RESIDENCE HALL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATE COUNCIL MEETING
Date: 2/17/2020
Location: SUB 418

CALL TO ORDER 9:07 PM
Clare: Hey everyone!

MYSTERY ACTIVITY 9:08 PM
Clare: To start the week, we are going to play a dope game of freeze dance!

ROLL CALL/HALL REPORTS 9:13 PM
Matt O: Hey y’all! So when I call your hall, if you can give me the number of people representing your hall, how many RHSA shirts you have on, how many NRHH shirts you have on, how many Conference shirts you have on, and a hall report from your hall gov if you have one. If you have a new meeting time or you didn’t confirm with us last week, please let us know at this time.

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<tr>
<th>Hall Name</th>
<th>Number Present</th>
<th>RHSA Shirts</th>
<th>NRHH Shirts</th>
<th>Conference Shirts</th>
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SENATE 9:17 PM

**Chet:** Hello everyone. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to have a Senate meeting last week because half the senate had to evacuate, but there are a few dates to remind everyone about. February 20th, this Thursday, we are having a peace vigil in SUB 100N at 6pm. On February 27, we are participating in Higher Education Action Day. Anyone who wants to come up to Albany and talk to elected officials about actually getting us money so we can go to school and support all the things we need to have a job. I have sign-ups for that if anyone is interested in coming to that. I forgot to mention this last time, but we are working on something called the Pink Project to get feminine hygiene products placed in restrooms all around the campus. I don’t have a load of detail on that. I believe it’s still being worked on, but as more information comes up on my end, I will bring it to you all.

NRHH 9:19 PM

**Emily:** Our chapter meeting yesterday was cancelled due to the water crisis. Don’t forget to come to SUB 100N on Sunday, March 1st from 7pm to 9pm, we are going to check y’alls vibes with a throwback party!

OLD BUSINESS 9:20 PM

- Motion to Open: Ridgeview
- Second: Awosting

**Secretary**

**Matt O:** I have results from the Facebook challenge for the riddle in the minutes! Can I get a conference clap? Third place was Awosting, second place was Lenape, and first place was Shawangunk. This time I asked you an actual riddle that read: “I am mighty. I am made of wood. I can be loud. I have many names. I can be found in the hands of the RHSA president at every AC meeting. What am I?” The answer is the RHSA president’s gavel that is used to start and end every meeting. It’s been signed by many past RHSA presidents!

**Historian**

**Noah:** Hey everyone! I have the social media challenge results for last week: for the Remind challenge: 3rd place is Shawangunk, 2nd place is Bouton and 1st place is Ridgeview! For the Insta challenge: 3rd place was Ashokan, 2nd place was Ridgeview, 1st place was Scudder! Don’t forget to start making your memes and creative photos! They are due February 24th at midnight!

- Motion to Close: Bouton
- Second: Ashokan

NEW BUSINESS 9:21 PM

- Motion to Open: Lenape
Second: Capen

Yearbook
Noah: If someone from your Hall Gov hasn’t reached out to me, preferably your historian, but anybody. Continue to do that! I still think that I need 3 or 4 more halls.

Programming Committee
Sarah: Last week, we had some issues with water so the Programming Committee couldn’t meet. The Programming Committee GI is going to be this Wednesday at 5pm, so if you’re interested in getting a taste of doing some programming outside of your hall, I’m having a GI meeting for Programming Committee this Wednesday at 5:00pm in the RHSA office, Capen B-16. If you want to join, or are thinking you wanna join, or have nothing better to do, or just wanna come hang out with some cool people, come by and see what it’s all about.
Scudder: Do you have to be in Hall Gov to be a part of the Programming Committee?
Sarah: No, come check it out.

Campus Communications Coordinator
Johnathan: Hey y’all, two quick things. With the past “Spring Break,” don’t worry about any PUP Sheet deadlines! Just get them to me whenever you get the chance and there will be a GFP Counter update this Wednesday. Lastly, this Wednesday I’ll be sending out an email to your Hall Gov liaisons with some important info to help everyone revamp their constitutions.

Student Advocacy Committee
Matt O: Hey y’all! Tomorrow, Tuesday, February 18th at 7pm in the RHSA Office will be our general interest meeting for the Student Advocacy Committee! Come through if you want to help be an advocate for others and bring change to your school community!
Matt K: We would like to prioritize food concerns, Project Pink (providing free menstrual products for the whole campus), promoting campus safety, and working with Student Association to help improve the campus!

Buzz Halloween Party
Kevin: This Friday, February 21st from 7:30pm to 9pm in SUB 100N is going to be Buzz Halloween Party! It’s going to be a ton of fun! It will have classic Halloween party vibes. There will be a costume contest with a prize, music, classic games, and snacks! We would love to see you there!

Escape Room
Sarah: We are going to have an Escape Room event on February 28th from 7pm to 11pm. It is going to be so freaking cool! Please come and escape the room! It’s a ton of fun! We are not actually locking you in a room. You don’t need to fear! You solve puzzles and work out things with logic and creativity. It’s super cool! We are having a company come and set up a real deal escape room, so come on out and do that! Kevin is going to explain how you can sign up.
Kevin: Due to the water crisis, I wasn’t able to get proper posters, but I will distribute them to each hall and RAs will hang them up for this week. I wanted to make sure you all got the early sign-up key that you can give to your Hall Govs and your friends. Hang it up in your hall even. If
you can scan that QR code on that poster, it will take you to a website where you can sign up on the different time slots. The time slots run every 20 minutes from 7pm to 11pm. Each time slot has three different escape rooms that you can sign up early for. It’s up to 5 people to sign up with. There will also be walk-in rooms, so if you don’t sign up and you walk by, depending on what time you get there, we will give you the next available room.

**Clare:** If you do sign up early and there is another room available after you complete your first one and you want to do another room, you can. You can only sign up ahead of time for one room. You can use that QR code to get that link.

**Clare:** We are going to take a 10 minute break. Look through the election materials you have for our candidates tonight. It is now 9:29 so be back by 9:39.

Ten Minute Break 9:28-9:40 PM

**Election**

**Clare:** Our second election is about to begin. That means from this point until the end of our election tonight, no one who leaves the room can re-enter. There should be no verbal communication anywhere in this room, and no technology. If you are seen using a phone, laptop, etc., you will be asked to leave the room until the end of the election. We will have one person in the back of the room watching for technology, and also to hand any notes you may have up to the AC rep of your hall. These can be discussion points or questions for question and answer. Your mole tonight is Johnathan.

During elections each candidate will have a 3 minute speech, 5 minute question and answer extendable up to 3 times followed by the next candidate. After all candidates, we will have a 5 minutes discussion period extendable up to 3 times and we will go into a vote by secret ballot.

Now, will the candidates running for president tonight please stand up and head out with Noah. Like we did last week, we are going to be using the speaker’s list again. Does anyone have any questions about the speaker’s list? Seeing none. Make sure you have your placard up high until I write your name down. I’m going to be typing them up by myself because our parliamentarian is here. I was sitting in as her last time so I wasn’t typing it, but this time I will be typing it so this time you all know.

**Clare:** Clare, as president, will you know tell us the responsibilities as president? The responsibilities of the president: The President shall act as a neutral resource to all Executive Board members, AC Representatives, and Hall Government members; Acts as the liaison between administrational offices on campus and the residence hall student body; Schedules monthly one on one meeting with individual Executive Board members; Attends bi-weekly one on one meetings with an Advisor; Attends bi-weekly one on one meetings with the Assistant Director of Residence Life; Attends NEACURH Regional Leadership Conference and NEACURH Spring Leadership Conference; Serves as the voting representative on behalf of SUNY New Paltz in President’s Boardroom at NEACURH conferences; President-elect must attend the NACURH Annual Conference; Attends monthly President’s Cabinet meetings; Holds a position on the CAS Board of Directors and attends monthly CAS Board meetings; Runs weekly AC meetings; Runs weekly Executive Board meetings; Works alongside the current Treasurer, President-elect, and Treasurer-elect to create the budget for the following year; Works
with the Treasurer to review all Funding Requests submitted to RHSA; Funding Requests shall follow procedures outlined in Article 13, Section 4; Responsible for maintaining the integrity of the organization.

**Lenape:** As both people are already on the E-Board, do they have the opportunity to run for their current positions again?

**Clare:** Yes, if you don’t get one position, you can run for another position, that can happen twice.

**Lenape:** Can they run for their own position again?

**Clare:** Yes, they could.

**Clare:** We will now have 5 minutes to list any expectations you have for your next President.

**Expectations of President**

- Responsible
- Great time management
- Punny
- Organized
- Welcoming
- Energetic
- Approachable
- Detail oriented
- Upbeat
- Positive
- Confident
- Inclusive
- Professional
- Good leadership skills
- Punctual
- Proactive
- Fun
- Willingness to learn
- Good communication skills
- Unbiased
- Passionate
- Caring
- Helpful
- Conflict resolution skills
- Knowledgeable
- Inspiring
- Delegation skills
- Understanding
- Outstanding advocate for students
- Team player
- Gets along with people
Candidate 1: Matthew Kreuz

Matt K: Hello everyone, my name is Matthew Kreuz. I’m a third year student here at SUNY New Paltz with senior standing majoring in economics, political science, and German language and culture. I’m a triple major. My first start in RHSA was back in my first year as treasurer of Esopus Hall. My second year, I became vice president of my hall and this year, I’m currently your treasurer. I thought I would talk about a brief history of what I’ve done. I was an Emerging Leaders mentor, I was a Stepping Into Diversity mentor, as of current, I’m sitting on the diversity board, making decisions on academic policies, I was president of German club, I was in CREW, and Welcome Crew, I’m currently in NRHH, student senate, and vice president of economics club, focusing on the constitution. When I first joined the E-Board, way back when, a year now, we had one meeting where we sat down with the old E-Board, and they asked us why did you join. My response was that I wanted to make people happy. I wanted to make people happy and that’s my joy in why I’m deciding to run again. I enjoyed my time on this E-Board, I enjoyed going to Hall Govs, I enjoyed meeting all of you, putting on events, and really experiencing all of you. I am someone who takes pride in my time management skills. I’m a triple major, I’m still running around. I focus on pretty much color coordinating every single thing I own. I’m someone who is very passionate about the organization and I try to take some time for myself as well through things like knitting, so I try and do some stress relief. The duties of the president are as follows: to act neutral as a resource, which I’ve done in both mentorship positions for my mentees. Act as a liaison, which I have done through the diversity board and this year as a part of student senate, sitting on faculty senate. Schedule meetings with E-Board members, which I would love to do, I have a lot of dining dollars. My future E-Board, I would buy you Starbucks, I don’t mind meeting them. I think that would be cool. Meeting with an advisor bi-weekly, which I currently do with Katie as well as then, I would have meetings with the assistant director, Jenn Slader, who I meet and discuss treasury stuff with. I would attend conferences, both regional and national, which I have been talking to people about what it’s like to go there, as well as speaking at CAS Board, and parliament, and go to CAS as well as Pres Cab, which I’m the parliamentarian for CAS as well as I attend Pres Cab every month or so. I run the AC meetings and E-Board meetings. I have a copy of Robert’s Rules, I’m the parliamentarian. Create a budget for the following year, I’m doing that already. Meet with the future treasurer, I’m going to be doing that anyway, do funding requests, which I already do, and keep the integrity of the organization, which I will hopefully do and facilitate a reflection at the end of the year. With all of that out of the way, I would like to yield to question and answer.

Question and Answer

Do you have any specific program ideas for next year?
Matt K: Yes, so one thing I thought about my first year was to do a hall gov olympics and so, then, my second year I thought of a similar thing, but after speaking with Clare, we talked about one thing we wanted to come up with and this is her dream and it really inspired me to think again. I would like to do a bigger program with Student Association. I’m currently sitting on it, I’d love to build it together, work with clubs, I’d like to make our BBQ bigger and better and I want to try to and do one day that’s more of a fair with other things. We can get Humans vs. Zombies involved as an alternating thing, which would be a fun way to release stuff. We could get Hooked on Stitches involved, so I think it would be a great way to really expand on BBQ and make it a nice program as well as I’d like to do one with NRHH. I know we talked about potentially doing one. I would like to do a Valentine’s Day one with them because we should share the love with them.

What are some important things you learned as treasurer and are you ready to apply it to the role of president?

Matt K: I think the most interesting thing and important part of my position is that a lot of my position is working with other people. I’m constantly running to CAS, I’m constantly getting receipts from other people, it’s a lot of stuff where my job relies on my E-Board, and it’s something where I have to be proactive, I have to have good time management, and I have to be organized in order to make everything as streamlined as possible, so in doing that, I would have to be on top of things. As president, I would always try and be there for my E-Board, and I could at least fulfill the role as treasurer, if need be to help them out as well as you’ve seen, I’ve started typing. I could be getting better. I currently type 69 words per minute, so it’s not the best, but it’s something where I’m at least working where I could assist everyone if need be as well as keep organized structures.

How will you try to act as the best advocate for all students in the residence halls through your presidency?

Matt K: Me and Matt are currently working on our committee and I am a fan of the way that SA tables. I want to extend the president’s hours to three times a week, minimum, as well as extend it with care packages and split it across two days since I have a Monday, Thursday schedule, I would like to do a Monday, Wednesday so that way it is more accessible, you can come meet with me. I really want to focus on stressing email me. I’m thinking about doing a little anonymous slip box. I think that would be a cool thing. People can write “have a nice day” or little, nice, kind messages and we could give them out at AC meetings. I think that would be a great way to really focus on that.

You mentioned a Valentine’s Day event with NRHH. Is there anything else you plan on doing to strengthen the bond between NRHH and RHSA?

Matt K: As a member of NRHH, I really want to focus on the clean sweep and try to prioritize that as something where we build our relationship working together because that’s community service. Similarly, I want NRHH E-Board members, if they are not a member of Hall Gov, to kind of work with their assisting position, so mine would be Melissa, both treasurers, have our hall buddies, and community service counts as good GFP points, so they could kind of advocate like hey we are doing this event, come show up, learn a bit about NRHH, it will increase your attendance, maybe you get some people interested in joining, and really start to build that buddy, buddy relationship I love.

How do you think your major will help coincide with the position of president?
Matt K: So, economics, I’m someone who is familiar with budgeting, I know how to manage a budget, I know how to fill out balance sheets. Political science, it’s something where I know a lot about how systems work. I know about Robert’s rules, there are a lot of different organizations on campus. There are three student organizations, Greek life, which is run underneath us, there’s the SAUS office, which is Student Association, and there’s us, which is under the Res Life umbrella, so I understand how the structures work, who to go up to, I understand how every organization is independent of each other, and how they coexist with each other, so it’s a lot about understanding the systems that you learn in life.

You mentioned that you were a Stepping Into Diversity mentor as well as an Emerging Leaders mentor. We were wondering if you could elaborate on some of the challenges that you faced in those positions and how you overcame them.

Matt K: So, one of the hardest things with my Emerging Leaders position is that a lot of my mentees were fantastic and they pretty much didn’t need much of me, so what I decided to do was to be a fun resource and provide different events for them to go to and if they ever need to open up to me, multiple people felt confident of sharing information with me,

Matt K: which I felt was the best way to be a mentor. In terms of Stepping Into Diversity, I’m not someone who would claim to be a master in the subject. I’m still learning as everyone else. I went and presented at a conference last year where I would constantly use person first and now, you would use atypically developing or differently able, which is more correct and so studying abroad and hearing people’s things, I feel that differently abled is more correct in the literature that I’m reading now and it’s not really used, but menstrual hygiene products because not everyone is feminine who menstruates. It’s just looking at the little things and I’m slowly improving, so I think that’s my biggest struggle, if someone asks me a question, I’m just like I don’t know, but we can speak to my supervisor or you could look into this, so it’s just recognizing that.

On your application, you list cognition skills and I’m wondering what that meant to you.

Matt K: So, I have problem solving skills where I could work through a problem and solve it. I like to work with cars, I like to work on my computer, I tend to figure things out that way, I work in SPSS as well as STATA, which is computer software, so I constantly look out on how to solve the problem. I try and apply the same logic to anything going on in my social life. I identify a problem, I take a day or two to think it over, then, try to work on how to make things better and just do it.

What inspired you to go to president versus repeating your position or a different position?

Matt K: So, when I decided to go for president and not treasurer, I’m someone who, the Emerging Leader mentor in me, was like I want someone else to learn my position and looking at president versus vice president, which were the two things I was looking at. It’s not that I wanted to go for president because it was something where I was looking at Clare and I was looking at Sam, I was looking at Elee in all three of my years and it’s something where I look up to them. It’s something where I really bond with the ability that they can facilitate conversation, they could sit up here and run meetings, they are always there for every single person and the position of vice president is kind of similar to what I did last year with a lot of collaborations, working with different places on campus, but on a much larger scale, and I didn’t really enjoy that as
much, like renting stuff from the SAUS office. So, it’s something where I decided that it would be something a little more different where I could learn more from.

Do you think RHSA can be improved and if so, how can you improve RHSA?

**Matt K:** There are three improvements that I want to make. One is Spirit Week. I think that getting that out a week earlier, I want to try to have meeting times earlier so that way our E-Board members could meet with you a week before just to go over everything. Two, I want to focus on being more inclusive and reaching out to other people in the community. Being called a cult in the beginning of the semester isn’t really fun and it’s something where I want people to feel welcomed. I want people to come here and recognize that we are just here to do fun programs. We want to reach out to people. We really want to encourage it. The last thing I would like to do is to encourage feedback from the Associate Council where you can maybe plan one program next spring semester. It’s something where I think it would be nice to have your input, say we helped plan a large scale program. That’s something that you could all take pride in working together and you cross the boundaries of living in one hall over another, so I feel that those three things are what I want to emphasize.

How would you work with the future NCC to improve NPLC?

**Matt K:** So, one thing I would like to do is I would like to start working on NPLC earlier and I want to try and take on some more of the aspects of helping. I know this year it was very rough, a lot was dumped on Serena and then, it wasn’t really as reciprocal where everyone was pitching in and as treasurer, it was hard to keep with changing a bunch of stuff, so I would like to work harder and try to alleviate Serena’s pressure by focusing on helping out whoever my NCC is more and trying to encourage the rest of the E-Board to take on more of a role as well.

What past E-Board members have you talked to about this position and what was their best advice?

**Matt K:** I spoke to Rui, Sam, Elee, Clare, Marissa, to name the four that I would like to mention I spoke to some administrators, but speaking topped all of them. I also spoke to Kevin. A lot of it is be yourself, be passionate about it, even Juan who I spoke to said if you really want it, go for it, you know, it’s a big decision, you have to think about it a lot and that’s something I would really like to focus on. I tabled for three weeks because I really wanted to be sure am I going to be passionate about this? Am I going to love it? Am I going to do this? And I kept saying yes to myself. Then, finally, I said okay, if I’m saying yes to all of this, everyone is telling me I’m going to do it, I’m going to run for it and so be it, I’ll be the best as I could in the position to make sure everyone else has a good time.

What kind of personal skills or characteristics make you qualified to be president?

**Matt K:** In terms of personal skills, I feel that I am someone who is very organized, very detail focused, and very meticulous, so I’m someone who likes to keep very neat records, I like to keep things in an organized manner, I like to keep things color coded as well as I feel that I’m very approachable. A lot of people come up to me in my mentor position. I am someone who understands when we should have a private conversation, if need be. I’m always reaching out if you need something. I always want to be there as a resource, so that is something that is part of me that I’ve learned, just to always try to be available for my E-Board and staff as well as the Associate Council because at the end of the day, you are the students that we are representing and so, it’s important to have that approachability and be there and welcome others.
We are a big advocate for diversity of all sorts and shapes. How do you plan to make RHSA a more inclusive environment and more accessible to all students beyond hall government or beyond the AC?

**Matt K:** Something I really appreciate that we are looking into is try and find a location that is accessible to everyone, so that way I know that some residence halls aren’t as accessible and working on that as soon as possible to make sure it’s more accessible. Similarly, all trips to make sure that we have accessibility kept in mind and one thing I would really like to focus on is trying to create a system where if anyone feels like they are having an issue to feel that they can come speak to us and what I would like to do is try and do one night where we appreciate multicultural night of misrepresented cultures or underrepresented cultures and customs, so that way people could come in and see we are trying to focus on advocacy for it and one thing I would like to do is next year, especially with NPLC, going back to it, is pick a different day because having it be so close to Black Solidarity Day is not really what I think fair. I went last year and this year, unfortunately, I didn’t go because I was too tired, but it’s something where I feel we should keep that in mind to start working with it, especially contacting the Black Student Union as well if we could pitch in and help out. I would love to.

Is there anything specifically about AC meetings that you would be looking to change if you become president?

**Matt K:** I would like to try to make it more active by trying to more engaging mystery activities, but I would also try and make it as quick and streamlined as possible if anyone has an issue, so that’s why I would like to focus on having other outlets for, let’s say, any sort of student concern because AC meetings are every Monday. Not everything happens on a Monday. By a week later, you report it in, so report it to an RA, report it to an RD and then, if we have a slip box, we could slip it in, have just the contact info. We could call you before the AC meeting, we could call you afterwards and start working on it as soon as possible and it’s something I want to work on so that way, I know not everyone likes to stay Monday nights past late. I certainly don’t mind it, I’m used to it, but I know not everyone does, so making it fast and efficient and somewhat more fun.

Can you tell me one strength and one weakness that you have?

**Matt K:** I’ll a few different things. One strength that I have is definitely time management. I’m someone who is a part of a lot of clubs. My first semester I was a part of nine clubs and I ended up changing into different clubs, but one weakness I have on top of that is I’m someone who didn’t say no to a lot of things, but I tend to change that, I focus on the things that really matter. This was a big commitment when I was going into it and I chose not to do certain things. I thought about joining a fraternity and decided against it. It’s something where this is my passion. I’m sorry, but I couldn’t commit to something else and next year, I don’t have a lot of other commitments and I’m really taking time where this will be my sole goal with NRHH and maybe the food pantry and that’s really it. Besides that, if I don’t get it, I’ll focus on me time. I wouldn’t mind having some time off, but I would love to continue to do this and also, I have a couple of hours to spare.

What would you do as an E-Board member to make the AC feel heard and their issues/concerns feel addressed?

**Matt K:** So, I would like to start reaching out and if anyone gave me a concern after the meeting, have them give me their contact info, so after I submit it, I can let them know, so I don’t have to wait until next Monday. Instead of okay, it’s a work in progress, I can say this is what
I’ve done, this is who I’ve contacted and I’ll also ask the person who I contacted if I could CC that person in the email as long as it’s not private information so that way that person could see we are doing work as soon as possible, as efficient as possible so that way, the whole bathroom situation, people know that we are trying to fix it. I’m sorry, I don’t know what’s going on, but I hope they are on it, but it’s something at least then where you could see the emails of what we are stressing.

Is there anything that you wanted to bring up during speech that you weren’t able to?

**Matt K:** No, I covered most of it.

**Move to Extend by 5 Minutes**

**Second**

Do you have a plan of how you want to reach out to the community of how to promote inclusivity during Spirit Week?

**Matt K:** Yes, I do. So, I am in contact with Diana Suarez, who runs Stepping Into Diversity as well as I know Emily Bazinae, who is now going to end up taking over the program as well as Emerging Leaders, so those are both ways to get first-year students included as well as RD Chrissy, who is our advisor, who I don’t know if she will be next year, runs the living learning communities, so that’s a great way to reach out as well as I could reach out to the transfer community so that way we could have all those communities in their early week in Spirit Week start to excel and really know that we are a resource that’s there for them. We could reach out to those communities right away and I would also like to reach out to more RDs and have them really stress the emphasis on how we would like to move forward with it.

What do you think the most appropriate course of action would be if there is a conflict between two E-Board members? Two other E-Board members come to you.

**Matt K:** So, if they both come to me with the same issue, I would like to hear them both out. If they are fighting with each other. If they are fighting with each other, what I would like to do is I would like to hear them out one at a time and I what I would like to do is try to say okay, I want you to wait a day, think about everything you said, come back and we will have a meeting where we sit down, we have a mediation, try to focus on I feel statements so you’re not coming off as accusatory and try to maintain professionalism. If it does come down to it, I also have my RDs who are all trained and fully equipped if it really is something too serious for myself to handle as a person, but I would try to keep professionalism, work together, and try and at least build common ground. I know we have had our fair share of disagreements, it’s like a family. Not everyone gets along at the dinner table, but within a week, you’re having fun again and bowling or whatever families do besides bowling.

How would you plan to continue advocacy for LGBTQ+ groups?

**Matt K:** I know Ridgeview has that community and what I would like to do is have another diversity event and during pride month, I would like to do something special. I know I was Skittles as an advocate so maybe we could get a sponsorship and have them help run it, but I would really like to focus on having that community be a time where we have an open mic night for people to share their stories, share their poetry. I’m a big fan of the literature in that community. I like listening to all the stuff they have. I know Take Back the Night is a big advocate as well. They secure all those focuses. They had a whole series on monologues and I think having those communities and clubs being given the opportunity for us to say, we want you to come perform for us, we want you to come express yourself through these months and we will
help you do whatever. We are going to start reaching out to those communities that already exist and start bringing them into ours so our community starts to grow.

**Why do you feel you are the best representative for SUNY New Paltz?**

**Matt K:** I feel like I’m someone who’s done a lot at SUNY New Paltz. I’m a triple major. I’m someone who had a sister come here. I’m someone who has been in a lot of clubs. I think the biggest thing about is that when I chose New Paltz, I flipped a coin to choose and it’s somewhere it is the greatest thing I have ever decided to do and I will always tell every single person that, so I’m telling families that are always like really and I’m like you will never understand how lucky I am that the coin flip chose New Paltz because coming here, I immediately joined a community, I immediately joined a group of people who I was friends with and it’s something where I feel that I’m not the same person that I was coming out of high school at all. I feel like I have changed a lot and changed for the better, so I feel like that’s why, it’s something called changing and we should focus on that.

**Clare:** The speaker’s list is now open. Do I have any other speakers?

You mentioned you wanted to extend the president’s office hours. Could you elaborate on how you came to that conclusion?

**Matt K:** It was something where I realized that during my office hours, I had a lot of people come during certain hours, but then, I had other E-Board members say a lot of people didn’t come during their hours, even for care packages, and it’s something where thinking about it, maybe it’s the timing of it and so, I thought about it for a while and if I’m trying to focus on advocacy and having students come to me, I think it’s something where as a president, you are the figurehead of an org, you should be the one leading the way, so if people don’t want to do extra office hours, I’m not going to force them to. Be my guest, sometimes I sit an extra fifteen or thirty minutes talking to people, and so being the person to do for, I think it’s something where I would be happy to do it and show that I’m willing to do this. If anyone else wants to, you’re more than welcome to. That’s something where if I get elected, I would like to propose that amendment.

How would you define intersectionality?

**Matt K:** Intersectionality, by definition, is when one person shares two characteristics pertaining to a different group. For instance, I’m someone who is German and Jewish and I’m someone who is a German major so there is a lot of history to go with that, as you can imagine and so it’s something where having those two things overlap with one another, you really start to see how things change because my view on studying abroad in Germany might be completely different than someone else. Again, there are different views that I have of it, but being someone who does share both, I could at least have my experience.

**Clare:** That is time.

**Ashokan:** What are care packages?

**Clare:** We work with an outside company, OCM, where families and friends can order packages from OCM and they get sent to our office, we are in charge of handing them out, and we get some of those funds back.

**Ashokan:** Who puts together the care packages?

**Clare:** We don’t have anything to do with what goes into the care packages. The outside company deals with all of that and it gets sent to us and we have the names of who’s getting care packages and we have the care packages.
Sarah: They have different packages that you can order and also there are options that you can contact the company and request specific things that you want in your package.

**Candidate 2: Kevin Merting**

Kevin: Honestly, being able to stand here right now, kind of crazes me out or weirds me out a bit. A year and a half ago, I remember sitting down, Capen AC Rep, having no idea what was happening, completely none. People would be raising their placard and making motions to open new business, and I honestly had no idea what it meant, why they were doing it, but very early on, I had a feeling that I wanted to do it and that this is what I wanted. The next semester I ran for public relations and last semester has been one of the craziest semesters that I have been so lucky to be able to have. When I was reflecting on my time and deciding on if I wanted to do a second year, I realize that the same things that drove me to be passionate about RHSA when I was just a first-year student, I had to find my way, still exists in me, but so much more, so much greater, and the passion I have for this organization, I can’t outdo myself at this point. So, I’m Kevin. I’m a sophomore. I’m a digital media production and visual arts major. I use he, him, his pronouns and I would love to be your next president. So, some of the duties outlined in the constitution for president are to be a neutral resource to the Associate Council and the E-Board. So, for any ideas or for questions that people have, that they can come to me and I’ll be able to give them an unbiased answer to it. I would be the one to run Associate Council and E-Board meetings. I would be able to attend monthly president’s cabinet and CAS Board meetings. I would be so privileged to be able to attend the national NACURH conference again and also be able to go to NEACURH regional in the spring conference. I would work with the current treasurer, the current president, and the new treasurer to create the budget for next year. I would be responsible for maintaining the integrity of the organization, which is so very important. So, again, when I was debating, whether this was for me, I was really trying to think of what I could bring to the organization and what qualities I possess that I thought would help me do better for RHSA and I realize through my experiences in other student leadership experiences, along with PR, that my fresh set of ideas and perspective could really benefit the organization. I’ve been thinking for months about programming ideas, not only specific program ideas, but how we could, you know, what programs that we could put on for you, but how we could improve the programming branch for RHSA as a whole. In terms of advocacy, I really like, not only the people in this room to be represented, but that we can get every single person on campus to be able to find a way to get their voices heard. For diversity and inclusion, I really believe that the key to that to be better, is to really get more connected to the campus community and I would love to tell you all about it during my Q&A, but for now, I’m Kevin and I yield to questions.

**Question and Answer**

Last year you were an orientation leader, an RA and you’re currently an RA and Student Ambassador and you’re currently on the RHSA E-Board, how do you manage all of those positions and how are you going to manage the position of president?

Kevin: It was a scary thing for me when I applied to all of those positions and I had to figure out my way. This semester I stepped down from Ambassador in an attempt to better balance and to make sure that I am there for the commitments that truly mean the most to me, but in terms of time management and organization, I really typically rely on things like Google Calendar and I have my own personal handwritten planner that I use, but the biggest thing that I find helpful is talking to people who have been in the position already and ask them how they did it, ask them
what problems they had when they were trying to to balance so many things at once and by hearing from them and taking in their work through experience, hopefully, I can be the best I can be in this position.

You discussed programming at the end of your speech, do you have any specific program ideas you would like to throw in there if you were to get this position?

**Kevin:** The biggest thing for me with programming is that I don’t want our events to feel like obligations or something people think they have to go to. I want our programs to be exciting or informational or whatever we are trying to accomplish, that we accomplish it to the best that we possibly can. If you are already coming out on a Friday night from 7:30 to 9, I want to make sure that you are having a fun time doing so. One of the biggest programming changes that I was looking at for myself was for NPLC, the New Paltz Leadership Conference, overall. I think the program has a lot of potential. It’s an event where so many people are coming together to try to hopefully learn how to be better student leaders on campus and the biggest thing for me and the biggest thing for me and the biggest problem with the even apparently is that it is always merely run by the NCC. I would like to change that. I would like to open it up to an all E-Board affair, but still fronted and still headed by the NCC, so the NCC would still be in charge of making all the major decisions, but they would be able to seek help from their E-Board when necessary and I think there are more specifics that I have in terms of the NPLC changes. I think it would be cool to implement a super region system right here at New Paltz and that could be quad-based with a few changes built in to best accommodate for the halls, but to really make NPLC more of a properly planned and that you all know the details before you are actually at the event and very confused about what’s going on.

Do you have any plans to improve Spirit Week yet?

**Kevin:** To me, the biggest thing Spirit Week could have used was a little bit more transparency from the E-Board. We put all this work into planning the event and sometimes, we would know what we wanted to accomplish, but there are so many times where maybe halls didn’t know how many people they needed to bring so that they didn’t really understand the details of each event or each competition, so I think what I would like to do is to be very, very clear about every single thing and that’s when it comes back to us to make sure that we plan out all the various specific details of Spirit Week before we actually tell you them, so that when we tell you, we are a united front and I think that not only goes for Spirit Week, but so many other programs and things that we present to you. I want to make sure that we know what we want to tell you and I think through doing that, Spirit Week would become much more of a cohesive and understood event.

What is one of the biggest challenges you faced and what did you learn?

**Kevin:** Last semester, on the Executive Board, I think the biggest challenge I faced was, maybe, I was a little overambitious. I think when I came into my election, I had so many ideas. I’m going to be honest with y’all. I told you last semester

Move to Extend by 5 Minutes

Second

**Kevin:** or in the spring of 2018, I talked about how I wanted to do commercials as PR, all these ideas I had specific to the PR position and what I started to realize is that the PR position already has so many commitments and so many things that they are doing, so I kept telling myself when the semester calms down a little, that’s when I will start working on a commercial or something like that, but what I think I would have benefited from was a better schedule and plan of how I planned on accomplishing all of my goals and I think I can also relay that, if I’m elected, to the
newly elected E-Board because I am very confident in every single person running for positions that they will do what they say. I think that with a little bit of help and the experience from someone who has already done a year of RHSA and being able to show them like hey we are going to do what you want. We are going to do our best to implement the changes that you want to do and make, but let’s do that with a game plan, so that was the biggest challenge I faced of not having a game plan and solution. Let’s plan this stuff.

Was there anything in your speech that you wanted to say, but that you didn’t get the chance to say?

Kevin: I talked about connectedness, about how I think in order to improve or help or just increase diversity and be better at being inclusive through the people and the organization, that we need to get better outreach, that we need make sure that not only the people signing up to do Hall Gov are going to our programs and being advocated for, that should be every person on campus regardless because we are the Residence Hall Student Association. We are representing people who live on campus, so one of the things that I would like to do that is by implementing a kind of social system and the way that I think it can work is that RHSA could almost pair up or team up with another organization, maybe once a semester and we can get some food, it can be open to AC members, Hall Gov members, and then, any members of their organization also and I think it would be an interesting thing to see how other organizations interact with each other where they could learn from each other and also, maybe there are much more similarities and interests that go both ways than we realize because people didn’t give the other organization a chance, so I think it would be a really cool experience for both organizations to grow from it, but also to potentially increase the diversity in RHSA.

What have you been a part of outside of RHSA and Hall Gov?

Kevin: First year, last year it would have been, I had pretty much been a yes man and if there was an opportunity to find out, I would be like yeah sure, why not? So, that’s why I started with Emerging Leaders, CREW, Hall Government, and those type of things, and then, as the semester progressed and I started applying for things, that’s when I became an Orientation Leader over the summer, I ran for Public Relations, I applied for Ambassador and I was Ambassador all of last semester and I loved every moment of it, but it was more so realizing that it would be best for me in the moment to reevaluate my time commitments, so this semester, I stepped down from Ambassador, I’m definitely interested in rejoining the staff again next semester and I am a Resident Assistant in Ashokan Hall, which has just been such a wonderful experience. I have had the privilege, this past winter has been my second training so far, and I feel as if I’ve learned so much through those trainings that could equate to my role as president here. I think really understanding and getting a feeling of what residents go through and what residents need could really put me in a place where when I’m trying to best advocate for residents that I’ve at least worked with a large group of residents and I know what they want and what they are talking about, so I believe those were all my things at this point

Your moves towards connectedness are a certain goal, but in particular, do you have any plans on how you will strengthen the bond between NRHH and RHSA?

Move to Extend by 5 Minutes

Second

Kevin: That’s a really important bond. When I went to NACURH this past summer, we would meet some schools where the NRHH and the RHSA are so close and because of that, they had some amazing collaborations and what I think would be really nice is if we could have an
underlying support, which I believe we have, we do our best by trying to have the NRHH NCC, they used to come to our meetings and vice versa and they sit office hours together, both NCCs, so I think that’s good for the connection, but I think even the RHSA E-Board and the NRHH E-Board making an attempt to do some sort of bonding together, maybe try and like plan some sort of fun day where we all take a trip somewhere to really strengthen the connection between the student leaders who are making the big decisions for the organization because then, I think there would be such a big willingness to do collaborations when it actually comes around to that because the E-Boards would better know each other.

What will you do as an E-Board member to make the AC feel heard and their issues/concerns feel addressed?

Kevin: One thing, specifically, for student concerns and hall concerns that I would like to do is that even if I don’t have the answer yet at a certain point in time, that maybe it’s something that takes time to work out, I would like to give you all and tell you what I’m doing because I think it’s very easy to think that nothing is being done just because there hasn’t been an answer yet, but I think that even me just telling you that by the way, I submitted this information to facilities and I talked to them about getting a timeline of when they will get things fixed, that would be fantastic, but just being transparent with you and then, I would also like to open myself up a little bit more than what’s been done. I think office hours are definitely a great time to stop by and get to know or ask questions or voice concerns to E-Board members so are student concern times, so I think there are often times where you may not feel comfortable talking in front of a group because it can definitely feel nerve-wracking, but even if the Executive Board doesn’t move for 10 minutes after the meeting and we kind of just stay and encourage people to come up and talk to us and get to know us and voice any concerns that they have and that could be a more private scenario where we hope more people we feel comfortable in doing so and then, it would create a more intimate bond between the E-Board and the AC.

What kind of personal skills characteristics make you qualified to be president?

Kevin: I think a big one for me is that I’m very passionate about the things that I do. I said to myself that when I was applying to positions and this is still true now that there would never be at time where I would apply for something or try and do a job that I didn’t whole heartedly care about and that’s the same for president. The reason I’m running for president is that I love this organization and I think I could do a good job as president of it. Passion, I always consider to be my biggest strength because I care too much of anything at times where I’ll take stuff home with me, but we’re working on that part, do our best, but the other aspect of it that is more president related is that I have worked on a lot of staffs and teams that I’ve seen many dynamics and I’ve seen things go really right and I’ve seen things go wrong and I think by that and critically thinking about what a team really needs because at the end of the day, we are a team, depending on what we do, that really equates to the experience that you all get to have, so by really critically thinking about what the team needs and how I can give it to them or how we can work to improve it, I think I have that capability.

You just said that things have gone wrong, can you give us an example of a situation you have been in and how you guys fixed it?

Kevin: There was a team I worked on in the past where there was an issue, I would say, with power dynamics and people would more so

Move to Extend by 5 Minutes
Second
Kevin: where balance isn’t quite sure or where people don’t know when they should share their opinion and the best way to do those things and I think for the RHSA E-Board, the people you will be electing over the next weeks, you are electing their thoughts, their opinions, and their perspectives, so I want to make sure that I get to hear all of those and I want to hear all of those in a way that is going to be most cohesive to the team actually being successful. If we start getting too personal or if we start getting too upset when things just don’t go away, then, I think that can negatively impact the team dynamic, but I think that was an issue that I kind of had in the past, but I think that because of it, I think that I’m better equipped that if it were to ever rise again, I would know how to handle it.

How will you implement diversity and inclusion through RHSA programs?
Kevin: We try to do one diversity event per semester and I think we realized over time that not one person is perfectly equipped to be representative of a major aspect of diversity. I think that what we could be better suited for is to work with people and groups and find a way where we are actively contributing and that our perspectives, ideas, and programming ideas, and creativity can all shine through, but in terms of diversity programs where we are trying to be representative of something, to really seek out help when you need it because if you can’t check if you correctly said something or you don’t know enough information, you can always ask for help and that is something that I am prepared to do as president and find the people who can make our E-Board as amazing as it can be.

Who have you spoken to in order to prepare for this position and what was their best advice?
Kevin: I’ve spoke to Clare, last year’s president, Sam, the president before Elee, I’m not sure about the order of this one, but the previous president, Catherine Callan, a previous president, Matt Eitelberg, and RD Chrissy from Esopus who has been involved with student leadership at New Paltz for years and I think some of the best advice that I got were that things aren’t going to always go the way that you planned and I can come up here with all of my ideas and all of these aspirations and things that I want to do, but if I share my idea and the E-Board has other ideas, it’s not my job to fight for my ideas, it’s my job to take what they think is the best thing that they think to do and try to get that to you in the very best way possible that we can, so that advice I got in so many different forms, but from nearly everybody, so it seems like a very common trend that things are going to go wrong, but I think that kind of being adaptable and being able to think on the spot is really important to be able to deal with those situations.

We commend the inclusivity and diversity questions. On that specifically, how would you plan to advocate for LGBTQ+ people?
Kevin: I love that. I think the best way to advocate for a certain group of people is to hear them and I don’t know who’s in the room right now in terms of what they’re best able to represent or talk about, but there are so many different groups of people on campus. There’s Pride, there’s several LGBTQ+ organizations that we can talk to and we can really try to get better at connecting to other organizations. That doesn’t necessarily have to be a collaboration, but we can do better extending our hands and telling people what we are here for so if at any point, they do have concerns, they can come to a meeting, they can send us an email, they can come to our office hours, and I think that stands for everybody, but specifically, we had done a Pride event last semester and I think it had issues in terms of a few scheduling conflicts and just wasn’t the best time, but that is something that I would definitely love to do again. I had fun, so that’s all that matters I guess.
Clare: That’s time.
Serena: If you are in the third round and you still want to ask like a billion questions and the time is going to run out, one of you over here should say move to exhaust the speaker’s list with additions so that everybody who wants to ask their questions will get added on to this and you can ask them all of those questions. It kind of makes sure that everyone gets their questions asked.

Motion to Open Discussion: Ridgeview
Second: Lenape

Discussion
- Matt’s opening speech was more about the qualifications of why he should deserve to get president while Kevin’s speech was more about the passion he had for this organization, so we feel it is important to notice the difference in the speeches.
- We agree with Kevin’s plans to advance the NPLC conference and having an E-Board running it.
- Although Matt’s speech was focused on the requirements and obligations of the president role, we feel that his responses to all of the questions asked were very well thought out and extremely thorough and felt that he touched a lot on different aspects of the question and really thoroughly answered them.
- Matt has a lot of experience on campus which shows his leadership skills. In addition, he is also kind of reflective on the things he can change about RHSA, which is pretty commendable.

Serena: Point of personal privilege: Can you all speak up a little louder?
- We appreciate that when Matt was answering questions, he approached each person individually and stepped towards their direction to make them feel more heard and understood.
- Matt’s answers revealed his capability and humility to important aspects to the role of president.
- Matt’s voice is much louder and he will be able to carry meetings pretty well.

Serena: That’s something that is kind of uncontrollable, but if you want to word it in a different way.
- Matt knows how to assert himself.
- Although both candidates spoke on diversity and inclusion in many ways, we like how Matt has specific ideas on inclusion, including multiple different groups on campus as well as he wants to involve the AC more and he wants to involve the student body more.
- We feel that Kevin's extensive leadership experience is beneficial to the position.
- We appreciate Kevin’s emphasis on connectedness.
- We appreciate Kevin’s realistic attitude regarding his own overambition and the importance that he put on the flexibility that is needed to work with a team.
- We would like to make a point to a previous comment that said that Kevin had a plan for the NPLC. From what we got, Matt had that same plan as well. He didn’t directly say E-Board, but he said that everyone should help out on the board. We would like to make the point that they both pretty much had the same answer for that.
● We find that both Kevin and Matt are very, very passionate and they definitely speak from the heart a lot of the time. We think that Matt was a little bit more concise in his answers.

● To touch upon an earlier point about assertiveness, being that Kevin does have multiple leadership experiences,...
  Move to Extend by 5 Minutes
  Second

● Being that he has a whole bunch of leadership positions in regards to assertiveness, we think he would know when to apply assertiveness and when not to.

● We should focus on the list that we had for what we are looking for as a president and we should focus on those points.

Clare: I will bring you guys back to that. I’m sorry I forgot to bring this back, so again here is what you said you wanted to see in your future president.

● We felt that both candidates were equally qualified when it came to their prior experience. However, there was a previous comment about Matt’s communication skills and we would like to emphasize and point out that communication, when it comes to presenting your ideas to a crowd full of people, is an extremely important quality to us and we feel that is something that should be made note of.

● We appreciate Kevin’s experience as an RA and knowing what residents need and go through.

● We would like to touch upon the topic of Kevin’s multiple leadership positions, which shows that he has really good time management.

● We appreciate Matt’s personal approach to a lot of his answers and the specific ideas that he presented show that he put a lot of thought in his answers.

● Matt’s answers were more direct while Kevin had some sort of general things, especially when it came to advocacy with the LGBTQ question, Kevin had more general answers while Matt had specific ideas.

● We want to emphasize and commend Matt’s ideas for expanding the BBQ and collaborating with other clubs and the willingness to extend the RHSA hours and the Spirit Week improvements.

● We appreciate Kevin’s acknowledgement of his faults in his other positions on campus and how he plans to fix those faults.

● We appreciate that Kevin, during the diversity question, that he cannot represent everyone but he is always open to listen to the Associate Council as well as other E-Board members, which is very important.

● We think it’s important that Kevin, when answering the question about intersectionality, didn’t recite a definition.

● We appreciate how Matt has different experience with school other than just Residence Life, such as Knitting Club.
  Move to Extend by 5 Minutes
  Second

● We want to acknowledge a comment about Kevin being asked the question about intersectionality, but we don’t recall him being asked that question.

● We asked the same question to both candidates about programming and the question was about specific programming and Matt gave an example about specific programs while
Kevin went on a speech about programming in general, so Kevin did not answer the full question.

- Regarding a previous comment, to our memory, we don’t remember Kevin being asked that question, but we do remember Matt being asked that question.

**Serena:** If you have responses to somebody else, super fast, you could be like point of clarification: I don’t think both of them were asked that so you don’t have to wait on the speaker’s list.

- Point of clarification, let’s scratch that factor then since only one was asked.
- No, point of clarification, we just made a point about that. Kevin was asked the question. That was my earlier point about him being asked about diversity and intersectionality. He mentioned that although he does not represent all communities, he is very open to learning.
- Point of clarification: He was asked about diversity and inclusion because we asked the question. Matt was asked about intersectionality.

**Clare:** We are going to bring it back. I thank you guys for your points of clarification. I think where we stand now is that one candidate was asked and the other candidate wasn’t. You can still take into consideration the responses to that, but do you remember that both candidates weren’t asked the exact same question so the responses might have been different if they were asked the same questions.

- We appreciate that Matt commented that president is an iconic position and with it, comes some sort of responsibility and he understands that.
- Kevin's speech started off with him being grateful for running.
- We appreciate how many presidents in the past Kevin actually talked to.
- Point of clarification: If we do recall, so did Matt. He just chose not to list everyone he spoke to.

**Clare:** If he didn’t mention it during his speech then…

- He said specifically just to name a few.

**Sarah:** Point of clarification: You don’t know who he didn’t name so you can’t assume that either candidate spoke to more people than they mentioned, specific people that they mentioned.

**Clare:** It could have been the other presidents

**Sarah:** But it also could not.

**Clare:** He just didn’t mention exact names. He did speak to more people, but we just don’t have the list.

- What we took from that statement was that Kevin spoke to a bunch of presidents, specifically, while Matt tried to reach out to a lot of people on the RHSA E-Board on different positions, which is also admirable.

Motion to Exhaust the Speaker’s List Without Additions: Ashokan
Second: Ridgeview

Motion to Open Voting By Secret Ballot: Capen
Second: College-Shango

**Clare:** I’m going to put your voting options on the board. Before you write anything down on your paper, hold off because I am going to go through your voting options. I don’t want you
voting until you know all the options. We recommend abstaining if you have any personal connections to the folks that you are looking to vote for, whether you don’t like this person or you are good friends with this person. You can also vote no confidence if you think both of these candidates will not do a good job in the position. Serena is going to read some top tens to you and we ask that you stay quiet because if we do go into another period of discussion and voting, we don’t want you to have spoken to each other about what your vote was or what the results would be.

Voting
Matthew Kreuz: 11
Kevin Merting: 7
No Confidence: 0
Abstain: 2

Clare: We did not meet quorum, so we are reopening discussion. Quorum is % of the voting body, so we did not reach quorum. That is 60% of the voting body, so we are going to reopen discussion. This means to really speak for who you were voting for, advocate for them. If you abstained, you must abstain again. If we have less people abstain than we did this round, we are going to have to go into another vote, so if you abstained this round, you are abstaining again and again, if you really know that you should be abstaining, we recommend that you abstain and no confidence is also a valid vote. We are going to reopen discussion. The speaker’s list is going to be open.

Capen: How long is discussion open for?
Clare: Five minutes, not extendable.
Serena: I’m going to recommend to try to stick with your hall, so if Minnewaska, one person said that they liked this person then the other person should try and stick with it.
Clare: Not necessarily. Just be relatively on the same page as your co-AC Rep. You don’t have to be voting for the same person, but I would just take notes to each other.

Motion to Open Discussion: Scudder
Second: Ashokan

Discussion
- We feel that we like Matt’s qualifications due to the fact that he’s been involved in various different types of things on campus that include diversity, political, etc., and with his triple major, it shows that he has to have very good organizational skills in order to handle all of that and be on as many E-Boards and clubs as he is and we also want to recognize the fact that he has come to the realization that you can put too much on your plate and that was a point of personal growth for him and we appreciate that he can recognize that and work on that into the next presidency.
- Matt had more prepared and concise answers that weren’t thought out on the spot. They seemed well planned in our opinion. We also feel that having organization skills in your brain to run the question and answer section is important because the president will have to run AC meetings. We feel that Matt showed better organization in his speaking.
Matt had very well thought out answers, specifically, to why to extend the president’s office hours and not just putting it in as an answer just to give something you could change, but actually having a plan behind it.

Kevin also noticed that he can’t really spread himself out as much with time, so he ended up stepping down as Student Ambassador.

Matt’s response to when we asked him about improving RHSA was well thought of. He included points about improving Spirit Week and being inclusive, welcoming, and encouraging feedback to the AC Reps.

While Kevin had longer, extensive answering, although it wasn’t short, it was cohesive-minded.

Based on the expectations list, we felt that Matt met more of them in a more thorough way, specifically with being personable. We felt that the way that Matt approached people and made eye contact with the person he was addressing was a really great quality. Also, he mentioned all his different organizational skills, which we feel is very key to doing and fulfilling all the responsibilities that you have as president of RHSA and as well as his open-mindedness when it came to topics on diversity, which he admitted that he may not know the best about everything, but that was open to learning and communicating with other people in order to gain that information and grow in his knowledge.

We appreciate Matt’s goals to focus on first-years and transfers when it comes to branching out to the community.

We would like to commend Matt for showing that he could recognize and prioritize his school work for RHSA and other involvements and still make time for himself.

Move to Exhaust Speaker’s List Without Additions: Ridgeview

Clare: I’m going to say no.

Serena: I would really continue. Your answer could be the one that changes the vote and meets quorum.

Clare: There’s only a minute left. This is going to be your president next year. What do you want to see?

• We really like the part where Kevin said there would never be a time when I applied for something I don’t whole-heartedly care about. That was a cute quote.
• Matt’s answer to the question about hearing the AC more and feeling more represented was better than Kevin’s. We felt that Kevin said that he would just basically listen and Matt expressed that he would reach out more to make the AC feel more included.

Clare: That’s time.

Serena: I really want to stress abstaining. If you love or hate this person or are close with one of them, you should be abstaining. If somebody doesn’t abstain this time who abstained last time, we have to do this all again without the discussion.

Clare: If you came into this room knowing who you were going to vote for, you should be abstaining. If you came into this room, confident you were going to be voting for this one person, you know that they are very good in your Hall Gov or you know that they are a very good this or that, that is going to be biased. You are basing your vote from what happened today.
Serena: If someone told you, you should vote for this person before it started, you should be abstaining.

Voting
Matthew Kreuz: 12
Kevin Merting: 6
No Confidence: 0
Abstain: 3

Clare: I’m going to tell the candidates to come back up now. Wait, we aren’t quite done voting because we had extra votes that round! We are not going to handle that situation by yelling about who might have added those extra votes. We are not going to handle this situation by talking because it is getting late and we want to get through this quickly.

Again, we are going to hand out papers one more time, you are going to abstain or you are going to vote no confidence or you are going to vote for Matt or you are going to vote for Kevin. In this situation, you are only handing in one vote. This will go quickly if everyone cooperates. Again, one vote and then, we will be done.

Serena: One vote per person, not per hall.

Clare: Did everyone vote individually in the first round? You don’t have to say if you did, but this time, make sure that each individual person is placing a vote. I’m also going to count you guys to make sure that because I thought counting the votes would be good.

Clare: After a lot of discussion with E-Board and advisor, we would normally go into a third round of voting, but because the building is closing in 30 minutes, we made the decision by lowering the quorum that the AC would typically vote to the majority, 50%+1, and after that, we did come to our conclusion so they are on their way. If anyone has any questions about how it was reached, you can come talk to us. We can’t give the specifics until the minutes come out, but we just want to make sure that everybody is aware. Since we finished voting, it is now perfectly okay to step outside. I know some people have Night Hosting.

Clare: I would like to congratulate RHSA’s next president, Matthew Kreuz!

Motion to Open Nominations: Ridgeview
Second: Awosting

Clare: First, I’m going to ask these people who have tabled nominations for past positions. I’m going to ask if you accept, table, or decline.

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1 Note: During the second round of voting, it was revealed that not all the voting members submitted a ballot to be counted in the first round of voting. Once this mistake was discovered, all of the voting members were asked to vote again to ensure an accurate number of ballots were submitted.

2 Note: After a consensus was not reached by the AC after the second round of voting, the E-Board and RD Shayna stepped out of the room to discuss how to move forward with making a decision. The E-Board chose not to take a vote to determine a winner, so RD Shayna and President Clare chose to lower the consensus needed to 50%+1.
Clare: Jordan Hennix for CCC.
Jordan: I accept.

Clare: Marianna Oropallo for Secretary.
Clare: She tables because she is not here.

Clare: Chris Gillin for Treasurer.
Chris: Table.

Clare: Alyssa from Minnewaska for Historian.
Clare: She tables because she is not here.

Ashokan: Point of clarification: may we ask who is already running for what positions?
Clare: I don’t have that in front of me and to be honest, it shouldn’t determine if someone does want to or doesn’t want to and if you nominate someone who is already running, we will just make note of that in the future.
Clare: Are there any other nominations tonight?
Bouton: Point of clarification: which election is next week?
Clare: Next week’s election is the Vice President’s election followed by the treasurer, then, the secretary.
Capen: Point of clarification: Is someone running for Vice President?
Clare: Someone can still be nominated for Vice President if they have their application supplies prepared.
Capen: If nobody runs, does the same Vice President stay on until the next?
Sarah: No.
Clare: Do I have any other nominations?

Bouton: We nominate Kevin for VP.
Ridgeview: Second.
Kevin: I decline.

Motion to Close Vice President Nominations Until Spring 2021: Capen
Second: Ashokan

Motion to Table Nominations Until Next Meeting: Lenape
Second: Minnewaska

Clare: Any people in here who are running for Vice President of RHSA, will you please stand up? Please hand out your applications to everyone.
Treasurer applications are due next week. If you were nominated and accepted, bring in your election supplies next week and if you have not been nominated, but you bring your supplies next week, you can be nominated next week and still be in the running for the following week. That includes 15 candidate applications, 15 resumes, one copy of your unofficial transcript, and one copy of your candidate form.
Motion to Close New Business: Scudder
Second: Ashokan

UPCOMING EVENTS 11:41 PM
● Buzz Halloween Party (Friday, February 21st at 7:30pm to 9pm, SUB 100N)
● Escape Room (Friday, February 28th at 7pm to 11pm, SUB 100N)

HALL CONCERNS 11:41 PM
Clare: If there’s something wrong in your hall that you have already talked to your RAs, SRA, and RD about and nothing has been done, this is your time to tell us.
Clare: Seeing none.

STUDENT CONCERNS FOLLOW-UP 11:42 PM
Matt K: Anybody concerned about Wi-Fi or any technology: If you go to Humanities, there’s the IT room on the first floor next to the computer lab. You could go there. They are open until 8pm at night. They will do everything for free and if you need a computer repair with parts, they could order it for you, you would still have to pay them, they are really nice. They are all good students.

STUDENT CONCERNS 11:42 PM
Clare: If you have general concerns for things going on campus wide (something’s broken, wrong, administrative concerns, faculty concerns), this is your moment to tell us so we can relay the information to the administration. However, if you have any food concerns (type, quality, price, location, or the water), we will not hear them at this point but you can email us at rhsa@hawkmial.newpaltz.edu. Any safety concerns at this time? Our school’s safety committee will be meeting this Friday.
Clare: Seeing none.

OPEN FLOOR 11:42 PM
Clare: If you have a program, meeting or any other announcement that you would like to share with the Associate Council, now is your time to share by raising your placard. You can also refer to the Tiny URL where you can post your events, but you are still welcome to share your events. https://tinyurl.com/nprhsacampusevents
Minnewaska: If you live on campus, you all got a giant jug of water for the water crisis and since the water crisis is over, if you have it left over and you have not opened it, please give it to me, I’m actually trying to donate it to people who actually need the water. If you have some or know someone who has some, let me know. You can stay after and I will happily pick it up from you or you could walk it to Minnewaska.
Botuon: Zombie Prom is coming up! If you have any questions, come ask me and Jess.
*Which current RHSA E-Board member was featured in the photo of the week in the latest edition of the New Paltz Week in Review? Check the email that was sent out on Monday, February 17th to all students.*
Awosting: We have three programs. First one, GI this Friday, 5:30, second, we have a program going on with NRHH on Wednesday, February 19th at 6pm, it’s self-care, and our last one, our leap year program, February 29th at 2:30pm. We are going to have games and music.

Callie: I know you were super excited when I talked about our NPAD, The Boring Party, but the water crisis delayed it. Please still come out! I don’t know the new date, but it’s in April at Ashokan Hall.

PASSING OF MOLLY THE MOOSE 11:43 PM
Clare: Where’s my moose?
Minnewaska: We’re sorry, we didn’t bring her. We will bring her next week.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK 11:44 PM
Clare: “Dream without fear, love without limits.” -Anonymous

ADJOURNMENT 11:45 PM

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Clare
Second: Matt Kreuz

Next meeting will be in SUB 418!

に対する画像の説明:

Presidents Day is a sad reminder my wallet is filled with pictures of only the first one.