

10/15/2025 SGA General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order [Wednesday, 10/15/2025] 1:06pm

I. Roll Call

- a. President - Liz Mendicino
- b. Vice President - James Pascal (excused)
- c. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
- d. Treasurer - Cesar Vivas
- e. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann (excused)
- 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 (excused)
- 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 (excused)
- x. CA School Senator - Peter Tunncliffe (Late)

- y. HGS School Senator
- z. SSHS School Senator - El Sharo
- aa. TAS School Senator - Gianna Marchica
- bb. Senator-at-Large - Uma Advani
- cc. Senator-at-Large - Nathaniel Bergren (excused)
- 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
- jj. Senator-at-Large - Nova Boehm
- kk. Senator-at-Large - Ayden Reed
- ll. Senator-at-Large - Michael Marino (excused)
- mm. Senator-at-Large - Sebastian Herrera
- nn. Senator-at-Large - Leana Thompson
- oo. Senator-at-Large - James Nieman (late)
 - i. Present: 28
 - ii. Late: 2
 - iii. Excused: 10
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - iv. Absent:

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 Lunaape Nation.

IV. Approving Meeting Minutes

- a.  10/08/25 General Meeting Minutes
 - i. Moved: Gianna
 - ii. Seconded: Peter
 - 1. 13-0-5

V. President's Announcements

- a. Happy Last Day of Hispanic Heritage Month!
- b. A Message from Pat O'Connor!
 - i. Pat O'Connor: Thank you for having me, I know about 7 of you have registered for the event tomorrow. The Civility Tour with State Senator Jon Bramnick (R-21) and State Senator Joe Cryan (D-20), hosted in the Trustees Pavilion. This is truly an incredible opportunity to engage in a conversation about civility in politics—a topic of growing importance today. You will have the chance to hear directly from influential voices in New Jersey politics and contribute to a dialogue that matters.
 - ii. Through this conversation we have already prepared questions for certain tips and then there will be 8 questions asked, there will be media so there is a dress code, business casual. I think this a great event to attend, put your foot forward
 - iii. Rick: Those who have signed up for the event please raise your hand.
 - iv. Pat O'Connor: It will be a great opportunity for all of you to ask some great questions about these topics and will make for a good conversation.
 - v. Meliss: What time will this take place?
 - vi. Pat: It will be from 10-1pm at the Pavillion, As I have said before
 - vii. Rick: For some who are new Pat O'Coonor is the Vice President for Government Relations & Business Development. And Pat works very hard with making these great

events not only with the Civility Tour but last year taking some students to New Jersey State House, and many more. So I highly recommend all of you if you are able to make it to go and hear what both have to say.

viii. Pat: If there are any questions you can always come and find me.

- c. Intros! Name, Position, Year and Major
- d. Upcoming Opportunity! ACUI Regional conference held at Montclair State University from **Thursday night November 13 through Saturday night November 15**. ACUI is the Association of College Unions International, and the regional conference is a chance for student leaders to attend programs and network with students and professionals who work in Student Affairs. Because the conference location is so close, we are able to take many more students this year, and we will cover all registration costs, which includes meals Friday and Saturday (we will not stay over, but will commute each day from Ramapo to Montclair). To see more information about the conference, see [link](#). To register to attend, please use this Archway [link](#). **Please complete this Archway registration by Tuesday, October 21.**
- e. I am going to see if I can go again, but I definitely recommend that many of you guys to go it is very informative, and you meet many other from other schools on the North East coast,
 - i. Rick: It is the national organization that works with all the colleges and universities. I do send this invitation to SGA, CSI, ResLife, and other offices in Ramapo. I would definitely recommend all who are interested to go. At this conference you will be able to make great connections.
 - ii. Jack: Not only is this a great place to meet new people but you will meet those who are doing the same as student leaders. It is also a great place to make connections not only within Ramapo but outside for jobs. So I definitely recommend it, especially all of the new members. I hope to see some of you guys there.
- f. Please fill out the [SGA Fall Training Feedback Form](#) if you were able to attend on Monday! It is anonymous. Training has traditionally been on a weekend which we have received complaints about so we tried to mix it up this time.
- g. All members of SGA please stay behind after General for a short activity! We will be done with everything before 3.
- h. Please be sure to LOG YOUR OFFICE HOURS for the time you signed up for!!
- i. Thank you all for your hard work! You are all doing a great job!

VI. Cabinet Reports

- a. Vice President James Pascal
 - i. No club process and allocations today!
 - ii. If you or someone you know is interested in starting a club reach out to sgaclubs@ramapo.edu
- b. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
 - i. Continue to log your [office hours](#) please!!
 - 1. Within the form I have made a new section, if you are making up office hours there is a spot for you to let me know, all you need to say is the time and date you are making them up. This is mainly for me to keep track.
 - 2. If you need to change or make up office hours here is my email: malvare7@ramapo.edu
 - ii. Also please when closing the office please put down the blinds, turn off the lights and the fans and close the door with the door stopper inside the office. Even if you are going to get something to eat and you are the only person in the office please do not leave the office open.
- c. Treasurer - Cesar Vivas
 - i. Overall Budget was great for the first full month of the academic year & looking healthy for the upcoming busy period
- d. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann
 - i. Nothing to report
- 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 will be on Monday, October 20th, from 1-2 PM in room A-101.
 - ii. Upcoming events:
 - 1. Trick or Trivia: October 23rd from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 - 2. Trunk or Treat: October 28th from 5-7 pm in the tennis court parking lot
 - a. The form to register a car closes on the 20th at 11:59 pm
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Sophia Kopreski
 - i. Next Delegate meeting is next week on Thursday, October 23rd from 4-5pm in A226.

- h. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion - Chantalle Reyes
 - i. Please keep promoting the Diversity Peer Program! Deadline November 7th and the link is attached: <https://forms.gle/mOy4Ex2WXfKfACvv8>
 - 1. After I get enough applications, I want to host a training session for the mentors, so they can start taking in mentees. Also hoping to get President Cindy Jebb to briefly speak on being a mentor.
- 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. Next committee meeting will be Oct.21st at 10:00am in the office
 - iii. Upcoming Events:
 - 1. Alpha Sigma Alpha is having a "Halloween Candy Sale" Oct. 15th from 12-2pm above Pay Cafe.
 - 2. Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) is having "Powder Puff" Oct.16th from 8-10pm on the soccer field. There is a \$5 entrance fee and all proceeds go to St.Judes Children's Hospital.
 - 3. Theta Phi Alpha and the baseball team are having "Home Run Derby" October 18th at 2pm on the baseball field. There is a \$5 entry and all proceeds go towards Breast Cancer Awareness.
 - 4. Delta Phi Epsilon and Alpha Kappa Alpha are having "Smoes Night" Oct.27th at 8pm in Laurel Courts.
- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Amanda Shortt
 - i. Nothing to report
- j. Secretary of Programming - Afrona Tozluku
 - i. Nothing to report.
- k. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber
 - i. Welcome New Senators! Please stay after General for a quick Instagram video :)
- l. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
 - i. Meeting with Anne and Steph on the 23rd , to discuss ways to make mental health resources more visible for students in dorms and newer initiatives to spark up more community and involvement amongst residents. If there are any questions or concerns please let me know.
- m. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi

- i. Committee meeting today at 5:30 in LC229
- n. Secretary of Service - Emily Beck
 - i. You can track your service hours for this semester here:
 - [+ SGA 2025-2026 Community Service Hours](#)
 - ii. Other upcoming service opportunities:
 - 1. October 31st, 2025 Service Opportunity: Mahwah Senior Center Halloween Party | 11:15am-2:15pm
 - 2. November 6th, 2025 Service Opportunity: Environmental Stewardship with Flat Rock Brook Nature Center | 11:15am-2:45pm
 - 3. November 13th, 2025 Service Opportunity: Community Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown Food Distribution
 - iii. Other events!
 - 1. **The Civility Tour at Ramapo College of NJ** (With State Senator Jon Bramnick (R-21) and State Senator Joe Cryan (D-20))
 - a. This is truly an **incredible opportunity** to engage in a conversation about civility in politics—a topic of growing importance today. You will have the chance to hear directly from influential voices in New Jersey politics and contribute to a dialogue that matters.
 - b. **Location:** Trustees Pavilion
Date/Time: Thursday, October 16th | 10 am - 12:30 pm
Register [here](#)
 - c. **Dress Code:** Please dress appropriately (no pajamas, torn clothing, etc). While business casual or smart casual is not required, it is **highly encouraged** to reflect the professional nature of this opportunity.
 - iv. Clarification on Service Hours:
 - 1. I spoke to Allene and we discussed what was brought up during training in regard to service hours- If there are any opportunities you aren't sure may count please ask me or Allene, we are happy to help!
 - 2. The goal of the service requirement is **not just to check a box**, we are trying to encourage students to want to participate in service outside of mandatory or expected events, to show the value of community work and volunteerism. Working and involving yourself in the community as a part of student government is crucial! The CCEC trips are great opportunities to work with the local community and our community partners. If what is offered doesn't work with your schedule please reach out to us and we will do our best to connect you with other opportunities.
 - 3. Me and Allene have been discussing in detail how as SGA but also as a campus we define "service" in comparison to other closely related fields including philanthropy,

mentorship, volunteerism, unpaid labor, etc. A lot of other organizations and clubs throughout campus have had a recent uptake of questions regarding what constitutes service, making this question something seemingly relevant to Ramapo as a whole. With this being said, we hope to find a way to collaborate in the near future to set a working definition/policy of service that can be used and referenced throughout campus.

4. If anyone has ideas/suggestions to further motivate students to do more than the minimum hours please again let either me or Allene know, we'd be glad to hear from you!!
- o. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
 - i. Nothing to report
 - p. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala
 - i. Welcome to our new Senators!
 1. New Senators, see me after general to go over some things regarding your responsibilities.
 - ii. Flowers to everyone for all their support and advertising for the Fall Senate Election!
 1. Largest voter turnout we've had in EIGHT years! 🥳
 2. And second highest!
 - iii. Thanks to Liz and James for a very productive and fun training, and thanks to all those who could attend (shoutout team #1)!
 - iv. We approved one cosponsorship on 10/13: Overlook!
 - v. Liaison reports are due in 2 weeks (excluding the new senators).
 - vi. Everything we have discussed can be found in the [minutes](#).
 - q. Student Trustee - Sarah Glisson
 - i. Nothing to report :)
 - r. Mihir: I just wanted to touch base with Truck-or-Treat for those who said they could is that still an option?
 - i. Melissa: Yes I am still able to, I just need to register for it.
 - ii. Mihir: I know Peter you said you might be able to as well is that still a possibility?
 - iii. Peter: I am not able to anymore at that time.

VII. New Business

a. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees

1.

b. This Week on Campus

i. Liz - Temperature Check - How are we all feeling?

1. El: I would like to speak on somethings, as you may or may not know I am the student appointed for the Valley health, so I am in the room where they talk about all about the Valley health. I am not sure if everyone knows but Valley Health is in talks with Ramapo in taking over/expanding on our health services. One thing I would want to touch upon is the Heart Ship Fund. They will have kinds of ways to have payment methods for those with and without insurance. Please if anyone has questions or concerns please let me know.

a. Sam: They were saying that someone paying out of pocket that there will be a discount. I am not sure if that is what you are talking about now?

b. El: Yes that is what I am talking about, they will be giving a discount from 80 to 70 but that is still 70 dollars.

c. El: Also please if there are any questions or concerns please let me know as well because I have my meeting with them next week.

d. Emily: So for those students who are applying if they are not able to pay or even have insurance, what will they be able to do when they have to be seen at the health services.

e. El: They have more lax processes for students in that situation and they have funds for things like this.

f. Rick: Point of information, with the wording of lax, it is more flexible. There are other funds that Ramapo has as well for this fund.

g. Emily: Okay, I was going to ask about where the funds are coming from as well.

h. Sam: General questions what really is the difference between health resources between going off campus and using the resource on campus?

i. El: I would guess it would be kinda like the point of having dining services where it will keep on campus.

- j. Sam: I understand that but I am just confused about what the difference is between on and off campus health care services.
- k. El: I think it will be more of the convenience of the health resources.
- l. Melissa: I think I can help with the clarification, like El stated, these services are more convenience, it is for those students who do not have a means for transportation on campus and also there is the privacy within going on campus as well what you are being seen for on campus does not get back to parents or guardians.
- m. Rick: I think one thing that might be helpful for this is I know El is getting lots of questions, they are getting lots of great questions.
- n. Sam: I just wanted to ask more about the differences about the kind of services they provide from going off and on campus.
- o. Melissa: I could talk more about that, for a student has gone to the services on campus, is it like a regular urgent care, where you can get seen for things like a sore throat, they are made to take tests as well, like a step test, it is a runned by nurse practitioners and overall very great resource on campus. I even think with medications they are able to give some medications but they will have to send it or call it in with the local pharmacies. They also have some medications that they are able to get delivered to their office and they will call you as well. And even are able to get STD testing and it will only be you who gets the results and it will not go to your parents, if you are under their insurance. Overall I think it is such a great resource for students. The only downside might be the walk depending where you might live on campus.
- p. El: Yes, what Melissa said is right. Also if you call public safety and inform them you need to go to the health service center and are unable to drive or walk they can drive you down the center.
- q. Uma: From going on with what Melissa said, I am the lesson with health and counseling services and
- r. El: Yes, also with Valley health they will not take over the counseling center.
- s. El: Thank you everyone for the information. I will be bringing this information to my next meeting.

- t. Mihir: Kudos to you El with all this work with Valley Health, you have done such a great job.
- 2. Liz: Any other comments or even just to see who everyone is doing.
 - a. Melissa: I want to say that I think everyone is doing a great job, and that I hope this month will be better, or at least I hope so. Please again we are all here for you all if you need anything.
- 3. Jack: I want to echo about the fall elections, great job. I also want to say kudos as well as everyone for being so involved as well, not only within SGA but across campus, I see you all around campus. I also want to give kudos to the minutes both in general and senate minutes as well. They have been very detailed and I do look back and read them and to be able to see everything so detailed and everything we talk about from events to comments kudos to all of you.
- 4. David: I want to give kudos to Melissa and Julia for the minutes you guys are doing such a great job.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Jack: November project L.E.A.D. for "Touchdown For Success: Sports & Motivational Leadership." It is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 1 PM to 2 PM EST in room A-101 and is free to attend.
 - i. I also want ask those about what kind of food we will provide
 - 1. David: I would like to recommend not getting Crispy, anything but Crispy's.
 - 2. Uma: I know this might be a long shot but I know Chipotle does catering, that could be a great option. Especially those who have dietary restrictions.
 - 3. Nova: I know there are other places that also provide the same like Chipotle, make your own food.
 - ii. Rick: There is a panel discussion over breakfast with Ramapo employees who work in Student Affairs/ Student Success areas, and who are in various stages of their careers. This program will be held on Tuesday, October 21 at 8:15 am - 9:15 am (hey, it IS Breakfast!) in the York Room. To register for this panel, please complete the Archway form at this [link](#).
 - 1. I also want to give kudos to El for all the work they have been putting in within the Valley Health to keep up the good work.
 - iii. Cynthia: I want to say kudos to all of you in SGA that what you are doing is great, you are making a difference within Campus. Your presence is voiced on campus, even if others might not

think you are doing anything I hope you know that many can see the change you are making. You are all doing such a great job and keep up the good work.

IX. Open Forum

- a. Uma - Anything for the Center for Health and Counseling Services?
 - i. We would like to start up a **Peer Support and Awareness Campaign** on social medias! It would be a “You’re Not Alone” series highlighting students in the SGA as well as CHCS faculty. Here is an interest form just to see if anybody would like to take part in this Instagram post! Please fill it out if you are interested! [CHCS Peer Support and Awareness Campaign Interest Form!](#)
 - ii. Counseling Services is hosting a Calm Down With Counseling Services on October 29th from 1 pm - 2 pm in the Wellness Room. There are 7 spots per session available and it is in 15 minute intervals! Space is limited, so please sign up early to secure your spot!
 - iii. 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](#)
 - iv. There are multiple mental health resources on campus. If you or anyone you know would like to know more, please contact me at uadvani@ramapo.edu
 - v. Everyone's doing a great job:)
- b. Peter – QotW: “Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it” – Ferris Bueller
 - i. Any questions, comments, kudos, or concerns for CA school?
- c. Ava – Any questions, comments, or concerns for Public Safety?
 1. Mihir: For the lighting invitation, I know I had said that the Senate can help with walking around to see what light works, but I think next Monday we will be able to end early if you want to let Public Safety know.
 2. Melissa: I wanted to ask about the main gate, if there is any update for it?
- ii. For those of you interested in law: On Friday, October 17th, from 2-3pm, the NJ Attorney General is coming to Ramapo. It will be held in Trutees Pavilion.
- iii. On October 29th (Wednesday), there is a pre-law symposium with alumni who will be sharing their experiences with law school and their careers. It will be held in the Alumni Lounges (SC 158) at 6:30pm.
- d. Joe: I will give you all updates asap on some ongoing issues, was unable to eet this week.

- i. No update yet on Mackin elevator, saw facilities early today and they were in the process of going to check it out. I was told the one elevator should be fine but the other needs a new board.
- ii. Below is a photo of a QR code used at TCNJ in the bathrooms for when the dispenser is empty (Shoutout Liz for the photo). Please let me know if this is a good design for the bathroom QR code. This may also be a good design to show SGA branding on something.
- iii. Also with the OR link tree I was thinking about having things linked like facilities and



- iv.
- v. For any facilities issues, please fill out a work order form. If you do then you can forward it to me and I may be able to help get an answer or solution faster!!
- vi. Finally, any questions or concerns for facilities?
 - 1. Peter: I had put in a work order for dyer 21 in the CPA laundry room and they had told me that it is not in their jurisdiction and that they had told me to contact some other company but gave no information on who to contact.
 - 2. Joe: That is very weird they would not be able to help. I will definitely bring this up in my meeting.
 - 3. Peter: I also had contacted my RA about this situation before putting in the work order myself. They said they would be putting in the work order but I was never told anything else and the dyer is still not working and there is no sign indicating that it is out of service.
 - 4. Joe: If you can send me the information I will bring this up to facilities.
- e. Mihir: Any questions, comments, or concerns for Dean of Students, Dean Van Der Wall?
- f. Ismael: I have my meeting with Dean Petkus on October 22nd. If anyone has any questions or concerns they'd like me to bring up, please email me at Icarcamo@ramapo.edu. Thank you, and stay safe!
- g. David: Anything for ITS?
 - i. Micheal: Are there any updates about the Ipad?

- ii. David: I will meet and talk about it in my next meeting.
- h. Julia Rowan: Any comments, questions, or concerns for the Women's Center and LGBTQ Services?
- i. Alessia: Any comments, questions, or concerns for Title IX?
- j. Liz: Wanted to say something before all the packing starts please do not forget about staying behind we will be doing a fast activity.
- k. Rick: For Peter and Joe about the dyer you have done the right steps now it puts a flag for facilities.
- l. ★ SGA Star of the Month! [October Form](#) (Please inform us of any issues with the form)

X. Adjournment at 2:26pm

- a. Moved: Ayden
- b. Seconded: Leana