. All proceeds from these

sales go to the Lynn Sage Foundation. The week will also feature online posts showing stories of those who have had breast cancer. For those seeking more information about that, email womensappreciation@kappaphidelta.com.

The campaign will culminate at the Illinois Tech Women's Volleyball game, called Dig Pink, on October 11. There, prizes will be raffled off and there will be a display of luminaria to honor the fighters and supporters of breast cancer. The event's page intimates that there will be more festivities and honors at the half-time of the game. Nearly 100 people were marked "interested" or "going" on the Facebook page for this event, making this an event worth watching out for.



Photo by Andrew Adams