10/27/2021 SGA General Meeting Minutes

[Wednesday, 10/27/2021]

**Meeting called to order on [10/27] at [1:05] at Friends Hall.**

# **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 Avery Cangro
  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 Cristina Navarette Carpizo (Late)
  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 (Absent - Excused)
  14. Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni
  15. Chief Panelist Angelina Farallo (Absent)
  16. Executive Panelist John Waite
  17. Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger (Absent)
  18. Senate President Helen Witte
  19. Senate Vice President Kimberly Santana (Absent - Excused)
  20. Senate Secretary Victoria Sepero (Absent - Excused)
  21. ASB School Senator: Chris Vedra (Absent - Excused)
  22. CA School Senator: Grace Velarde
  23. HGS School Senator: Rachel Schmidt herer
  24. SSHS School Senator: Ashley Gomez
  25. TAS School Senator: Serina Sajjad
  26. Senator Sannia Balgahoom
  27. Senator Kristina Hollosi (Absent - Excused)
  28. Senator Cindy Lam (Absent - Excused)
  29. Senator Aime Lara
  30. Senator Misha Mathai
  31. Senator Mariam Tinawi (absent)
  32. Senator Patricia Kalaidjian
  33. Senator Rylie Klain (Absent - Excused)
  34. Senator Connor Sweeny
  35. Senator Rojja Kharel
  36. Senator Bella Apgar
  37. Senator Shanel Lopez (absent)
  38. Student Governor Rohan Dhote (Absent - Excused)
  39. Alternate Student Governor Nazli Tiyaloglu (Naz)
  40. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses
  41. Alternate Student Trustee Jakub Zak (Absent)
      1. Present:
      2. Late:
         1. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy
      3. Excused:
         1. Senator Rylie Klain
         2. Senate Vice President Kimberly Santana
         3. Senator Cindy Lam
         4. Student Governor Rohan Dhote
         5. Senate Secretary Victoria Sepero
         6. Secretary of Public Relations Samantha Zinni
         7. Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger
      4. Absent:
         1. Chief Panelist Angelina Farallo
         2. Senator Shanel Lopez
         3. Senator Mariam Tinawi

1. **Mission Statement** (read by Vice President Paolo)

*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 10/13/21
     1. Motion to approve by Senate President Witte
     2. Moved by Senator Rojja
     3. Seconded by Senator Ashley
        1. Vote 11-0-1
     4. Minutes approved.

# **President's Announcements**

* 1. Thanks to everyone who tabled at Pridefest!
  2. Had liaison meeting with President Jebb last Wednesday
     1. Presidential Coin Contest deadline pushed to end of semester, thinking of SGA possibly tabling in tandem with the President’s Office to promote it
     2. Student Leaders Reception tonight at 6 pm at Alumni Lounges: we will have name badges, professional photo, everyone will introduce themselves, there will be hot foods, leaning towards casual attire, Chair Vallario will be present
        1. If you RSVP’d please come. It will be evident if you are not there and said you would be.
     3. Things President Jebb’s Office wants us to know

1. Going to roll out our future seminar series for the college strategic plan

1. Want college to work together on future goals
2. Opportunity for reflections after this future seminar series

2. President Jebb met with Pandemic Assessment Team (PAT)

1. Protocols are working, continuing to stay vigilant

3. Appreciate SGA fostering culture of dignity and respect

* 1. Met with PAT on Monday with VP Paolo Miyashiro
     1. Contact tracing concerns

1. Reason why students and professors in classrooms are not contacted if a student from there has COVID is because of confidentiality and since

wearing masks in classrooms has such low risk that would not make

someone qualify as a close contact.

* + 1. Dean Van Der Wall will ask if PAT can come to an upcoming General Meeting. This will allow us all to talk, ask questions, and get answers. Dean Van Der Wall will get back to us.
  1. Got a new SGA President Gmail account, [sgapresident@ramapo.edu](mailto:sgapresident@ramapo.edu); please use it for SGA inquiries!
  2. Upcoming Events and Reminders:
     1. Trunk or Treat is tomorrow, 10/28, from 5:00-7:00 pm by the Tennis Courts Parking Lot.
     2. Next Wednesday, 11/3, will be Remembrance Day at 2:30 pm at the Berrie Center then the Grove; will be ending General at 2:30pm on that day so we can attend.
     3. BSU President Tiana Jones and other members of their Eboard will likely speak at the General Meeting next Wednesday, 11/3 as well as at today’s general meeting.
     4. FA Meeting next Wednesday, 11/3, at 1 pm during General; SGA rep that is signed up is [Leah Berlinger](mailto:lberling@ramapo.edu), so please notify Janea, email Prof. Choudhury that you are the rep, and take notes to report back to SGA.
  3. Follow up Comment by VP Paolo:
     1. Anything related to covid is on the covid dashboard located [**here**](https://www.ramapo.edu/health/coronavirus-covid-19/).
     2. It’s very detailed. So any additional questions can most likely be answered through that portal. If not, bring it back to me as Anjali for further discussion.

# **Cabinet Reports**

* 1. Vice President Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya
     1. Club Process
        1. Working on the Club Process Committee.
        2. Thanks to everyone participating in the Club Process Committee.
        3. Not meeting this week but possible next week after General (11/3) if there’s a club that requires us to meet.
        4. If you know someone looking to start a club please have them email [sgalcubs@ramapo.edu](mailto:sgalcubs@ramapo.edu)
  2. Secretary Janea Tozer-Murphy
     1. Missed Meetings:
        1. Please fill out this [**google form**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdD50qXar2FkBsW1uwwctmgS342Rx57BftWSZD5AEkckxa5EA/viewform?usp=sf_link) for all future meetings that you plan on missing. ***Just a reminder that you have to fill this form out by midnight (11:59pm) on Tuesday before the meeting for it to be valid.*** So if you fill it out like one minute before General it won’t count as excused.
     2. Name Tags
        1. Name tags are in the works. If you don’t have one, there is no need to worry. Will be done hopefully by the next General Meeting (11/3) but that’s only if we get the printer sorted out with ink and paper.
        2. You **don’t** need to let me know if you don’t have a nametag. I have a list so don’t worry.
     3. Halloween
        1. Candy for Halloween is now in the SGA office for Ramapo community
        2. Made 100 bags of candy to give out at tomorrow’s trunk or treat. (10/28)
     4. November
        1. I’d love to get any ideas you have for doing something similar in November for Thanksgiving - decorations or giving away something, etc
  3. Treasurer Victoria Columna
     1. Absent
  4. Chief of Staff Avery Cangro
     1. Got Candy for SGA office and Trunk or Treat
     2. Had my Webex training last week to edit the SGA website- still figuring out details.
     3. I had a meeting with Dylan from We Care and Kate from student athletics. Trying to make 2 “Donation Days”. One would be in November for world hunger week (just for food and clothing, we won’t be approved for blood drive by then) and another one in March including the blood drive. Follow up meeting Nov 1 to discuss more details.
     4. Craft night turns into edible cookie dough night? Have a pin in that to make sure it can be safely brought out.
  5. Secretary of Academic Affairs Nataly Merino
     1. Secretary of Academic Affairs Nataly Merino
        1. Next provost meeting next week but day and time is TBD.
        2. Next academic affairs committee meeting tomorrow 10/28 at 8pm.
  6. Secretary of Programming Elizabeth Black
     1. Founders Day: Wednesday 11/10 from 1pm-3pm
        1. No general on Wednesday 11/10 - you’re expected to attend founders day.
        2. Morning - there is a breakfast brunch for “the pioneers” which are classified as people who were here in the first five years of college.
        3. Everyone is invited to the event from 1pm-3pm. We are in discussion about moving it from the grove to closer to the new learning commons. Meeting with Amanda and Stephanie to talk more about that. I am opposed because it might be distracting to students using the library. We will see.
           1. We need volunteers.
           2. Save the date.
        4. After the event we are trying to find a way to encourage students to go to the opening game of Mens basketball season.
        5. Afternoon - President Patel will speak. Will introduce President Jebb. There will also be a cake cutting.
        6. Won’t be announcing the Presidential Coin Contest winner at founders day anymore.
        7. Activities:
           1. Lawn games
           2. Photo booth
           3. Trivia contest: idea is to send out a trivia game (questionnaire) ahead of the event with 10 questions or more and if you score a vertant number your name is entered to win a prize. You have to be there to claim the prize if your name is drawn. Writing those questions tomorrow (10/28). If anyone has any suggestions ahead of time let me know.
        8. Food will be served

grilled cheese and tomato soup

Probably doing apple cider donuts

* + - 1. A volunteer Sign up sheet will be created.
    1. The Programming Committee is Thursdays from 5pm-6pm.

Will decide how that will go for tomorrow since it’s during Trunk or Treat.

* + 1. Comment by President Patel: Thanks for all the hard work.
  1. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion Cristina Navarrete Carpizo
     1. No updates.
  2. Secretary of Public Relations Samantha Zinni
     1. Absent
  3. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Danny Vazquez
     1. Trunk or Treat -
        1. helping some organizations who are trying to sign up
        2. 9 organizations are participating.
     2. Planning for social networking for organizations to get to know one another. Will have updates hopefully next week.
  4. Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni
     1. Ramapo will be hosting a screening of the Students for Zero Waste conference. Not too late to register. It’s free. Hosting screening from November 5th-7th
     2. Senator Hollosi and another member of the Sustainability Committee will be running this.
     3. Nursing Majors - Food and Water watch is requesting signatures from people in the nursing field in opposition of the Tennessee Pipeline.
  5. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy
     1. Trunk or Treat
        1. Tomorrow 10/28 in Tennis Courts Parking Lot
        2. Please come by 4pm if you plan on being a part of this.
        3. Event is from 5pm-7pm tomorrow 10/28.
        4. Register on Archway if you want to come to Trunk or Treat.
     2. Commuter Focus Group
        1. Had a turnout.
        2. Main concerns that came from that were:
           1. the study rooms - if in a study room and using a lockdown browser it is an issue if someone is behind you. Jack will talk to that student. With new learning commons this should be less of an issue.
           2. Days for Programming - still figuring out appropriate days of programming. Also trying to increase the amount of programming events while keeping budget in mind. Thinking of a few popup events.
     3. Commuter Breakfast
        1. Thinking of using the Commuter Affairs budget from SGA for one of the commuter breakfasts coming up.
        2. Thinking about early november.
        3. Since we’re using the SGA budget we want SGA to be incorporated.
     4. Comment by Jack Nesmith - for the breakfast we're looking at doing it on a Thursday. Looking at having this from 9am-11am. Usually outside but doing it in the Student Center now. For those tabling you’re welcome to enjoy and get free breakfast too. **The date for this is TBD**. If you have any questions let me know. ([jnesmith@ramapo.edu](mailto:jnesmith@ramapo.edu))
  6. Secretary of Delegate Affairs Ciara Luciano
     1. Had a committee meeting last week. Talked about shadowing programs with Delegates. I created a google form that will be sent to Helen. Insert your anime and office hours and we’ll statty matching delegates with senators each week so they can get insight and information into what each Senator does.
     2. Google form will be sent out soon and you will be contacted after we match everyone.
  7. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak
     1. Will have more updates after election season.
     2. Plan on going to the next Senate Meeting to discuss the ALYSSA Act. Working with Kimberly.
     3. Speaking to O’Connor about RCNJ at the state house. Anjali and I will set up the time.
     4. Point of Inquiry by President Anjali Patel: Are you thinking tha SGA can do anything to promote that?
        1. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: I think if we can partner with CCEC maybe we can get sample ballots out to everyone so they know what they’re looking at when they go to vote.
        2. Comment by Jack Nesmith: I would contact Dylan from CCEC. I know they usually have events about political engagement and voter awareness.
        3. Comment by VP Paolo: They have had a lot of events about that so paying attention to those would be very helpful.
     5. When a new legislation goes into effect a lot of times people reintroduce bills. I want to take a look at what we would like to reintroduce or to see not reintroduced just to have an interaction with our representatives to say congratulations and we are acknowledging your win. These are some of our legislative priorities. This is a goal of mine before the fall semester concludes. Sharing our targets and legislative priorities.
        1. Comment by HGS School Senator Rachel Schmidt: I can share a document of all the bills that can be beneficial.
  8. Student Trustee Alexis Meneses (Speaking on behalf of Alternate Student Trustee Jakub Zak)
     1. Jakub and I are working on projects with Dean Mel. Will update you all soon.
     2. CA$H Committee - This is a Student Trustee run committee about higher education. It has not been very active in the past few years. Thinking about starting new or changing it to get students involved in higher education.
     3. Reaching out to other NJ Trustees and have gotten some responses back.
        1. Comment by President Patel: if you need help let me know.
  9. Executive Panelist John Waite (Speaking on behalf of Chief Panelist Angelina Farallo and Legislative Panelist Leah Berlinger)
     1. Nothing to report.
  10. Student Governor Rohan Dhote (Speaking on behalf of Alternate Student Governor Nazli Tiyaloglu (Naz)
      1. ABSENT

# **New Business**

* 1. [Megan Johnston](mailto:mjohnst2@ramapo.edu) from CHCS presenting at 2 pm
     1. [**Here**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/12rzVuFzh2VMm9eLnKsOSdQBOPcBT02hl/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=118413473000065082807&rtpof=true&sd=true) is a link to Megan's powerpoint from today.
     2. Please complete the post presentation survey located [**here**](https://bit.ly/FY22OTCS-SGA).
  2. BSU President/Eboard Introduction to the SGA
     1. Alyssa Nelson - rising VP for the Black Student Union
     2. BSU mission statement - *“To maintain and promote active communication and interaction between all students and faculty of the African Diaspora including the Black Student UNion, Brother Making a Difference, Ebony Women for Social Change, Students of Caribbean Ancestry, & Organization of Latin Unity. To support the incoming students as they integrate into the campus environment. It is our responsibility as righteous and sivilized people to teach the up and coming generations what they need to know so that they could add on to the BSU.”*
     3. Presidents of Active BSU Umbrella Organizations:
        1. Brothers Making a Difference (BMAD) - Noah Garrier
        2. Ebony Women of Social Change (EWSC) - Jordan Meredith
        3. Students of Caribbean Ancestry (SOCA) - Vimla Chandrika
     4. If you have any questions about those clubs - on 11/3 the BSU President will be giving us further information.
     5. Black Solidarity Week - October 31st through November 5th
        1. Black Solidarity Day was created in 1969 as a day that is nationally observed by African Americans and their allies. Blakc solidarity day is observed on the Monday before Election Day, the purpose of which is to bring people together to discuss their political status and the direction in which their future was going. Focuses on the value and roles of education in black communities.
        2. Is a day of discussion for everyone to discuss how we all affect each other's lives (regardless of race or education).
        3. Events for that week:
           1. 10/31 at 11am Breakfast and Cemetery cleanup.
           2. 11/1

112:45pm Silent March and Vigil

Participants will meet at BSU and walk to the Arch. Afterwards they will proceed to the new Library to take a group photo before walking to the ceremony.

5pm - in sc158 opening banquet

* + - * 1. 11/2

4pm - white allyship for students embodied compassion (meeting virtually)

6pm - Coping with Racism: Thriving as a Student of Color

7pm - Love is in the Hair Program

* + - * 1. 11/3

6pm - The New Black-to-Africa Movement: the Black DIaspora seeking opportunity and refuge in the Motherland (virtual)

7:30pm - Judas and the Black Messiah (Friends Hall)

* + - * 1. 11/4

5pm-6pm in BSU office - black business trivia

* + - * 1. 11/4 at 8pm - screening of “For Colored Girls” (location TBD)
        2. 11/5 at 7:10pm - “Liberation Liberation” Party (Friends Hall)
  1. Coin Contest Submission Progress (Anjali)
     1. Touching base - Grace how is our submission going?
     2. CA School Senator Grace Velarde - Hopefully I’ll have something going next week.
  2. Final Trunk or Treat Prep (Anjali)
     1. Registration deadline passed but we want some SGA representation here.
     2. Only Victoria Sepero’s car is available at 6pm.
     3. The event is from 5pm-7pm.
     4. I won’t be completely available. Neither will Paolo. Helen will be the point person if anyone needs anything.
     5. Is there a car available at 5pm? - We will use Sonia’s car.
     6. Point of Information by Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy: the car has to be there at 4pm.
     7. Point of Information by Senate President Witte: I will be there at 5pm.
     8. Point of Information by Jack Nesmith: Need to be all set by 4:45pm. Get your form in on Archway. I will send you a link to register. Sign up on Archway if you want to attend (even without a car). Contact me or Dawn if you have any questions.
     9. Sonia will be the point person from 4pm-5pm.
  3. Senate Reports (Helen)
     1. Senate reports are due. We’ll be going over those soon.
  4. SGA Plaque Donation to Learning Commons (Anjali)
     1. Plaque donations in learning commons. A lot of organizations have contributed. I think the SGA can contribute. We can keep this in mind and figure out more later.
     2. Comment by HGS School Senator Rachel Schmidt: : What do we get?
        1. VP Paolo: A plaque. The prices vary from $250 - $1000.

# **Public Comment**

* 1. Chair Vallario - Thanks for doing a wonderful job as always.
  2. Anne Eke speaking on behalf of Dr.Rick Brown
     1. We expect to see everyone at dinner tonight.
     2. Current state of student affairs webinar is today at 3:30pm in SC 219. Please attend if you can.
     3. Any questions - let Anne know.

# **Open Forum**

* 1. Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak
     1. Late Night -
        1. Got a few inquiries and suggestions from athletes to ask if Late Night can stay open later. Hockey and Cheer for example have practice very late. Hockey team is off campus and doesn’t get back until after late night is already closed. Asking if Late Night can stay open until 1:30am.
           1. President Patel: Can you contact Senator Rylie Klain?
     2. Point of Inquiry:
        1. Do we as SGA have any affiliation with Sunrise of Mahwah?
           1. Comment by Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni: We (Ramapo) have a chapter and the Secretary of Sustainability works with them. So far we don’t work with the Mahwah Chapter.
        2. 12 members from Mahwah Sunrise have been arrested for trespassing and were wondering if we have any affiliation with that.
           1. No.
     3. Religious Figure from Last Week
        1. There were some concerning behaviors from our student body. This was right in front of our stigma free campus sign.
        2. Can we put out a statement supporting the right to free speech?
        3. Comment by Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion Cristina Navarette Carpizo: I do not agree. The preacher was harassing our students verbally and physically.
        4. Comment by President Patel: I don’t think it’d be right to send a statement about the actions of students. Preacher had the right to voice his opinion and so did the students. College did not anticipate the preacher doing that. Legally we can’t do anything about it. Putting out a statement one way or the other would not be the best point of action. I think the best thing to do is leave this alone.
        5. Point of Clarification by Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak : How did he end up getting on campus?
           1. VP Paolo: As a public institution he is allowed to come. They have to go through the steps of being cleared. He has been to Ramapo before and went through that process. He was allowed to be there.
           2. Point of Clarification by President Patel: He reached out to Ramapo.
        6. Comment by Senate President Helen Witte: Dean Van Der Wal is the person to go to if you have any concerns about this speaker.
        7. Comment by Secretary of Sustainability Danielle Bongiovanni: There were Public Safety people there. If a statement was put out I think they (Public Safety) should put one out.
        8. Comment by Secretary of Governmental Affairs Danny Gurniak: I was there when he initially came and there were no public safety officers.
        9. Comment by President Patel: Dean Van Der Wal said there were Public Safety officers there at all times.
        10. Comment by VP Paolo: In terms of next steps. Dean Van Der Wal is doing focus groups to understand what happened.
        11. Comment by President Patel: This is something we can look into about certain rules for visitors on campus.
        12. Comment by Senate President Witte: Reach out to Dean Van Der Wal if you have legal inquiries.
        13. Comment by Anne Eke: Allegation of physical harassment?
            1. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion Cristina Navarette Carpizo: Students said they were verbally harassed by being called slurs. Another student said they witnessed the preacher snatching food from a student.
            2. Anne: Encourage that person to go to public safety. If any of you have heard anything like that please report it to public safety.
  2. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy
     1. Concern about the final exam schedule for this semester.
        1. There is a complication for Tuesday and Friday Classes. Both exams will take place at the same date and time.
        2. Point of Inquiry by VP Paolo: Are the classes a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous? Is this because it’s not a normal semester?
        3. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy: Yes. This person is curious about what to do about his exam.
        4. Point of Inquiry by President Patel: Has this student reached out to those professors?
           1. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Dawn Sy: I don’t think so.
        5. Comment by President Patel: Advise this student to reach out to those two faculty members. If they can not make an adjustment then go to the Dean of the school. The last resort is to go to Provost Gaulden. Since this will be an issue for more students we should bring it up at a Provost meeting. Keep this in mind for the Spring Schedule.

# **Adjournment**

* 1. Motion to adjourn at 2:49pm.
  2. Move by Senator
  3. Seconded by Senator

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