

10/29/2025 SGA General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order [Wednesday, 10/29/2025] @ 1:06pm

I. Roll Call

- a. President - Liz Mendicino
- b. Vice President - James Pascal
- c. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
- d. Treasurer - Cesar Vivas (excused)
- 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 (excused)
- n. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal (absent)
- 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 (excused)
- x. CA School Senator - Peter Tunncliffe (excused)

- y. HGS School Senator
- z. SSHS School Senator
- 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
- jj. Senator-at-Large - Ayden Reed
- kk. Senator-at-Large - Michael Marino (excused)
- ll. Senator-at-Large - Sebastian Herrera(excused)
- mm. Senator-at-Large - Leana Thompson
- nn. Senator-at-Large - James Nieman (late)
- oo. Senator-at-Large - Nova Boehm (excused)
 - i. Present: 25
 - ii. Late: 1
 - iii. Excused: 10
 - 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 Lunaape Nation.

IV. Approving Meeting Minutes

- a.  10/22/25 General Meeting Minutes
 - i. Moved: Gianna
 - ii. Seconded: Ayden
 - 1. 12-0-0

V. President's Announcements

- a. Team Hot Dog for the win!! We won Trunk or Treat for the second year in a row last night. Huge thanks and shout out to Aidan for the idea, and Afrona for her creativity and hard work as always.
- b. We will be rescheduling with the Provost to discuss upcoming academic changes once he is able to.
- c. Today 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.
- d. 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](#)
- e. Tonight is Hot Wings & Hot Topics hosted by the BSU! Even if you are not signed up on the Upcoming Events sheet, please try and go! It is at 5:00pm in the Trustees Pavilion, and will be covering the topic *Black Votes Matter!*

VI. Cabinet Reports

- a. Vice President James Pascal
 - i. Club Process/Allocations today at 3:45pm in A-103
 - 1. If you or someone you know is interested in starting a club email sgaclubs@ramapo.edu
- 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
- c. Treasurer - Cesar Vivas
 - i. Nothing to report
- d. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann
 - i. Happy Wednesday! Cabinet Reports are due Friday (10/31) by end of day. Please let John and I know if there are any issues that come up and we will be more than happy to accommodate.
- 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, November 3rd, from 1-2 PM in room A-101.
 - ii. If anyone is interested in advertising on either the commuter sign or the TV, let me know!
 - iii. Upcoming events:
 - 1. Cider and Coco: November 6th from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 - 2. Commuter Focus Group: November 10th from 1-2 pm in B-225
 - 3. Commuter Breakfast: November 13th from 1-2 pm on the second floor of the Student Center
 - 4. Commutergiving: November 17th from 1-2 pm has been MOVED to Pav 1 & 2
 - a. There will be arts and crafts, lots of food, music, and possibly a raffle
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Sophia Kopreski
 - i. The next Delegate Affairs Committee meeting is Thursday, November 6th from 4-5pm.
- 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. Meet the Panthers of Omega Phi Chi is going to be Nov. 5th from 1-3pm in the student center
 - 2. Alpha Omicron Pi is having "AOII spike out" on November 23rd
 - 3. Alpha Sigma Alpha is having their fashion show November 17 in friends hall at 9:30pm
 - 4. Alpha Kappa Psi is having a basketball tournament fundraiser on Nov. 11th
 - a. More information on these events will be given when they are available
- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Amanda Shortt
 - i. Met with Pat today, will have a finalized date for the Trenton trip after November 4th. The next Governmental Affairs meeting will be next Tuesday from 12-1pm in A105.
- j. Secretary of Programming - Afrona Tozluku
 - i. Thank you to everyone who helped and came out to our Hot Dog themed Trunk or Treat car. Thanks to the hot dogs, the vendors, the hot dog vendors. There were a lot of great cars, but I am happy to say that we won.
 - ii. Next is Dunk Hunt!
- k. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber
 - i. The next Programming & PR committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4th from 12:00-1:00 PM in A220
- l. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
 - i. The meeting with Anne and Steph went beautifully. We had a deep debrief about how our school could improve in areas like school spirit and student involvement. A few people from SGA who attended mentioned the idea of using a credit system for commuters who want to switch to being residents.
 - ii. Anne shared that while the idea made sense in some ways, using a credit-based system could actually create more issues. For example, it might be unfair to residents who have been at the school for years and, during their final year, don't get their preferred dorm because someone with more credits—who has never lived on campus before—takes priority. Instead, she wants to move forward with implementing a system that gives commuters more say in the housing process without relying on credits.
 - iii. We also discussed how our campus could benefit from stronger community engagement and spirit. Sam brought up a great idea about featuring stories on social media—such as how students

met their friends at Ramapo through clubs, campus events, or other activities. These stories could be shared on special occasions throughout the year, like Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, or other meaningful dates, to highlight friendship and connection on campus. I think this could really encourage students, especially commuters, to branch out more and see that it's possible to form friendships and make an impact on campus, whether you're a resident or not.

- iv. Steph said the small QR code with a link tree to mental health resources and other resources on campus in the dorms would be great..these would be in the bathrooms, most likely on the mirrors as the bathroom is often a private and safe space. We are currently still brainstorming and are open to suggestions. Thank you! (sorry that was a lot to whoever is reading this for me lol)
- m. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi
 - i. Committee meeting today at 5:30
- n. Secretary of Service - Emily Beck
 - i. You can track your service hours for this semester here:
[SGA 2025-2026 Community Service Hours](#)
 - ii. In an effort to get the ball rolling and start the creation of a service policy that can be used campus wide to reference what service means to Ramapo as well as what qualifies as service, I would like to put out an interest form to you all. If you have any interest in shaping what this policy may look like, you can fill out this form and you will get added to a "working group" who will meet in the near future and begin a roundtable discussion assessing what our goal is, how other schools approach this topic, what service means, and phrasing of policy.
 - 1. This policy is something I would love to have completed and published (maybe eventually on the school website) within the timeframe of the spring semester. I may need support from all of you to get this accomplished but I truly think it'll make a positive impact for every Ramapo student, and hopefully encourage more service minded students.
 - 2. Here is the form if you are interested :) <https://forms.gle/u4okqGG7p8ep4JTV9>
- o. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
 - i. Nothing to report
 - ii. One month left for requirements, so get your requirements done soon.
- p. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala
 - i. HGS School Senator applications are still open!
 - 1. Any interested students can apply [here](#)!
 - ii. We went over liaison reports!
 - 1. Liaison reports for our new senators are due next week! Please let David or I know as soon as possible if that is not possible!
 - iii. Everything we have discussed can be found in the [minutes](#).

q. Student Trustee - Sarah Glisson

i. 6 days until Election Day! I encourage you all to exercise your right to vote.

1. Election Countdown raffle happening until Friday!

ii. The Oxfam Hunger Banquet is set for Wednesday, Nov. 19th. 6-7:30 pm in Alumni Lounges

VII. New Business

a. **Guest: Allene Shapiro, Coordinator of Student Engagement**

i. Topic: Bird Strikes

ii. Allene: Hi everyone for those who may not know me, my name is Allene Shapiro, I would be with CCEC, today I am actually not here for CCEC, I am here to talk about the bird strikes.

1. Our first meeting we had in the beginning of the year a topic that was brought up was the birds flying into the builds. Ramapo is part of the Bird Safe Campuses program, which emphasizes window strike monitoring, education, and remediation. The patterns on these windows help birds on campus see the glass and prevents them from flying into it. What we had kinda come with is that Cailin O'Conner is the one who studies birds and her and students are the ones who handle situations with the birds, as well as the bird club, they are both trying to do more about the birds. But what has come out of this meeting is I am not sure if you guys have seen the lines of the lower winds by D hall, or even the dots on the winds by the fishbowl. But with that they are very hard to put on the windows as well as very expensive. Another thing we had talked about in the meeting is have a website <https://www.ramapo.edu/ramapo-green/bird-strike-resources/> where we have lots of information about what are doing and what we plan on doing, as well as even what to do when seeing dead birds or injured birds as well. If you see any birds on the grown weather they are hurt or dead, please do not touch them or try to help and move them aside, one if you move them it could actually harm them as well as birds are not as clean and you do not want to touch them, secondly if you take a bird to try and rehabilitate the bird it is actually illegal in New Jersey, so if see a bird anywhere where it looks hurt please refrain from touching them and you can either call public safety or email Cailin

O'Connor coconnor@kean.edu, Cailin and her student also go around campus to find any hurting birds and they work with some of local bird rehabilitation centers and resources.

- a. Mihir: What is the main thing that is stopping us from putting on the decals onto the windows?
 - b. Allene: Are you talking about the dots or the lines?
 - c. Mihir: The dots.
 - d. Allene: The cost is the main part, it would be very expensive.
 - e. James: Are these information pamphlets, or even any information about the birds sticks on the windows or around?
 - f. Allene: So we do not have any pamphlets near the windows but that is a good idea about putting more information, I think also there is some stuff on the TV's that we have links to the websites.
- b. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees
- i. Student Leaders Council (Mihir, Liz, Matt, Sam, and Lismary): Met with Dean Van Der Wall, Nicole Morgan Agard, BSU Co-President Desiree S. Bounds, Sec. Commuter Affairs Matt, Sec. Residential Affairs Lismary, and Sec. Fraternity and Sorority Sam on October 22nd, at 3:15 PM. We all gave updates on the updates, initiatives, and concerns we are tackling in our respective roles. One main concern we talked about was about how to get people involved who may be introverted or not enticed to be involved, in which we spoke about the need for reliability between student leaders and other students (through social media perhaps), and the need to market/advertise the accomplishments and successes of our clubs and organizations. In addition, we spoke on the need to have more accessibility of online resources around campus, in which we discussed the current SGA Senate initiative of online resources in bathrooms, and the possible options of having this kind of signage in residence halls as well. Finally, we also spoke about the current talks of including commuter students within the housing process and came to agreement that commuter students should be implemented into the housing process through a strict credit based system.
 - ii. Shared Governance (Liz & James): Discussed issues facing staff, faculty, and students, as well as the State of the College Address. Some topics we covered: Valley Health, students' mental health, upcoming opportunities for shared governance, and advisement. Noted the importance of future oriented policy. The SGA will remain a strong collaborator with any Shared Governance initiative

iii. Academic Policy Council (Gianna): I have some things to report from the Academic Policy Council which was held this past Thursday. Vice Provost Shim would like the SGA to know that the meeting minutes are public and posted on the RCNJ website. She would like for the students to become aware of what policies are in the process of being revised and/or changed completely. She would love student feedback as most of these policies would affect us students and not necessarily the faculty reviewing them. At the meeting the Posthumous Degree Policy Edit was approved. Some current policy reviews include the Minimum and Maximum Course Enrollment, Course Delivery Modes, Academic Integrity, Human Subjects in Research, and Retaking Courses and Grade Replacement.

a. This Week on Campus

i. A parting message from former SSHS School Senator, El Sharo.

1. Hi everyone, I wanted to say that you are all important student leaders. We do a lot of things around campus, including our classes, clubs and many other facts, and sometimes you can feel the pressure to do more but you also need to remember that you need to take care of yourself. Therefore, I will be stepping down, it saddens me but I know that I need to take care of myself as well, and I want you guys to remember that too, do not forget to take care of yourself and that you are all doing great!
2. Liz: I want to thank you El for all the hard work you have put in not only with SGA but also being the student on the committee with the Valley Health and how proud I am with also knowing when you needed to take a step down for yourself, I know we had talked about in within general about mental health doing temperature checks. But thank you El so much for all the work you have done and we will miss you.

ii. Changes to the Schools

1. Ginna: TAS is being changed to the school as School of Science, Nursing and Health, as well as
2. Rick: The information was sent out to others as well as having it on the Provost Website as well showing all the new changes.

<https://www.ramapo.edu/provost/wp-content/uploads/sites/380/2025/10/Provost-Plan-Oct-2025.pdf>

- a. Emily: Is the process of our school senators, will it be changed in the fall?

- b. Mihir: Yes, during the spring elections it should be in place for the next fall. It is more about name changes as well.
- c. Liz: We also have a committee that is going over the constitution as well.
- iii. Initiative to Implement Online Resources in Bathrooms (Mihir and Joe)
 - 1. Mihir: So we have been finalizing all the information, we will have thinking linked like facilities, mental health resources. I think we should have everything done soon.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Allene: I had a comment about the belonging of students and the ResLife issues. We are working more within CSI on prompting things on Instagram and around campus, so if there are any questions or help that is needed for these things please come to CSI and let us know too.
- b. Jack: First off I want to echo with a fantastic trunk-or-treat event, thank you all for coming out and showing up as well, we had a great turnout. So congrats to SGA for winning two years in a row! I also want to also say thank you to you El, I have seen your growth since your freshman year, and you have grown in such a positive way, and will continue to. El you have done so much and will continue to as well, sad to see you leave SGA but I am glad you are taking this time to think about yourself.
- c. Events: November 6th 1pm A101 project L.E.A.D. Touchdown for Success: Sports & Motivational leadership, Learn how you can make this rest of this semester a success with encouragement, dedication, and hard work using themes from sports cultures and teams at this month's Project L.E.A.D. This session will provide insightful tips and positive conversations with other student leaders. November 6th there will also be 2:30pm multicultural center First Gen will be having a First Gen-Success event where you can share your first-generation success stories and celebrate First Generation Month at Ramapo! RCNJ first-gen students, faculty, and staff can create their own first-generation success posters, personal branding boards, and kudos stars to give to those who have helped you along the way. SUN November 19th senior to senior to talk about how the fall semester has been going and what to look forward to in the spring at 3pm in the multicultural center.
- d. Also November is also first-generation month!!!!
- e. Rick: Kudos to Jack, last night was the 10th anniversary of Trunk-or-Treak and with one of the best turnout by far, and kudos to you guys as well. Sunday also starts Black Solidarity month, and on Monday from 12pm- 2pm BSU will be having Black Solidarity Week March, Following tradition in preceding years, an "Honoring Our Ancestors Vigil" will occur on campus. We encourage all to wear black to honor our ancestors and to show solidarity as a group. At 1 p.m. participants will begin gathering on campus and

the group will depart from the Arch at 1:15 p.m. and then be escorted by Public Safety to the Hopper Slave Cemetery across Route 202 where a vigil will be held. Please if you are able to come out and support BSU.

IX. Open Forum

- a. Uma - Anything for the Center for Health and Counseling Services
 - i. The Center for Health and Counseling Services would like to clarify that all of their services are 100% confidential to students. The only exceptions are cases where there's a risk of harm to the student, to others, or if there's a sign for potential violence
 - ii. Currently working with Mihir and Joe about the bathroom QR Code signage
 - iii. Michael and I OSS Initiative Update: We believe that pushing for more extensive tutoring programs is highly needed!
 - iv. The **Roadrunner Collegiate Recovery Program** supports students in recovery from substance use disorders by providing a community of peers who are committed to a substance-free lifestyle. If anyone is interested in learning more, you can email crosenk@ramapo.edu
 - v. The next therapy animal visit will be on Friday, November 7 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Wellness Room (E-216). You will be able to schedule an appointment through Archway 7 days before the visit!
 - vi. 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
 - vii. Everyone's doing a great job:)
- b. Joe - Any questions or concerns for Facilities, planning a meeting for next Monday.
- c. Ava – Some Public Safety updates: Jason will be giving me more information regarding a Winter Car Safety Demonstration that is happening soon. He wants the SGA to help promote it. Student IDs will now include the Suicide Prevention Hotline, and Jason will check if the PSafe office location can also be added for when IDs get lost. A campus Signage Project is underway, which will include parking area signs. The front security gate has been repaired after a delay caused by waiting for replacement parts. Public Safety will soon update the message about paying citations to direct students to the website for easier access. Lastly, Jason said he is available next Monday for the lighting audit. Senate will obviously be assisting, but is anyone interested in helping?
 - i. Uma: Kudos to Public Safety for helping me.
- d. Alessia- Any questions, comments, concerns, or kudos for Title IX?
- e. Mihir - Anything for me to bring up to Dean Van Der Wall?
- f. Gianna- Any comments, questions, concerns, or kudos for TAS?
 - i. The Ramapo College Dance Team is hosting our Boo-Runch (used to be called our Pasta Dinner). It is a huge fundraiser of ours and it is a great time! We will be having brunch and it is like a

tricky tray type of event. I would extremely appreciate it if you guys could show up. You do have to pay to go but I have talked to my coaches to give you a discounted rate if a big enough group goes! Since we are fully fundraised this would really help us out. It is November 1st at 11:00 am at the 18th Amendment in Rutherford, NJ. The address is 19 Union Ave Rutherford, NJ.

g. David - ITS Liaison Meeting Report

- i. ITS is trying to fix all the projectors in the academic builds, they have
- ii. Also I have talked about maybe getting some excused students depending on their major and EOF.
- iii. What we also talked about is having more of the school changing into going into screen allowed classrooms.
- iv. I was also informed that ITS Liaison did apologize for using the phrase “Screaming Ipad”, and that they also assumed most students have access to computers and Ipads, but what he was told is that the We Care Program has things like upcycle computers and that they also could provide Ipad.

1. Allene: I have been in contact with ITS and they have been informed that we actually do not provide Ipads anymore but we still do have upcycle laptops.

h. ★ SGA Star of the Month.....Mihir Jariwala!!!!

X. Adjournment @ 2:16pm

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