



Student Government Association

Ramapo College of New Jersey
Persistent Voice of the Student Body

Senate Bill

Act Number: 2022-01

17 October 2022

Introduced by: Senate President Ashley Gomez

Proposed by: Senate President Ashley Gomez, Senate Vice President Aime Lara, President Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya, and Vice President Janea Tozer-Murphy

Whereas: The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

Whereas: The Public Safety Department, in partnership with the College Community, strives to create a peaceful and safe environment, as free as possible from threats to safety and well-being, in order to enhance the quality of the academic life at Ramapo College;

Whereas: In approximately one month, a series of three reported acts of violence and/or bias have occurred on the Ramapo College of New Jersey campus. Following the first incident, students have not been made aware of preventative measures being taken by any units at the College;

Whereas: On September 9, 2022 overnight to September 10, 2022, two vehicles incurred excessive windshield and rear window damage while parked in the C-3 Parking Lot. The Department of Public Safety and Mahwah Police are investigating the reports;

Whereas: On Sunday, September 18th, 2022 a bias incident occurred in the Village parking lot in the early morning hours. The incident involved “derogatory remarks and images of a racist, sexist, and homophobic nature that were written on the condensation that formed on the windows of vehicles”;

Whereas: On Thursday, October 13 2022 an abduction at knifepoint, involving two Ramapo College students, took place in a vehicle that was parked in the campus commuter lot;

Whereas: There were no functioning cameras in the parking lots to document these incidents;



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Whereas: There are currently 43 Emergency Callboxes (“Blue Light”) on campus which connect directly to the Department of Public Safety, but only about 8 Emergency Callboxes (“Blue Light”) are present in the parking lots of a college of 3,000 commuter students;

Whereas: The campus community is not informed of when safety equipment (cameras, Emergency Callboxes (“Blue Light”), etc) are out of order nor when inspections/repairs of said equipment are made;

Whereas: Functioning cameras are not present in any campus parking lot; and the student body at large is not informed of the current plans to install cameras in the campus parking lots;

Whereas: Operating cameras can deter violence, assault, theft, and vandalism. They provide a means of evidence and accountability in the case of emergencies;

Whereas: Proper accountability ought to be sought for perpetrators of all heinous acts committed on campus including but not limited to assaults, vandalism, theft, etc, and any member of the campus community who commits these acts should be held accountable for their actions;

Whereas: Members of the student body have expressed their views regarding campus safety via a petition signed by more than 3,000 individuals, and SGA is in support of this petition;

Whereas: The SGA supports school safety, security measures, and accountability for students in all educational environments and recognizes the tragic nature of discrimination and violence of all forms; including but not limited to physical violence, verbal abuse, sexual violence, and psychological violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Department of Public Safety, alongside its administrative departments, should add more Emergency Callboxes “Blue Lights” in the campus parking lots so that each may be located in close proximity or physical distance to an individual at any given time. The number should be determined via a survey of the parking lots, with a focus on areas with minimal lighting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:



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The Department of Public Safety should seek to inform the campus community of the routine inspections they conduct of the Emergency Callboxes (“Blue Light”) system and regularly update the campus on any malfunctioning/defective Emergency Callboxes (“Blue Lights”). Should an emergency arise, students and college personnel will be aware of their neighboring functioning resources while the appropriate units work to fix the equipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Ramapo College should have transparent communication with its students and campus personnel regarding the current plan to install cameras in the campus parking lots. After implementation, the inspections of cameras should occur at least twice a semester or as IT and its operating company recommends.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Department of Public Safety should increase promotion of the “Rave Guardian” personal safety app.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Student Government Association stands in solidarity with the victims of these tragedies. The Student Government Association pledges to support continual efforts towards a safe campus and will collaborate with the Department of Public Safety to advance this mission.

Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya

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President '22 - '23

Ashley Gomez

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Senate President '22 - '23