

09/29/2025 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 09/29/2025]

Meeting called to order on [09/29/2025] at 7:05 pm in ASB-219

I. Roll Call

- a. President Liz Mendicino
- b. Senate President Mihir Jariwala
- c. Senate Vice President David George
- d. Senate Secretary Julia Kotowski
- e. TAS School Senator Gianna Marchica
- f. CA School Senator Peter Tunnicliffe
- g. ASB School Senator Ismael Carcamo
- h. SSHS School Senator El Sharo (late-excused)
- i. HGS School Senator Elaina Evers (excused)
- j. Senator Ava Cicero-Johnson
- k. Senator Joseph Brubaker
- l. Senator Michael Chabot
- m. Senator Alessia Mendicino (excused)
- n. Senator Evelyn Santangelo (excused)
- o. Senator Julia Rowan (excused)
- p. Senator Uma Advani
- q. Senator Nathaniel Bergren

i. Late: 2

ii. Absent: 0

Mission Statement

The Ramapo College Student Government Association serves as the persistent voice of the student body. While representing the student body and the ideals of Ramapo College of New Jersey, the Student Government Association, through unity in diversity, embraces student leadership in all forms.

Land Acknowledgement

SGA respectfully acknowledges that we are hosting our meeting on the ancestral and traditional Indigenous territory of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. [Senate Meeting Minutes 09/22/2025](#)
 - i. Moved: Peter
 - ii. Second: Gianna
 - iii. 8-0-1

III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. Thanks to everyone who showed up to bonding! 🤝
 - i. The next bonding planned will be a Media Day!
- b. [Oktoberfest/Homecoming](#) is this week! (October 2-5)
- c. The Fall Senate Election Campaigning Period has begun its 2nd week!
 - i. Support your candidates and spread the word about the voting period.
- d. [Upcoming Events](#):
 - i. De-Stress Bag Making (Thursday, October 2nd)
 - ii. Pridefest (Wednesday, October 8th)
 - 1. You will be excused from General if you volunteer.
- e. Fill out the [Community Service Trip Interest Form](#)!
 - i. Will gauge what service trip would most interest the SGA.
- f. The [Cosponsorship Form](#) is live!
 - i. Please let any clubs or organizations interested in collaborating with SGA know!

IV. New Business

- a. Bills to Lookout For!
 - i. [Senate Bill 2025-F-XX: Aux Gym](#)
 - 1. Credits: Peter Tunnicliffe, Julia Rowan, Gianna Marchica, Liz Mendicino, and Benjamin Hartmann
 - 2. Currently work in progress, feel free to provide feedback!
 - ii. [Senate Bill 2025-F-XX: Resolution on Valley Health](#)
 - 1. Credits: El Sharo, Liz Mendicino, Sarah Glisson, James Pascal
 - 2. Will be presented at this upcoming General!
- b. Cosponsorship: Helicopter Landing Demonstration (RCEMS)

- i. Date: Thursday, 10/02
- ii. Presenter: Nate Bergren
- iii. Asking for marketing
 - 1. Marketing Requested: Social media and meeting
- iv. Proposed: Motion to approve the Helicopter Landing Demonstration (RCEMS)
- v. Moved: Gianna
- vi. Second: El
- vii. 10-0-1
- c. Liaison Reports
 - i. Please write your name, liaison, and summary points from your report below!
 - ii. Mihir (Dean of Students): Met with Dean Van Der Wall. Spoke about the commuter sign initiative started by Alan, Matthew, and David, and we were able to discuss alternatives and the next step of this initiative. The majority of our meeting however was speaking on the current events of the world and how they were influencing the student atmosphere. In addition, we spoke about the accolades the college has received at the start of this academic year. ([Report](#))
 - iii. David (ITS): ITS is working on increasing the page count from 200 pages and has been looking into the feedback from the SGA. There are issues with the payment system, but everyone will be reset to 0 pages once it is fixed. They are now going to work on adding a link to Microsoft Office access on the website and are going to advertise it in the Daily Digest. They are working on improving the projectors and computer media across the academic buildings - A Wing should be completed by October 8th.
 - 1. Peter: Better wifi in Berrie?
 - a. David: Have them fill out a help desk
 - iv. Uma (Center for Health and Counseling Services): Met with Dr. Judith Green. We mainly spoke about September being National Suicide Prevention Month and the upcoming events that the Center hosted. The Center created a Ramapo team for the Out of Darkness Walk event if that's something SGA would be interested in. Also talked about current events of the world and how they are influencing students and the multitude of mental health resources available on our campus.

- v. Nate (Cahill): People have been forging their pathway's three certificates. Anyone who forges a certificate will be brought to the provost. Other than that Cahill had a great summer with their events.
1. David: Is there a way to work on streamlining the Pathways programs to focus on specific majors, post-grad tracks, etc?
 2. Liz: For many post-grad tracks, such as law school, med school, etc, there is little official support advertised and most students only get support through other students, faculty, and themselves.
- vi. Evelyn (First-Generation Student Office): Met with Uma Mahalingam on September 18th. We talked about the highlights/logistics of the Legacies in the Making Program. 66 students out of 103 applicants participated in the program and 18 of 45 applicants were Legacy Leaders over the summer. Uma was really happy with the turn out for this program and having participated as a Legacy Leader myself I can attest that program went really well. We also talked about the newly renovated office, you should definitely go check it out if you haven't already. During our meeting, Uma said that she plans to host a ribbon cutting event on November 5th from 1-2:30 pm in celebration of the new office (more details to come). We also talked about November being First-Generation month and some possible events to happen such as Breakfast above the Student Center on November 3rd. Lastly, First-Gen Honor Society (Tri-Alpha) inductions is planned for Wednesday November 19th, 2025 from 5-6 in Friends Hall (\$35 fee for lifetime membership).
- vii. Peter (CA):
- **Dean** Goldstein is interested in the advisory board idea created by the academic affairs committee.
 - **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. You could also fill out a work order if the issue pertains to facilities.
 - **The** faculty is currently talking about whether or not they should offer more 2 credit courses for students that want to take certain courses but can't afford it credit wise.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

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

- **Most** if not all reservable spaces in Berrie Center and H-wing can be scheduled through the 25live site.
 - **A** student expressed concerns a while ago about the experiential learning hour that is determined by the professors. Unfortunately, if you have complications with fulfilling this credit hour, this will have to be sorted case by case with the dean!
 - **As** one of my personal missions, I believe that every student going into the music industry should be required to take certain courses to prepare them for the industry better even if they aren't majoring in Music Industry specifically. I will be working with Dean Goldstein to see how we can implement this with the curriculum prepared by faculty.
 - **One** of my goals for this year is to have more student artwork prevalent on campus. This year there's student work in the learning commons on the 3rd and 4th floor. One of the bigger concerns with having student work featured around campus is that there aren't many secure places to feature them. So one of the solutions is to have student work promoted digitally through the TVs in the academic wings! Another idea I had was to install cabinets on the left wall of the D-wing coming from the fishbowl. There's some student work up in C-wing and H-wing!
 - **Dean** Goldstein also is trying to advocate for the renovation of both H-wing and BC. I am creating a form that would allow students to voice their own personal concerns with the buildings and I would like for this initiative to be backed by the SGA if possible.
 - Mihir: We would be more than happy to back this initiative.
- viii. Lane (HGS): Nothing too big, we have a lot of social media ideas but we're waiting for the hired student aide to finish the hiring process. We will have student spotlights ([HGS Student Spotlight Form](#)) and any and all kudos to professors/faculty are made into cards and given to them. Lastly, our first HGS Faculty & Student Event will be on October 8th at 4:30pm, more details to follow.
- ix. Alessia (Title IX): Met with Kat McGee on September 7th. We mainly talked about ways to reach out to the student body. Kat wants to know

more about how the student body is feeling and if they have any questions or concerns regarding Title IX. Finally, we started to discuss ideas about how to make students feel safer on campus.

- x. El Sharo (SSHS): Social Media: Contact Marketing, see who runs ASB Instagrams and how they post. Ultimate Goal: Once a week post. The thought is that SSHS is one of the largest schools, psychology is our largest major, and we have a lot going on. Dean Lorenz highlights that if it can be used as a tool to build community then he is all for it. Ramapo Green: Reported to me that the staff who are taking the place of the past president are overwhelmed. Dean Lorenz referred me to speak to facilities
- xi. Gianna (TAS): I had my liaison meeting with Dean Chan on Friday, September 26. We spoke about his endeavors for TAS and his initiatives as a newer Dean here at RCNJ. In regards to the TAS Mentorship Program, Dean Chan pointed out that we need to stay on top of the program if it's going to happen. He suggested to mentor as groups so there's numbers and have these be networking sessions with upperclassmen and lowerclassmen. He wants to work in faculty with this and have more student to student interactions with faculty supervision. Meet the Dean, he would love to host open Dean Office Hours for students to say hello or come to meet him and bring up any concerns.
- xii. Ismael (ASB) I met with Dean Ed Petkus to discuss some ideas I had and also gave him kudos for the ASB instagram page. I also presented some ideas and initiatives I had in mind such as the Battle of the Clubs for the ASB, to build some teamwork, strengthen relationships, and increase awareness of ASB clubs and courses to promote school spirit. Petkus supported the idea as long as it falls under the CSI guidelines. I brought up the idea to promote the bloomberg terminals more and the Dean suggested making an instagram video regarding that. I am supposed to meet his student secretary *Dylan* but our schedules are very conflicting. I did propose the idea to get more Bloomberg terminals in the ASB but the cost of bringing around 11 more according to the Dean is about \$24,000. I did speak with some professors and apparently there's this promotion where if we get 3 bloomberg terminals we get 11 free. I plan to collaborate with the Ramapo Financial Group to see if we can get one more Bloomberg terminal which costs around 2,000\$-3,000\$ each. Which I am thinking is

possible especially due to the fact that we are a business school and we can raise enough of that capital to get it and get 11 for free to get more students bloomberg certified because it helps them out looking for a job especially as an Econ, Finance, or Accounting majors.

- xiii. Ava (Public Safety) - Front gate upgrades are underway following summer crashes, and obsolete gates have been removed. Parking pass distribution created confusion due to the lack of confirmation emails and temporary permits; Jason will coordinate with the software company to improve the process. Efforts are being made to strengthen commuter communication through orientation and clearer reminders, and adding Public Safety's number to new Ramapo ID cards is under consideration. Students should call Public Safety for facilities issues, such as hornet nests, to ensure proper documentation and timely response. We are working out ways to fix the lack of lighting around the CPAs. Jason is thinking about conducting a survey and having PSafe and SGA representatives evaluate where lights are needed.
1. Nate: What is the plan for the current distribution of parking permits for this semester for students that have still not received permits even after applying?
 - a. Ava: I would recommend going to Public Safety and asking for updates and documentation.
 2. Liz: To clarify on the lighting survey, they have done it in previous years, but not under the current head of Public Safety. Also, I was wondering why Village residents can no longer park in lot B-3?
 - a. Ava: They re-evaluated the parking and B-3 is now commuter parking.
 - i. Liz: There is currently no sign dictating that this is now commuter parking.
 3. Peter: It would be helpful to improve signage in the parking lots to avoid confusion. Also, on the back of the current ID cards, it states to return lost cards to Public Safety, however it does not provide where the office is.
- xiv. Joe (Facilities) - Concerns and Updates from 2 meetings with Nicole Jones and 1 meeting with Alan Kashian .

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

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

- Revamp the ramp by the village as it damaged- Gonna happen next year, it is not currently an ADA compliant walkway, so for people who need village access, current way is by A lot, but the project will be tackled next year
- Tier system for issues and allowing students to sort their work orders by severity - Already has a sorting system for when things come in, Maybe solution is to add section talking about proper filling out or stress urgency
- CPA issue with leak in ceiling - prob not gonna get fixed, it is known that it leaks, but it would need a whole new roof
- Work order sit there, updates, solution or denial would be appreciated - There's priority and certain issues take precedence over others and updates will be provided when possible.
- Elevators - Overlook - Laurel, Quad 3 are broken - Waiting for parts, no direct team on campus, at the liberty of the company they work with, Reporting the elevators going out as soon as possible, or call service desk to ask, Don't jump in elevators or hold elevators, Or if it feels like breaking then fill out a work order.
- Sodexo linen and rent for reusable tablecloths Robert Quan may be able to help.
- Put the word recycle out there - Stop on top of the lid or 2 step lid with a sign on it for recycling, Red and green stuff that show goods and bads
- Door broken in student center by alumni lounges - work order submitted and fixed.
- CPA laundry room closure. Said it was closed and its not and then its not - Thats reslife thing not facilities.
- Better lighting in the cpas, Too many spooky scary spots, Safety issues, people are bothered - Find spots in CPAs or all around campus.
- A/C is asb is super hot and is in need of support - Hoping to finish up this week, chiller is up and running and hopefully good by end of week

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

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

- QR Code for bathrooms for issues such as broken things, no toilet paper and low stock on menstrual products. - It is doable, needs a sign for it, Person who submits will get updates
 - Dunkin sign for recycling and how to properly recycle - Design a sign
 - Fridge Count for El - Every room has a fridge, ask res life how many rooms there are.
 - Commuter lot paving is happening next year
 - Linden building plan is happening soon
 - The stairs in the upper part of CPAs are being worked on
 - The ramp to overlook is a high priority
 - Recycling improvement and trying to tell people about how to recycle correctly. Recycling bins on campus are usually contaminated with non recyclable items. Educating and signage may help in solving the problem.
 - Mihir: Anything for Facilities?
 - Michael: When designing signs, it is better to use shapes and symbols rather than colors.
 - Nate: From what I understand about the laundry room issues, I understand that the purpose of it is to fix anything broken and reduce issues. Also, the Overlook elevator is fixed.
 - Joe: I was unaware of the elevator, but I can assume it is up and running now. Long term for the CPA laundry room, it may be moved in the long-term.
 - Liz: For clarification El, what is the fridge estimate being used for?
 - El: Ordering magnets.
- xv. Michael (OSS) - Since last year, the online platform used for affiliations has been upgraded. So far, there have not been any complaints about the new process. New tutorial material has been provided, and the new formatting is more phone-friendly. EDIC is taking the lead on the college being “digitally accessible” on all online spaces; Canvas, school sites, and social media pages. Aims to achieve full digital accessibility by April

2026, a goal set under the Biden Administration. There are more details on what digital accessibility can be achieved in my report. Also, new warning pads and curb cuts were added over the Summer to the commuter lots to make it safer for students with disabilities. As of right now, the college has gotten funding through TRIO Grants for the present academic year. There are 3 TRIO grants the school usually receives, OSS benefits from the Student Support Services grant, which pays the salaries of 2 OSS counselors who serve roughly 300 students together. For context, OSS now serves 720 students. Next year is still in question, but US Congress currently shows continued support for the TRIO grants. A budget could be released as soon as October 1st, but it is not likely.

V. Public Comment

a.

VI. Open Forum

- a. Mihir - [Red Folder](#) is a one-stop shop for assisting students in distress and will help you determine how to respond and help students connect to appropriate campus resources. See Something. Say Something. Do Something.
- 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 IEP's 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 wasn't 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. Multiple mental health resources on campus. If you or anyone you know would like to know more, please contact me at uadvani@ramapo.edu
 - iii. Everyone's doing a great job:)

- c. Evelyn: Anything for the First-Gen office anyone wants me to bring up at my next meeting or any questions regarding my report?
- d. Lane: Please email me for any comments, kudos or questions for HGS!
(eevers@ramapo.edu)
 - i. ARM has a remembrance day tabling tomorrow in the fishbowl from 3-5!
Please make sure to wear orange!
- e. 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. Any questions, comments, kudos, or concerns for me or the CA School?

VII. Adjournment

- a. **Time:** 8:49
 - i. **Moved:** Gianna
 - ii. **Second:** El