9/22/2021 SGA General Meeting Agenda

[Wednesday, 9/22/2021]

**Meeting called to order on [9/22] at [1:15pm] at *A108*.**

# **Roll Call**

* 1. President Anjali Patel
  2. Vice President Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya
  3. Secretary Janea Tozer-Murphy
  4. Treasurer Victoria Columna
  5. Chief of Staff\*\*
  6. Secretary of Academic Affairs Nataly Merino (Absent - excused)
  7. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy
  8. Secretary of Delegate Affairs Ciara Luciano (Absent - excused)
  9. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion\*\*
  10. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Danny Vazquez
  11. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak
  12. Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black
  13. Secretary of Public Relations Samantha Zinni
  14. Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni
  15. Chief Panelist Angelina Farallo
  16. Executive Panelist John Waite
  17. Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger
  18. Senate President Helen Witte
  19. Senate Vice President Kimberly Santana
  20. Senate Secretary Victoria Sepero
  21. ASB School Senator: Chris Vedra
  22. CA School Senator: Grace Velarde
  23. HGS School Senator: Rachel Schmidt (Absent - excused)
  24. SSHS School Senator: Ashley Gomez
  25. TAS School Senator: Serina Sajjad (Absent - excused)
  26. Senator Sannia Balgahoom
  27. Senator Brandon Han
  28. Senator Kristina Hollosi
  29. Senator Cindy Lam (Late - excused)
  30. Senator Aime Lara ABSENT
  31. Senator Misha Mathai
  32. Senator Mariam Tinawi (Absent - excused)
  33. Senator Patricia Kalaidjian
  34. Senator Rylie Klain (Absent - excused)
  35. Senator Connor Sweeny
  36. Senator Rojja Kharel
  37. Senator \*\*
  38. Senator \*\*
  39. Senator \*\*
  40. Student Governor Rohan Dhote
  41. Alternate Student Governor Nazli Tiyaloglu (Naz)
  42. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses (Absent - excused)
  43. Alternate Student Trustee Jakub Zak
      1. Present:
      2. Late:
         1. Senator Cindy Lam
      3. Excused:
         1. HGS School Senator: Rachel Schmidt
         2. Secretary of Academic Affairs Nataly Merino
         3. Secretary of Delegate Affairs Ciara Luciano
         4. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses
         5. Senator Mariam Tinawi
         6. Senator Rylie Klain
         7. TAS School Senator: Serina Sajjad
      4. Absent: (Unexcused)
         1. Executive Panelist John Waite
         2. Treasurer Victoria Columna

1. **Mission Statement** Read by ASB School Senator: Chris Vedra

*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.*

# **Approving Minute Meetings**

* 1. Minutes from 9/15/21
     1. Motion to approve meeting minutes from September 15, 2021, entertained by Senate President Helen Witte
     2. Seconded by Senator Ashley Gomez
     3. Seconded by Senate VP Kimberly Santana
  2. 10-0-1 Motion Passed

# **President's Announcements**

* 1. Congratulations and greetings to all of the new Senators!
  2. First liaison meeting with President Jebb today, September 22 at 3:30 pm
     1. Let me or Paolo know of anything that should be added to the agenda!
     2. Comment by Senate Secretary Victoria Sepero: Professors and people, in general, are not wearing their masks. Including Public Safety not wearing masks indoors. For example today inside the library opening there were some public safety officers not wearing masks.
        1. President Patel: This is a question for us to bring up to Nataly. We will do that.
     3. Point of information by Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black: We have been sent covid training and that is due soon.
     4. Point of Information by SSHS School Senator Ashley Gomez: People do not wear masks in the gym. This should be brought up.
     5. Point of Inquiry: Senate VP Santana: are we going to include the proper way of wearing a mask in this campus-wide letter?
        1. President Patel: Yes.
     6. Comment by Senator Kristina Hollosi: People do not wear masks in the dorm residence buildings. Specifically in the elevator.
     7. Comment by Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy: There have been reports of people saying they have been coming to campus without being vaccinated.
        1. President Patel: I will bring this up with Dean Van Der Wal.
     8. Comment by Victoria Sepero: When I give tours there are no students wearing masks and it’s difficult for me as a tour guide to have the authority undermined when I tell my tour groups that masks are mandatory.
     9. Point of Inquiry by ASB School Senator: Chris Vedra:
        1. Do people who are exempt from vaccinations have to get tested twice weekly?
           1. President Patel: Yes
        2. People who have exemptions can go to class but people who aren’t exempt have to stay off of campus right?
           1. VP Miyashiro: Yes
     10. Comments by: SSHS School Senator Ashley Gomez: My students on my residence floor wear masks when they’re told by me but need to be reminded.
     11. Comment by Senator Brandon Han: People who are unvaccinated or exempt are not allowed on campus. We don’t have a way to determine who is vaccinated and who is not.
     12. Comment by Delegate Sheneda Watson: I’m an RA for Bischoff and I know kids don’t wear their mask because they know they won't get in trouble for it.
     13. Comment by Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: We can not ask for people's vaccination status. We have to consider who will enforce this because we don’t have security on campus that is strict. We have to be strategic about which battles we choose. What can be done is RA’s enforcing masks, being vigilant about who’s going in rooms and who’s not. Strategic planning about concerns and what can we make a difference about and understanding our limitations as a student board.
     14. Comment by Senate VP Kimberly Santana: Danny is right. Unless things are enforced nothing is going to change.
     15. Comment by Senate President Witte: I’ve written down all of your concerns and I will bring up all of your concerns to Dean Van Der Wall tomorrow at 11:30 am.
     16. Point of Information by President Patel: There’s a complaint form on the Ramapo website that you can fill out regarding covid.
  3. Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting next Monday, September 27 at 6 pm.
     1. Feel free to join on Webex or at Pav to hear me give my report!
  4. Me and Helen attended the Shared Governance Meeting Tuesday, September 28 at 12 pm.
  5. Library Commons Ribbon Cutting Update
     1. Comment by CA School Senator Grace Velarde: That will be open in November I heard.
  6. Pandemic Assessment Team Meeting on Monday, Sep. 27 at 3 pm
  7. Planning on meeting with Ireland’s U of Limerick SGA leaders tomorrow, Sep. 23 at 10 am
  8. Wellness is Now (W.I.N.) Peer Educator Opportunity
     1. Volunteer students who assemble informational and educational programs to support the Ramapo College community in regards to student wellbeing.
     2. If you’d like more information let us know and we can forward that information to you.
  9. In process of choosing Ramapo Health and Safety Committee rep, BOT committee reps, Multicultural Center Committee Rep/Secretary of D & I, and Chief-of-Staff
     1. Deadlines for the interviews close today so VP Paolo and I will be reaching out to those people this week and those positions will be filled.
  10. Trying to get a separate SGA President email account made with ITS

# **Cabinet Reports**

* 1. Vice President Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya
     1. Senate approved the re-establishment of the sports club on Monday. A couple of clubs are waiting to be approved
     2. Next Wednesday the club process committee will meet again for students to create new clubs.
     3. If members of SGA (preferably not members of senate) are interested in that please let me know.
     4. If you know anyone who wants to start a club reach out to [SGAclubs@ramapo.edu](mailto:SGAclubs@ramapo.edu)
     5. Training
        1. Scheduled for Sunday, 10/3/21 from 5 pm-8 pm
        2. Will be Introducing everyone
        3. Reviewing training
        4. Going over new training materials
        5. There will be food
  2. Secretary Janea Tozer-Murphy
     1. Name Tags
        1. Please make sure to bring your name tag from the SGA office for each General Meeting. Please let me know if your nametag is misspelled or if you damage or lose it and need a new one.
     2. Mailboxes
        1. Mailboxes are in the process of being made. As of today, the mailboxes completed are for EBoard, Senate Leadership, and Judicial Panel.
     3. Attendance
        1. Please remember to be in accordance with attendance rules. Each person is allowed five excused absences and two unexcused absences per semester. Failure to comply with attendance rules will result in a discussion on removal from the SGA.
  3. Treasurer Victoria Columna
     1. ABSENT
  4. Secretary of Academic Affairs Nataly Merino
     1. ABSENT
  5. Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black
     1. Oktoberfest:
        1. Meeting tomorrow with Linda Kavan to get the Oktoberfest schedule set in stone.
        2. We got back our invoices for Any Excuse for a Party and everything looks good.
        3. If anybody has suggestions on food for the carnival please feel free to let me know or email me. ([eblack2@ramapo.edu](mailto:eblack2@ramapo.edu))
        4. Sam came up with an event to do a trunk or treat.
           1. VP Miyashiro Bedoya: Commuters do that in October already.
        5. We need an event for Saturday night. There is a chance that the haunted mansion will be moved to Saturday night. I’m currently working that out. If anyone has any suggestions I’d love to hear them.
           1. Comment by Senate VP Santana: Movie day.
           2. Comment by VP Paolo: It used to be that the haunted mansion goes on at the same time as an event at Laurel Courts.
     2. Committee meeting tomorrow at 5 pm on webex.
     3. Oktoberfest weekend is October 14-17.
  6. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion\*\*
  7. Secretary of Public Relations Samantha Zinni
     1. I’m making posts for Instagram.
     2. Any ideas for the bulletin board please email Sam. ([szinni@ramapo.edu](mailto:szinni@ramapo.edu) )
        1. Comment by VP Paolo: Start thinking about promotion soon.
        2. Comment by VP Paolo: Where are the t-shirts/crewnecks?
           1. Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black: We’re working on it. Dawn has done the design for us. We’re running into a small issue with the file format and I need to get the vendor figured out. Please make sure your sizes are in the roster.
  8. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Danny Vazquez
     1. This week is national hazing prevention week.
     2. We had a vigil this Monday at 7 pm.
     3. Sign up for hazing prevention.
     4. Tomorrow there is an event with multicultural greek organizations for Latinx heritage month. If anyone speaks Spanish or can spell in Spanish you can win a $50 gift card if you want to join.
  9. Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni
     1. The committee is planning a schedule for the task force. We are hesitantly saying the first meeting will be in early October.
     2. Expect to see us a message in the daily digest from Ramapo Green.
     3. If anyone is interested in writing for Ramapo Green, reach out to me.
  10. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy
      1. Tomorrow is the Commuter barbeque. We have 40 people registered on Archway and are expecting more people.
      2. Starting at 1:00 pm in Friends Hall on Thursday, September 23, 2021.
      3. Stuff a Plush is this Friday, September 24, 2021, in J.Lee’s between 1-2 pm. As of right now, 20 people are registered.
      4. Question by Senator Brandon Han: Is the commuter mentor form still open?
         1. Jack Nesmith: You can sign up on archway commuter affairs.
  11. Secretary of Delegate Affairs Ciara Luciano
      1. ABSENT
  12. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak
      1. I will be speaking tomorrow about a program where Pat takes student government members of the state legislature to get acquainted with procedures and politicians to get real-life fieldwork experience.
  13. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses (ABSENT) (Speaking on behalf of Alternate Student Trustee Jakub Zak)
  14. Chief Panelist Angelina Farallo (Speaking on behalf of Executive Panelist John Waite and Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger)
      1. My food is always open if you have questions or concerns.
      2. No real updates.
  15. Student Governor Rohan Dhote (Speaking on behalf of Alternate Student Governor Nazli Tiyaloglu (Naz)

# **New Business**

* 1. Theta Phi Alpha Cosponsorship
     1. Tabled to do more research.
     2. Home Run Derby Event - A donation of a certain amount of money to the Susan G. Coleman Foundation for breast cancer awareness.
     3. Tabled so those running the event can do more research.
     4. Questions or concerns about co-sponsorship.
        1. Point of Inquiry by Senator Brandon Han: Does SGA have a limit on the number of co-sponsorships?
           1. President Patel: We have a budget of $3000 for the whole year.
     5. Motion to vote on Theta Phi Alpha Cosponsorship
        1. Moved by Senator Velarde
        2. Seconded by Senator Rojja Kharel
     6. Motion passed 12-0-0.
     7. Ideas for numbers:
        1. $250
           1. Vote: 0
        2. $200
           1. Vote: 4
        3. $150
           1. Vote: 9
        4. $100
           1. Vote: 0
     8. Motion to approve Co-Sponsorship of $150 for Theta Phi Alpha Cosponsorship by Senate President Helen Witte
        1. So moved by CA School Senator Grace Velarde
        2. Seconded by Senate VP Kimberly Santana
        3. Vote: 12-0-0
           1. Motion passed.
     9. Point of information by President Patel: Our Co-Sponsorship budget is now at $2850.
  2. Best Day and Time for Senate Meetings
     1. Senate VP Santana will be sending out a sheet to input your availability.
     2. Comments by Senate VP Santana:
        1. A lot of people disagree with having a Senate meeting at 9:45 pm on Mondays.
        2. We hope to change it to sometime earlier on a different day.   
           I will be creating google sheets and sending it to Senators.
        3. Please include classes and clubs to see which day is best for our Senate Meetings.
           1. VP Paolo: Instead of clubs I would only ask for class and work schedules.
        4. Point of INquiry by Danielle Bongiovanni: Will I be sent this?
           1. Senate VP Santana: Yes.
        5. We will send this out later today. Complete this by Monday, September 27, 2021. We will still be meeting at 9:45 pm for this Monday’s meeting. 9/27/21
  3. Senate Liaisons, Office Hour Sign-Ups
     1. If you’re a new senator sign up for office hours and Senate Liaisons.
     2. Please put your office hours and roster information.
     3. Senators, please pick liaisons.
        1. Point of Inquiry: Can there be more than one person in a liaison?
        2. Senate President Witte: No
     4. Point of Inquiry by Senator Brandon Han: Can’t you technically have more than one person as a liaison?
        1. VP Miyashiro Bedoya: No. Two people can not talk to one department.
        2. President Patel: The point of a liaison is so one person is the contact person for that office or staff member.
     5. Point of inquiry by Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: When would we determine when other people can decide liaisons?
        1. President Patel: After Senators fill out their liaisons. After the end of this week. We will announce it.
     6. Comment by Jack Nesmith: Senate please stay on top of your relationship and be vocal. Give updates about your liaisons and make sure you’re staying in contact with them. You’re encouraged to work with offices that you haven't worked with before. Take liaison reports seriously. Work with Senate leadership if you have issues.
     7. Helen Witte: Most senators have signed up and we’re just waiting to hear from one or two more. Now that everyone has signed up for your liaison please contact your liaison sometime this work. I will be assigning liaison reports at the end of October. That is the due date. If you don’t hear from your liaison two weeks after contracting them please bring it up to President Patel, VP Miyahsiro Bedoya, Senate President Witte, or Senate VP Santana. We’ll go over how to make a liaison report soon.
     8. Point of information by President Patel: There is a template in google drive. If you have trouble finding it please let us know.

# **Public Comment**

* 1. N/A

# **Open Forum**

* 1. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: Urging Senate to reconsider supporting the ALYSSA Act.
     1. Information on the ALYSSA Act:
        1. It is a bipartisan bill with 5 democratic and 5 republican politicians.
        2. The purpose of the bill is to prevent additional harm and protect students, staff, and faculty.
        3. We must be proactive in protecting students and educators. There will only be police if the panic alarm button is hit. The panic alarm is a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from law enforcement. It has a blue light.
        4. There is no high-level security to gain access to residence halls and common areas currently at Ramapo.
        5. We are one of the only colleges in NJ that does not have an armed public safety team.
     2. Discussion:
        1. Comments by Senate VP Kimberly Santana: This bill does not relate to Ramapo right now. This bill stands for high schools. It was brought up by Senators that the bill was for high schools and that we were encouraging and advocating for colleges. We felt that it did not relate to us at the moment. We would be advocating for a bill that has nothing to do with us yet.
           1. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: We have advocated for a bill in the past that has nothing to do with us yet. Advocating means we support these measures and we would like for it to relate to college. The point of advocacy is changing and making a bill including us. We would be voting to support this bill and in addition to it ask to go further. We don’t have to support the bill as a whole, we can support parts of it.
        2. Comments by Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger: During the Senate meeting nobody voted yes and everyone said no. I don’t think it was a political issue. We all agreed that it didn’t really concern us.
           1. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: I was presented with the issue of policing in schools. And that is a political issue.
        3. Comments by Senate VP Kimberly Santana: It wasn’t state policing that was brought up. We understand that police will come if something happens. The resource officer aspect is not politicized. We looked at the bill and everyone in the Senate has different opinions and ideas. I understand your concern.
        4. Comment by Senate President Helen Witte: If you’re still interested in this I recommend changing or altering the bill. If you decide to do that you can bring it up to the Senate and we can re-vote on the bill.
        5. Point of Inquiry by Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: I’m not sure my specific bill that I proposed was presented to the Senate
           1. It was.
        6. Comment by Senate VP Santana: All of the Senators agreed with the panic alarm but it was a concern about resource officers.
        7. President Patel: We were thrown off by the language of the resource officer.
        8. Comment by VP Miyashiro Bedoya: Resource officers seemed to be predominantly placed in schools of minority students. There's an idea that it’s unequal in terms of how much policing is done to who.
        9. Comment by Senate President Helen Witte: There’s a book called The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander and Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting at the Table. An idea of targeting racial minorities in school districts that are composed of people of color.
           1. Comment by Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: School resource officers and public safety are the same things.
           2. VP Paolo Miyashiro: School resources are retired or former police officers. That is not a requirement of our Public Safety Officers but it was for School Resources.
           3. Comment by Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black: Our School resource officer in high school was
  2. Secretary of Public Relations Samantha Zinni
     + 1. We have new senators that have joined us, so need a photo with all new senators for social media.
  3. Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni
     + 1. There is a sign making event Friday, September 24 at 1pm at the Arch, in preparation for the protest against the two gas compresses that Tennessee Gas Company is trying to put on the pipeline that runs past campus.
  4. VP Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya
     + 1. There are several study spaces available on campus
       2. No reservation required
       3. Laurel Hall 004-006
       4. School of contemporary arts hosting a bunch of events throughout the semester, tonight “The Hate U Give” will be played in Berrie.
  5. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak:
     1. Is a peer facilitator and has discussed events with current freshmen. He was asked by students to bring up that there are political controversies over the Black Lives Matter organization being a part of the title in the event. These students feel that because BLM is a political organization and it is included in the title of the event that they feel excluded and as if they cannot attend themselves because of their own personal beliefs and how members of BLM have outspoken against their own personal beliefs.
     2. Comment by VP Miyashiro-Bedoya: especially in current times and looking at what is moral and what's ethical, we shouldn’t shy away from taking a stance, or not shy away from something that makes others uncomfortable. Appreciate Danny's comments but opposes and doesn’t think the name BLM should be removed from the title
     3. Comment by Jack Nesmith: The goal of SGA is education, for everyone. I would say to encourage students to go to the events and hear the topics out. There might be misconceptions about the events. Asks students who are raising concerns to attend events and voice their opinions but be open to new ideas- attend the colloquium. If someone doesn’t know what the colloquium is about we can’t tell the organization's group to remove something from it, such as a name. Suggest all the students go to the events.
     4. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: Thank you, I agree with you, spoke to his peer class, athletic teams, other peer leaders, civilians outside the campus and he agrees the conversation shouldn’t be changed. Worried about the branding because students have brought concern they don’t want to attend the organization because of the branding.
     5. Comment by Senator Ashley Gomez: It’s important to not think about the branding, and look at the discussion and conversation. It may not be important to not let the title alone be a reason to avoid the events. Students should attend to get a perspective of events rather than pay attention to the title alone.
     6. Comment by President Anjali Patel: I’ve been to the colloquium, going into it I thought it would be one thing, and it ended up not meeting my expectations in a positive way. The BLM branding is not really a large issue, because there is more to the events than the title, and if a student would go they would potentially gain a different perspective on the colloquium itself,
     7. Comment by VP Miyashiro Bedoya: It is a college colloquium, on issues of race, gender, etc, but the “title” BLM means Black Lives Matter, that is not a political opinion it is a fact.
  6. Final remarks
     1. Jack Nesmith -free pizza in A-101 after general.

# **Adjournment**

* + 1. Senate President Helen Witte motions to adjourn the meeting at 3 pm
    2. Moved by Senator Grace Velarde
    3. Seconded by Senator Kimberly Santana

# 

# 