

10/01/2025 SGA General Meeting Agenda

Meeting called to order [Wednesday, 10/01/2025] 1:07pm

I. Roll Call

- a. President - Liz Mendicino
- b. Vice President - James Pascal
- c. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
- d. Treasurer - Cesar Vivas
- e. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann
- f. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Katelynn Haury (excused)
- g. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla
- h. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Sophia Kopreski (excused)
- i. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion - Chantalle Reyes (excused)
- j. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life - Samantha Schley
- k. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Amanda Shortt (excused)
- l. Secretary of Programming - Afrona Tozlu
- m. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber
- n. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
- o. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi
- p. Secretary of Service - Emily Beck
- q. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
- r. **Legislative Justice**
- s. Administrative Justice - John Brighthouse
- t. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala
- u. Senate Vice President - David George
- v. Senate Secretary - Julia Kotowski
- w. ASB School Senator - Ismael Carcamo
- x. CA School Senator - Peter Tunnicliffe

- y. HGS School Senator - Lane Evers
- z. SSHS School Senator - El Sharo
- aa. TAS School Senator - Gianna Marchica
- bb. Senator-at-Large - Uma Advani
- cc. Senator-at-Large - Nathaniel Bergren (Absent)
- dd. Senator-at-Large - Joseph Brubaker
- ee. Senator-at-Large - Michael Chabot
- ff. Senator-at-Large - Ava Cicero-Johnson
- gg. Senator-at-Large - Alessia Mendicino
- hh. Senator-at-Large - Julia Rowan
- ii. Senator-at-Large - Evelyn Santangelo
 - i. Present:
 - ii. Late:
 - iii. Excused: 4
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - iv. Absent: 1

II. 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.

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 Lunaanpe Nation.

IV. Approving Meeting Minutes

- a.  09/24/25 Minutes General Meeting Agenda

- i. Moved: Gianna
- ii. Seconded: Peter
- 1. 14-0-0

V. President's Announcements

- a. Happy October everyone!
- b. Oktoberfest is this weekend! If you are not signed up for a shift Chief Justice Aidan and I will be sending you an email after general, because it is a **requirement** of your positions!
- c. Next week, Ben, Cesar, and I will not be at General because we will be at the ASGA national summit, please make sure if you have questions for any of us you ask prior to our departure.
- d. The Ramapo College's AI Task Force is requesting two student representatives from the SGA
 - i. The Presidential Task Force on Artificial Intelligence will be convened in the 2025/26 Academic Year to examine the current and emerging impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on Ramapo College's mission, operations, pedagogy, research, and student experience. The Task Force will develop recommendations to position Ramapo College to leverage AI responsibly and strategically while safeguarding academic integrity, equity, and ethical standards.
 - 1. Liz: Is there anyone who is interested in being the Ramapo College's AI Task force please raise your hand or you can always email me.
 - 2. Afrona is interested in being on the Ramapo College's AI Task force.
 - ii. The Task Force will convene in October & submit final recommendations by March.
- e. The Bridging the Gap Fellowship applications are open! BtG trains students to have meaningful conversations across difficult divides of identity and ideology. The program is open to everyone but seniors. Students who successfully complete the fellowship will receive a stipend of \$250. I would love for SGA reps to participate!
[Please Apply!!](#)

VI. Cabinet Reports

- a. Vice President James Pascal
 - i. if you or someone you know is interested in starting a club, please email sgaclubs@ramapo.edu

- ii. Club Process today at 3:45pm!
 - 1. We have 3 clubs coming, one for club process and two for allocations
- b. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
 - i. Continue to log your [office hours](#) please!!
 - 1. If you guys have any place/location ideas in the office for the QR code please let me know!
 - a. Afrona: Maybe we can add the link in the groupme group chat and have it pinned.
 - b. El: For some reason I am not able to fill out the form.
 - c. Liz: Point of information, are you logged into your ramapo account? Because that could cause an issue.
 - d. El: Yes, I think it might be a me/phone thing.
- c. Treasurer - Cesar Vivas
 - i. Nothing to report
- d. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann
 - i. Finish up getting [cabinet reports](#) in and our **next Cabinet Meeting** will be **Oct. 6 in b225!**
- e. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Katelynn Haury
 - i. Nothing to report
- f. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla
 - i. The next commuter affairs committee meeting is on Monday, October 6th, from 1-2 PM in room A-101.
 - ii. Upcoming events:
 - 1. A Sweet Commute: Tomorrow from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 - 2. Throwback Snacks: October 9th from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 - 3. Lunch and Learn: October 13th from 1-2 pm in B-225
 - 4. Trick or Trivia: October 23rd from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 - 5. Trunk or Treat: October 28th from 5-7 pm in the tennis court parking lot. The form to register a car closes on the 20th at 11:59 pm
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Sophia Kopreski
 - i. The next Delegate Committee meeting will be held next Thursday, October 9th from 4-5pm in A226.
- h. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion - Chantalle Reyes
 - i. Nothing to report

- a. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life - Samantha Schley
 - i. Here is a link to [Ramapo Greeks Instagram](#) and [RCNJ Panhellenic Council Instagram](#) so you can stay on top of information and get a better look at what it's all about!!
 - ii. Congratulations to any and all new members of Greek organizations as they have their bid days!
 - iii. Events:
 - 1. Sigma Delta Tau X Baked By Melissa is being held on Oct. 1st in C wing underpass from 12 -2pm. It is \$2 per cupcake and all proceeds go to JWI
 - 2. Tri Sigma and the basketball team are holding Sigma Swish on Oct. 10th in the Bradley arena at 6:00pm. There is a \$5 entry and all proceeds go to the Tri Sigma Foundation.
- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Amanda Shortt
 - i. Nothing to report
- j. Secretary of Programming - Afrona Tozluku
 - i. The De-stress Bag making event is tomorrow floor SC above the atrium. Students can create their own bags filled with goodies to help them de-stress.
 - ii. Oktoberfest starts tomorrow!
 - 1. Please go to your time slot or communicate with me if anything happens. These shifts are mandatory.
 - 2. Quick rundown of the events during Oktoberfest
 - a. Thursday Oct. 2nd
 - i. Pop Up Trivia Game Show 7-11 pm in Atrium
 - b. Friday Oct. 3rd
 - i. Founder's Day Cake Cutting and Celebration 1:45-3 pm in the Grove
 - ii. Festival of Frights 8-11 pm in Laurel Courts
 - c. Saturday Oct. 4th
 - i. Oktoberfest Carnival 1-5 pm in Bandshell Lawn
 - ii. Dracula's Disco by Alpha Psi Omega 8-11 pm in Friends Hall
 - 3. Encourage people to come out to Oktoberfest. Make announcements in your clubs, classes, and organizations. You are all a part of Oktoberfest and can make it a great event.
 - 4. Update, just now I was told that the Oktoberfest sweatshirts should be coming in tomorrow.
- k. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber

- i. I will be filming two videos today - Oktoberfest & Senate Election promotion. As always, if you would like to be in either, see me after General!
- ii. Please post Oktoberfest graphic - adding to GroupMe :)
- l. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
 - i. I will let Anne and steph know that their idea of allowing commuters to have a choice in housing with residents is a good idea. Despite their group being last pick, it still allows for commuters to have a say and not just be put with random people. When speaking with Ben he also brought up the fact that transfer students should also have a say, as they are also only placed with random people if they decide to become a resident.
 - ii. Anne and I are still working on trying to find a long lasting and effective way to make our resources more visible to students in their dorms.
 - iii. We are planning to meet some time this month to discuss further in person while also finding ways to create more involvement on campus.
- m. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi
 - i. Committee meeting today at 5:30 in LC229
- n. Secretary of Service - Emily Beck
 - i. Our service trip for this fall has been decided via our google form- we will be going to MEVO!!
 - 1. Sunday, Oct 26th 1:00pm- 4:30pm
 - 2. More details to follow on this, a google form for registration as well as the archway link will be available for those interested in the trip to fill out for next week.
 - ii. You can track your service hours for this semester here:
[SGA 2025-2026 Community Service Hours](#)
 - 1. Let me know if you have any trouble accessing it!
 - iii. Other upcoming service opportunities:
 - 1. October 5th, 2025 Service Opportunity: MEVO: Morning Sunday Farm Volunteer Experience | 9:15am- 12:45pm
 - 2. October 9th, 2025 Service Opportunity: Community Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown Food Distribution | 5:00pm- 8:15pm
 - 3. October 11th, 2025 Service Opportunity: Cleanup with the Hackensack Riverkeeper | 8:30am- 12:30pm
 - 4. October 15th, 2025 Service Opportunity: Technology Tutoring at the Mahwah Senior Center | 11:45am- 2:15pm
 - 5. October 15th, 2025 On-Campus Service Opportunity: Campus Cleanup with Environmental Health and Safety | 1pm- 2pm
 - a. Allene Shapiro: CCEC is going to Service Opportunity: Environmental Stewardship with Flat Rock Brook Nature Center October 2nd the time to

register is closed but if you still want to go come find me or send me an email and I can still get you in to go with CCEC.

- o. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
 - i. Nothing to report
- p. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala
 - i. The second week of campaigning has begun for the Fall Senate Election! October 6th to October 9th.
 - ii. The Senate went over liaison reports!
 - iii. Approved a cosponsorship with Ramapo College EMS!
 - iv. Everything we have discussed can be found in the [minutes](#)!
- q. Student Trustee - Sarah Glisson
 - i. The next public [Board](#) meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 6th at 6 pm in Trustees Pavillion. This is the only public Board meeting for the fall semester, and I encourage you all to attend! The next open board meeting will be held in the spring semester.
 - 1. Students/individuals interested in submitting a public comment should reach out to trustee@ramapo.edu prior to noon on the 6th to have their comment entered into public record.
 - 2. Students who would like to deliver a public comment and attend the meeting can join by either Webex or come in-person in the Trustees Pavillion. Sign up to deliver a public comment by emailing Chief of Staff Brittany Williams-Goldstein (bwillal@ramapo.edu) or signing in at the meeting.
 - a. Those on Webex who would like to deliver a public comment will be asked to write their name + subject in a private chat with Chief of Staff Brittany.
 - ii. I hope everyone is having a great semester! Though I only attend General once a month, I am always around on campus, and can also be reached by emailing either sglisson@ramapo.edu or studenttrustee@ramapo.edu.

VII. New Business

a. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees

1.

b. This Week on Campus

i. [Senate Bill 2025-F-02: Resolution on Valley Health](#)

ii. Liz: I believed all three of us that have made this bill have something to say, and I wanted to add that I think it is important to have the knowledge of the students to have and having the general student body to be able to provide this information is just as important. So with this Bill we strive to have more student knowledge on important issues like Valley Health.

iii. Sarah: For me the most concerning thing to me was how students had no say within what was going to happen within Ramapo and the Valley Health. With this Bill I wanted to bring to light that students should be able to be brought into these discussions and that moving forward the student body has more of a say. There are many pillars within Ramapo and a big one is the student body and SGA is the biggest voice for the student body and with this Bill I think it would be very beneficial for the student body.

1. Questions/Discussion:

a. Sam: I think it is great, it is great we are actually getting into this, and how Sarah said how this is what SGA is for student challenge the school and

b. Brittany Williams-Goldstein: Hello everyone, my name is Brittany Goldstein, I work with the Board of Trustees as Chief of Staff and Liaison to the Board. I would like to get some comments/concerns about how the minutes could be unclear. And secondly I would like to say that these public minute meetings are public and are sent out to the Student Government President and Unions on Campus.

c. David: One question I had I had was in the Whereas clause about concerns that outsourcing could lead to higher costs for appointments and services, limitations on insurance coverage, and weaker integration with other campus resources such as Counseling Services.

i. Van Der Wall: That might be a question asked to the people who wrote the bill but from my understanding is the fact that students

might have to be presenting their insurances to the Counseling Services.

- ii. Sarah: You bring up a very valid question about this and that is what our bill is really about and what we have based upon. With that being said that because of these concerns with showing insurances to places like the Counseling Services is unclear since this had yet to be put into place but things like this is what students should be aware of and that this is why we think the student body should be informed and in these conversations.

2. Moved: Gianna

3. Second: Ava

4. 14-0-0

- iv. David: Rob Doster sent an email out for the new printing policy on campus

1. Each printed paper side counts as one page and will cost \$0.10

2. Each student will begin with a balance of \$22.50 - so the original page count was increased from 200 to 225 pages! Good Job SGA for getting the number up.

3. You will receive an email when your balance goes below \$2.50 (25 pages), and funds can be added in \$2, \$5, and \$10 increments with the “add credits” option on [Papercut](#) if you need a visual everyone should have gotten an email.

4. The reason this has been implemented is to stop the overuse of the

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Jack: Good Afternoon everyone, and everyone here me, hope everyone is doing well. I just have two things I wanted to bring up today.
 - i. Initiatives; Trunk-or-Treat October 8th if you have not been to one yet you are in for a treat, I very much encourage SGA should definitely have a car out for the Trunk-or-Treat and spread the word to others to come and also be part of all the many cars in the event. We will have prizes for 1,2,3 place
 - 1. Afrona: Do you know about how many people come to this event?

- ii. Jack: We do not know about how many people come but I can say from years before there has been a big growth of how many people come out. It is a little hard to tell due to having the community outside of Ramapo college come to this event.
- iii. Another thing I wanted to bring up about our Leadership spotlight, give it up for Matt for being the first SGA leader on our spotlight. If you or anyone you know that is a student leader and want to be spotlighted you can find the form on Archway.
- iv. Rick: I wanted to thank Afrona for all the work you have put in with Oktoberfest and can't wait to see you all there.

IX. Open Forum

- a. Peter – QotW: “Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one’s definition of your life; define yourself.” —Robert Frost
 - i. LIGHTNING ROUND:
 - 1. Dean Goldstein is interested in the Advisory Board idea proposed by the Academic Affairs Committee.
 - 2. If there are any urgent concerns about any rooms in BC please immediately contact a faculty member, as they are best equipped to help students with any and all concerns. These concerns include the pianos in the practice rooms, smells of gas, leaking water, no markers, internet connection, etc.
 - 3. The faculty is talking about adding more 2 credit courses.
 - 4. Most venue Reservations can be made through 25Live.
 - 5. If you are having difficulty fulfilling the experiential learning hour, meet with Dean Goldstein. Office: BC-237 Hours: 7:30am-5:00pm Schedule an appointment with him: kgoldst2@ramapo.edu
 - 6. I think that any student going into the music industry should be required to take music industry courses. I will be working with Dean Goldstein to see how we can implement this with the curriculum prepared by faculty.
 - 7. Student artwork in LC 3rd and 4th floor. I want to feature more work in the academic wings but there aren't enough secure places to feature them. Dean Goldstein is now using the TVs across campus to display student work! I also proposed the idea of using the empty wall on the left side of D-wing coming from Fishbowl to have display cases with student artwork in them.
 - 8. I'm reworking a Google Form that will allow students to voice their concerns with H-wing and BC. Hopefully with enough engagement I can present it to facilities to convince them that these places are in dire need of renovations. Dean Goldstein is in support of this and I would like for this initiative to be backed by SGA.

- a. Des: For the practice room you should be able to use the sliders, but they're broken. This is something to be brought up to facilities.
 - b. Christian: I wanted to say that I had talked to others, a professor, that H-wing and Barrie Center does need some renovations and I think this initiative is great.
- ii. So Sorry for the late addition, I just got off the phone with June the Ramapough Munsee Tribe artist that is designing the mural and I believe she has a finalized design that she will be sending to me around 1:00pm!
- iii. Any questions, comments, kudos, or concerns for me or the CA School?
 - 1. Liz: Kudos to Dean Goldstein, he had gotten back to me within five minutes
 - 2. Christian: You are doing a great job Peter.
 - 3. Mihir: Kudos to you Peter, this has been an ongoing issue and Peter you are doing a great job so kudos to you.
- b. Uma - Anything for the Center for Health and Counseling Services? I am meeting with Megan Johnston on Friday!
 - i. I am working on starting up an initiative! At Ramapo, students who have had long-standing accommodations through 504 plans and IEPs in their K-12 education lose access to their support once they enter college. These students, many of whom have proper paperwork for learning disorders or other challenges, suddenly find themselves without the tools and accommodations they've had for years. I personally know at least 10 students, including myself, who are facing this issue. Despite my documented learning condition, OSS is not able to provide me with the help I still need to this day, and it affects me every day. I am currently in talks with Michael about this, and if anyone would like to help out, I would really appreciate it! :)
 - ii. Counseling Services is hosting a Cultivating Calm Workshop! The purpose is to help manage stress during the semester. There will be four weekly one hour sessions in counseling services (D216). This workshop will include learning about the science behind stress and anxiety, relaxation techniques, etc. If you are interested, here is the link! :) [Cultivating Calm Workshop Interest Form](#)
 - iii. Multiple mental health resources on campus. If you or anyone you know would like to know more, please contact me at uadvani@ramapo.edu
 - iv. Everyone's doing a great job:)
 - 1. Dean Van Der Wall: The 505 plan expires after high school level, so for some clarity, when you get to college you are with EAA and are able to work with OSS. For the personal story they are able to email me about the situation and make a meeting
 - 2. Uma: That was me so I will be sure to email you about setting up meetings.

- c. Ava - Firstly, Ramapo is hosting this year's Mid-Atlantic Law & Society Association (MALSA) conference on Saturday, October 4th, between 8:30 and 5 p.m. It will be a day of papers, panels, and roundtables across a range of law and society topics and disciplines. For the full program, please go to: <https://www.midatlanticsa.com/home>. For more information, please contact Dr. Atieh Babakhani at ababkha@ramapo.edu (or ask me!). Some of our SGA representatives (John, Julia, Liz, and I) will be working it!
- i. Secondly, I have been informed of concerns regarding the lighting outside of the CPAs. I have been working with Jason and Rick on a solution. We were thinking of doing a lighting audit where Public Safety officers and SGA representatives will walk around evaluating where more light is needed. We are thinking of doing this after a Senate meeting that ends early (so, this would be on a Monday). There will likely be a pizza party afterwards. We are still working out logistics, but is anyone interested in partaking?
 1. Mihir: Wanted to say that most of the Senate will be able to do this the day that Senate ends so count all of the Senate in.
 - ii. Lastly, any points of kudos, concerns, or questions for Public Safety? The gate is currently being fixed after being hit, and Jason will work with the software company to see if a confirmation email can be implemented after a student registers for a parking pass. He understands that parking passes caused a lot of confusion this year, so we are working on possible amendments.
 1. Rick: I wanted to support this lighting issue, but I wanted to say that years before, very recently, SGA and public safety have done this before and it is a great event that all of SGA should show up and definitely help out and they also ask other student leaders.
 2. Dean Van Der Wall: Can I come when this happens!
 3. Mihir: Of course
 4. Sarah: I wanted to give kudos to Public Safety with the safety fair. It was very fun and a great thing they needed with having information about them and having free flu shots.
- d. Joe - Any questions or concerns for facilities? Updates on some concerns:
- i. ASB 5th floor AC: The chillers are up and running and it should start to hopefully feel less hot by the end of the week
 - ii. Bathroom QR Code: Can absolutely be done, just needs a sign designed for it
 - iii. Dunkin'/Starbucks cup recycling sign: Can also absolutely be done but also needs to be designed
 1. Sam: Kudos to facilities, my oven broke, it would turn on by itself and thanks to them coming the day after we had put in the order.
 2. Ismale: Kudos to facilities fixing the ASB issue.
 3. David: Kudos as well, I was just informed that the sink from last week is fixed
 4. Liz: Kudos to Joe you are doing such a great job with bring our issues to facilities
 5. Mihir: Wanted to say kudos to you Joe and that maybe an idea that would be good is working with Lismary about the QR codes not only with issues with the bathroom but also mental health.

6. El: I was going to say we should do a link tree, if you need toilet paper there is a link if you need mental health resources on campus it's all right there.
- e. Lane - Any questions or kudos for HGS?
 - i. HGS Faculty & Student event in the works. Please encourage your professors to go!
 - ii. On the subject, the kudos cards made by my students have been well received, please continue to provide kudos!
 - iii. A new social media aide has started and will be posting some really fun things such as our student spotlight series!
- f. Julia Rowan: I am meeting with the Women's Center and LGBTQ Services tomorrow, does anyone have anything they want me to bring up?
 - i. Rick: Monday 10/06 the Proclamation: Queer & Trans History Month + Disability Awareness Month so if you are able to make it please come out.
- g. Samantha:
 - i. Regarding the printing, I think it should be noted that when visiting, the staff discussing this matter seemed to suggest that students should use electronic replacements. However, I do not think this is fully reasonable as some students may not be able to afford this.
 - ii. Can we look further into what courses can be considered scientific reasoning? This can be extremely frustrating for students and is often pushed aside.
 1. Liz: I would talk to Ginna about this issue.
 2. James: You can also go to Katelynn Haury as well since she is the Secretary of Academic Affairs.
 3. Sam: I was told to email other people but then I'm being told to email another person and I am unable to get a clear answer.
 4. Rick: I would also think about emailing the Dean and the provos as well.
 5. Sam: I know I should be and will be but I think it is just more of a personal issue but a student body issue.
 6. Rick: I agree with what you are saying but going to your Dean and Provost will be a great resource like James said with getting into communication with Katelyn as well.
 7. James: I wanted to also say that it is an issue and them saying you should get an ipad but some people are not able to get one.
 8. Sam: I think also some people work better with having physical form for school things.
 9. David: I do agree with all the statemates stated but it was a big thing to get the number from 200 to 225 and the reason they are doing this is to also stop the overuse of printing and if this is an reoccurring issue we can always talk to IT about it.
 10. Sam: Yeah I do agree.
- h. ★ SGA Star of the Month! [October Form](#) (Please inform us of any issues with the form)

X. Adjournment 2:25

- a. Moved: Peter
- b. Seconded: Ava



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

e: sga@ramapo.edu | ramapo.edu/sga