

10/07/2024 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 10/07/2024]

Meeting called to order on [10/07/2024] at 7:06 pm in ASB - 524

I. Roll Call

- a. President Victor Oluwagbemi
- b. Senate President Mihir Jariwala
- c. Senate Vice President David George
- d. Senate Secretary Desiree S. Bounds
- e. Graduate Senator (N/A)
- f. CA School Senator (N/A)
- g. ASB School Senator Juliana Campagna
- h. HGS School Senator Aidan D'Oria
- i. SSHS School Senator Amanda Shortt
- j. TAS School Senator Brian Joseph
- k. Senator Sandy Salazar
- l. Senator Benjamin Bank
- m. Senator Ava Cicero-Johnson
- n. Senator Eileen Jaquez
- o. Senator Shanel Lopez
- p. Senator Franco Miyashiro
- q. Senator Matthew Zegla
- r. Senator Joseph Brubaker
- s. Senator Michael Chabot
- t. Senator Alessia Mendicino
- u. Senator Esther Crowey
- v. Senator Nathaniel Bergren
- w. Senator Evelyn Santangelo

- i. Present:
- ii. Late:
 - 1. Senator Ava Cicero-Johnson (excused)
- iii. Absent:
 - 1. Senator Alessia Mendicino (excused)
 - 2. Senator Shanel Lopez (excused)
 - 3. Senator Juliana Campagna (excused)
 - 4. Senator Brian Joseph (excused)

Mission Statement

The Ramapo College Student Government Association serves as the persistent voice of the student body. While representing the student body and the ideals of Ramapo College of New Jersey, the Student Government Association, through unity in diversity, embraces student leadership in all forms.

Land Acknowledgement

SGA respectfully acknowledges that we are hosting our meeting on the ancestral and traditional Indigenous territory of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. [Senate Meeting Minutes 09/30/2024](#)
 - i. Moved: Joseph
 - ii. Second: Aidan
 - iii. 13-0-0

III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. The Pridefest event we cosponsored is this Wednesday, October 09, at the Grove!
 - i. You can sign up for a shift [here](#)
- b. Oktoberfest shifts are now open to select!
 - i. [24/25 SGA Oktoberfest Shift Sign Ups](#)
 - ii. Taking on one shift is required for all SGA members!
- c. If you have initiatives or bills but don't know where to start, be sure to contact David or I and we can help you start up!

- d. Questions, Comments, Concerns?
 - i. Esther: When is Oktoberfest?
 - 1. Mihir: It's the weekend of the 19th. If you can't make the shift please contact one of us.
 - ii. Joe- What event is happening on Thursday?
 - 1. Victor: We are looking to book a hypnotist, but waiting on confirmation.
 - iii. Franco- If I have work at 4 pm can I leave early?
 - 1. Mihir: Can you try for a different shift?
 - 2. Franco: All the earlier shifts are full.
 - 3. Victor: We can talk after the meeting to figure something out.

IV. New Business

- a. Animation Production Club
 - i. [Constitution](#)
 - ii. [Club Presentation](#)
 - iii. Moved: Michael
 - iv. Second: Nate
 - v. 13-0-0
 - vi. Questions for Jules and Priya
 - 1. What grade are all your e-board members?
 - a. Jules: Other than me I believe everyone has at least one more year at Ramapo.
 - 2. Mihir: What is your biggest expense?
 - a. Jules: A lot of animation programs are already provided through the school, so not much at all.
 - 3. Esther: For those without a membership how will students be able to participate?
 - a. The school computers are already programmed with the necessary softwares, so as long as the computer lab is open students can use the computers and attain access to the programs. Most of our e-board are also student aides for those labs.
 - 4. Mihir: Will this cause an overlap with classes?

- a. Jules: No, because our advisor is the Associate Professor of the class, so she should be able to correct those mistakes before that happens.

vii. Discussion:

1. Victor: We approved this club, because like they said it use resources already afforded to the college, so they won't be a large expense. As well as the fact they were successful on campus before in the past, and would serve a sizable community.
2. Joseph: I am currently in a 3D animation class with their advisor, Ann Lepore, so I can tell she is a very passionate person. There are a lot of people in the class who are interested in a club like this and a lot of people in that class could really benefit from the club. I'm only worried about space, because to my knowledge there's only one animation computer lab and it may be too small for meetings. Also the president is a senior, so the leadership team may be strained next year.
3. Victor: I have a similar qualm, most of the e-board will be graduating soon, so it is concerning. A lot of the e-board members have positions in the Berrie Center, but what happens when they graduate.
4. Joseph: I checked, there is an alternative lab in H-Wing. Animation requires a lot of computer usage, so it may be complicated for the small space and lots of new people.
5. Mihir: To reiterate, I agree with everything already said. I've seen a lot of great clubs get approved and be successful in the first year, and die out in the second because people graduated.
6. Joseph: I am also concerned this will be a very expensive club.
 - a. David: This came up at the club process meeting, but like they said they will use Berrie's Equipment.
 - b. Desiree: This came up last year when I was CA School Senator and we were improving the 3D Printing Club. It actually sometimes helps the school invest in better equipment when Dean Goldstein knows there is more of a use and need for it.

b. Liaison Reports

- i. Please write your name, liaison, and summary points from your report below in the **MINUTES**
- ii. Mihir (Dean Of Students): Had my meeting with Dean Van Der Wall on September 27th. I addressed the Wifi issues that students were facing and Dean Van Der Wall has kept me updated, saying they have located 4 apartments in the CPAS with issues, as well as issues with verizon users. In addition, we briefed on actions taken regarding Pastor Stanley earlier in the month. We went over some of the potential constitutional changes we wanted to do for the bill (specifically with social standing), and touched on the “protest” policy that is open to public comment. Extra note, DoS looks over counseling, CSI, student conduct, OSS, res life, and health center, so any concerns that can’t get through the regular departments can be looked through by the DoS.
- iii. Juliana (ASB): I had my first liaison meeting with Dean Petkus last Thursday. We discussed Women’s Entrepreneurship Week coming up, guest speaker Jonathan Gruber 10/8/24, and Finance and Marketing majors will be getting minor changes to benefit students. He wanted me to encourage students to come to both Jonathan Gruber’s discussion on Tuesday and the Women’s Entrepreneurship Week events. They are also working to get the ASB instagram account back up and running and I will be getting featured on a video to discuss my position as well as SGA.
- iv. Aidan (HGS) - Met with Dean Hangen and discussed possible ideas to increase awareness and registration for the HGS school. She was very focused on increasing social media presence and outreach with ideas for meeting the professors posts coming out before registration for spring classes open up. I have also joined the HGS Dean Advisory Council which is customary for HGS school senators. Also working to plan additional HGS events such as a cocoa and cookies event near finals time. From what it sounded like some of these events would be exclusive to HGS students but some would likely be open to the public.
 1. David: I would recommend going to Alex Modafferi from Marketing for social media help, she’s really helpful and friendly!

- v. Amanda (SSHS): I recently met with Dean Lorenz on September 11th. We had conversations about a possible SSHS Town Hall event and starting up the mentorship program. Still in the early stages of both of these initiatives and I'm waiting to hear back about potential dates for the SSHS Advisory Board. I have an upcoming meeting with him this Wednesday so please let me know if there's anything I should bring up! **Here's the SSHS Peer Mentorship Program Application:**
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb6iNLsLkqMxd3JS-oE0FeHMYlqgw0QdogQ1BtEtiVaAAZPQ/viewform?usp=sharing>
1. Victor: What would the time commitment be for the Mentorship program?
 - a. Amanda: Ideally minimal, you wouldn't have assigned meeting times for you and your mentee. You would be required to attend one training session before we start, and meet as needed on your own time with your mentee.
 2. Franco: Will every single student have a mentor?
 - a. Amanda: That would be great in the long term, but for now we're soft launching.
 3. Mihir: Do you have an incentive for the program?
 - a. Amanda: It's like any volunteer program to give back and help first-years adjust, but ours is more low commitment.
 4. Franco: What does the Advisory Board do?
 - a. Amanda: Mainly give feedback to Dean Lorenz on what's needed in the school.
- vi. Brian (TAS): I met with Dean Saiff on October 1st. There are no major projects for TAS this semester as of yet, but I asked the Dean about his opinions on the TAS Dean's Advisory Board, a TAS Mentorship Program, a Research Catalog website, and creating @rcnj_tas Instagram page. For the advisory board, the first meeting will most likely be towards the end of October, giving new students time to formulate their questions and the higher ups enough time left in the semester to address the issues that arise. The Dean likes the idea of the TAS Mentorship Program, but mentioned that if one school does it, all should try to so that nobody is left out. I'm still sorting out the logistics of how the mentorship program would work in terms of mentors/mentees. In terms of the Instagram page, we could put

the spotlight on clubs, research, and do student or professor highlights. I am very passionate about making a Research Catalog website where any student can get info about the on-campus research that professors do; I will reach out to professors ASAP to get their opinions on this. The Dean emphasized that initiatives like the Insta page and the Research Catalog require accurate information to be made available, thus requiring frequent updates. Any thoughts, comments, concerns, questions, or suggestions are greatly appreciated.

- vii. Matthew (Facilities): I had my first liaison meeting with Facilities back on September 17th. Here is a brief overview of what we discussed: Village stair project still projected to finish on time. The 2024 Move-Out Drive was successful. My liaison, Nicole's only request is that more students volunteer. Besides that, everything that was reused was taken. At the time of our meeting, Nicole hadn't had the time to review Mihir's potential recycling bill. The yellow barriers on the Overlook bridge will be investigated by Nicole. One elevator is working in the building and the other is awaiting a new power supply. The sidewalks on the main parking lot and the campus signs are on the improvement list. Nicole agrees that they are god awful. Finally, if you encounter any issue on campus, make a report immediately!!! Also, I have my next liaison meeting this Wednesday at 3:15. Please send me anything you would like me to bring up to the meeting asap!
1. Mihir: In can you list the resources to contact facilities ?
 - a. Matthew: Sure, It's in the Open Forum below!
 2. Victor: The single row of parking directly next to the Village is currently under construction, but this feels like an ill-fitted time for students and traffic to pursue this issue. Can you ask them why they choose to start this now?
 - a. Matthew: Sure!
- viii. Nate (Cahill Career Center): I had my first meeting with Ms. Norman last Wednesday, October 2nd. We were able to finally meet for the first time and discuss how the previous SGA liaison worked with Cahill. I was also able to grasp a better understanding of the Career Center as a whole. The majority of our discussion was about the "Don't be spooked by

networking” coming up on 10/30. Cahill is asking any member of the SGA who are available to attend as well as spread the word and bring friends. There will be raffles at the events and chances for people to network. The other major project Cahill is working on is promoting Handshake. Only around 1,000 students are actually on handshake and less than that use it to its full ability.

1. Mihir: What time is the “Don’t be spooked by networking” coming up on 10/30?
 - a. Nate: I don’t know, but I will check. I can say it will be on the second floor of ASB.
 2. Mihir: What kind of people will you be networking with?
 - a. For now, other students and faculty, so students can practice. In the future, we will bring in industry professionals.
- ix. David (ITS) - Blast email will be sent out with information about free access to Microsoft Suite and instructions on how to access them. Apple Pay is in the contract review phase with the vendor, but the Ramapo legal team is backed up so it may take some time, the earliest we’ll get it is January. They are also working on a project where Canvas may be accessible without the Internet. If there are wifi issues, fill out an ITS helpdesk ticket, or it isn’t fixed. They are working on the wifi problem at Cypress. If you have any problems always report it on the HelpDesk, they can’t fix what they don’t know is broken.
1. Mihir: Can you share the link to the IT HelpDesk to make it more accessible?
 - a. David: Sure! I have it on speed dial.
 2. Victor: Do they prefer manual tickets or email?
 - a. David: You can just use the online platform.
 - b. Victor: I ask because sometimes I have problems with the website, and I email them and they manually will create a ticket.
 - c. David: In a case like that when the website won’t load, I would send an email.
 3. Sandy: I also find that email works best, because I have called, emailed, and submitted tickets, and the email is always fastest.

- x. Ava (Public Safety): I had my first meeting with Jason Balsan on September 24th. Our first order of business was proposing the 15 minute parking spot, as we know this was approved (yay!). There have been concerns regarding Quad 1 parking. Balsan suggested telling the student who brought this issue up to gather students and write down names to make this a student concern. However, Public Safety reevaluates parking in the commuter/Village lot quite often, so he does not see anything being changed as of right now. Public Safety is also working on adding rounds of patrols to residence halls for overnight hours. After inquiring about opportunities for students to get involved, Balsan informed me that this is the first attempt at Public Safety Internships. We also discussed revving by the Bradley Center and parking permit issues. As student leaders, it would help if the Student Government Association could reinstruct the student population to display temporary permits. He also stressed the importance and need of working closely with SGA. He can only improve conditions if he knows what the department needs to polish.
1. Victor: Please reach out to Kaitlyn Kroeber Secretary of PR to share the information about the Temporary Parking Passes with students. Also, I was told it would be one 20 minute unloading spot, can you please confirm the time?
 - a. Ava: Sure!
 2. David: Can you confirm which spots are commuters and residents? Because I have experiences with confused students being ticketed due to lack of signage.
 - a. Ava: Jason Balsan told me to refer students to the website for specific parking lot questions. What I'm reading now says Village Resident Parking: A4, B4, C3, & C4 and Commuter Parking: B1, B2, B3, but I will confirm at our next meeting.
 - b. Evelyn: I'm never really sure where to park.
 - c. Mihir: D Lot is always for overflow parking, so that is always a safe option.
 3. Desiree: Please thank Jason for increased patrolling around the residence halls, because I know that was a concern for students after losing the desk attendants. Also, can you kindly let him know

that a comment he made during Welcome Week might be misconstrued? He was talking about the Officer Escort Resource and stated students would be pulling an officer off their patrol duty. I know he was well intentioned and just stating a fact, but I fear this may make students hesitate to use this resource if they feel unsafe.

4. Victor: With this in mind can you ask if there is a shortage of officers?
 - a. Desiree: (Point of Clarification) I know there is an active search committee for a position in Public Safety, but I'm not sure exactly what role.

- xi. Michael (OSS): I had my first meeting with David Nast today the 7th. He gave me a brief overview of what the Office of Specialized Services works to do and what types of students they help accommodate. The most common conditions and disabilities that OSS sees in their affiliates are depression, anxiety, attention deficit, and traits on the autism spectrum. Overall, he reports that things are going quite well with general acceptance and accessibility accommodations at Ramapo. However, there are some issues among visually-impaired students in the Bradley Center because of the lack of tactile signage, and wheelchair access issues in the Berrie Center. Some goals Nast discussed with me were increasing the completion rate of the affiliation process among students with qualifying disabilities. Lots of students start their application but they do not finish the remaining steps, so Nast wants to find a "why" to these tendencies. Lastly, increasing in-house training for educators to help them teach students within the 4 primary groups listed before.
 1. Desiree: Where in Berrie Center are there problems with accessibility?
 - a. Michael: I don't know exactly where, but the Dean is already on the task, so it shouldn't be a problem for long.
 2. Nate: What's wrong with the library doors? The handicap button hasn't worked for a while, and there is a sign up, but no timeline for a solution.
 - a. Michael: I wasn't aware of that, but I will share that at my next meeting.

- b. Amanda: Yes this was a problem last year too and we don't want it to keep carrying over every semester.
- xii. Franco (OVP) - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the OVP is having a violence awareness week featuring many events. Bracelet Making on Oct 22nd, Poster making on Oct 23rd, Take Back the Night Oct 24th. Attend these events, and be sure to volunteer for Take Back the Night bc we did promise volunteers. Marie did request for SGA members who attend to wear SGA apparel so that we can represent the SGA during the March, to emphasize our presence and support. Male identifying members are very much encouraged to attend these events. November will feature Healthy Masculinity Week, and the OVP will be eventually requesting a co sponsorship for an event that week, so expect that soon. VIP applications open in December for those interested in being involved with the OVP. Also, Domestic Violence Awareness symposium (Oct 29th @ 6 pm) will feature Alexis Ruhlens as a guest speaker. All are welcome to attend.
1. Victor: I ordered us merch, I hope it's here in time for Take Back the Night, so we can wear it and represent, but I don't know if it will get here in time.
 2. Mihir: What is a VIP?
 - a. Franco: I'm not really sure.
Desiree: (Point of Clarification) It's a volunteer program. Although it's not paid, they do hire out of the program often. They are charged with hosting Violence Prevention events and attending OVP's large events like Take Back the Night, Denim Day, and SCREAM Theater at Welcome Week.
- xiii. Brian (CHCS): I met with Dr. Judy Green and Assistant Director Kara Maxsimic on September 30. We talked about Glow for Hope, which was overall a success with 40 students at the vigil and about 80 students in and out in total. It most likely would've been a bigger success if actually outside in Laurel Courts. In terms of the projects that the CHCS is working on, we are still doing Free Condom Fridays, where a dispenser for free condoms is displayed outside the CHCS building and various

places on campus. Kara said she is working on having a discreet dispenser in the J. Lee's/SGA Office/BSU Office area as per my suggestion last semester. Roadrunner Ready Kits are about to be rolled out, with the first mention in the Daily Digest today. These packages are customizable, and you can opt in/out of various items including lube, condoms, dental dams, pregnancy tests, and flavored condoms. They are delivered to the ORL Mailroom or for pick up at the CHCS building. The deadline to apply for the kit is this Friday 10/11 by 4pm. World Mental Health Day 2024 is this Thursday, October 10th. I was told that CHCS may reach out for SGA's help in participating in an event, but I was not given any details at the time of my meeting. The biggest update to the CHCS this semester is the health services office (and only health services) is closed daily from 12-1pm. Prior to this change, the 3 staff took turns taking an hour off from 12-1, 1-2, and 2-3. Making this change where there is only 1 hour where it is completely closed makes it so more students can be seen and walk-ins can be more easily accommodated. There hasn't been any push back to this change; I will keep everyone updated on that. All students are encouraged to complete the Ask. Listen. Refer. program. As I've mentioned before, you are entered into a raffle for an Amazon gift card if you email your completion certificate to studentwellness@ramapo.edu.

- xiv. Benjamin (Dining) - Met with Robert Kuan and Faith Chang (not Jeff); apple pay is being worked on, Robert claimed it is now an "IT issue", so no new developments on that front. Sodexo website has been glitching, but the new website is reachable by the same link, <https://ramapo.sodexomyway.com/>, but info saved on the old site will be lost when reloading. Need more info on dissatisfaction regarding vegan and vegetarian options, as I could not provide enough details to them to allow for any implementable changes. PA system is available for our use, just let them know.
1. Desiree: The problem is that there aren't enough options. If you're vegetarian you can only eat pasta, the salad, cheese pizza, or the hot vegetarian option. And if you're vegan you may only have the raw salad bar and pasta.
 2. Ava: I was told tofu tastes like a beauty blender.
 - a. Mihir: What is a beauty blender?

- b. Desiree: It's a makeup sponge.
 - c. Michael: Why is your friend eating beauty blenders?
 - d. Mihir: This is a blunt criticism you can give Dining Services.
 3. Nate: The vegetarian options are very repetitive with very little variety. There is jackfruit three days a week, so it gets very old very fast.
 4. Matt: Why was the dining hall closed?
 - a. Desiree: There was a bee infestation. They had exterminators come in to patch up the hole.
 5. Esther: I was told there was a nutritionist on campus, but I haven't gotten email back, and that was two months ago.
 - a. Benji: I believe that's Faith Chang.
 - b. Desiree: Faith Chang is the marketing manager.
 - c. Benji: She told me that she was a nutritionist.
 - d. Desiree: I doubt that because she graduated from Ramapo with a marketing degree.
 - e. Benji: Well then she probably isn't a nutritionist.
 6. David; You can stop asking them about apple pay, per my liaison report.
 7. Esther: I found the email. I emailed Nicole Piotrowski, but there is a different name on the website, Anne Sugrue. However Anne's email is unavailable.
- xv. Benjamin (Admissions) - Met with Morgan Grande; main point of discussion was this past Sunday's open house. They wanted to know if we had any ideas for potential partnerships with their office and/or if we needed anything from them. That's it.
 1. Joe: Does any from SGA represent us at Open House?
 - a. Victor: There is a table hosted by CSI and SGA to talk about engagement. This year it was manned by Oliver and Liz.
 - b. Desiree: Benji has been asking for volunteers and only 3 people volunteered.
 2. Evelyn and Joe: We submitted applications and emailed to help, but didn't get a response.

- a. Benji: I'll bring this up in my next meeting.
- xvi. Evelyn (Registrar) - I met with Jill Pierson from the Registrar Office on October 3rd. She told me about an opportunity called Rocky-Registration Review Sessions. This event mission is to help students to navigate using Web-Self Service/U-Achieve prior to the registration period this semester. Any student is eligible to attend these sessions and the times for training are listed below in the link provided: <https://www.ramapo.edu/registrar/>. We also went over when the registration period starts which is the Week of October 28th and assigned registration times will be sent out via email the week of October 21st. Web-Self Service was recently updated making it more user friendly by keeping it open till 11:59 pm. Also a reminder, Spring and Winter are now available to browse.
 1. Mihir: Can you ask about passing this registration to Peer Facilitators to make it more accessible to freshmen?
 - a. Evelyn: Sure!
- xvii. Sandy (First Gen) - I met with Uma Mahalingam on September 25th and I asked about their past SGA liaison and if they had any initiatives that fell through that they wanted to continue working on. Uma had responded with wanting to focus more on the month of November since it's the First-Generation College Celebration Month and we will communicate more once she returns to campus. First gen: [Scholarship](#) deadline is October 7th.
 1. Evelyn: I got my first email about scholarship this morning, the day they were due. Can you ask them to share this advance with more notice in the future?
 2. Ava: Can you ask them when the next scholarship deadline will be and when the scholarships will open?
 - a. Desiree: I believe they won't open again until the Spring Semester.
 - b. Esther: I believe there are a few scholarships still open after today!
- xviii. Sandy (Title IX)- I met with Kat McGee on September 27th and I asked about their past SGA liaison and if they had any initiatives that fell through that they wanted to continue working on. Kat wanted to drop the

past Senator's initiatives and focus more on the student body as a whole. She wanted to make a google form that surveyed students about any questions they had relating to Title IX and/or any questions students felt uncomfortable typically asking. It is still in the works and will be discussed in our next meeting about our next steps.

- xix. Esther: Is there a liaison to Financial Aid?
 - 1. Mihir: Yes, but no one has chosen to be the liaison this year.
- xx. Esther: I'm new so I'm not really sure how the meetings work and what to ask.
 - 1. Mihir: Since this is your first meeting you use this as an opportunity to get to know your liaison and how their office works.
 - 2. David: You can also refer to the past liaison reports to see where the last senator left off.
- xxi. Esther: How does all the information we discuss in liaisons get to the student body?
 - 1. Mihir: All of the meetings are open and our minutes are posted online.
 - 2. Amanda: You would be surprised how many people don't know what SGA does.
 - 3. Desiree: All our meetings are open, we post all our meetings on the daily digest, share our minutes in the loop, and post reminders on Instagram. Personally, I think we are very thorough in how we advertise our meetings and share information, and I don't know what else there is we can do. Because people are quick to complain on Fizz, yet won't come to a general meeting to speak their minds.
 - 4. Victor: Second
 - 5. Nate: Can we post a TDLR version of Senate and General Agendas on Instagram?
 - a. Desiree: I think this came up last year but we never followed through. I think this is great and could really work. Maybe also including this on Fizz?
 - b. Everyone: Absolutely NOT.
 - c. Mihir: We would be roasted even more.

V. Public Comment

VI. Open Forum

- a. Joe - Meeting with Eddie from CSI, any questions or concerns regarding CSI let me know.
- b. Victor - SGA support for our upcoming event: Sabor y Cultura! There will be free food and drinks like Inca Kola and Arroz con Leche on Oct 10th from 2 - 3:30 pm near the staircase above the atrium (Near CSI). If you have the time, please show love as this is an event that Abby spent a lot of time working on!
- c. David - How to report wifi problems 101: 1. Go to this link <https://solarwinds.ramapo.edu:8443/helpdesk/WebObjects/Helpdesk.woa> and click client services support, network support, general, and the type of device. Add the location and any concerns that you have.
- d. Matthew - Facilities work order form: <https://www.ramapo.edu/facilities/service-request/>

VII. Adjournment

- a. **Time:** 8:55
 - i. **Moved:** Benji
 - ii. **Second:** Sandy