

01/28/2026 SGA General Meeting Agenda

Meeting called to order [Wednesday, 01/28/2026] @1:06pm

I. Roll Call

- a. President - Liz Mendicino
- b. Vice President - James Pascal
- c. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
- d. Treasurer - Julia Kotowski
- 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
- 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 (excused)
- o. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi (excused)
- p. Secretary of Service - Emily Beck
- q. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
- r. Legislative Justice - Amerie Ramos
- s. Administrative Justice - John Brighthouse (excused)
- t. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala
- u. Senate Vice President - David George
- v. Senate Secretary - Hannah Golden
- w. ASB School Senator - Ismael Carcamo (absent)
- x. CA School Senator - Peter Tunncliffe (excused)

- y. HGS School Senator - Tyler O'Connor-Dilello
- z. SSHS School Senator - Ava Cicero-Johnson
- aa. TAS School Senator - Gianna Marchica
- bb. Senator-at-Large - Uma Advani
- cc. Senator-at-Large - Joseph Brubaker
- dd. Senator-at-Large - Alessia Mendicino
- ee. Senator-at-Large - Evelyn Santangelo (late-excused)
- ff. Senator-at-Large - Ayden Reed
- gg. Senator-at-Large - Michael Marino
- hh. Senator-at-Large - Sebastian Herrera
- ii. Senator-at-Large - Leana Thompson (excused)
- jj. Senator-at-Large - James Nieman
- kk. Senator-at-Large- Ahmet Angun
- ll. Senator-at-Large- Christian Soberal
 - i. Present: 28
 - ii. Late: 0
 - 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.  12/03/25 General Meeting Agenda
 - i. Moved: Ayden
 - ii. Seconded: Sebastian
 - 1. 13-0-1

V. President's Announcements

- a. Welcome back, everyone!
- b. Spring Training Recap - How are we feeling?
 - i. Uma- Kudos for Jeopardy it was fun!
 - ii. Sebastian: Kudos for the family feud it was fun.
- c. Next week's guest: Vice Provost Vanessa Arriola will be coming to present updates from the Comprehensive Academic Plan Implementation, please come prepared with questions!
- d. February Bonding - Volleyball! 2nd or 3rd week? I will send a poll for the day/time in the GroupMe!
 - i. Majority ruled for 3rd week of February.
- e. Senator-At-Large applications are still open! If you have friends who are interested in joining the SGA as a senator have them fill out [this form](#) by February 5th
- f. We need you to fill out the SGA Roster information sheet!!!
 - i. Given the amount of changes within the organization, and the constant need for organization, we ask you with maximum urgency to [fill out the form](#). Please submit it ASAP!
- g. Please send us a headshot for the SGA page on the Ramapo website!!!
 - i. If you attended media day last semester, send a photo from then, if you were not there send a portrait photo of you.
 - ii. Send it to VP James and I in an email!

VI. Cabinet Reports

- a. Vice President James Pascal
 - i. I am excited for a productive and fun semester!
 - ii. Club Process will meet at 3:45 pm in A-103 for allocations
 - iii. If you or someone you know is interested in start a club please contact sgaclubs@ramapo.edu
 - iv. If you are a club officer, or know a club officer, remember that there are still allocations funds; terms apply.
- b. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
 - i. Everyone please if you have not done so please sign up for office hours!!
 - ii. Here is the link for [office hours](#)!
 - iii. Any questions please email me: malvare7@ramapo.edu
- c. Treasurer - Julia Kotowski
 - i. Nothing to report
- d. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann
 - i. Cabinet Meetings have been set for **Tuesday 4-5pm**, stay on the lookout for an email with more information and looking forward to a great semester!
- e. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Katelynn Haury
 - i. Nothing to report
- f. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla
 - i. Hope everyone had a great winter break/start to the spring semester!
 - ii. Upcoming commuter events:
 - 1. Commuter Breakfast: February 2nd at 9 am in the Student Center
 - 2. Create and Sip: February 2nd from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 - 3. Pack with Love: February 12th from 1-2 pm in J. Lee's
 - 4. Commuter Focus Group: February 26th from 1-2 pm
 - 5. Lunch and Learn: March 9th from 1-2 pm in B-225
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs
 - i.
- h. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion - Chantalle Reyes
 - i. Nothing to report

- a. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life - Samantha Schley
 - i. Welcome back everyone I hope you all had a good break and snow day!
 - ii. 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!!
 - iii. Recruitment is in 9 days! There is still time to sign up
 1. [Spring 26 Recruitment](#)
 2. You must attend a hazing workshop in order to go through recruitment. Below are the dates they are being held
 - Friday, January 23rd - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (B - 218)
 - Wednesday, January 28th - 12:00 - 1:00 PM (B - 218)
 - Thursday, January 29th - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (B - 218)
 - Wednesday, February 4th - 12:00 - 1:00 PM (B - 218)
 - Tuesday, February 10th - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (SC - 217)
 - Wednesday, February 11th - 12:00 - 1:00 PM (SC - 217)
 - Thursday, February 12th - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (SC - 217)
 - Friday, February 13th - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (SC - 217)
 - Wednesday, February 18th - 12:00 - 1:00 PM (SC - 217)
 - Thursday, February 20th - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (SC - 217)
 - Wednesday, February 25th - 12:00 - 1:00 PM (SC - 217)
 - Wednesday, March 4th - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (SC - 217)
3.

If you are registered for CPH Recruitment, you will attend a Hazing Prevention Workshop during Orientation. You do not have to attend an additional Workshop.
- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Amanda Shortt
 - i. Nothing to report
- j. Secretary of Programming - Afrona Tozluku
 - i. Welcome back! Just a reminder, since it is the spring semester to please read and respond to anything sent out to you. There will be several things I need responses for keep and eye out.
- k. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber
 - i. I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break!
 - ii. If you have any suggestions for our Instagram, let me know!
- l. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
 - i. Nothing to report
- m. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi
 - i. First Committee meeting is on Wednesday the 4th in LC232

n. Secretary of Service - Emily Beck

- i. I will be sending out the service hours form soon, to everyone via email.
- ii. Be sure to start getting some service hours in before the semester gets busy! You can check your progress here:
 1. Reminder 4 community service hours are required a semester! You must fill out a volunteer form either digitally (in official drive under 25/26 community service) or physically to submit proof of service hours. If turning in the form physically, put it in my mailbox in the SGA office! If the digital format is used, please email it to me directly (ebeck2@ramapo.edu)
- iii. Upcoming Service Opportunities!! (CCEC and Alpha Phi Omega opportunities, register through archway!!)
 1. **Thursday 02/12**, 4:45-8:45pm | Community Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown Food Distribution
 2. **Thursday 03/12**, 4:45-8:45pm | Community Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown Food Distribution
 3. APO: **Monday 02/02**, 6-8pm | Recruitment Info Session and Kindness Notes, A226
- iv. Service Policy Updates: For anyone who may not be aware yet, I started working last semester to begin the process of creating a Service Policy for Ramapo. Essentially this idea is important to me and should be to you because it will allow students to reference a document that will tell them what constitutes service and what qualifies as service hours for any student at our school. There has been a lot of confusion in the past few semesters regarding this issue and my goal is to minimize the questions of this topic with this tool.

Last semester I held an initial discussion meeting to get the ball rolling with other students' opinions and ideas on the matter. Unfortunately I was disappointed with this turn out, as only one member of SGA attended. I am hopeful that in the next few weeks I can speak to Allene about the next steps, and host another meeting, with a bigger turn out. Without a group to critically think together on this topic, the policy would only cover the perspective of a few students, not the whole student body.

o. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria

- i. Nothing to Report

p. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala

- i. We have a new face, Hannah, our new Senate Secretary!
- ii. The SGA Senate Interim Election is ongoing (deadline on February 5th)
 1. Access the form [here](#) on Archway!
- iii. Due to the inclement weather, we did not have a Senate Meeting this past Monday!

- iv. Our first official Senate meeting will be on Monday, February 2nd, from 7-9 PM in A220.
- v. Our first liaison reports are due February 23rd!
- q. Student Trustee - Sarah Glisson
 - i. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, February 9th at 6pm in Trustees Pavillion.

VII. New Business

a. Guest: LaQuan Norman, Director of the Cahill Career Development Center - 2:00

i. L'Oreal Brandstorm Competition

1. LaQuan Norman: Thank you for having me here today, I wanted to tell you about this new opportunity for students 18-30 years old. This opportunity is for a global, brand new competition, sponsored by L'Oreal. We had an info center, relatively, even commercially. Looking for teams of three to participate in this competition. The topic is, craft the future of luxury fragrance. And it's not necessarily developing the fragrance, but it's being innovated around the packaging, the way things are delivered, the financing. Anything having to do with marketing, business of this particular fragrance? We have a few teams of 3 that are available, but from a career center perspective, as we're trying to create these relationships with companies like L'Oreal, having a presence with our students is greatly appreciated.
2. So what can happen if you participate? You will submit a 3 minute video of your idea with 3 slides to brainstorm.com and Cynthia, you can share that information. You will then be judged on that video and a presentation and chosen as a U.S. winner. The U.S. winner then goes to Paris and presents in the spring, sorry, in June, and the winner of the L'Oreal grand competition globally, then gets a three month internship in Paris with L'Oreal. 3 of you will have a one year management training job after graduation. So it will be a 3 month internship and then an eventual job, right? So this is a really good opportunity, not just for the marketing majors, but for anybody at Ramapo that we really like to get involved with.

3. Cynthia: There's Tec involved, there's, like a packaging, type thing, how you promote an idea, having a 3 month internship in Paris, it's actually been changed to a project and make it real. So this isn't just an assignment. They are actually working off of these kinds of ideas. It's national. We'll be competing against, you know, 52 other countries. But it is a really great experience, even if you don't make it all the way there, I mean, this is the time thing that you are interested in doing for your, you know, for your future. Having had brainstorm on your resume is going to be great.
 4. LaQuan Norman: Once the teams are together, on the week of February 23rd, we're gonna have what's called the RCNJ Grand Storm Showcase, where you'll be able to pitch your ideas to two members of faculty, a member of the president's cabinet, and then two of the L'Oreal representatives to get feedback on how to craft it and make it a little bit better before you actually submit on marketing. Okay, so we want you to do as well as possible. We want you to be as highlighted with your inventiveness. innovation as possible. So, to contact me or Cynthia if you would like to participate or have more information. We do have a video of the info session from yesterday, so if anybody's interested in that, just let us know and we'll send it to you. But that's all I have. Thank you very much
- b. Voting on Appointment of new Secretary of Delegate Affairs
- i. Nominee: Evelyn Santangelo
 - ii. James: The main reason we had chosen Evelyn was because of her commitment and her leadership style is very very good for the position, so we thought she would be the perfect fit for the role.
 - iii. Liz: We also let Sophia, our former Secretary of Delegate Affairs take the lead, and her and James were mainly the people that were working on these application and with those who applied, determining who was the right fit, and when they told me that they had chosen Evelyn, I was not surprised whatsoever, because she has displayed such excellence in leadership throughout the past three years in SGA and in other organizations and I feel that she was really great fit for taking this program to the next level that Sophia had been setting it up for.
 - iv. James: In addition, her organizational skills are very conducive.
 - v. Evelyn: Hi everyone, I'm Evelyn, I am very excited to have been nominated for Secretary of Delegate Affairs. My time in senate has taught me to become a stronger listener and the ability to

collaborate with others, which I believe are skills that would allow me to support our delegates and ensure they feel welcomed and included into the SGA. If appointed, I plan to continue the Shadowing program that Sophia started when she was in this position, as I believe it is an incredible opportunity for the delegates to not only feel included but also learn about the different positions and potentially take on those roles in the future. Even though I was not part of the delegate program, I was in the delegate committee and through that I was able to see how meaningful it was for the delegates to participate in the shadowing program. And I would love to continue strengthening that program and building on it to keep delegates connected within the SGA. Overall, I bring improved listening skills and also my job on campus as an SI has given me the ability to collaborate and engage with larger groups, and lastly strong organizational abilities which I hope will track the attendance of all delegates for event requirements and their general meeting requirement. And I am committed to supporting you on every step of the way. Thank you very much.

vi. Questions?

1. James: What are your plans for the delegate shadowing
2. Evelyn: I would work with Sophia, to see really how she ran the programme and do the same steps she had done but as well building on it, to have more delegates involved with this program.
3. Mihir: How do you plan on keeping the delegates interconnected with the SGA? Do you have any initiatives that you would like to do to keep that going?
4. Evelyn: Other than building the foundation like Sophia had I want to continue the delegate tabling and have more representative members go to these tables.

vii. Decision

1. Gianna: I like how she presented herself, I was also in the delegate committee and it is to a tee to Sophia goals and Evelyn shows she wants to continue the shadowing program which I think would be very beneficial for the delegates to get a feel of what the SGA is about and I think she is a great fit
2. James: Evelyn is one of the backbone for so many other organizations and she is always someone you can go to when things happen and always a helping hand. So for that reason I think she is a perfect fit for this role, she is a very reliable person to go to.

3. Ayden: One thing I admire about her is that she is not scared to ask for help especially her still being in contact with Sophia shows she want to better the delegate program.
- viii. Moved: Gianna
- ix. Seconded: Ava
1. 13-0-1
- c. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees
- d. Matthew Zegla - Comprehensive Facilities Planning Committee
 - i. The committee met yesterday virtually, here is a list of what was discussed (apologies for the length):
 - ii. Current/upcoming work:
 1. The main parking lot will be repaved over the summer. Facilities is working with a traffic company to see if the roads can be moved for better traffic/pedestrian flow. They will also see if they can redo the sidewalks between the Village lot and lots B3 and C3.
 2. ASB entrance ramp will be replaced
 - a. Overlook pedestrian bridge will be replaced (Work to be done over summer into fall, may affect traffic flow, will know if that will be the case in March)
 - b. The Village handicap ramp will be replaced
 - c. The current Facilities office trailers will be replaced with newer trailers
 - d. Some outdoor staircases in the CPAs are being demoed and replaced
 - e. Linden Hall renovation is going smoothly, currently in the demo phase. Facilities would like to work on the parking deck as well (to add more parking and to add ev chargers)
 - f. The Spiritual Center renovation is almost complete. A reopening ceremony is scheduled for late April
 - g. The College recently got a state grant to pay for some HVAC work. The grant is for \$800,000. There is an estimated \$1.5 to 2 million dollars worth of HVAC work needed to be done
 - h. There will soon be a new anatomy lab on the ground floor of the Adler center (next to the Dunkin'). The classrooms on that floor have been demoed and all that's needed now is construction permits from the state. The project is looking to be done by August
 - i. The Bradley Center roof will be replaced either this summer or next summer. The Berrie Center roof will be next
 - j. The Birch Mansion recently underwent an architectural study. The purpose of this is to see how the building can be redesigned and transformed into an admissions/welcome center with disability upgrades

- k. As of January 6th, the College owns 511 Ramapo Valley Road. The house on the property is to be demolished. There were talks during the meeting on inviting MEVO to see if they would like to put a garden at the site.
 - i. There are also long term plans to demo 523 Ramapo Valley Road (The Visiting Scholars Residence)
- l. Other notes:
 - i. The CPA laundry room is in bad shape. A decision will be made soon as to if Facilities will either replace just the roof or the entire building.
 - ii. The new sculpture next to the library will soon be lit up (as in the actual sculpture will light up)
 - iii. Facilities is looking at moving the mailroom and Res Life offices back to the main part of campus post-Linden renovation
 - Liz: Do you still need someone for the committee
 - Matt: Last meeting tuesday april 14th from 11-12pm
 - a. James N is interested
- b. This Week on Campus
 - i. Giving Flowers
 - 1. Congratulations to Matt for being selected as one of this year's Orientation Program Coordinators!
 - 2. Congratulations to those in new SGA positions!
 - a. Treasurer Julia Kotowski
 - b. Senate Secretary Hannah Golden
 - ii. Next Monday at 1:15 in Friends is the Black History Month Opening Proclamation!!! Make sure to be there to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Black History month commemorations!
 - iii. David - Student Discount Program Update
 - 1. I had gone through all of them to see where we still have discounts, and it was very interesting on call these places some of them had no idea and some were just nonexciting anymore, but I was able to get all the places that we still have discounts with and in hope of having the website updated.
 - 2. Rick: David if you haven't yet emailed Eddie with all this new information definitely do so.
 - 3. David: Yes I have emailed him with this information.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Jack: Hello everyone hope you are doing well I have some information I want to share with you:

- i. The 2026 student leadership award is now live! Award for Outstanding Leadership, this award is for students who demonstrate exceptional campus leadership. Awards will be selected by class year (First-Year Student, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior) for RCNJ campus involvement, academics, and leadership. In order to be considered for an award, a student must: Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student (or a January 2026 graduate). Maintain a 2.5 Cumulative GPA and be in good judicial standing at the College. Academic and disciplinary histories will be reviewed and may affect award decisions. As well as getting a recommendation from a faculty member, when you are filling out the application you are able to write down a faculty member, which they will be notified of but if you are able to let them know you have put them down for this.
- ii. alongside the Jerome Memorial Award, this award is for graduate students only.
- iii. Christian: Where can we find the link for applying?
- iv. Jack: There is a poster right outside of the
- v. Jack: Wrestling with conflict-February Learn how to become the champion of conflict management by attending Project L.E.A.D. Wrestling With Conflict on Thursday, February 6th at 1pm in room A-101. This presentation will help students effectively resolve issues using themes from professional wrestling and leadership development as the perfect tag team for success. Don't miss out on how you can pin conflict 1..2..3 and learn some great leadership skills during the opening weeks of the Spring semester!
- vi. Sam: For the application for credit are we currently earning or what we will be learning?
- vii. Jack: I think in the form it says currents earned credits.
- viii. Cynthia: I just wanted to say that the email you will lnorman@ramapo.edu
- ix. Rick: I just wanted to say welcome back and very excited for this spring semester.
- x. Sam: For the faculty is it okay if they are an adjudged professor or would it have to be a full time faculty?
- xi. Jack: It is okay if they are an adjudged professor.

IX. Open Forum

- a. Uma - I hope everyone had a nice break! :)))

- i. Dates for therapy animal visits for this semester! 02/09, 02/25, 03/09, 04/06, 04/17! Just a reminder that reservation slots open 7 days prior to the visit!
 - ii. Tomorrow, 01/29, the Wellness Room will be having an Open House at 1 pm in E-216!
 - iii. January is Mental Wellness Month! Please focus on mental and physical well-being! :)
 - 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. Anything for CHCS?
- b. Matthew - Peer Facilitator and Orientation Leader applications open up on Friday! If you are interested in helping the incoming freshman class acclimate to college life, I highly recommend applying. The applications close on February 15th.
- c. Joe - Any questions or concerns for Facilities?
- i. Uma: I moved in after the break most of the pipes bursted, our kitchen sink and bathroom, we called facilities and they helped fix it.
 - ii. Tyler: CPA Laundry room there were about 5-6 washers broken
 - iii. Joe: That is for ResLife thing, I would email your RA about this issue.
 - iv. Emily: While at a friend's dorm their toilet was overflowing, because of the storm we had to call Public Safety since facilities had told them they had two options to put in work order or get new emergency housing. I think there should be an option about priority of work orders
 - v. Joe: I have talked to them about doing a new updated system with their work orders because as of right now they are doing work orders by hand still, they have a more outdated system, and I have brought it up of having an option for work orders to have level of priority, I am definitely going to talk about this again with them.
 - vi. Sam: I am realizing this might not be a facilities but over the break there was a small fire in the freshman dorms, and I had noticed the fire hydrant is kinda far and hard for the fire department to get to I am not sure if there that is some facilities handle but I just wanted to bring that up.
 - vii. Joe: Yeah I am not sure who that falls under but I will definitely bring it up and find out.
 - viii. Adyen: Mackin the elevator is broken a lot worse, it is in the ground
 - ix. Joe: I will mention it again to them and of course do a work order in if you are able or also let your RA know.

- x. Melissa: So I have to think that both Adyen and Emily both have said but, I have noticed that the elevator in village building 8 is always breaking, I think from the snow storm it had broken at least 3 time in one day and I have called and put work orders for them and they come fast but I feel bad for always complaining about it but I am not sure if this is something that can be brought up. Also with the point Emily made about the work order system, my roommates and I have noticed that in the fall semester there was a ladybug infestation in our apartment and had connected out RA's and up in work orders to see if there was any way these bugs could be getting in and they never came and fixed the issues, but yesterday we had someone come in for that issue, the work order was placed in October and we had emailed saying the issues had resolved but they still came after 4 months of the work order being placed.
- xi. Joe: With the elevator issue, you did the right thing for emailing and putting in work order, so the company they use to get parts for the elevators take a long time to get sent so anyone notices the elevators making weird noise or anything please put a work order in because they can fix it before it get bad. And with the point about the work orders, I definitely want to talk to them and bring up these issues to them so that we can have a better way for these work orders to get done but thank you for bring these issues up.
- d. Ava – Anything for Public Safety or SSHS?
 - i. Uma: Shout out to Public Safety for always helping
 - ii. Sam: I know it is not directly for public safety but new time can we please get more help for shoveling because the parking lots are a mess. It was a lot and I at one point got lost on where to go.
 - iii. James: Kudos for public safety, it was very smooth and they were also nice to move in after break, it was my first time moving back in and they made the process so nice.
 - iv. Christian: Kudos to public safety for helping those who had gotten locked out of there rooms in Laurel early Public safety was a big help.
 - v. Melissa: I was going to the say Kudos for the new swiping box by the security gate but I drove by the other day and it had been hit again, It was really nice too kinda sad to see it damaged.
 - vi. Ava: Wait, really it is?
 - vii. Melissa: Yes and I am surprised because it was a metal box.
 - viii. Tyler: Yeah I saw it too, the thing completely hanging off.
 - ix. Ale: Kudos to Public safety for driving me in the cold.

- x. Rick: It is always refreshing to hear the kudos. It is nice to hear all the positive things.
- e. Alessia- Any questions or concerns for Title IX?
- f. Mihir - Info about volunteering at Costa Rica!
- g. ★ SGA Star of the Month! [February Form](#) (Please inform us of any issues with the form)

X. Adjournment @2:13pm

- a. Moved: Uma
- b. Seconded: Tyler