09/08/2021 SGA General Meeting Minutes

[Wednesday, 09/08/2021]

**Meeting called to order on [09/08/21] at [1:01pm] in Alumni Lounges.**

**Names pronouns position**

# **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
  7. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy
  8. Secretary of Delegate Affairs Ciara Luciano
  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: vacant
  24. SSHS School Senator: Ashley Gomez
  25. TAS School Senator: Serina Sajjad
  26. Senator Sannia Balgahoom
  27. Senator Brandon Han
  28. Senator Kristina Hollosi
  29. Senator Cindy Lam
  30. Senator Aime Lara
  31. Senator Misha Mathai
  32. Senator Mariam Tinawi
  33. Senator\*\*
  34. Senator\*\*
  35. Senator\*\*
  36. Senator \*\*
  37. Senator \*\*
  38. Senator \*\*
  39. Student Governor Rohan Dhote
  40. Alternate Student Governor Nazli Tiyaloglu (Naz)
  41. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses
  42. Alternate Student Trustee Jakub Zak
      1. Present:
      2. Late:
         1. Senator Mariam Tinawi (excused)
         2. ASB School Senator: Chris Vedra (excused)
      3. Excused:
         1. Senator Sannia Balgahoom
         2. Senator Cindy Lam
         3. Secretary of Academic Affairs Nataly Merino
         4. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Danny Vazquez
         5. TAS School Senator: Serina Sajjad
         6. Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger
      4. Absent:
         1. Treasurer Victoria Columna

1. **Mission Statement (**read by Senator Brandon Han**)**

*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. N/A

# **President's Announcements**

* 1. Greetings, overview of how General Meetings run
  2. Important reminder to all students: wear masks properly indoors, please!
  3. 9/11 20th Anniversary: this Friday at 11 am, starting at Berrie Center
     1. Need SGA to help put up flags on Grove today after General
  4. Involvement Fair — need more members to sign up for one on Monday, 9/13 at 1!
  5. Opportunities for SGA members/other students:
     1. SGA Chief-of-Staff, Secretary of D & I vacancies
     2. Looking for reps to serve on BOT committees
     3. Tabling Co-sponsorship w/CCEC
     4. NJ Ballot Bowl
     5. Meet the Greeks this Friday, 7:30 pm at Laurel Courts
  6. Thank you to the SGA, looking forward to the rest of the year!

1. **President Jebb’s Announcements** 
   1. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.
   2. Looking forward to working closely with the SGA
   3. Hope to continue to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for Freshmen and Sophomores.

# **Cabinet Reports**

* 1. Vice President Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya
     1. Recap of the summer, 3 clubs have been approved. (Fashion Club, Ramapo LEAD, Accounting Club)
     2. Plenty of people have reached out to start new clubs
     3. Club Process Committee/Allocations meetings \*tentatively\* Wednesdays at 3 pm
     4. Cabinet/E-Board: Please check emails for the doodle poll about Cabinet & E-Board Meetings
  2. Secretary Janea Tozer-Murphy
     1. Reminder to email Secretary Tozer-Murphy’s personal Ramapo email if you are expecting to be late or absent. At least 24 hours in advance for it to be excused. Otherwise, it will be unexcused.
  3. Treasurer Victoria Columna (absent)
  4. Secretary of Academic Affairs Nataly Merino (absent)
  5. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy
     1. Any concerns of commuter students (parking, etc) can come to Secretary Sy.
     2. Concerns have been raised recently from first-year commuters about the parking permits not being received in the mail. It will take time for them to mail it (to your house). May have to address it at the next meeting. There is a grace period of 1-2 weeks with the parking passes.
     3. Will begin having commuter focus groups soon. There will be four events in September that may need SGA help with. Meetings will meet as needed in accordance with the Commuter group.
  6. Secretary of Delegate Affairs Ciara Luciano
     1. Is now establishing committee’s hours. Currently has two delegates and is looking for more. Please send interested parties to Secretary Luciano.
  7. Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion\*\*
  8. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Danny Vazquez (absent)
  9. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak
     1. Review of role as Secretary of Governmental Affairs.
     2. Plans to continue work that began in the summer with the budget advocacy committee. Met twice during the summer to discuss ideas. The next part is looking for ASB business school-orientated students to look at financials and how to advocate from a financial lens.
     3. Plans to continue in the next phase for advocating for the ALYSSA Act
        1. A bipartisan bill in Congress that has the goal to increase safety and security in public schools.
     4. No further updates.
  10. Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black
      1. Oktoberfest -
         1. Meeting with CSI Eddie Seavers and Amanda Riehl last week.
         2. Thursday, October 14 through Sunday, October 17th. Overlaps with family day/weekend.
         3. Please try to keep SGA members’ calendars as open as possible that weekend.
         4. Thursday 10/14/21 - looking to do an outdoor football event for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Philadelphia Eagles game. Some dorm buildings are looking to do football events that night as well. Will look into that.
         5. Friday 10/15/21 - themed menu. Inflatables. Haunted Mansion is done by Alpha Psi Omega (Theater Honors Society).
         6. Saturday 10/16/21 - typically family day (morning and afternoon). Looking for an activity to do in the evening. CPB suggested Glow Night. President Patel suggests another movie viewing. CA School Senator Velarde suggests a dancing lesson night. Possibly work with Dance Team or Dance Club. Senate VP Santana suggests craft night.
         7. Sunday 10/17/21 - traditionally have done Run with Color. Looking to do something else. For example, a costume run.
  11. Secretary of Public Relations Samantha Zinni
      1. If you have any events or committees that you would like to be advertised, please see Secretary Zinni.
      2. Programming and PR committee meetings will be meeting Thursday at 5 pm virtually.
      3. Meet the SGA Campaign will be done soon.
  12. Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni
      1. Overview of Sustainability Committee.
      2. The first meeting was last week.
      3. Future plans for the semester include:
         1. General campaign to increase waste management on campus.
  13. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses
  14. Alternate Student Trustee Jakub Zak
  15. Panelists
      1. Chief Panelist Angelina Farallo
         1. Meeting with advisors and President Patel. Open to anyone if they have any suggestions or want to present something
      2. Executive Panelist John Waite
         1. If you feel that something should be brought to the attention of the panel, let the panel know.
      3. Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger (absent)

# **New Business**

* 1. President Jebb
  2. Updated Fall Senate Elections Timeline
     1. Application deadline extended to this Friday, 9/10 at 5 pm
        1. Currently have three applications. The original election date was 9/7/21 at 5 pm. Please encourage people to run for Senate.
     2. Campaigning: 9/10-9/19
     3. Voting: 9/20-9/22
     4. Results: 9/23
        1. Question raised by SSHS School Senator Ashley Gomez: People have signed up during the involvement fair. Have we reached out to them?
           1. VP Miyashiro-Bedoya: Outreach has been done.
        2. Question raised by the Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: Can we include an advisory question on the ballot at this time or no?
           1. President Patel: Yes. Please hand those in as soon as possible.
        3. Question raised by Nadelyn (public member): Interested in the secretary of Diversity and Inclusion position. Should I submit an application?
           1. President Patel: The elections right now are for Senator positions. That will be an interview process. Can talk via email after this meeting.
  3. Sign up for office hours & committees!

# **Public Comment**

* 1. Public Comment by Naseem Choudhury about Faculty Assembly.
     1. Reaches out to the SGA president. Hoping for SGA to have representation in future Faculty Assembly meetings.
     2. All School Senators should know who your FA representatives are. Try to meet with them.

# **Open Forum**

* 1. Senate VP Santana: All Senate members please look at the bill in your email inboxes.
  2. VP Miyashiro-Bedoya: Senate Meetings are Monday at 9:45 pm in ASB 522. Open to the public but mandatory for Senate Members.
  3. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: During another club/groups training, there was a presentation with a specific concept that concerned him and many of our peers and student leaders. In his opinion, there is a difference between being a co-conspirator and an ally. Hoping **not** to remove ally and in place put the word co-conspirator. Be mindful of how we present ideas and words to each other and to student leaders on campus. Are we as an SGA planning on replacing the word ally to put the word co-conspirator in place?
     1. Dr. Rick Brown: Co-Conspirator is taking the next step in allyship. From his perspective, allyship can be more passive while co-conspirator is being more active.
     2. SSHS School Senator Ashley Gomez: It depends on the user and their definition.
     3. Additional comments from Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black.
     4. Additional comments from Senate Vice President Kimberly Santana.
  4. Vice President Miyashiro: College Programming Board announcements:
     1. Thursday 9/9/21 at 9 pm - Tie-Dye night on
     2. Friday 9/10/21 at 9 pm - Board Game Night
     3. Saturday 9/11/21 at 7 pm - Showing NY Yankees and Mets Game.
     4. Events Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights every week.
     5. If you would like more information please let him know.
        1. Question raised by Gomez: Is residence life and CPB allowed to co-sponsor events together?
           1. VP Miyashiro: We will discuss this further after this meeting.
        2. Angelina: There is a CPB committee if you would like to be involved in that please reach out to her.
  5. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: Can we discuss guidelines on social media posts? President Patel and he have spoken about different types of social media posts. Can we take a look to see if we can have a clearly defined guideline for what is standard before posting on social media about a particular political event if it is sensitive in nature?
     1. Secretary of Public Relations Samantha Zinni: We post about heinous acts to call attention to. We also post promoting clubs and events on campus.
     2. Senate Vice President Santana: We are bipartisan. We vote on specific posts and adding guidelines may hinder the voting process.
     3. VP Bedoya: We as an organization speak on subjects that happen not only on campus but whatever students need to be made aware of. This includes current events happening in the world. If the SGA as an organization would officially want to support or condemn an action then that needs to go through the Senate. Any SGA post discussing Ramapo resources is more fluid. We use the SGA social media for all of these things.
     4. President Patel: We have passed resolutions, bills, and released statements condemning certain acts. If we feel passionate about something we can do that but we have to be mindful of remaining a bipartisan organization. That would have to go through the Senate as previously stated. Statements are a collaborative effort and everyone has the opportunity to comment or edit statements initially put together by the SGA President.
     5. Chief Panelist Angelina Farallo: If you hope to create guidelines for posts you can reach out to her and the Judicial Panel to do so.
     6. Dr. Rick Brown: We previously put out a statement supporting Black Lives Matter using the language “antiracist” which caused outrage amongst certain individuals. We should consider whether something is a political issue or a social justice issue.
     7. Professor Naseem Choudhury: The term political - in reality, all of life is political. The conversation about neutrality and bipartisanship and what is political is a conversation happening in everything. At some point, we are encouraged to think from an ethical and moral point. Don’t shy away from taking a moral or ethical stand just because we may upset someone.
     8. President Jebb: On social media, things are not contextualized as they are in SGA meetings. Taking the time to understand one another through conversations is important. Encouraging us to continue that and her door is always open if needed.
     9. Senate President Helen Witte: Certain events are inappropriate for the SGA not to comment on. It’s the responsibility of the SGA to address concerns for specific situations.
        1. Senate VP Kimberly Santana: SGA tries not to pick political sides so that we can remain a welcoming organization and not push away students. We need every perspective and idea. If there is a situation that we have to condemn publicly we announce Senate meetings regarding that.
        2. Dr. Rick Brown: We are a member of the ASGA and we are not alone in this. Use our resources within ASGA. These discussions are not confined to the Ramapo Campus.
           1. Point of Information from President Patel: Taking into account the comments from other members and presidents of ASGA.
  6. Dr. Rick Brown: 9/11 remembrance events occurring this week. Please see the schedule.
  7. Jack Nesmith: Commuter affairs events coming up. Please see [Jack Nesmith](mailto:jnesmith@ramapo.edu) for additional information.
     1. Be on the lookout for upcoming events and continue to communicate with commuter students.
     2. We have LIS (Leaders In Service) program. This is a first-year and transfer student civic leadership program. September 15-17 will be LIS events. Applications are open and are now extended to Sunday evening (9/12/21) at 11:59 pm. The link will be shared with SGA today. $35 membership fee. Would love to get as many students as possible to join so please promote this group. Additional comments regarding LIS.
     3. SAIL: Sophomores Advancing in Leadership - monthly program available to second-year students. Looking to get more applicants. The application is open now until Monday, September 23 at 12:00 pm. Email Jack with any questions. Please help promote this group.
  8. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses: Athletics is back and there are a lot of home games and meets. Please come support the athletics teams.

# **Adjournment**

# Senate President Helen Witte motioned to adjourn at 2:46 pm. Moved by Senate Vice President Kimberly Santana. Seconded by SSHS Senator Gomez.