03/25/2024 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 03/25/2024]
Meeting called to order on 03/25/2024 at 7:01 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 Voitsekhhovich
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: 19
ii. Late: Evelyn Voitsekhhovich (Excused)
iii. Absent: Nicole Cohen (Excused), Eileen Jaquez (Unexcused), Daeun Munn (Unexcused)
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 Lunaape Nation.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
a. 03/11/2024 Senate Meeting Minutes
   i. Moved: Alex
   ii. Second: Matt
   iii. 14-0-2

III. Senate President's Announcements
a. Happy Holi!
   a. Welcome back everyone!
      i. I know that this can be a stressful time for everyone. Don’t be afraid to seek the help you may need!
         1. Counseling Services, Uwill, Togetherall
   b. Public Safety Update!
      i. Arthur Abbott has been selected as Public Safety’s new Assistant Director, and is currently named the Interim Director of Public Safety while the director position is vacant
   c. Reminder for upcoming events!
      i. Co-sponsorship with Phi Alpha Delta, Women’s Herstory Trivia, is Thursday 3/28 at 8:00pm in the Alumni Lounges
      ii. Co-sponsorship with OVP and Title IX, SAAM Symposium, is Wednesday 4/3 at 2:00pm in the Trustee’s Pavillion
   d. Election applications have been extended!
i. Senate President and Vice President election process

IV. New Business
a. Club Proposal: Knitting and Crochet Club
   i. Club Presentation
   ii. Constitution
   iii. Questions:
      1. Desiree - Are you actively seeking a secretary and publicist from the email list?
         a. Yes, we have been waiting to reach out to everyone after officially being made into a club. We’ve reached out to some people who may
      2. Madi - For educational meetings, will you be providing hooks, needles, yarn, etc.?
         a. Obviously, everyone can bring their own but we aim to be providing for everyone. We have a bunch of supplies being donated so we will be using those.
      3. Mihir - Can you go into detail on how you plan on getting resources, specifically financially?
         a. We were originally planning on raised revenue fundraisers or collecting donations, as we currently don’t have a budget.

iv. Discussion
   1. Janelle - I think that it’s a club that has a lot of interest across campus. I remember during club process that they already have a lot of materials being donated, which is great until they have a budget. Do they need to have a secretary?
      a. Victor - Finding out now. Technically the role of secretary can be delegated to everyone else, but I think it’s just President, VP, and treasurer.
   2. Sara - I think this is a good idea.
   3. Katelynn - They have a good foundation and it seems to be a club that is popular and unique on campus.
   4. Desiree - Longevity-wise this club doesn’t need a huge budget, especially because students can bring their own things as well.
5. Madi - How much of a budget do clubs usually get?
   a. Victor - The amount per club depends on the year and what was left over the year before. Around $350 last year. Some clubs need a lot and some clubs don’t need anything.

   v. Moved: Janelle
   vi. Second: Alex
   vii. 16-0-0

b. Club Proposal: Sikh Student Association
   i. Club Presentation
   ii. Constitution
   iii. Discussion:

   1. Mihir - Did they mention how many people were interested?
      a. Janelle - Approx. 10 people. It’s a very small group on campus, but not everyone interested was part of this group.

   2. Desiree - Although it may be a small population, we still need this group on campus to be a support system for students and to promote diversity and beauty on campus.

   3. Janelle - I can see a lot of collaborations with other clubs on campus. This isn’t only about religion, but also about culture, which is important.

   iv. Moved: Desiree
   v. Second: David
   vi. 17-0-0

c. Liaison Reports
   i. Please write your name, liaison, and summary points from your report below in the MINUTES
   ii. Danielle (Women’s Center and LGBTQ+ Services) - We discussed more of the upcoming projects and opportunities during Women’s Herstory month. Past events: Tuesday, March 12th - Hidden Gems Pop-Up Shops (thank you to everyone who volunteered for setup/cleanup!), Wednesday, March 13th - Women in the Workplace Panel. Upcoming events: Monday, March 25th: The Vagina Monologues, Thursday, March 28th: Women’s Herstory Month Trivia Night w/ Phi Alpha Delta. I am currently working on a continuation of an earlier event, the Fem in STEM collective, to make time for discussion on the documentary and the experiences of women in STEM fields. Finally, on Tuesday, April 30th will be the Lavender Pre-Commencement Ceremony in the alumni lounges. This will honor the
contributions and achievements of Class of 2024 members of the RCNJ LGBTQ+ community (more details forthcoming).

1. Madi - Today, Alex said that the application for the Lavender Pre-Commencement opened on Archway.

iii. Sara (public safety): relook into Laurel parking spaces; comedy show scam - message was sent out and Mahwah Police is aware; new assistant director of Public Safety; possible Title XI training for SGA members; I am meeting for my final liaison report tomorrow with Nicole and Arthur (New assistant director) - if you have any questions or talking points please let me know

1. Victor - What did Nicole say about parking?
   a. Sara - She said she would look into it. I met with her at the beginning of March and will meet again with her tomorrow.

2. Janelle - What do you mean by looking into Laurel parking spots?
   a. Sara - Trying to get 15 minute or 30 minute spots in the Laurel/Student center lot.

3. Madi - Can you ask them about ALICE training and if they’re still doing that?

4. Madi - I spoke with Dean Van Der Wall about the heavy ticketing in the Village Lots. A whole row of Village Residents got ticketed after being told we could park there by Residence Life. The main issue was Commuters parking in the Village Lots and Village students parking in the Commuter spots.
   a. Janelle - Which row of parking are you talking about?
   b. Madi - The larger lot near Quad 1 (not the slim village lot).

5. Mihir - Is the issue the double standard between commuter and resident parking tickets/enforcement?

6. Victor - Mihir, can you talk to facilities about making the parking lot signs more visible?

7. Victor - For parking, Nicole said that the laurel parking spots are feasible, but it depends on allocations of parking spaces and parking meters. I brought up the idea to use a parking meter system to time/track student parking in the spots. Nicole liked the idea so this could be something to pursue.
   a. Danielle - Maybe there’s a way to use student IDs to scan in and out of the parking spot to hold everyone accountable for parking for an appropriate amount of time.
8. Sara - The idea of paying off a ticket with community service was shot down but will be brought up again.

iv. Shanel and Sara (Learning Commons) - Can you please ask SGA to help publicize the Be Heard. Listen. public art piece Dean Goldstein and I are working on? We don't have many submissions. This link will also take you to the flyer and the instructions:

1. Desiree - Last time I spoke to the Dean, only one person had submitted.

v. David (ITS) - Why are there so many maintenance weekends? It is around once a month and it is important for security against cyberattacks and other schools do the same thing. If the wifi connects but there’s “no internet”, reboot your computer or go to the help desk about a wifi dead spot. NINJIO - app where students learn about cybersecurity and scams - will be available next semester. They are reducing the number of computers in classrooms and replacing them with docks to plug in laptops. ITS is trying to work with Res Life on getting printers in dorms.

1. Katelynn - About the internet with no connection - it doesn’t seem like a dead spot, as it works for the majority of the time but it goes back and forth between working and not working.
   a. David - Contact the help desk.
   b. Madi - David, maybe bring it back to ITS and tell them about it again.

2. Brian - When we report dead spots, what do they do to fix it?
   a. David - They send someone over as soon as possible to fix the wiring/connection.

3. Victor - They know that there are known dead spots on campus, so do they have solutions for actually fixing them long term?
   a. David - They don’t have a great budget so it’s a challenge to fix it.

4. David - The cyber scams tend to go through email and dead alumni accounts. That’s why we did the password reset, so there were less accounts for hackers to use.

5. Matt - For some of the scammers, they hijack current student accounts, will post whatever scam, and have been combative when they’re called out for it.
vi. Matthew (Admissions) - The College had a record number of applicants this admissions cycle. 8,685 students applied to become a part of the class of 2028. Of that number, 5,948 were admitted (accepted). At the time of our meeting, 180 students had submitted their deposits to commit to Ramapo in the fall. The number of students who deposit will most likely increase once FAFSA is fixed and the prospective students get their financial aid packages. There are three admission events upcoming in April. Two Admitted Student Days and one Spring Open House. Over 1,000 people typically show up to these events so any help is greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer at these events, fill out this [application](Contact Janelle if you have any questions). You can get service hours and who knows, you may be the reason for Rocky’s next growth spurt! If anyone has any questions for the Admissions office, please let me know. My next meeting is scheduled for April 8th.

1. Desiree - Has there been any talk on the music pop-ups at the open houses? I can also bring it up with Dean Goldstein again.
   a. Janelle - Did he bring it up to Admissions (Morgan or Anthony)?
   b. Desiree - No, but it's a goal of his and he’s spoken with someone else higher up. I will have him bring it up with them.

vii. Alex F (Title IX). Media art contest for denim day speak with office of violence prevention. Work with the secretary of pr for this poster. 50 dollar prize 1st place 25 each two-second place. Kate Mcgee 5 minutes to share information on SAAM during Wednesday the 27th general meeting 1-3.

1. Victor - Yes, she can come in this Wednesday. Ask her what time.

viii. Juliana (Center for Student Success) - We discussed new initiatives and information for students. They are designing a third semester transition video to explain the transition from academic advisors to faculty advisors. They are also redoing the four year plan website to make it more universal (ramapo.edu/mygraduationplan). Student account holds have been placed on new transfers, juniors (6th semester), and SHHS students (in 4th semester). He stressed that these holds are not to be a bother but to help students and make sure that they are registering for the correct courses. Connect with your advisors through Connect and schedule appointments.
as soon as possible since they will get busier closer to the beginning of registration. We will be meeting once a month from now on and will discuss the specific changes being made to the four year plan website at our next meeting.

1. Desiree - Just to add to the graduation plans, they will still be very similar to the 4-year plans but won’t be as “cut-throat”. They’re a bit more flexible and will show the word “template” to make it clear that it can be adjusted.

2. Brian - Do we know when registration will start?
   a. Juliana - April 8-12th

ix. Aidan (Dining Services): We discussed co-sponsorship possibilities for late April and early fall in hopes to promote our fall elections for potential new freshman senators. We also revisited an apple pay discussion that was had last semester in regards to the atrium but this time a student had asked about having it at birch. Basically the same answer, it’s a long way away as sodexo and freedom pay are still working out the issues with card information and tax information.

   1. Victor - The announcements start tomorrow?
      a. Aidan - I still have to reach out about that.

x. Mihir (Facilities): We spoke about updates on current projects and concerns relating to facilities. For projects, E-Wing changes should be completed by May (take it with a grain of salt), but plan on doing this so summer programs can run then. The bird decals are scheduled to be placed 1st week of April and are planned to be placed in C-Wing by the pond side. Facilities plan on implementing more cameras in the commuter parking lot and plan on distributing recycling magnets. For concerns, automated doors should be reported when seen so facilities can determine how severe damage is. For Quad 3, the plan is for Quad 1 and 3 to be renovated in the summer and Quad 2 in the fall semester, so ONLY Quad 2 should be closed during the semester. Finally, for the ticket system, they stated that they tried a similar system before but it was not effective, the ticket system is more suitable for a behind the desk type of work rather than manual work like facilities. (201) 684-7660 is the help desk number.

   1. Desiree - So they’re just coming into our rooms to put the magnets in?
   2. Sara - What exactly are the magnets?
a. Mihir - It gives pictures and rules for recycling on campus. It tells you that there can’t be plastic bags or food contamination.

3. Janelle - On the reslife website it says building 20 and 21 of Quad 3 will be closed for renovations…is that still true?
   a. Mihir - It should still be Quads 1 and 3 over the summer and Quad 2 during the fall.

4. Victor - They give you like a quick two knocks and come right in.

5. Katelynn - They mentioned changing the HVAC system over spring break, so maybe they did that in multiple dorms, not just the CPAs?

6. Janelle - For the power outage over spring break, I couldn’t get back into Laurel and public safety’s phones weren’t working so we couldn’t get in until someone else came down and the doors opened. What is the plan of action if this happens again?
   a. Mihir - I will bring that up.

xi. Brian (Center for Health and Counseling Services): There are 4 major projects in the works for the CHCS. Firstly, Free-Condom Fridays every Friday are when a condom dispenser is placed outside the Health Services building and students can grab a bag with condoms, lube, and sex ed material. Secondly, the STI Express Clinic every Tuesday is where students can get tested for STIs without interacting with a provider. Students go to the bathroom and follow instructions to leave a sample for testing. A charge of $9.50 is sent to the student’s account and discreetly labeled; insurance is not billed. Thirdly, Roadrunner Ready Kits will be available to be either delivered to student’s mailboxes on campus or for pickup at the Health Services building. A Google Form will be sent to opt in or out of certain items in the kit including condoms, lube, dental dams, and pregnancy tests. This will be advertised this week and rolled out starting next week. Lastly, the Wellness Fair on May 1st in the Grove will be for student groups to promote wellness; more details to follow. Regarding some brought up concerns, the UWill program has been extended for another year, until April 2025. Public Safety will usually transport students to the Health Services building except when they exhibit symptoms of potentially contagious sickness. Some questions that arose are for pop-up events, what cheap and quick services can feasibly be
provided? Can the Director/Assistant Director come to an SGA meeting to give an overview of the CHCS and provide data?

1. Victor - Send me an email with Judy CC’d for her to come to a meeting.

2. Victor - They wanted us to table at the Wellness Fair. Is this like any other fair we’ve done on campus?
   a. Brian - I’m not exactly sure what they’re looking for but I’ll get back to you on it.
   b. Janelle - I got the same email for CPB and it seems like Relay for Life where we do our own table with something wellness related.

3. Desiree - I know the health services building is out of the way, so how well attended are the free condom Fridays?
   a. Brian - It’s not as well attended but it's set outside so it's easier to grab and go.
   b. Katelynn - Maybe they can have a satellite box in the counseling services office?
   c. Desiree - Maybe condoms can be provided in the satellite pantries as well?
   d. Madi - They could try to do both the condoms outside of the health services building and in a more popular space like the student center.

xii. Shanel (Office of Violence Prevention): Yoga in the yard, 1pm to 2pm on the 17th april (advertise the event), Denim Day in April, Clothing line April 10th 12-3pm, Nikitas event: march 29th 12pm-1pm in the womens center (advertise this) (sexual harassment in the work place), vagina monologues (womens center 8-10pm H-wing theater). Denim day volunteers and models (they are looking for people). Need volunteers to scoop Italian ice for the April 10th clothesline 12-3pm.

1. Victor - For the yoga event, is that inside or outside?
   a. Shanel - Outside in the yard.
   b. Madi - The rain location is the dance studio if the weather is bad.

2. Victor - David, Mihir, and Aidan have volunteered for denim day, right?
   a. Madi - Nobody has put their names on the sign up sheet.
3. Madi - OVP will be asking for a co-sponsorship for Denim Day. We will need a lot of volunteers. If we approve the co-sponsorship this will become a way to fulfill your event requirement.
   a. Katelynn - Are they looking for volunteers besides modeling?
      i. Madi - Yes, for setup and cleanup. Models can also volunteer.

xiii. Stephen (School of Humanities and Global Studies): We talked about two upcoming events for students in HGS. The first will be an HGS Spring Meet the Faculty event on April 11th, from 1-2 pm in the Grove. The second will also be an HGS Alumni Event for students interested in listening to student perspectives for the future, which is led by Peter Rice, on April 10th. On March 11th, the HGS held an alumni event with Ramapo Alumni in Public Policy/Government. The dean expressed appreciation for students who are starting to attend school-based events, as attendance has been on the rise in some of their events. We also continued discussing the roles of the students in the Dean’s Advisory Board to continue working on initiatives such as the TVs throughout the school, the HGS Instagram Page, and the HGS Student features.

xiv. Madi (SSHS): We talked about the Dean Advisory Board. I passed on everyone’s availability and Dean Lorenz said he would send out an email reaching out to set up a virtual meeting. The Advisement Extravaganza was not super successful. Dean Lorenz wants to move the event to a better location next time and potentially have the event both fall and spring semester next year. SSSH will be attending admissions events April 7th, 21st, and 28th and Dean Lorenz would love to have 5 SSSH students (at the most) to talk about their experiences. Contact me if you’re interested.
   1. Desiree - What was the advisory extravaganza supposed to be?
      a. Madi - It was supposed to be a “one stop shop” for any questions regarding advisement, like getting holds lifted. It was on the first floor of the library because he wanted to be in a computer lab, but only about 10 students showed up.
   2. Madi - For the Dean Advisory Board we currently have 7 members and he is looking for about 10 members. Let me know if you’re interested in joining.

xv. Madi (Dean of Students): There is new staff parking in the Mackin/Bischoff parking lot to allow staff to park closer and not walk so
far. Dean Van Der Wall would love to hear student opinion/feedback on this, potentially a topic to be brought up in Commuter Affairs. I asked about updates on the village stairs and was told the plan is already set in stone, there is no going back. Dean Van Der Wall was interested in what might make Quad 2 being closed an “easier pill to swallow”? The potholes in the parking lot are on deck to be repaired in the spring! All of the stickers were taken down, and if anyone who put them up was identified, they were spoken to about defacing property (it is not about the content of the stickers, but instead that students need permission to post things on the walls). Lastly, Dean Van Der Wall suggests that Sara addresses the mass ticketing in the village parking lots with public safety.

1. Janelle - About the Mackin/Bischoff parking for staff, I agree that it’s inconsiderate for students. We obviously have a lot more commuter students than staff, so it makes sense. Certain staff, like those with offices in G-Wing or ASB, should be taken into consideration. If staff can park in Mackin/Bischoff, then maybe some of the A-lots can be opened for commuters or village residents?

2. Janelle - Is there a plan to open up another housing option because of the Quad 2 situation?
   a. Madi - To my understanding, there aren’t any concerns about being able to fit all of the resident students.
   b. Victor - We haven’t reached max capacity before and we won’t be reaching max capacity even if Quad 2 is closed.

3. Madi - About the parking, they did the math and no Mackin or Bishoff students will be kicked out of the parking lot or affected by the staff parking.

4. Victor - Pine is used, so technically they could open it back up but they are choosing not to.

5. Janelle - Is there a reason why Pine is used over the summer for EOF students? Why can’t they use any other residence halls?
   a. Victor - Other residence halls are being used for other programs. It’s all about money and who is paying for the housing.
   b. Janelle - Why don’t we prioritize the students that are actually going to be here at Ramapo?
6. Desiree - Is the parking in Mackin/Bishoff the whole left side of the lot? Will resident students in that lot get ticketed for parking in that area of their lot, even 20 feet to the left? The right-hand lot gets filled up and it isn’t logical for everyone to park there.

7. Desiree - I think making more floors in Laurel alcohol-allowed is a good idea, but people will still be upset about the Village situation.

8. Desiree - I don’t think it's necessary to open up A lot for commuters, especially because faculty has already been parking there.

xvi. Janelle (EOF): Women’s of Color Conference is coming up in April. Study abroad scholarship (Global ambassador scholarship and first gen scholarship) Encouraging students to apply for these scholarships. Summer applications still open.

xvii. Katelynn Haury (Cahill Career Center): We discussed student concerns, especially with the career fair. On more representation of majors, the companies coming in are tied to student attendance. Companies having a variety of majors that they accept and students being unaware of this also plays into the problem (like environmental majors being hired by hospitals for example), so utilizing Handshake and doing research is important so students get the most out of the career fair. Attendance is a large issue, and there needs to be a big emphasis on registering as not enough students register for events, and this will help show that there is engagement with those companies which allows more to come. There is also a new SSHS advisor starting, and events coming up such as the Careers in Service on April 6th, and a Biology and Chemistry event on April 15th. They were able to implement one idea about advisors reaching out post-pathways to create appointments. Also we wanted to see if there is interest in an advisory board with the career center, as well as talk about the center potentially coming to talk at a Senate meeting.

1. Madi - I’d love that, please tell me when they’re available.
2. Desiree - The attendance issue is a catch 22, as people aren’t attending because they don’t see anything available for them.
   a. Katelynn - They have been reaching out regarding events and have had to cancel them because nobody is showing up.
3. Matt - I’ve been getting spammed with reminders to go to the events.
4. Evelyn - On Daily Digest it says the Careers in Service event is April 3rd, so maybe that’s a mistake?
   a. Katelynn - Listen to Daily Digest over me (it’s April 3rd). I’ll let you know about the biology and chemistry event.

Next Week:

xviii. Franco Miyashiro (Financial Aid) - They’re preparing for the FAFSA forms to come in, and are trying to sort out issues related to the FAFSA submissions. Glitches in the system should be fixed by the end of March. FAFSA form submissions deadline have been extended to May 1st due to delays.

xix. Desiree S. Bounds (Contemporary Arts) - I asked about 3.5 courses, and said some studio courses require it, however Dean Goldstein has suggested some professors move to a two class a week model for lectures. Some professors have taken the suggestion, others have not. To alleviate fatigue and overlap we have moved to a mirrored course schedule. Meaning classes will be offered on TF or MR at the same time, so students have more consistency in their schedules. We talked about creating a Production Handbook to outline how students can self-produce art. Arts Week will be April 29-May 3, this is when most of the senior showcase and final projects will be on display. Schedule TBD, but please attend any of the events if you’re available. I only know of 4 students who are interested in the CA Advisory Board, so if you would like to join PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

xx. Evelyn Voitsekhovich (TAS) - The Dean’s Advisory Council was a success and will continue to meet, will work with Dr. Suarez on getting Dean’s lists on TVs, interest in possibly acquiring touchscreen TVs in the future, concern about the number of students applying for graduation

d. Senate Bill 2024-3 (Revised): Spring 2024 Election Legislation
   i. Discussion:
      1. Desiree - How many people didn’t apply to warrant this needing to be extended?
      2. Janelle - Will extending this bring in more applications?
         a. Madi - We’ve already gotten more in since it’s been extended.
         b. Evelyn - It was weird timing with Spring Break and the deadline being at 5pm.
      3. Sara - Why is the election not being moved with everything else?
a. Madi - There was originally a gap of time between campaigning and the election. Campaigning was only moved slightly so the election didn’t have to change.

ii. Moved: Alex

iii. Second: Desiree

iv. 16-0-1

V. Public Comment

a.

VI. Open Forum

a. Madi - [Sign up to model] for Denim Day!
   i. Due this Friday 3/29!

b. Sara - Tomorrow- Relay late night! Please attend! Friday - ACS Fundraiser at Panera! Here is the flyer. Please attend! [Greek Life's Got Talent Form]: please do not forget to register for Relay - Tomorrow is the last day to use the discount “Tuesday” to pay $10 not $15
   i. Victors - Do volunteers pay?
      1. Janelle - Everyone pays to enter.

VII. Adjournment
a. **Time:** 9:02 pm  
   i. **Moved:** Stephen  
   ii. **Second:** Sara