

10/22/2025 SGA General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order [Wednesday, 10/22/2025]@ 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
- 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 (excused)
- q. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
- r. Legislative Justice
- s. Administrative Justice - John Brighthouse
- t. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala (late-excused)
- u. Senate Vice President - David George
- v. Senate Secretary - Julia Kotowski
- w. ASB School Senator - Ismael Carcamo (excused)
- x. CA School Senator - Peter Tunnicliffe

- y. HGS School Senator
- z. SSHS School Senator - El Sharo (late)
- 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 (excused)
- ii. Senator-at-Large - Evelyn Santangelo
- jj. Senator-at-Large - Ayden Reed
- kk. Senator-at-Large - Michael Marino (excused)
- ll. Senator-at-Large - Sebastian Herrera
- mm. Senator-at-Large - Leana Thompson
- nn. Senator-at-Large - James Nieman
- oo. Senator-at-Large - Nova Boehm
 - i. Present: 29
 - ii. Late: 1
 - iii. Excused: 9
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - iv. Absent: 0

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.  10/15/25 General Meeting Minutes
 - i. Moved: Gianna
 - ii. Seconded: Ava
 - 1. 13-0-0

V. President's Announcements

- a. Happy State of the College!
- b. Next Week the Provost will be coming to speak to us about upcoming educational changes, please come prepared to actively listen and ask questions!
 - i. Next General please bring a friend to general
- c. Ad. Hoc Committee on Valley Health: Who would be willing to help? We will be meeting at 3:00pm today in LC-433.
 - i. Sam: What is the goal of it?
 - ii. Liz: It is for us to be able to talk about what is going on with Valley Health and discuss how we can support and address any concerns students have.
 - iii. Those interested: Aydan, Peter, Leana.
 - iv. Peter: If this does get passed in the future will this community still be in place?
 - v. Liz: No it is just for a short term for a very specific issue.
- d. Trunk or Treat is next Tuesday from 5-7pm in the parking lot by the fields! Please come if you are able! Our car's theme is Hot Dog! 🌭
 - i. If you are able, please come dressed as a hot dog or in a hot dog adjacent outfit.
- e. Please bring one member of the public to General next week! If we continue to get high public turnout we will start getting food at General!

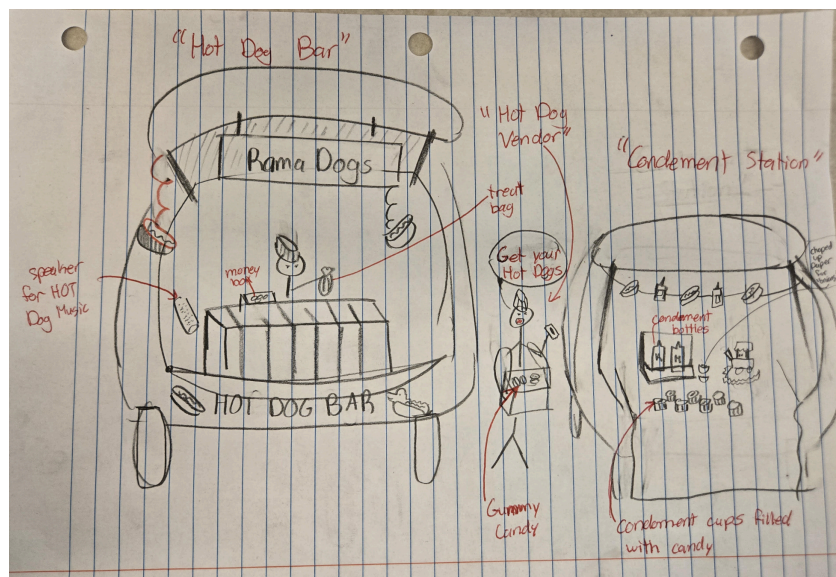
- f. SGA October Bonding: Media Day! This Friday 4:30-6:30, we will meet by the Arch and take individual headshots as well as group photos of each branch! Afterwards we will head to the alumni lounges for some food!
 - i. If you are a representative member who is unable to attend, please send James and/or I your headshot.
- g. Next Wednesday is the pre-law symposium (6:30 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Alumni Lounge) [Please register via Handshake!](#) The office of Alumni Relations has six alumni-attorneys confirmed to participate in person.
- h. Join President Jebb Monday, November 10, 2025 at 1pm in Trustees Pavilion for a special campus conversation with Lieutenant General (Ret.) Nadja West ([see extended bio](#)), the 44th Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. In this thought-provoking program, Surgeon General West will share her journey of service, resilience, and leadership — from shaping healthcare policy to managing self doubt. Together, President Jebb and General West will explore themes central to a Ramapo College education: ethical leadership, the courage to embrace change, and the power of service to others.
 - i. The program will feature a moderated dialogue and audience Q&A. This event is free and open to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and special guests.
 - ii. RSVP [here](#)
- i. A Message from E-Board!
 - i. We as an E-Board have come up with a new award, E-board excellency award, which is something very different from Star of the month, we have talked about how there is one person in particular that really has done so much for SGA and we wanted to give this person there kudos, they have really been a great impact within SGA especially with events planning and of course our new event with Trunk-or-treat, having a theme like hotdogs and they were able to finger out a great way to bring it to life. Therefore, we wanted to award Afrona with the first E-board excellency award.

VI. Cabinet Reports

- a. Vice President James Pascal
 - i. If you or someone you know is interested in starting a club, reach out to sgaclubs@ramapo.edu

1. We have one club presenting for club process, and another club that is tentative for allocations
 - ii. If you are a club officer, or generally in a club, and you need extra funds for an event you can submit an [allocations request form](#). Read the indicated terms prior to submitting.
- b. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
 - i. Continue to log your [office hours](#) please!!
 - ii. If you need to change or make up office hours here is my email: malvare7@ramapo.edu
 - iii. Also if everyone could put their sizes for any apparel into the [2025-2026 SGA Roster](#)
- c. Treasurer - Cesar Vivas
 - i. Nothing to report
- d. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann
 - i. Good afternoon everyone! Cabinet Reports will be due **Friday (10/31)**. If any questions or extensions are needed let John or I know ahead of time or else it will be marked as a white notice.
- e. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Katelynn Haury
 - i. Nothing to report
- f. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla
 - i. Thank you to everyone who attended Monday's committee meeting.
 - ii. Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 3rd, from 1-2 PM in room A-101.
 - iii. Upcoming events:
 1. Trunk or Treat: October 28th from 5-7 pm in the tennis court parking lot
 2. Cider and Coco: November 6th from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 3. Commuter Focus Group: November 10th from 1-2 pm in B-225
 4. Commutergiving: November 17th from 1-2 pm in Friends Hall
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Sophia Kopreski
 - i. Delegate Affairs Committee meeting is tomorrow from 4-5pm in A226.
 - ii. Shadows and Representative Members: Please complete Shadowing Check-In form by October 29th.
- 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. Next committee meeting will be Nov.4th at 10:00am in the office
- iii. Upcoming Events:
 1. Greek tailgate will be Oct.22nd at 5:15pm at the athletic field/tennis court parking lot.
The soccer game afterwards will start at 7pm.
 - a. There will be food, music, and chances to meet the Greek life community!
 2. Phi Alpha Delta is having a "bagel sale" on Oct.23rd at 11am in the fishbowl. They are selling for \$3.
 3. Delta Phi Epsilon and Alpha Kappa Alpha are having "Smores Night" Oct.27th at 8pm in Laurel Courts.
- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Amanda Shortt
 - i. Meeting tomorrow with Dylan from CCEC to discuss plans for the Trenton trip! Will update with details once I have them set.
- j. Secretary of Programming - Afrona Tozluku
 - i. Trunk or Treat: I would need a group to help out with some of the decoration making for our design. We need to craft the table, signs, vendor's box, and put together the treat bags. Here is a rough sketch of what I had in mind for the cars.



Here is the sign-up sheet if you would like to sign up for this event.

[+ 25/26 Upcoming Event Sign Ups](#)

- k. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber
 - i. Will be filming videos on Friday, let me know if you would like to be in one!
 - ii. Please feel free to share any promotional graphics to your stories, as it helps spread the word.
Right now, the Legislative Justice and HGS School Senator positions are open!!
- l. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
 - i. Meeting with Anne and Steph tomorrow.
 - ii. We will discuss mailroom issues with late packages, student involvement in the dorms, more commuters say when deciding to dorm and mental health resource visibility in the dorms, as they are on board with that idea.
 - iii. Please let me know of any last minute concerns or thoughts that you may have! thank you:)
- m. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi
 - i. Committee meeting next week 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. This weekend is our trip to MEVO!
 - 1. If you are attending be sure to wear closed toed/comfortable shoes, appropriate layers for the temperature, and bring a reusable water bottle!
 - 2. Time of departure: 1:15 **Please arrive at the van by no later than 1:10pm!!**
 - 3. Service will be from 1:30-4:30pm and we will return to the school by 4:45pm
 - 4. Allene will be sending an email to everyone registered with trip details and a MEVO registration link (**please fill this out!!**)
- o. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
 - i. Nothing to report
- p. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala
 - i. We approved one cosponsorship: BSU! For Hot Wings event
 - ii. We conducted a bill workshop!
 - 1. Highly suggest for those with initiative or bill ideas to check it out.
 - iii. Liaison Reports are due next week! (Excluding new senators)
 - iv. Everything we have discussed can be found in the [minutes](#).
- q. Student Trustee - Sarah Glisson

- i. Nothing to report :)
- r. Sam: The day that carbinet reports are due is due that night, I have a meeting with my meeting on the 31st.
- s. Ben: Yes, now that you have communicated with me about that, no worries.
- t. Liz: I wanted to give kudos to Afron for really helping with the Trunk-or-Treat theme, hotdog. You really are doing a great job with coming up with something for the Hotdog theme.

VII. New Business

- a. Guests: **Assistant Vice President of Student Success Joe Connell and Professor of Psychology Leah Warner**
 - i.  SGA Initial Meeting Middle States Self-Study 10.22.2025
 - ii. Leah: We are here to talk about Ramapo's Middle States Self study. I want to introduce myself. I am Professor of Social Psychology and Co-chair.
 - iii. Joe: Hi everyone, I am Joe Connell, Assistant Vice President of Student Success, Co-Chair and I know some of our other officers are not here but I will briefly introduce them. We also work with Joyce Shim, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs, Accreditation Liaison Officer as well as, Mike Unger, Associate Professor of Political Science / Acting Assistant Provost for Assessment and Accreditation, Accreditation Liaison Officer.
 - iv. Leah: With that being said, we wanted to come today to talk about the Middle States self-study, which is all about evaluating how the college is meeting its mission and improving the overall student experience. And this all starts with Accreditation. What it does is allow a college to provide federal financial aid, transfer credits, offer professional licensing and more. An example within Ramapo is Social Work, without the Accreditation we would not be able to have Social Work as a major. Self Study is important because we will send this data to the Middle State, which is Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is a non-governmental, voluntary, peer-based association that accredits degree-granting institutions of higher education. Accreditation is a rigorous, periodic process (typically an eight-year cycle) that assures students and the public of the institution's educational quality, financial stability, and continuous improvement efforts. Institutions must be accredited to receive federal financial aid (Title IV funds).
 - 1. Joe: SGA role: Show of hands of those who are 1 or 2 year students at ramapo, those who are will be more of the focus on our study. Our study will span mainly from the Fall 2026-Spring 2028, SGA will have involvement over the next two years with the greatest involvement in Fall 2027 and Spring 2028. so for those who are junior and seniors will be leaving sooner.
 - 2. Leah: So before we go into the timeline I also wanted to introduce another chair, Joyce Shim.

3. Joyce: Hello everyone, my name is Joyce Shim, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs, Accreditation Liaison Officer.
4. Leah: So our timeline, something we would like for you to be able to come to our event is, Wednesday, November 19th from 1-2pm at the Trustees Pavilion, Self-Study Campus
Next step: Spring 2026, we want to create our design for the development of our self-study report and we will start gathering evidence. Also we will have our VP Liaison from the Middle State visit to talk with us about our place and provide feedback, we will also see if he wants to see if there is time for students. Fall 2026-Spring 2027: We continue to gather evidence and we write a rough draft of the report. We will create a draft for campus feedback around April 2027. Summer 2027-beginning of fall 2027: We finalize and submit our report. Fall 2027: The Middle States evaluation team will come for a preliminary visit as we prepare for their official visit. Spring 2028: The Middle States evaluation team comes to our campus for a site visit. They get to know our college by speaking with us and seeing what our campus is all about. They use our interactions to help inform their perception of our college. Spring 2028: We get the evaluation results of our self-study, including whether we retain our reaccreditation status. They also have feedback to help us achieve our self-improvement goals. Sometimes this feedback is suggestive, and other times we're required to implement it.
5. Joe: We are also open for questions soon as well as hoping that some of SGA will be able to come to the Self-Step Campus Kick-Off. And before we open it up to questions we also want to open it up for questions and comments.
 - a. Liz: Thank you so much for coming to us with this is topic, a big thing we wanted to bring up this year with SGA is full transparency with
 - b. James: Once again thank you for coming, I know you mentioned a lot of wanting more involvement with Freshman and Sophomores, would you like a representation from SGA Freshman and Sophomores?
 - c. Joe: Yes and no, yes we would like to have lots of Freshman and Sophomores, but we would also love to have Juniors and Seniors to come as well, we could use all the input of all students but the study will mainly need first year and second year students.
 - d. Sebastian: I was hoping you could explain more about the evaluation process mainly more with the faculty to student evaluation, like what it will be based on grades or?
 - e. Leah: This is such a great question. It will be more based on the involvement of students within the classes, and grades, and how students are learning within the classroom and what types of learning styles.
 - f. Peter: I just had two questions: Are there different levels of accreditation?
 - g. Joe: Yes there are different levels of accreditation, what colleges want to do is to make sure that their accreditation is on the right standards. An example I can give is ASB business, it has its own specialized accreditation in addition to the college's overall accreditation. That means the program meets specific standards set for business education, which helps ensure quality and recognition for students graduating from that program.
 - h. Peter: My second question is what time and date is the community meeting and would you want SGA/student representation?

- i. Joe: We actually meet every Friday 12-1pm in the provost office, there are some meetings we would love to have some representation, we probably will not need them to come to every meeting but we would love to have student involvement.
- j. Joe: Before ending I want to say that we want to include and emphasize that we thank you all for having us as that we would really want to see some of you at our November event. Again thank you everyone.

b. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees

- 1. Liz - James and I are meeting with the Shared Governance committee today to discuss issues students are seeing on campus. Anything that you would like us to present?
 - a. Peter: Something that Lane has brought up to be is the harm to wildlife with the birds crashing into the academic buildings. I am not sure if there is a committee SGA can make.
 - b. James P: I know before there was a committee for this, but I know there are some clubs like the RCNJ birding that have been wanting to make some changes so for sure if you want to see what they have been working on definitely get into contact with them.

b. This Week on Campus

i.

VIII. Public Comment

a.

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 media! 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!](#) For those of you who have signed up, please see me after the general to discuss times to film the video!:)
 - ii. Counseling Services is hosting a Calm Down With Counseling Services on October 29th from 1 pm to 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. The next therapy animal visit will be on Wednesday, November 5th, from 1 pm - 3 pm in the Wellness Room (E-216)! You will be able to schedule an appointment through Archway 7 days before the visit!
 - 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: “The thin layer in which life exists is both fragile and resilient; the earth does not need us, which is why we should care about it.” —Eric Walsh
 - i. Any questions, comments, kudos, or concerns, for the CA school?
 - ii. James N: Kudos
 - iii. James P: Any update on the
 - iv. Peter: There has been a rough draft for what it will be, I think I had put it in the minutes for a meeting but I can show it is again. To connect with the tribes and the college since we are on land of the tribes. I am very excited
- c. Michael - I have my meeting with David Nast tomorrow. Anything for OSS?
 - 1. Liz: They are still putting the dumpster in the disability parking, I had moved them
 - 2. Dean Van Der Wall: It is an outside vender who is
 - 3. Ava: It is still happening, it had happened last night around 10pm
 - 4. Joe: I had parked closer to that spot
 - 5. Liz: Point of Clarification that is illegal to do.
 - ii. Uma and I are collaborating on an SGA initiative to provide resources to students with disabilities that OSS does not accommodate, as they were affiliated with 504 and IEP programs in lower education. If you have any ideas for resources that would help students with learning disabilities or sensory impairments, please email me or Uma. Thank you!
 - 1. Uma: To have tutors
- d. Alessia- Any questions, comments, or concerns for Title IX?
 - i. Take Back The Night is tomorrow, October 23rd, from 6-9 pm in the Alumni Lounges.
- e. Joe - Facilities updates
 - i. First, if you have anything that can be solved with a work order, please fill one out!! Once you do you can forward it to me and I'll try to get you a sped up answer.
 - 1. Also if you would like I can also link the form into the minutes or in groupme because I know some might not know where the link is located.
 - ii. I talked about permeable pavement in my last meeting with Nicole. May be doable but am in the process of receiving an answer on that
 - iii. Facilities are trying their best to keep as many elevators up and running. They know of the elevators that are broken and are waiting on the company to send the parts or come and repair them. The Mackin and Bischoff elevators that are down are hopefully gonna be fixed this week or next week.
 - iv. CPA laundry room update!!!! Facilities are trying their best to speed up the repair process. The funding has been granted for the project and capital planning is planning out the project now. The hope is the building will get revamped by at least the summer time. The room is able to survive the winter, but if anything were to happen, students would have to go to other laundry rooms which would be inconvenient. Any machine problems is Res Life and through a company called CACO.

- v. Also here's the rough concept for the dunkin signs and bathroom sign



- vi. Micheal: there are still some tweaks for some of the posters and what should be on these posters.
- vii. Finally, any questions or concerns for facilities?
1. Melissa: Kudos to you Joe, you are doing such a great job. I also have a question, what are students going to do if most of the washing and drying machines are not working and do not have friends who live in other residential locations?
 2. Joe: That I am not sure about that as of right now
 3. Dean Van Der Wall: I wanted to say kudos to you Joe, I also have been appointed to the dyers and washers. So Joe if you want to talk about this issue offline. There are short term and long term for the laundry room: In the future we want to
 4. Peter: I have brought this up to my RA about this issue, but I was wondering if there is any way I or someone else can put a sign put on the dyer or washers
 5. James: This could be a great issue for Lismary to bring up as well to ResLife.
 6. Joe: Thank you guys for this great feedback.
 7. David: A form would be a great thing to do as well, where students can fill out a form about the laundry room and if there are any broken machines in the laundry rooms.
 8. Matt: In the gender neutral bathroom the sink is broken, I will be putting a work order in but I wanted to let you know.
 9. Joe: I will bring all these things up in my next meeting.
- f. Ava – Firstly, I want to reiterate Liz's announcement of the Pre-Law Symposium on the 29th! Here is the flyer: Please come if you are available!

**Pre-Law
Symposium**

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
6:30 p.m. | Alumni Lounges, SC-158

Meet and hear from distinguished Ramapo College alumni who will discuss their law school experiences and experiences as attorneys.

SPEAKERS:

Michael Farhi '75
Law Office of Michael Farhi

Gina Hertzig '78
Law Office of Regina Hertzig

Jonathan Marcus '94
KPMG

Jennifer O'Neill '94
Benjamin Moore & Co.

Mark Schwed '02
Kirkland & Ellis

Contact fzanedis@ramapo.edu with questions.
The symposium is being coordinated by HGS, SSHS, the Cahill Center, and the Ramapo College Foundation.
Light refreshments served.



Register on
Handshake

 **RAMAPO
COLLEGE**
OF NEW JERSEY

For disability accommodations,
please call 201-684-7911 72 hours in advance.

- i.
- ii. Secondly, Law School Prep Club is having a murder mystery event in the spirit of Halloween, namely "Homicide at the Heist," on Monday, October 27th at 4:00 pm in A218! There will be food!
- iii. Lastly, I've already met with Jason, but I could always email him, so are there any questions, comments, or concerns for Public Safety?
 1. Peter: Any update on the gate?
 2. Ava: Yes actually, Jason has shown me a video of it being fixed!
- g. Melissa: The Spring 2026 Housing Intent Process is now available.
 - i. All residents must complete this process by October 30, 2025 (free of charge), this includes students:
 1. Graduating in December 2025 and May 2026
 2. Studying Abroad for Spring 2026
 3. Participating in National Student Exchange for Spring 2026
 4. Withdrawing or Transferring for Spring 2026
 5. Residents who do not complete the Spring 2026 Housing Intent Process may lose housing and must reapply for any future housing requests. In addition, your guaranteed housing status will no longer be in effect.
- h. ★ SGA Star of the Month! [October Form](#) (Please inform us of any issues with the form) Closes at 6pm on Tuesday!

X. Adjournment @ 2:26pm

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