

03/04/2024 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 03/04/2024]

Meeting called to order on [03/04/2024] at 7:04 pm in ASB - 230

I. Roll Call

- a. President Victor Oluwagbemi
 - b. Senate President/SSHS School Senator Madison Weeks
 - c. Senate Vice President/TAS School Senator Evelyn Voitsekhovich
 - d. Senate Secretary Danielle Rosengrant
 - e. Graduate Senator (N/A)
 - f. CA School Senator Desiree S. Bounds
 - g. ASB School Senator Nicole Cohen
 - h. HGS School Senator Stephen Raymond
 - i. Senator Janelle Boamah
 - j. Senator Juliana Campagna
 - k. Senator Aidan D’Oria
 - l. Senator Alex Frisch
 - m. Senator David George
 - n. Senator Katelynn Haury
 - o. Senator Sara Hosbach
 - p. Senator Eileen Jaquez
 - q. Senator Mihir Jariwala
 - r. Senator Brian Joseph
 - s. Senator Shanel Lopez
 - t. Senator Franco Miyashiro
 - u. Senator Daeun Mun
 - v. Senator Amanda Shortt
 - w. Senator Matthew Zegla
- i. Present: 18
 - ii. Late: Daeun Mun (Excused)
 - iii. Absent: Nicole Cohen (Excused), Stephen Raymond (Excused), Shanel Lopez (Excused), Eileen Jaquez (Excused)


Mission Statement

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.

Land Acknowledgement

SGA respectfully acknowledges that we are hosting our meeting on the ancestral and traditional Indigenous territory of the Ramapough Lunaanpe Nation.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a.  02/26/2024 Senate Meeting Minutes
 - i. Moved: Franco
 - ii. Second: Brian
 - iii. 13-0-2

III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. Happy Women's Herstory Month!
- b. Tonight is the last night to apply for the Leadership Awards!
 - i. Click the link [here](#) to fill them out by 11:59pm tonight
- c. The Spring Play 'Fuckin A' opens this Thursday 3/7 at 8:00pm in the Adler Theater
- d. Liaison Reports are due 3/25
 - i. Reminder: that is the day after spring break ends, be sure to be on top of your reports!
- e. Writing and brainstorming new bills for this semester
 - i. We can brainstorm as a Senate. Feel free to reach out to Madi or Evelyn if you have any questions or concerns about writing/following through with an approved bill.
 - ii. Sara - There have been problems with getting the student body involved in bills. Some don't respond.

1. Evelyn - Maybe email Victor and have him send a message from the SGA email to get their attention and encourage their involvement?
- iii. Sara - How does writing a bill before graduation (that would need to be continued next semester) work?
 1. Madi - The next group of elected Senators and SGA members would be responsible for continuing this, assuming it's an SGA-wide initiative.

IV. New Business

- a. Discussion with Bella Apgar: Student Representative from the Gross Center
 - i. Janelle - Would this be like Natalie and Gloria coming to General once a month or as needed?
 1. Madi - They wouldn't be required to be an SGA member. Part of their position with the Gross Center would be to come to Senate liaison report meetings to report on the Gross Center.
 - ii. Desiree - I think it's a great idea.
 - iii. David - For future students that want to be a representative for the Gross Center, would they go through the SGA process or the Gross Center process?
 1. Bella - I applied for it through Dr. Labendz. It's a volunteer position. He is completely on board with the SGA liaison meetings being written into the Gross Center representative requirements.
 - iv. Sara - If the Gross Center changes their requirement for the position, will we need to write a bill to enforce that future SGAs continue to communicate with the student representative from this office?
 1. Madi - We may have to change/put something in writing to ensure this relationship has longevity (not adding a position or anything).
 - v. David - It's probably best to be written in the constitution, as opposed to a bill, that there is a representative for the Gross Center that will be coming to liaison report Senate meetings.
 1. Madi - This position technically isn't in the SGA, so it would become tricky as we don't have "jurisdiction"

- vi. Janelle - We should change the role of a member of Senate leadership to ensure that there continues to be a line of communication between future Senate leadership and future Gross Center representatives.
- vii. Amanda - Do we really need to have it in writing?
- viii. Victor - I don't think that because it's an addition to their job description, that it's something that we can require them to come. Maybe just continue to have communication with them. We can't really require them to come as they aren't actual members of the SGA.
- ix. Desiree - A bill isn't considered an alteration to the constitution right?
 - 1. Victor - Depends on what the bill is.
 - 2. Desiree - What David said, a bill to promote communication between the Gross Center student representative and the SGA, this wouldn't be an alteration to our constitution, not really an alteration to the position, but that the SGA is committed to fostering this relationship. Formalizes the relationship.
 - 3. Madi - It has to be someone's responsibility to continue reaching out each semester.
- x. Katelynn - Maybe the VP could be tasked with reaching out to the student liaison? Just a description on both sides to encourage reaching out and keeping the line of communication.
- xi. David - Maybe a requirement that one person on Senate leadership reaches out to the student liaison. Maybe, if Dr. Labendz is okay with it, they can be required to come to one Senate a month (liaison meeting)
- xii. Janelle - To Bella, you basically have to spread the word to other students about what's going on with the Gross Center?
 - 1. Bella - My job is more based around the advisory board, rather than the students. A connection with the SGA is the best way to maintain a connection with the student population.
- xiii. Janelle - Future student representative requirements can include reaching out to other organizations on campus about what is going on with the Gross Center.
- xiv. Madi - A senator can be a liaison to the student representative who can then report it to the entire senate during liaison reports.
- xv. Sara - It seems like there's more steps than necessary for Dr. Labendz to relay to the representative and then the representative to the Senator. We

can just maintain contact and invite the representative to any SGA meeting to give us updates.

- xvi. Sara - There is a lack of communication between the Gross Center and the SGA. The student representative is already there and it is in their job description so it might be best for someone in the Senate to reach out to them and invite the student representative to come and discuss what has been going on regarding the Gross Center.
- xvii. Evelyn - Would they still be writing a liaison report?
 - 1. Janelle - Isn't this the same as having them in the SGA?
- xviii. Katelynn - The position was vacant for a while and it is volunteer-based so it may be hard to sustain this relationship if nobody is in the position. If it's a liaison position, this may be easier to maintain the relationship long term.
 - 1. Sara - There are all of these possible liaisons on file that aren't filled. The only change that we would need to make on our end is to vow to improve communication between the two organizations.
- xix. Janelle - Rather than writing a liaison report, they can give a report as necessary.
 - 1. Sara - This could be an "SGA Report" that can be relayed from the Gross Center and the SGA as a whole during open forum.
- xx. Madi - So it comes down to the SGA member who is in charge of reaching out and communicating with the student representative to invite them to give a report as needed during a general meeting.
 - 1. Bella - It would be a great idea for the student representative to go to general meetings as this would be a good way to get involved with as many students as possible.
- xxi. Sara - What are the next steps for making this happen?
 - 1. Janelle - We can change the constitution on our end to change whatever position will be in charge of communicating with the Gross Center student liaison.
- xxii. Madi - E-Board will discuss who in the SGA is in charge of this communication, we will move forward with a bill to change the constitution to reflect this job description change, and we have to ensure that the Gross Center's student representative description fits what we need it to.

- b. Co-Sponsorship: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Symposium (OVP)
 - i. Wednesday 4/3 from 2:00 - 4:15pm in the Trustee's Pavillion
 - 1. Asking for \$\$ for food, volunteers, and social media marketing/promote at a meeting
 - 2. Questions:
 - a. Sara - How many people are you expecting?
 - i. Madi - Around 200. President Jebb will be there (she tends to bring in staff), as well as a class and tablins organizations. Conveners may be getting involved to make it an academic event.
 - b. Christine - What is the Senate budget to give out for co-sponsorships right now?
 - i. Madi - Around \$1,400.
 - 3. Discussion:
 - a. Janelle - With all due respect, give them the money. We're nearing the end of the semester. It's for a great cause.
 - i. David - *SECOND*
 - b. Sara - Knowing us, we may not be able to provide three volunteers before and after.
 - i. Desiree - We haven't had many opportunities for event requirements, so I think three would be a good idea.
 - 4. Funds requested: [\\$150](#)
 - 5. Funds approved: \$150
 - 6. Moved: David
 - 7. Second: Desiree
 - 8. 15-0-1
 - c. Reviewal of [Robert's Rules!](#)

V. Public Comment

- a. Bella Apgar - Upcoming events from the Gross Center
 - i. Artificial Intelligence and Antisemitism - 3/6, 7:00pm - Zoom call with Edwin Black



- ii. Countering AI Antisemitism in Theory and Practice - 3/10, 11:00am - Zoom call
- iii. Three Talk Series, Talk 3: Meaningfully Discussing Palestine/Israel after October 7 - 3/12, 3pm - Alumni Lounges SC-156-158



impact.
**THE POWER OF
CONVERSATION.**

Three Talk Series
**Talk 3: Meaningfully Discussing
Palestine/Israel after October 7**

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
3 p.m. | Alumni Lounges, SC-156-158

Featuring: **Dr. Mira Sucharov**, Professor of Political Science, Carleton University, Ottawa, and **Dr. Sa'ed Atshan**, Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Anthropology, Swarthmore, PA



MORE
DETAILS →



VI. Open Forum

- a. Aidan- Dining Co Sponsorships- Dining is looking to co sponsor with the SGA and think that late april would be an ideal time. Ideas like an SGA barbecue or late night SGA smores came up. We would need to pick a date and idea soon and table for it along with having a game or raffle to accompany it. Also a possibility to set up a co sponsorship in the fall to promote fall elections, would also need to pick out a date and plan soon as dining plans events well in advance.
 - i. Desiree - We've done a "meet the new SGA" co-sponsorship with the newly elected senators going and introducing themselves. It would be nice to do a similar event again.
 - ii. Janelle - Is it possible to do an outdoor event when the weather is nicer? Either SGA-hosted or co-sponsored.
 - 1. Aidan - That's something we've discussed.
 - 2. Madi - Definitely something to bring up during General.
- b. Brian: The Center for Health and Counseling Services highly encourages you to fill out the National College Health Assessment survey that was emailed to you earlier today. It is designed to assess student health behaviors to provide better

services and support for Ramapo. It takes 20-30 minutes and is completely voluntary and confidential.

- c. Danielle: CONGRATULATIONS MADI!! Madi got into her Master's program (highly competitive) at TCNJ!!! :)
- d. Danielle: Upcoming Women's Herstory Month Events:
 - i. Wednesday, March 6th: Fems in Stem Collective
 - 1. 5-7pm in G-130 - documentary, discussion, and pizza!
 - ii. Thursday, March 7th: International Women's Day
 - 1. 1-3pm in Trustees Pavilion
 - 2. Woman-identifying global Roadrunners will be speaking, NAACH performance, Kahoot for prizes.
- e. Desiree: BSU is hosting Hot Seat Discussion: Her Body at March 12th at 7 pm in Alumni
- f. Janelle: Career Center is hosting Career Conversations: Women in the Workplace Alumnae Panel 6-7:30pm in SC 158

VII. Adjournment

- a. **Time:** 8:17pm
 - i. **Moved:** Janelle
 - ii. **Second:** Desiree