

12/01/2025 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 12/01/2025]

Meeting called to order on [12/01/2025] at 7:02 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 Ava Cicero-Johnson
- i. HGS School Senator Tyler O'Connor-Dilello
- j. Senator Joseph Brubaker
- k. Senator Michael Chabot
- l. Senator Alessia Mendicino (excused)
- m. Senator Evelyn Santangelo (excused)
- n. Senator Julia Rowan (excused)
- o. Senator Uma Advani
- p. Senator Nova Boehm
- q. Senator Sebastian Herrera
- r. Senator Michael Marino (late-excused)
- s. Senator James Nieman (late-excused)
- t. Senator Ayden Reed
- u. Senator Leana Thompson
- v. Senator Ahmet Angun
- w. Senator Jalen Lacy
- x. Senator Christian Soberal (excused)
 - i. Late:
 - ii. Absent:



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

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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 11/24/2025](#)
 - i. Moved: Ayden
 - ii. Second: Ava
 - iii. 13-0-3

III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. This is our last Senate meeting of the Fall semester! 😞
- b. Fun Senate is next week! 🎉
- c. **Reminder to get your requirements done!**
 - i. Event Requirement and Community Service Hours!
- d. Reminder to wear business casual for this week's general meeting!
 - i. ASW Andrea Katz will be joining us!
- e. [Upcoming Events:](#)
 - i. Finals Readiness Kits: Thursday 12/4, from 1:30-2:10 PM (Fishbowl)

IV. New Business

- a. Club Approval: American Medical Women's Association
 - i. [Constitution](#)
 - ii. [Club Presentation](#)
 - iii. Questions:
 - 1. James: How will you ensure that you stay inclusive to students who are not women?
 - a. You can be in the club through Ramapo regardless of gender, however national membership benefits will not apply.

2. Mihir: Do members pay dues for the national membership?
 - a. I believe that nationally, members pay a one-time fee, but our members will not have to be a part of the Ramapo section. E-board will pay dues, then use the benefits they receive to help members.
- iv. Discussion:
 1. David: I think it is a big organization since women tend to be overlooked in the medical field.
 2. Liz: As we've seen other organizations that are affiliated with national organizations, and I think they've addressed any concerns regarding dues and payment well.
 3. Mihir: They addressed my concern about the dues very well, and their solution seems very effective. The large e-board is also good since it allows for e-board positions to be filled in the future.
 - v. Proposed: Motion to approve American Medical Women's Association
 - vi. Moved: Leana
 - vii. Second: Peter
 - viii. 17-0-0
- b. Club Approval: Turning Point USA
 - i. Constitution
 - ii. [Club Presentation](#)
 - iii. Questions:
 1. Ismael: Due to this being a liberal arts school, how would you handle questions from students with opposing viewpoints?
 - a. We would have a discussion and believe that seeing different perspectives is necessary for a liberal arts education.
 2. Ismael: Would you have any monetary funding?
 - a. We would get some from the national organization.
 3. Ava: Faculty advisor and e-board ages?
 - a. Prof. Mark Scowronski
 - b. Matt and Anthony are transfers, Jimmy is a senior, Sage is a senior, but we have involvement from younger members.
 4. James: How many students do you have besides e-board?

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- a. We have 36 members in the GroupMe and got some signatures during the club fair.
5. Jalen: You have mentioned that the national organization will provide funding, but will the e-board have to pay dues?
 - a. No, we will not be paying dues
6. Michael: Does the club associate with the beliefs and messages of Charlie Kirk?
 - a. We are founded on the beliefs of free markets, fiscal responsibility, and limited government, and all of his beliefs do not define the club.
7. Michael: Would you have a relationship with clubs that focus on religions that Charlie Kirk was against?
 - a. Yes, we would welcome anyone and even if they are a different religion, that doesn't matter. If you are curious about Turning Point or have any questions, come to the club and we can have a conversation.
8. Liz: What are your plans for collaboration with other organizations that focus on civic engagement and politics?
 - a. We would be happy to partner with other organizations on a case by case basis. Our club is Conservative ideological focused.
9. Mihir: How would being affiliated with the national organization function?
 - a. I believe we are technically already affiliated with the national organization, however we are not recognized within Ramapo yet. If the club is approved here, we will be fully affiliated.

iv. Discussion:

1. Michael: Club process decided that Turning Point was not too similar to the Republican club, what factors go into that?
 - a. James: Republican club is partisan, meanwhile Turning Point is non-partisan and ideologically based.
2. Ismael: He is a good presenter, and the fact that he does not believe everything that Charlie Kirk does is good, as it shows that himself and the club members have their own viewpoints. There are also

few conservative clubs on campus and a variety may benefit the liberal arts nature of our school.

- a. James: It would be good for a club with views opposing the larger opinions of students at Ramapo would be good as it would open discussion.
3. Jalen: I know that fees do vary for other Turning Point chapters, especially for security and events, so that may be a concern.
 - a. James: For those kinds of events, especially security, Ramapo may aid in handling that with Public Safety.
4. James: I think that the club meets all of the requirements to become a club, and interest is high based on current membership. I think it would be good for them to work with other clubs at Ramapo as well.
5. Joe: My concern is that two of the e-board members are seniors, and we do not know if those who take over after them will be able to remain as open and unbiased.
 - a. Mihir: If a situation like that did happen, Ramapo would take action since e-board members still need to follow certain rules that the college sets. They would likely also train those who want to take over.
 - i. Uma: They also clarified this in club process.
 - James: Would SGA be able to address any issues within clubs such as this?
 - a. Liz: Not at the time, but this is something that we would like to have a part in and it is in progress.
6. Nova: My concern is what Turning Point typically does on other campuses, specifically regarding their debate style and speakers or preachers that they bring in, which could escalate.
 - a. Mihir: The school is strict on speakers and they would have to get a permit.
 - b. Liz: We have had people come onto campus to preach before, and Ramapo is able to handle that on a case by case basis, depending if they are going against Ramapo policy. In specific instances, those who have come onto campus to

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preach hateful rhetoric have been peacefully countered by students.

- i. Uma: We also had this concern in club process, and they stated that they do not want the club to debate aggressively, and rather want it to be a calm place for discussion.
7. Ahmet: Has the club done anything to distance themselves from the organization's spokespeople's hateful rhetoric?
 - a. There has not been anything they could do, but they are stating that they do not follow the organization's beliefs blindly.
8. Tyler: Jimmy is a very respectful person when disagreeing, and I believe that he would be able to run the club calmly. I also believe that showcasing opposing viewpoints is important as long as it is done properly.
9. Ismael: I believe that highlighting different beliefs in a Democracy is necessary.
10. Michael: My concern is that, although the club wants to remain peaceful and not specifically rooted in Charlie Kirk's beliefs, but that goes against the national organization's beliefs openly.
 - a. Gianna: My concern is the negative connotation of Turning Point, regardless of how the e-board wants the club to be run.
 - i. David: They want to differentiate themselves from how the national Turning Point functions and is perceived.
 - b. Peter: Turning Point has not always been specifically about Charlie Kirk's viewpoints, however it has turned into that after his death. It is also very difficult to separate the ideals of the Ramapo chapter's e-board from the national organization's ideals.
 - i. David: According to the national organization's website, they have various missions, and while one mission is continuing Charlie Kirk's vision, they

seem to want to focus on the organization's other missions.

11. Liz: To clarify, this has been an ongoing process for 6+ months.
 12. Ayden: I know that they are trying to distance themselves from Charlie Kirk's viewpoints and focus on other missions, but what would the point of this be if Turning Point is so open about these viewpoints.
 - a. Mihir: I believe that this is because Turning Point is the largest Conservative organization and different from other organizations.
 13. Jalen: I firmly believe that this club could educate members who come in through meaningful discussion, but my concern is their potential members, who may be entering the club with specific visions of what Turning Point is.
 - a. James: To clarify, if the club gets to a point where violent or hateful rhetoric is being used, Ramapo would step in and address it.
 - b. Liz: Even now, CSI and Dean Van der Wall are keeping an eye on the club to address these concerns.
 14. Ava: Are we able to ask them to change their name to make them not affiliated with the national Turning Point organization? I also do not see any procedural issues with the approval of the club.
 - a. James: A name change would set them back in the club approval process, and likely they would like to keep the name for recognition purposes.
 15. Nova: While I think that the club should go through on procedural reasons, but what if the club inspires others to act hatefully?
 - a. Mihir: That is a concern, but it is only hypothetical and would be dealt with if it did occur.
 16. James: The club meets all procedural requirements, and if any issues or controversy do arise those would be possible in any setting, not just in the context of Turning Point.
 17. Tyler: I have read through their agreement with the charter, and they have very specific parameters in place.
- v. Proposed: Motion to approve Turning Point USA

- vi. Moved: Ismael
- vii. Second: Tyler
- viii. 13-0-5
- c. [Senate Bill 2025-F-03: Online Resources in Restrooms](#)
 - i. Questions/Discussion:
 - ii. Motion to approve Senate Bill 2025-F-03: Online Resources in Restrooms
 - iii. Moved: Peter
 - iv. Second: Ayden
 - v. 17-0-1
- d. [Remaining Liaison Reports](#)
 - i. **Please write your name, liaison, and summary points from your report below!**
 - ii. **Please make sure you have put your report into your respective folder!**
 - iii. Nova Boehm (CSI)- CSI continues to work with clubs and other areas of campus in order to make sure major events aren't happening at the same time (Building Programs, Large CPB Events (i.e. roller skating), Large Club Events (kpop perfect night, relay) to maximize the student experience/value. It has been a very successful semester related to Roadrunner trips. They are gonna have more tickets for the mamma mia trip as there was a lengthy waiting list for those who did not grab a ticket in time. It will be in the spring, more information will be provided when applicable.
 - iv. Michael (OSS) - As of last week, OSS now has 788 affiliates, the highest it's ever been. Currently, the Federal Government has not released a budget for next year, so funding for the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant for next year (September 2026 - August 2027) is still up in the air. That's all for general OSS news. I was able to gather some details about tutoring under OSS, to help guide the current tutoring initiative that Uma has been pushing for. Tutoring under OSS differs somewhat from general tutoring centers like the Writing and STEM centers. As I mentioned last month, the current SSS semester-long tutoring capacity is 185 students, with a consistent waitlist of 15-30 students (waiting until next academic year to receive tutoring). These are one-on-one sessions and serve as a resource for students studying subjects that are not tutored

elsewhere on campus. I've briefly discussed the initiative with Secretary of Academic Affairs Katelynn about the initiative and she would be happy to bring it to her committee.

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. Peter - QotW... you'll see
 - i. The Exponential Ensemble is performing ramapo students' music on Monday December 8, 2025 @ 2:30pm in the Adler Theatre, Berrie Center. Please show up to support the Contemporary arts students!
 - ii. Would you like to have your visual art featured on the Visual Arts Society's official Instagram? Here's your chance! VAS wants YOUR ART showcased in our monthly Student Art Spotlight post, which [you can submit to here](#). The deadline for December's edition of this digital showcase is 12/8 at midnight. Questions/concerns? Email: vas@ramapo.edu
 - iii. Any questions, comments, kudos, or concerns for the CA School?
- c. Ava – Here is Jason's comments on the issue of lighting on the Bischoff and Mackin trail: "This area is on the college's radar. While I evaluate the feasibility of lighting that area, I would encourage students to use the sidewalks, and walking paths, as they are lit. Please remember that the fire road is not a traditional thoroughfare, and technically exists to provide Fire Department access to parts of the campus property in an emergency."
 - i. Anything for Public Safety or SSHS?
- d. Uma - Looking for volunteers to film the You're Not Alone Series Part 2, revolving around stress during exam season! Let me know if anyone's interested!
 - i. 12/2 at 1 pm Therapy Animal Visit in the Wellness Room
 - ii. 12/3 at 4 pm Calma Con Alma in the Multicultural Center with Wellness Is Now
 - iii. December is Seasonal Affective Disorder Month. SAD is a form of depression which happens to some people during the fall and winter time

linked to the change in weather and daylight. Please remember to prioritize self-care and seek help if you are struggling! :)

- iv. There are so many mental health resources on campus. If you or anyone you know would like to learn more, visit the [Counseling Services Website](#), and if you ever want to talk, always feel free to reach out to me :)
- v. Semester in Review!
 - a. 13 Cosponsorships approved!
 - b. 7 Clubs approved!
 - c. 3 Bills Passed!
 - i. Fall Election, Valley Health Resolution, Online Resources in Bathrooms
 - d. Highest Voter Turnout in 7 years!
 - i. Very High Application Rate as well!
 - e. Lighting Survey with Public Safety after 3 years!
 - f. Amazing Turnout for Homecoming/Oktoberfest!
 - g. 1st Place in Trunk-Or-Treat! 🍂
 - h. Amazing hosted events (duck hunt, destress events, etc.)
- 2. The Next Steps:
 - a. More Bills!
 - b. Spread the word on Cosponsorships!
 - c. Represent SGA at events!
- vi. We are truly proud of what SGA has accomplished, and it's only Fall! 🍂

VII. Adjournment

- a. **Time:** 8:28
 - i. **Moved:** Joe
 - ii. **Second:** Sebastian