

2/15/2023 SGA General Meeting Minutes

[Wednesday, 2/15/2023]

Meeting called to order on [2/15] at [1:08 pm] in SC 156/157

I. Roll Call

- a. **President Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya**
- b. Vice President Janea Tozer-Murphy (Excused)
- c. **Secretary David Lopez**
- d. Treasurer Noe Ramirez (Excused)
- e. Chief of Staff Zenobia Ahsanuddin (Excused)
- f. **Secretary of Academic Affairs Rachelle Ludder**
- g. **Secretary of Commuter Affairs Stephen Raymond**
- h. **Secretary of Delegate Affairs Shannon DeCicco**
- i. **Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion Ritika Dawadi**
- j. Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life Samantha Savercool (Excused)
- k. **Secretary of Governmental Affairs James Pascal**
- l. Secretary of Programming Christine Defeo (Excused)
- m. **Secretary of Public Relations Paige Duell**
- n. Secretary of Service Pranish Khanal (Excused)
- o. **Chief Justice Victor Oluwagbemi**
- p. Senate President Ashley Gomez (Excused)
- q. **Senate Vice President Aime Lara**
- r. **Senate Secretary Leyla Merhi**
- s. **Graduate Senator Andraya Annucci**
- t. **ASB School Senator Daeun Mun**
- u. **CA School Senator Janelle Boamah**
- v. **HGS School Senator Andrew Taranta**
- w. **TAS School Senator Samikshya Pokharel**
- x. **Senator Bibhu Bhatta**
- y. Senator Patricia Kalaidjian (Excused)
- z. **Senator Dean Jigarjian**
- aa. **Senator Shanel Lopez**
- bb. **Senator Liz Mendicino**
- cc. **Senator Ivonne Ovalles**
- dd. **Senator Daniel Rajakumar**
- ee. Senator Abigail Rojas (Excused)
- ff. **Senator Prashant Shah**

gg. Senator Shubhashree Shahi (**Excused**)

hh. **Senator Amanda Shortt**

ii. **Senator Riley Stein**

jj. **Senator Evelyn Voitsekhovich**

kk. **Senator Madison Weeks**

ll. **Student Governor Naz Tiyaloglu**

mm. **Alternate Student Governor Natalie Barr**

i. Present:

ii. Late:

iii. **Excused**: Janea Tozer-Murphy, Noe Ramirez, Zenobia Ahsanuddin, Samantha Savercool, Christine Defeo, Ashley Gomez, Patricia Kalaidjian, Abigail Rojas, Shubhashree Shahi

iv. Absent:

II. **Mission Statement** - Read by Graduate Senator Andraya Annucci

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.

III. **Land Acknowledgement**

The Student Government Association respectfully acknowledges that we are hosting our meeting on the ancestral and traditional Indigenous territory of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation.

IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

a. [Minutes from 2/8/2023](#)

b. 14 - 0 - 0

V. **President's Announcements**

a. February is Black History Month → [EDIC programs here](#)

i. Look out for programs from [BSU](#), [SOCA](#), [BMAD](#), [EWSC](#), & [OLU](#).

b. *Vacancies*: Conduct Justice & Procedural Justice

1. [Application Link](#)

c. Upcoming Events

i. [SGA Roundtables](#), Ongoing

ii. **Boldly Ascending Planning Forums:**

1. **Boldly Ascending Overview & KPIs**: 2/16, 1 pm, Pavilion, [RSVP Here](#)

2. **Campus Facilities Master Planning**: 2/27, 1 pm, Alumni Lounges, [RSVP Here](#)

iii. **Panel on Iran**: Mon 2/27, 1 - 2:30 pm, Friends Hall

iv. **Spring Concert**: Friday, April 28th (ALL HANDS ON DECK)

- d. Upcoming General Meeting Guests
 - i. **2/15**: Leiah Heckathorne, *Director of International Education*
 - ii. **2/22**: Stephan Lally, INSERT TITLE, *Past SGA President*
 - iii. **3/1**: Jeneen Kelly, *Registrar*; John Yao, *Associate Director of Advisement*
 - iv. **3/8**: Jeff Brunetto, *Director of Student Accounts*
- a. Seniors - [apply for graduation](#) & [order regalia](#)!!
- e. Gmail 2FA Reminder
- f. [Student Leadership Awards Application is live!](#)
- g. Update: [Letter to Congress Re: Reproductive Rights](#)
- h. [Humanitarian Aid - Earthquake in Turkey & Syria](#)
- i. [Student Leadership Awards Application is live!](#)
- j. Ask, Listen, Refer due **TONIGHT, 11:59 pm**
 - i. Please refer to email
- k. Popcorn Fundraiser

VI. Cabinet Reports

- a. Vice President Janea Tozer-Murphy
 - i. No club process today! If you or someone you know is interested in starting a club please email sgaclubs@ramapo.edu with the name of the club and a brief description.
- b. Secretary David Lopez
 - i. Nothing to Report
- c. Treasurer Noe Ramirez
 - i. Nothing to Report
- d. Chief of Staff Zenobia Ahsanuddin
 - i. Cabinet Reports due NEXT WEDNESDAY @ 11:59 pm
- e. Secretary of Academic Affairs Rachelle Ludder
 - i. Good first meeting with the provost.
 - i. Yesterday's (Feb 14th) daily digest has a [link for open forum regarding revisions of 4 academic policies](#) if you want to check that out
 - ii. Monday, March 6th is when next semester's classes become viewable
 - iii. April 3rd is when registration opens
 - iv. If you plan on graduating spring 2023, graduation applications are due today
 - v. We have an academic affairs meeting next thursday, Feb 23, 10-11 am
- f. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Stephen Raymond
 - i. Commuter Affairs held a tabling yesterday, alongside the Commuter Breakfast. The tabling and breakfast were beyond successful! The Commuter Affairs Committee group worked hard on creating an SGA Commuter Affairs Poster for the tabling and for future Commuter events. We were able to listen to commuter student's ideas, concerns and suggestions, and they will be brought up with my Liason Jack Nesmith at our meeting on Monday.



- ii. Reminder - February 22nd, our Commuter Affairs Committee Meeting is canceled. We will resume our meeting on March 7th, at 12:00pm in A-220.
 - g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs Shannon Decicco
 - i. We have our second tabling next Wednesday from 10am-12pm
 - h. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion Ritika Dawadi
 - i. I attended the EDI council meeting last week and it was very insightful. I also brought up the matters of menstrual products and Aunt Flow in the meeting.
 - ii. We have our second committee meeting today at 6:15pm
 - a. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Samantha Savercool
 - i. I have a meeting with Amanda Riehl this coming Friday! If anyone has ideas or concerns that they would like me to bring up please let me know :)
 - i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs James Pascal
 - i. I am still working with Pat about other speakers who will come and can't wait for Stephan Lally to speak next week.
 - ii. If you guys need anything or any ideas please be sure to let me know. I still have more speakers who can come and am willing to have engaging conversations.
 - iii. Today I attended my first Health and Safety Committee. We spoke about the very pertinent event of the Michigan State University mass shooting. The Threat Assessment was what was discussed, in the advent of this tragedy we considered what can be done. Spoke about training officials in proper shooting drills and scenarios training for other catastrophes like fires and earthquakes.
 - j. Secretary of Programming Christine DeFeo
 - i. Dodgeball tournament is this Saturday
 - ii. BSU x SGA trivia night is tentatively next Thursday night
 - k. Secretary of Public Relations Paige Duell
 - i. Working on promoting the popcorn fundraiser and Prashant's panel
 - ii. I'm going to send the popcorn flier in the groupme so if you want people to buy from you repost it!
 - l. Secretary of Service Pranish Khanal
 - i.
 - m. Chief Justice Victor Oluwagbemi
 - i. Just looking for Conduct Justice Applicants... Please.
 - ii. I will be reviewing things like attendance in the place of the Conduct Justice for now. Please be conscious about your attendance, specifically if it's a no-call no-show because that will be considered an unexcused absence.
 - n. Senate Vice President Aime Lara
 - i. Updates from 2/13 Senate Meeting
 - o. Student Governor Naz Tiyaloglu
 - i. Run with Color no longer will be affiliated with the Foundation but we can still do it student-led
 - ii. The Popcorn Fundraiser starts today at 5 pm! Please spread the word to your clubs, friends, family, etc. Thank you Paige for putting together the flier!

- iii. Seniors - please pre order your senior legacy shirt [here!](#)
- iv. Apply for Foundation Scholarships at <https://www.ramapo.edu/scholarships/>
Next scholarship due 2/28!
- v. Contact me or Natalie for any foundation related questions and recommendations for the next alternate student governor.

VII. New Business

a. *Consent Agenda #1: Co-Sponsorships*

i. *Co-Sponsorship: Women's Leadership Event (Cahill Center)*

1. **March 8, 2023 - 10:30 AM, Pavilion**

- a. Fireside Chat w/ President Jebb and Keynote Speaker, Nadine Leslie, Former CEO of Suez, NA; Breakout Sessions; Campus Tour

2. Funds for Food, Volunteers, and Event Promotion

- a. [Requested Funds](#): \$220

- b. **Proposed: \$125**

ii. *Co-Sponsorship: Donation Day (CCEC)*

1. **March 24, 2023 - 12 - 5 pm, Alumni Lounges**

2. Funds for Food & Event Promotion

- a. Requested Funds: \$200 for CARS

- b. **Proposed: \$125**

iii. 17 - 0 - 0 for both Co-sponsorships

b. *Consent Agenda #2: Legislation*

i. [Senate Bill 2023-4: General Election Legislation 2023](#)

ii. [Senate Bill 2023-5: Debt Relief Bill](#)

iii. [Senate Bill 2023-6: Turkey-Syria Earthquake Relief Bill](#)

iv. 15 - 0 - 2

c. RA Appreciation Day Raffle Prize

i. **Proposed: \$100 Bookstore Gift Card**

ii. 16 - 0 - 1

d. *Club Approval: Business Technology Club*

i. [Notes from Discussions](#)

ii. 1 - 15 - 1

- iii. Reasoning: Need more preparation for the club because there seems to be no direction in terms of what they could provide for students in this school. They need to be able to see how their club can help students in the future. Would like to see more individuals in the club because more would be able to get done with a larger group.

e. *Guest: Leiah Heckathorn, Director of International Education & Kate Lamanna, Assistant Director of International Programs (2 pm)*

i. Questions from SGA Members

- 1. *Introduce yourself! How did you get to where you are today?*

Kate has been here for 15 years and started as a program assistant here in Ramapo. Kate studied abroad for a semester and came back to work as a student aid. Made a career out of it. Loves to help students who come back from study abroad. Leiah also studied abroad in New Zealand and participated in many programs to enhance her knowledge/experience which she used to help in her career field.

2. ***What are your plans to get more students to study/intern/research abroad?***

Intern, study, & research abroad are all available. Any major/minor can go study abroad. Many internship opportunities are included and there are many dates available to study abroad. You do not have to know the language to study abroad.

3. ***What are your plans to make study abroad programs less expensive (more scholarships, etc?)***

One of the mandates is to try to find more donors. Some scholarships have been removed, however, they have retained some back. Partner programs that give out a ton of money a year (\$1 million a year). Scholarships would be the most beneficial in terms of helping with study abroad & loans can also help as well. Offer 500 programs in tons of different areas.

4. ***Any plans to do more fundraising to lower the costs?***

Trying to get more donors and would participate in fundraising to help lower cost

5. ***A suggestion: soliciting donors/sponsors to sponsor whole trips or donate to specific trips for different populations of students, including Honors, Nursing students, first-gen, etc.***

6. ***What resources are provided to help students go abroad (assistance with travel documentation (passports, etc), waivers for passport payments, "how to travel abroad" sessions, etc)?***

Every student is required to do a pre-departure orientation. Talk about visas or visa requirements, passport concerns, airport knowledge, and on-site information. Passport fairs & panels have been made for more info about study abroad. Info-sessions about study abroad are available, however, they would like to know the best available times and how to get more students to respond to the study abroad program.

7. ***Is it possible to add a semester-at-sea option?***

It is available, however, it is very expensive. Most of your time you will be on the boat and when you dock you will be there for only a couple of days. Not much in terms of cultural involvement.

8. ***If I signed up for a study abroad program that was canceled due to COVID, are there plans to do anything for these students?***

Something can be done, however, it depends on the availability of faculty.

9. ***Have you considered study abroad trips for alumni to attend?***

Faculty led programs are open to alumni. You can just apply to the program directly and attend. Internships can be available for alumni.

10. *Have you considered a luggage drive for students that don't have any? (This has been done in the past)*

Luggage is very old school and old so if students would want to use them then they can. Luggage drive may be happening again. Possible collaboration with SGA on a luggage drive.

11. *Pre-pandemic: when professors led faculty-ran study abroad programs, they didn't necessarily have a price limit. Some may have held programs while consciously keeping the price down for students and some may have not. Is that still happening now?*

The less students that participate in study abroad the more expensive it is.

12. *Would you be open to hosting student focus groups in the Roukema Center to answer questions from students about the study abroad process?*

Yes they would be open to hosting student focus groups about the study abroad process.

ii. Other Questions/Discussion

f. Discussion: Reflections on the State of the College

- i. HGS School Senator Andrew Taranta:** The highlights they presented were amazing and the State of the College was fun. Great points were made, especially about the faculty to student ratio.
- ii. Student Governor Naz Tiyaloglu:** You could have a meeting with the President & request to meet and discuss any items or concerns you have.
- iii. President Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya:** Would prefer a bigger turnout of SGA members to attend events such as these. Appreciation for those who attended and have continued to attend events such as these.

g. Discussion: Survey of Menstrual Product Dispensers in Bathrooms

- i. Volunteers:** Victor, Rachelle, Ritika, James, Janelle, Shanel, Riley, Madison, Andy, Sami, Prashant, Aime, David

h. Reports from SGA Members on External/College-Wide Committees

- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs James Pascal** - Today I attended my first **Health and Safety Committee** meeting. We spoke about the very pertinent event of the Michigan State University mass shooting. The Threat Assessment was what was discussed, in the advent of this tragedy we considered what can be done. Spoke about training officials in proper shooting drills and scenarios training for other catastrophes like fires and earthquakes.

1. Campus Safety:

- a. Graduate Senator Andraya Annucci:** CPA & Village does not have enough lit areas. Concern with backpaths being able to let anyone walk into campus
- b. Chief Justice Victor Oluwagbemi:** We are never going to be 100% safe and we must give Ramapo their props for all that they have done so far in terms of safety.

- c. **Senate Secretary Leyla Merhi**: Concern about safety at Ramapo College, however, still concerned about how the school ensures safety.
- d. **Senator Ivonne Ovalles**: Thinks students aren't kept in the loop by Public Safety and major concern about the security booth in the entrance and with how anyone can seem to walk into the resident buildings. Would Public Safety be able to send email/updates about what they are doing on campus?
- e. **HGS School Senator Andrew Taranta**: Wants Senate to talk about the bill about the safety on campus next week in the senate meeting
- ii. **CA School Senator Janelle Boamah**: Last wednesday the school of CA had their first meeting about getting more programming for the school of CA. Want to have a CA collision where everyone can display their art. More weekend events to display their art and work more with commuter students. The week before finals, they are planning on doing an event where they will showcase art. There will be snacks and drinks as well. More to come!
- iii. **HGS School Senator Andrew Taranta**: Facilities Master Plan Task Force having a meeting on Feb. 20. Open forum to discuss anything that needs to be brought up.
- iv. **Graduate Senator Andraya Annucci**: In March an event the graduate council is trying to get more individuals to participate in the graduate council. A tabling will be held around the first or second week of March.
- v. **Point of Information - Richard Brown**: If you go to the Institutional Research website you can find all the info
https://www.ramapo.edu/ir/files/2023/01/2021-FACT-BOOK_rev1.11.2023.pdf

VIII. Public Comment

- a.

IX. Open Forum

- a. Become a [Peer Facilitator/Orientation Leader/](#)
- b. A HUGE thank you to Leyla for gathering bags of clothing for the Turkey and Syria clothing drive. Contact Naz if you would like to donate any winter clothing, diapers, or menstrual products to support the earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria! In the future there will be a box located in CSI for donations.
- c. **Senator Ivonne Ovalles**: OneStep is having a meeting tomorrow at 1pm in person or virtually.
- d. **CA School Senator Janelle Boamah & Secretary of Delegate Affairs Shannon DeCicco**: National Society of Collegiate Scholars is accepting students, primarily sophomores & juniors.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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X. Adjournment @ 2:48pm