

# 2/14/2024 SGA General Meeting Minutes

[Wednesday, 2/14/2023]

Meeting called to order on [2/14] at [1:05 pm] on H Wing 129.

## I. Roll Call

- a. President Victor Oluwagbemi
- b. Vice President Oliver Mejia
- c. Secretary Pranish Khanal
- d. Treasurer Riley Stein
- e. Chief of Staff Ekaprana Ramesh
- f. Secretary of Academic Affairs Samantha Schley (late excused)
- g. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Alan Rosenberg
- h. Secretary of Delegate Affairs
- i. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion
- a. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Luis Saenz
- j. Secretary of Governmental Affairs James Pascal
- k. Secretary of Programming Christine Defeo
- l. Secretary of Public Relations
- m. Secretary of Residential Affairs
- n. Secretary of Sustainability Kristen Senesi
- o. Secretary of Service Stefanie Viera
- p. Chief Justice Liz Mendicino
- q. Conduct Justice Ryan Campos
- r. Procedural Justice Lena Mardini
- s. Senate President/ SSHA School Senator Madison Weeks
- t. Senate Vice President/ TAS School Senator Evelyn Voitsekhovich
- u. Senate Secretary Danielle Rosengrant
- v. ASB School Senator: Nicole Cohen
- w. CA School Senator: Desiree Bounds
- x. HGS School Senator: Stephen Raymond
- y. Senator Janelle Boamah
- z. Senator Aidan D'Oria

- aa. Senator Alexander Frisch
- bb. Senator David George
- cc. Senator Katelynn Haury
- dd. Senator Sara Hosbach
- ee. Senator Eileen Jaquez
- ff. Senator Mihir Jariwala
- gg. Senator Shanel Lopez
- hh. Senator Daeun Mun
- ii. Senator Amanda Shortt
  - i. Present:
  - ii. Late:
  - iii. Excused:
    - 1.
    - 2.
  - iv. Absent:

## **II. Mission Statement (Read by James)**

*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 (Read by James)**

*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. Approving Meeting Minutes**

- a. Minutes from [02/07/2024](#)
  - i. Moved: David
  - ii. Seconded: Alex
    - 1. 12-0-0

## **V. President's Announcements**

- a. Approval of Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Sarah Glisson
  - i. Sarah:
    - 1. One of the initiatives can be delegates can be liaisons to senators and delegates can actively participate in SGA.

2. There is a bit of disconnect between the rest of SGA and the delegate program. I hope to create a delegate bill which will take ideas from the delegates.
  3. One of the ideas I want to work on is accessibility on campus.
  4. I will try to make the volunteer requirement 4 hours for delegates as well as it is a requirement for all other SGA members.
- ii. Motion to approve Sarah as Secretary of Delegate Affairs
    1. 11-0-1 Approved
- b. Announcement Opportunities
    - i. If you are in a club and would like to spread the word about an event you're holding, or an initiative you would like to present, just send me an email and I can bring it up in my announcements
  - c. Student Leadership Council
    - i. We had an introductory meeting on Monday 2/12/24 - Working with VP Van Der Wall, VP Romano, and Nicole Morgan Agard
    - ii. If you would like me to present any information to the council please let me know!
  - d. RA Donation Gift
    - i. Ideas? - Have to confirm by Feb. 18
      1. Ramapo Gear, Dorm Decor, Giftcard, Gift Basket
  - e. Nicole Morgan Agard - Chief Equity and Diversity Officer
    - i. Nicole is an attorney and went to law school in Boston. She has worked in the field of Harassment, discrimination.
    - ii. Christine: There were a lot of discussions about not proper consequences for bias training. I was wondering if we can make those people go to bias training.
      1. If someone is reported to be discriminating we conduct an investigation and there are consequences. For bias, we have a bias policy. We also have to be very careful about how we look into it. Bias would be a derogatory demeaning statement. Discrimination complaints are based on action. For bias we have conversations and talk about the values we have as our college and the impact their statements have.
    - iii. Desiree: When someone uses the n word, is it not hate speech?
      1. Unless them saying this is inciting violence, it cannot be considered hate speech.
    - iv. Alan: If there is a person who has repeatedly done a bias incident, what is done? Does threatening speech against certain groups count as hate speech?
      1. We would have looked into that and we would have them meet the council and see what should be done. Yes, if the said things are threatening it goes to another level and counts as hate speech.
    - v. Evelyn: When you file a bias report against someone does it go in their record?
      1. No, a bias report does not go to their report, however a discrimination or harassment does go into their report.
    - vi. Sarah: When someone comes with a bias report what do you do?

1. Any report comes to me and we have a response team who would be able to get back to them and see the status and we offer any assistance or resources we have.
- vii. Liz: What can SGA do to help EDIC?
  1. We try to promote the infographic, and if you have someone who knows who have been through discrimination or bias, refer them to us.
- viii. We now have two spots on campus which can be used by students for prayer. One in Mackin Hall and second H201.
- ix. Can we do candle lighting on campus?
  1. For Hanukkah, last year we lit candles and we had to have public safety and fire safety. It is possible if the candle lighting is for a short period of time.

## **VI. Cabinet Reports**

- a. Vice President Oliver Mejia
  - i. Club Process - No Meeting Today
    1. If you or someone you know is interested in starting a club, please email [sgaclubs@ramapo.edu](mailto:sgaclubs@ramapo.edu)
    2. Allocations are available! - fill out [this form](#) if you are interested.
- b. Secretary Pranish Khanal
  - i. no report
- c. Treasurer Riley Stein
  - i. no report
- d. Chief of Staff Ekaprana Ramesh
  - i. Cabinet Reports are due in two weeks (02/28/24)!
- e. Secretary of Academic Affairs Samantha Schley
  - i. Academic Affairs committee meeting will be held today (2/14/24) in A220 from 3:15-4:15 pm
- f. Secretary of Commuter Affairs Alan Rosenberg
  - i. Commuter Affairs Meeting Tomorrow 1-2 PM A-100
  - ii. Dessert Day Thursday Feb 22 1-2 PM J.Lees
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs
  - i.
- h. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion
  - i.
- b. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Luis Seanz
  - i. TKE x AOII is doing a tabling event with sweet treats, stop by if you can to support both of our philanthropy
- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs James Pascal
  - i. First Governmental Affairs Committee meeting today 4-5pm in A226!
- j. Secretary of Programming Christine DeFeo

- i. Please reach out to me with any program ideas!
  - 1. Victor: Dean Van Der Wall is working on plans to increase communication between clubs when it comes to doing similar kinds of events.
  - 2. Matt: I would love to see more events like laser tag happening on campus.
- k. Secretary of Public Relations
  - i.
- l. Secretary of Residential Affairs
  - i.
- m. Secretary of Sustainability Kristen Sensi
  - i. Nothing to Report
- n. Secretary of Service Stefanie Viera
  - i. Can view your hours here: [SGA 2023-2024 Community Service Hours](#)
  - ii. Total number of hours submitted thus far: 195.25! (Ryan, Aidan, Desiree, Samantha)
  - iii. Will be meeting with my liaison next week to start planning out a Volunteer Fair (any questions/ideas welcome)
  - iv. Last semester we discussed creating a Secretary of Community Engagement as proposed by Dylan Heffernan
    - 1. “a secretary of civic engagement would connect with me to discuss matters related to current events and how they apply to SGA/the student body, ways that the CCEC can support bills or other actions, and discuss programming and issues related to student voting and engagement”
- o. Chief Justice Liz Mendicino
  - i. Nothing to Report
- p. Senate President Madison Weeks
  - i. Approved the Sports Club March Madness Watch Party Co-Sponsorship
  - ii. Approved an extension to the Interim Senate Election Timeline
    - 1. [Spring 24 Interim Senate Elections Bill \(Revised\)](#)
  - iii. Senators Sara and Amanda went over the programming the college has planned for the Israeli and Palestinian Conflict
    - 1. [Building on What We Have Learned Programming](#)

## VII. New Business

- a. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees
  - i.
  - ii.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

- a. Jack: The student leadership application is open. Let Jack Nesmith know if you have any questions. Deadline is Mar 4, 2024 at 11:59 pm. Also highly encourage you guys to come to Project LEAD events.

### **IX. Open Forum**

- a. Janelle - 4 Volunteers Needed for CPB Silent Disco Event/ PSA. Event is from 9-11 on 16th of Feb. Volunteers have to be there at 8.
- b. Eileen Jaquez (liaison for Athletics) - Men's Volleyball Game 7:00PM
- c. Evelyn -
  - i. TAS Dean's Advisory Council tomorrow 1-2pm in ASB 323 - please reach out to Dean Saiff if interested :)
  - ii. Chem Club First General Meeting tomorrow 5-6pm in A225 (chemistry jeopardy and free pizza!)
- d. Danielle Rosengrant
  - i. Service Opportunity: Biology Club GBM tomorrow to make cards for senior citizens at a local nursing home. B-225 from 1-2pm. Free pizza too!
  - ii. Biology Club Suturing Seminar on February 29th from 1-3pm in ASB-332 - learning suturing techniques using suture kits with a nurse practitioner; for anyone interested in healthcare or who just want to learn for fun.
- e. Oliver Mejia - ASB Dean's Advisory Council concerns
  - i. Bradley Center not being open late enough on the weekends
  - ii. Greek Life concerns - central hub for Greek life on campus?
  - iii. New Events - Prep Rally & Silly Olympics
- f. Madi Weeks
  - i. OVP is looking for models for Denim Day!
    1. Contact [ovp@ramapo.edu](mailto:ovp@ramapo.edu) if interested!

### **X. Adjournment at 2:38 pm**

Moved by Desiree

Seconded by Kaitlyn