

Q & A with Dean Rajala

Q: Can we work on personal projects in the Student Innovation Center?

A: Yes! There will be many spaces open for classes, student groups, and individuals to make use of. View the SIC floor plans to see the dedicated workspaces [here](#).

Q: Is it possible to host an event at the Student Innovation Center next spring?

A: Contact John Oliver for a definite answer, but potentially beginning spring 2021.

Q: Howe seems to have a shortage of power outlets, has this issue been addressed in the Student Innovation Center?

A: We do not have a definite answer, but we will share this concern with John Oliver. We do know that they will have excellent wireless in the SIC.

Q: How can student organizations gain access to the spaces in the Student Innovation Center?

A: Again, John Oliver is your best reference for this question, but we do know student organizations that were displaced will be addressed first. More space is likely available, so please reach out to John if your club is interested in space.

Q: Tell us more about Innovation Weekend.

A: Innovation Weekend begins Friday, April 5th. It kicks off in Lee Liu Auditorium with Brian McClendon. There will be a sneak peek of the Student Innovation Center, so don't miss out!

Q: How will training and access to equipment in the Student Innovation Center Work?

A: We are hoping we can incorporate technology, but training will be required for use. The type of training will be dependent on the tools/equipment being used.

Q: I am applying to graduate school, what can I do if my GPA doesn't meet the requirements?

A: Reach out to your Director of Graduate Education. There may be exceptions based on GRE scores or GPA trends. Have a faculty member advocate for you.

Q: I am interested in starting a student organization, specifically a drone racing club. How would we seek funding for our club?

A: There have been inquiries about this type of club in the past and the details regarding safety are still being worked out. Funding can be obtained through allocations from Engineering Student Council or from Student Government. In both cases, you will have to apply and show what you would be using the funding for.

Q: Could we allow opportunities for pre-seed funding for student entrepreneurs? Or expand opportunities that already exist?

A: We will make note of this. In the Student Innovation Center there will be an entrepreneurs' hub for all students to work in!

Q: Will there be company collaborations in the innovation center?

A: This is still to be determined.

Q: How have you been working to ensure a clean transition to the new dean?

A: I've been working to save all critical documents in appropriate places and engaging with the associate deans. I have been spending time with each of the dean candidates. Obviously once the new dean is selected, there will be a transition period between us, but after that I will still be available for them to contact!

Q: When will the last candidate be on campus?

A: The final candidate will be here tomorrow, 3/27. Information on all of the candidates can be found at this [link](#). You can view their biosketch, CV, and provide feedback on the site.

Q: Can you speak to the talk of differential tuition for sophomores?

A: Differential tuition at the sophomore level still needs to be approved by the Board of Regents. It will likely be rolled out in phases over three years starting fall 2019.

Q: During my junior and senior year, I have had several projects that required me to be on campus very late. The buildings are locked at this time, so we must rely on someone opening the door for us. Is there a way we get 24/7 card access to these buildings?

A: This is definitely something we can discuss with FP&M.

Q: When looking through technical electives, it seems that they are always listed very generally like "any 300 level course". Is it possible to list these out somewhere?

A: Again, a great point and something we will discuss with those involved.

Q: Is it possible to get a low distraction testing center on the engineering side of campus? Currently it is only offered at Hixon Lied.

A: This is something we will look at doing!

Q: Over the past few years, ISU has gone up in rankings. How was that achieved?

A: It has been achieved through long term progress. ISU has moved up because of faculty and students!