



MOTION

Rensselaer Union 50th Student Senate

Date: March 2, 2020 | Motion #1

WHEREAS Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) has lobbied 44th District NYS Senator Neil D. Breslin, without soliciting the opinions of the RPI community prior to creating the bill, to sponsor NYS Senate Bill S7645 (the bill), which would grant peace officer status to certain RPI-employed Public Safety officers;

WHEREAS RPI Public Safety peace officers would have an extended right to warrantless search and seizure on RPI owned, administered, or controlled property;

WHEREAS RPI Public Safety peace officers would be able to make warrantless arrests and use deadly physical force to effect an arrest in accordance with §35.30 of NYS penal code;

WHEREAS evidence found in criminal investigations done by RPI Public Safety peace officers could be used in RPI judicial cases as evidence of violations of the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities;

WHEREAS campus securitization measures, particularly the escalation of power for security personnel, have been shown to be overwhelmingly ineffective and are in fact correlated with higher rates of violent crimes and mental health issues (Schreck & Miller, 2003; Addington, 2009; Tillyer et al., 2011; Maskaly et al., 2011; Bachman et al., 2011; Swartz et al., 2016; Jonson, 2017; King & Bracy, 2019);

WHEREAS as of March 2, 2020, there has been no official communication to the RPI community at large from the RPI administration with respect to this bill or their lobbying efforts, despite several weeks of discourse in RPI Student Senate;

WHEREAS the RPI Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council polled over 1000 students of their respective constituencies and resolved for the withdrawal of consideration of peace officer status for RPI Public Safety Officers; and

WHEREAS over 88% of the over 830 submitted responses of RPI students surveyed by the RPI Student Senate expressed opposition to the bill, which indicates that the content of the bill is at odds with the opinions of the RPI student body;



The Rensselaer Union 50th Student Senate hereby RESOLVES:

1. To urge the administration to communicate a public apology to the RPI community for lobbying for this bill without soliciting the opinions of the RPI community,
2. To strongly urge the RPI administration to confer with the RPI community before lobbying for new legislation that will affect the community,
3. To call for the withdrawal of NYS Senate Bill S7645, and
4. To urge the NYS Senate to not consider any future bills or regulations which grant peace officer status to Public Safety officers at RPI.

So MOVED BY

Audrey Beard

Graduate Senator

AND SECONDED BY

Noah Prisament

IFC Greek Senator

VOTE

19-0-0

PASSES | FAILS

References

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