

Joint Resolution
Student Government Association & Faculty Assembly
Shared Commitment to International Education at Ramapo College

The Faculty Assembly, in joint resolution with the Student Government Association, reaffirms our shared commitment to International Education at the college. As the college embarks on reorganization, we stress our support of the essential role of The Roukema Center for International Education.

In the spirit of shared governance, equity, and of diversity, we together reaffirm our values and recognize the essential work done by Roukema. As President Jebb has so powerfully stated, a “healthy culture that promotes a vibrant democracy . . . requires critical thinkers and . . . embraces different cultures.”¹ The “civic culture”² President Jebb envisions requires Ramapo make the world accessible to our students: sending them to study abroad, bringing global scholars to our campus, and fostering vibrant, globally-positioned curricula.

We underscore the importance of distinguishing The Roukema “Center” from other, newer self-funding “centers.” Roukema is a longtime resource for Global Risk Management and Internationalization Strategies and home to Offices of International Programs and of International Student and Scholar Services, as well as the National Student Exchange program. Roukema embodies all four of our founding educational pillars: *international, intercultural, interdisciplinary, and experiential learning*.

Among Roukema’s invaluable services, the following are but a sampling:

- Facilitate and encourage study, interning, & research abroad for Ramapo students,
- Specifically recruit and support students of diverse backgrounds and limited means.
- Offer welcoming and nurturing atmosphere for Ramapo’s international community.
- Develop, implement, and manage Ramapo’s global partnership network.
- Act as ambassador for internationalizing curricular design across the college.
- Support faculty to further internationalize the on-campus curriculum, through global and local partnerships, guest lectures, pedagogical collaborations and more.

Our mission and vision statements unambiguously call on Ramapo, the region’s premier public liberal arts college, to offer broad liberal arts experiences to New Jersey students, fulfilling our promise to prepare “students to be successful leaders for a changing world.”³

Ramapo’s global and experiential mission means we are an institution dedicated to “[t]eaching, learning, and mentoring . . . in and out of the classroom.”⁴ In the ever more interconnected and volatile twenty-first century, our obligation to “[develop] the whole person [as] local and global citizens,”⁵ has increased, not diminished: Roukema’s significance to these outcomes is ever more essential. Therefore, we jointly *call upon* the College to:

- Continue to support Roukema at increased, not diminished, levels of operational and scholarship funding.
- Clarify that while we refer to Roukema as a “center,” we do not expect it to be self-funded.
- Enable Roukema to continue to operate with the autonomy and respect it has always enjoyed, as an indispensable office serving all schools across campus.
- Include the Roukema Center and its leadership in decisions and conversations regarding the College’s Internationalization activities.

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