

## 02/16/2026 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 02/16/2026]

Meeting called to order on [02/16/2026] at 7:00 pm in A-220

### I. Roll Call

- a. President Liz Mendicino
- b. Senate President Mihir Jariwala
- c. Senate Vice President David George
- d. Senate Secretary Hannah Golden
- e. TAS School Senator Gianna Marchica
- f. CA School Senator Peter Tunnicliffe
- g. ASB School Senator Ismael Carcamo
- h. SSSS School Senator Ava Cicero-Johnson (late-excused)
- i. HGS School Senator Tyler O'Connor-Dilello
- j. Senator Joseph Brubaker
- k. Senator Alessia Mendicino
- l. Senator Uma Advani
- m. Senator Sebastian Herrera
- n. Senator Michael Marino
- o. Senator James Nieman (late-excused)
- p. Senator Ayden Reed
- q. Senator Leana Thompson
- r. Senator Ahmet Angun
- s. Senator Christian Soberal (excused)
- t. Senator Kristina Kostoski
- u. Senator Brandon Ferrante
  - i. Late: 2
  - ii. Absent: 1
  - iii. Excused: 1

## 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 02/09/2026](#)
  - i. Moved:Uma
  - ii. Second: Tyler
  - iii. 15-0-0

## III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. Hope everyone had a good Valentine's Day Weekend! 💕
  - i. The SGA loves and appreciates all of you for your amazing work!
- b. Happy belated birthday to Leana and happy birthday to Gianna! 🎂
- c. SGA Bonding (Volleyball) is next week!
- d. Guests at General: President Jebb at 2:30 PM this Wednesday!
  - i. Email James or Liz if you have any questions for President Jebb!
- e. As concurrent student leaders, it is highly recommended to apply for the Student Leadership Awards!
  - i. The link to apply is provided [here](#).
- f. Be sure to complete the college survey sent by the NJ OSHE and We Care!
- g. As changes to the SGA Constitution are being made, the Executive Board welcomes any feedback for the addition/removal of any aspect surrounding the Constitution!
- h. Senate-Specific Notifications:
  - i. **1st liaison reports are due next week! (February 23rd)**
    1. If there are any conflicts **PLEASE** let us know!
  - ii. The [Cosponsorship Form](#) is live!

- iii. If you have any time conflicts about missing Senate Meetings, please fill out the [missed meeting form](#).
- iv. **We are working on changing rooms for Senate Meetings for the rest of the semester! Please check GroupMe for upcoming updates!**

#### IV. **New Business**

- a. Appointment: Senator-At-Large
  - i. Nominee: Julian Buitrago
  - ii. Questions:
    - 1. Uma- What year are you?
      - a. Julian- I am a Junior.
    - 2. Brandon- How long have you been a delegate?
      - a. Julian- I have been a delegate for 2 semesters now.
  - iii. Discussion:
    - 1. Uma- For Julian I like how he said he would want to learn more.
    - 2. Brandon- I like how Julian had a lot of passion.
  - iv. Proposed:
  - v. Moved: Gianna
  - vi. Second: Peter
  - vii. 16-0-0
- b. Appointment: Senator-At-Large
  - i. Nominee: Anxhel Larti
  - ii. Questions:
    - 1. Peter- How would you set up the outreach program?
      - a. Anxhel- I was thinking of doing it through the schools and maybe doing an upper and lower class partnership.
    - 2. Liz- Do you have any other leadership positions?
      - a. Anxhel- On campus I do not. I've been trying to get a \_ club up.
  - iii. Discussion:
    - 1. Uma- For Anxhel I like how he wanted to voice to marginalized voices
    - 2. Brandon- As well with Anxhel I like how he has experience in leadership and already has ideas for if he got into the Senate.
    - 3. Uma- I also like Anxhel because he said he wanted something so he went for it which says a lot about a person.

- iv. Proposed:
- v. Moved: Ayhmet
- vi. Second: Peter
- vii. 16-0-0
- c. Club Approval: Serious Monkey Business
  - i. [Constitution](#)
  - ii. [Club Presentation](#)
  - iii. Questions:
    - 1. Uma- how are you planning to continue the eboard knowing that you have an older eboard.
      - a. We have 8 members who are freshman and sophomores who have great interest.
    - 2. Peter- who is your club advisor
      - a. A professor in the theater department.
    - 3. Ismael- How do you chose people to be part of the cast.
      - a. They will have to try out to have a cast. We don't want any money just to have access to
      - b. Fooligans show are only a small part of the club
      - c. Ismael- so every other event will evolve
    - 4. James- will they continue to support your club
      - a. They handle the marketing but branching out will allow us to promote us more since they have
    - 5. Peter- How would you hand hecklers
      - a. We've had hecklers before and we navigate it by making sure it is a fun and safe space. We've had to kick people out.
    - 6. Uma- Would there be someone in charge of the skits or improve suggestions
      - a. We go through a suggestion box to make sure it is all friendly
    - 7. Peter- Besides the current open mic nights do you have anything else planned like that
      - a. We would want to make it more private
    - 8. James- Would you host more fooligans

- a. We would keep it once a month but we would use our resources for other events
  9. Uma- For your budgets would it go to other schools
    - a. Yes we would use it to connect with other schools
  10. Mihir- Plans with on campus clubs
    - a. Yes we want to collaborate with all the clubs on campus
  11. Brandon- Do you have a planned budget
    - a. We would do a lot of car pooling so we'll save money. For food around 50 dollars, Shirts-24 dollars AYOU
  12. Allie- How long have fooligans been around?
  13. Foolagins have been around for 2 years pre covid
- iv. Discussion:
1. Liz- This allows a type of club that we don't have on campus. This allows a space for comedy on campus. We don't have classes on being funny
  2. Ahmet- Every club we've had has been serious so it is refreshing to have this
  3. Peter- my one concern is that it might not grow because of the auditions
    - a. Allie- I know they have open rehearsals and they are normally packed
    - b. Peter- How many people are allowed to audition
    - c. Allie- They have open rehearsals so everyone can interact.
  4. Mihir - More clarifications Fooligans is a subset of the club and they have more opportunities to branch out.
  5. Peter- Why don't they have a budget?
    - a. James- They have tryouts so therefore they can't have a budget.
  6. Peter- The club is only for performers
    - a. Liz- So no, the private audition is a sub group of a club so thats why they cant have funding.
    - b. James- AYOU is helping the club
  7. Brandon- How many times are they switching out the auditions? I am concerned it will become clicky

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

e: [sga@ramapo.edu](mailto:sga@ramapo.edu) | [ramapo.edu/sga](http://ramapo.edu/sga)

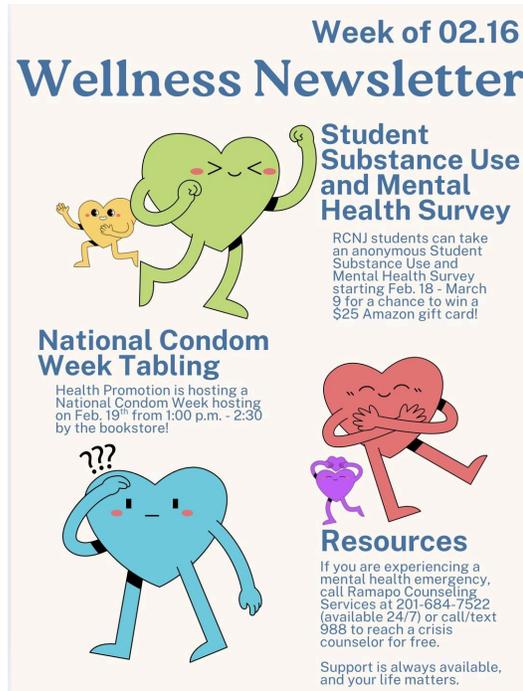
- a. Liz - I know the fooligans have done the same thing and it hasn't become clicky.
  - b. Mihir- its just going from AYOU to this so nothing should change.
  - c. Leana- I think with wrong leadership it can become clicky
8. Ayden- It was concerning that the president did not have a lot to say
- a. Mihir- Even if the president is more introverted they have the entire eboard to help. Plus the president is a senior so it is not as big of a deal.
  - b. David- If they wanted to be clicky they would have wanted a budget. With the president's personality I am not too worried because they created the club.
9. Uma- I am still concerned about the audience
- a. Mihir- this has been going on for awhile, So people do want this around. I do not think this will be as big of an issue
  - b. Peter- If there is an issue they can kick them out.
  - c. Uma- Point of clarification, I am concerned about the scripts
  - d. Liz- Part of being a comedy you need to handle criticization. Comedy is known to be subjective. They know how to navigate these issues.
  - e. Allie- I know they have practice and a lot of guidelines. I have been to their shows and they do well with crowd control.
10. Ismale- How are the outside club members going to participate?
- a. Mihir- They are doing stuff outside of Fooligans. This is where outside people can get involved.
11. Move: Julian
12. Second: Anhxel
13. 17-0-3

## V. Public Comment

- a. Dean Van Der Wall- Thank you so much for the maroon. Lots of love! I also hope the clubs you are approved will enhance weekend life. We are narrowing down on Fridays for night events.
  - i. Dean Van Der Wall- Do you guys have feedback on weekend life?
    1. Peter- There are still complaints that ramapo is still a suitcase college. We appreciate the efforts though.
  - ii. Dean Van Der Wall- How do you guys like the new text messaging? (not rocky the bot)
    1. Sebastian- I like it, It is helpful for students who may not know what is going on.
    2. 71444- thingstodo
  - iii. Uma- Shout out to the multicultural Center that holds longer events on campus. I like events that bring communities together.
  - iv. Dean Van Der Wall- Thank you to the SGA for paying condolences to my mom and my family. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. It is so touching.

## 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 - If you or anyone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency, call the Counseling Services main line at 201-684-7522 and follow the prompt for immediate assistance, 24/7/365. Another option available nationwide is texting or calling 988 to be linked with a counselor if you have thoughts of suicide, a mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional stress. 988 and Ramapo's emergency counseling are free for all students! Visit this website for more info! [Counseling Services](#) Website. Always feel free to reach out to Uma, your life matters :)



- i.
- ii. The next therapy animal visit will be Monday, March 9th from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Wellness Room E-216. Registration link will open 7 days prior:)
- iii. Update on Wellness Newsletter: I am going to see if Dean Van Der Wall can send out the Wellness Newsletter to all students on campus!
  1. Dean Van Der Wall- We have certain rules and policies to send out to students. I have a lot going on in February. I do send out a wellness newsletter within the 12 days of the semester that I can your newsletter. If this doesn't work for you, we can find another dean that we can put your newsletter in.
- iv. Anything for CHCS or BCHEAP?
  1. Dean Van Der Wall- It is a grant we applied for Bergen county. This is the first time that all the colleges in Bergen country are coming together to host conferences about substance use disorders. One of the first things we need to do is take a survey about what Ramapo students know and how they feel about substance use. We are focusing on cannabis usage. We compile the surveys and then figure out what we should do about it.
  2. Uma- If you have any initiatives, you should definitely talk with me because this doesn't just impact us but other colleges.

- c. Ava - Important announcements from Public Safety!
- i. There will be a scheduled lockdown drill this semester on March 30, 2026 to help the community practice emergency response procedures.
  - ii. The College continues to make Active Shooter/Active Assailant training (Run-Hide-Fight) [training](#) available to all students and employees. If you are interested in this emergency response training, please complete [this form](#). In addition, please take the time to watch the [Active Shooter Scenario Training Videos](#) that are available on the College's Intranet.
  - iii. Familiarize yourself with Ramapo College's [emergency preparedness resources](#) including our evacuation, shelter-in-place, and lockdown procedures.
  - iv. Please ensure your emergency contact information is up to date
  - v. **Blue Light Emergency Phones:** Located throughout campus, these [43 phones](#) provide immediate, direct access to Public Safety with the push of a button.
  - vi. **Buddy Walk / Safety Escort Services:** Available upon request through Public Safety for anyone who would like assistance walking on campus, especially during evening hours.
  - vii. **Local Law Enforcement Presence on Campus:** Ramapo College partners with the Mahwah Police Department (MPD) to secure our campus. It is not uncommon to observe MPD officers patrolling the campus, participating in programs, or responding to calls for service. Should you observe an MPD officer on campus and wish to learn more about what may have prompted their visit, you may inquire with Public Safety at 201-684-6666. Do not interfere with law enforcement efforts.
  - viii. As a public institution, federal agents are permitted on our campus. If you are approached by federal agents on campus, please contact Public Safety immediately (C-Wing, Room 102; 201-684-6666) or use the free [Rave Guardian App](#). Public Safety serves as the College's point of contact with federal immigration authorities to determine their purpose on campus, verify their credentials, and ensure proper paperwork is in order. Please do not attempt to interfere with law enforcement efforts, rather call Public Safety. For additional information please review this list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

- ix. I have yet to meet with my liaisons; I am waiting for them to get back to me. Anything for Public Safety or SSHS?
1. Mihir- Kudos on this!
  2. Uma- There's a crazy amount of snow in the commuter lot.
  3. David- The ice melts from the solar panels and then freezes at night.
  4. Hannah- The sustainability center pathways are just ice.
  5. James- Why did they give up on cleaning up the snow?
    - a. David- Some of the parking is not available because of the snow. On a separate note, it feels dangerous to turn with how high the snow is at the corners.
  6. Dean Van Der Wall- Facilities are in charge of snow, not public safety. They are aware of the ice, the salt is not working because of how cold it is.
  7. Peter- Does public safety handle car stuff? Also can they help with engine failure?
    - a. Ava- Yes they can handle cars but I don't know about engine failure.
    - b. David- Do they have a list of services they provide?
      - i. Liz- It is on the rav guardian.
- d. Peter - QotW: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." — Nelson Mandela
- i. Upcoming events:
    1. *What the Constitution Means to Me*, by Heidi Schreck, directed by Terra Vandergaw at the Adler Theater March 5 – 7, 10 – 11 at 8 p.m. and March 8 at 2 p.m. RCNJ Students \$5, General Admission \$15 [Buy Tickets](#)
    2. *Nine*, based on the book by Arthur Kopit, directed by Lester Mayers at the Sharp Theater April 10 – 11, 16 – 18 at 8 p.m. and April 12 at 2 p.m. RCNJ Students \$5, General Admission \$15 [Buy Tickets](#)
  - ii. Anything for the Contemporary Arts School?
    1. Uma- Shout out to Professor Satarupa Dasgupta.
- e. Alessia- Anything for Title IX?
- f. David - Anything for ITS?

- i. Ismael- The wifi has been slow in ASB.
  - 1. David- Have you filled out a form?
  - 2. Ismal- No.
- ii. Peter- The brand new mac computers adaptors are very loose.
  - 1. David- okay
  - 2. Peter- I believe that is for 16 computers.
  - 3. Peter- Also the pro tools keep crashing in the Paul studios.
- iii. Liz- I was wondering if they could remind professors if they unplug things to plug them back in?
  - 1. They consistently remind professors, which is why we tried getting less wires for the projectors.
- g. Ayden - Anything for EOF or Learning Commons?
- h. Gianna - Any comments, questions, or concerns for TAS?
  - 1. David- Why do environmental science majors don't need to take ecology and evolution but when premed has to take both?
    - i. Mihir- I will say environmental science is more ecology and not really evolution.
    - ii. Joe- To add on to that evolution is taught in every class we take but it is never explored.
  - b. Gianna- Is ecology one of your major requirements?
    - i. David- it is but it does not go into depth.
  - c. Liz- Maybe suggesting evolution and ecology should be 2 credit courses?
    - i. Joe- I agree with the 2 credits but keep ecology a 4 credit for environmental science majors since it is the backbone for our major.
- ii. Anything for the Academic Policy Council?
- iii. Please come out to the Men's and Women's Basketball Game this Wednesday at 5:30 and 7:30 pm! It is Senior Night for both teams as well as for the Cheer Team and the Dance Team! Basketball as well as my team and the cheer team would love to see you there!
- i. Joe - Anything for facilities?
  - i. Uma- My sink blew up again, and I placed an order and they did not get back.
    - 1. I will get back to you on that.

- ii. James- Not to beat a dead horse but the snow.
- iii. David- Keep your warm water running in the cold weather!
- j. Leana - Anything for the OVP, Women's Center, or CAP?
  - i. Mihir- We are excited for denim day!
- k. Sebastian- Will be meeting with Kate Levin from athletics tomorrow, any other comments, questions, or concerns?
  - i. Peter- The mats that are not on the floor are chewed. It would be nice to have new ones.
- l. Michael- Anything for CSS?
- m. James - Anything for the Cahill Career Development Center or the Registrar's Office?
  - i. Liz- When are refunds?
    - 1. Aiden- They are at the end of this month
- n. Brandon - Anything for Dining Services?
  - i. Peter- The tables are getting grosser, Is there any way to remind students to clean up after themselves.
    - 1. Brandon- I am going to be working on that at our meeting on Wednesday.
  - ii. Aiden- For late night there are only two options.
  - iii. Tyler- I go to birch and there is no one at the front desk sometimes.
  - iv. Brandon- If there is anything you need please let me know!
- o. Kristina - Anything for OSS?
- p. Ahmet- Anything for Financial aid?
- q. Tyler- Anything for HGS
  - i. Liz- Kudos on being the last HGS Senator.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- a. **Time: 8:55**
  - i. **Moved: Gianna**
  - ii. **Second: Ayden**