

# 03/09/2026 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 03/09/2026]

Meeting called to order on [03/09/2026] at 7:06 pm in ASB-429

## **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 (late-excused)
- f. CA School Senator Peter Tunnicliffe
- g. ASB School Senator Ismael Carcamo
- h. SSSH 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 (excused)
- 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
- v. Senator Julian Buitrago
- w. Senator Anxhel Larti
  - i. Late: 3
  - ii. Absent:2
  - iii. Excused: 2

## 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 03/02/2026](#)
  - i. Moved: Peter
  - ii. Second: Brandon
  - iii. 16-0-0

## III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. Hope everyone has a safe and relaxing Spring Break! 🌸
- b. State of the College is this upcoming Wednesday at 12 PM in Friend's Hall!
  - i. This is right before General, so be sure to attend if you can!
- c. SGA Bonding (Game Night) is this Wednesday at 9 PM in Padovano Commons!
- d. We would like to work on some of your goals in the coming senate meetings!
  - i. Flesh out your initiative in the [SGA Senate Goals](#) document!
- e. [Upcoming Events](#):
  - i. The Yard Awakens: Thursday, Mar. 12th, 8-10 PM (H-Wing Auditorium)
  - ii. Academic Fair: Monday, March 30th, 12-2 PM (Fishbowl)
- f. SGA General Applications are open! The application is due on March 22nd!
  - i. The link to apply is [here](#).
- g. Senate-Specific Notifications:
  - i. **2nd liaison reports are due in 3 weeks! (March 30th)**
  - 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. New Business

- a. Club Approval: Latinx Pre-Law Society Club

- i. [Constitution](#)
- ii. [Club Presentation](#)
- iii. Questions:
  1. Ayden- How do you make people who are not latino feel comfortable?
    - a. It is not just for latinos, right now it does say for latinos because there is a need for latino representations.
  2. James- Can you elaborate on your initiative? My concern is that laws are always changing and you need someone to be there to make sure things are stable and actually work.
    - a. As an example with a person who wanted to visit we went online and would provide resources.
      - i. We are not stepping out of line. We are being guided by actual attorneys and faculty advisors
  3. Juilan- How many people are interested?
    - a. We have around 25 members right now.
  4. Micheal- Who is your faculty advisor?
    - a. Costa.
  5. Ayden- How do people who are not prelaw majors fit into your club?
    - a. Help do community service like the pantry, where they build up the pantry so much that it is its own initiative. It is not only social work majors, it is for anyone who wants to help out.
      - i. Also Spanish majors can help out by translating law papers.
  6. Brandon- How would you help people who are not in the same kind of law you guys are?
    - a. We have connections with different law enforcement jobs that can help everyone.
  7. Mihir- How will transitions be with you as a senior and Vice president?
    - a. I am now a 3rd year so I will be graduating with Ben
- iv. Discussion:

1. Gianna- I think this club will be helpful but we already have a club similar to this PAD.
  - a. Joe- Is PAD a fraternity?
  - b. Uma- PAD has to pay dues, this organization is volunteer work
2. Ahmet- What happened to the prelaw club
  - a. We do have a law school club but there are differences in this club
3. Tyler- law school prep club is more similar to this club than PAD
4. Mihir- I think this is important because of the current situation of the world. It would be great to have more representation in the world. They seem to have an agenda and mission that seem to be different
  - a. Peter- It was not specific to law because not everyone is going to law school. So it is different than law school prep
    - i. Gianna- I 2nd what you say then why is it in the name?
5. Liz- I understand the concerns for similarities but they have put a lot of hard work into this for a year. They are open to changing the name, We are not focused on the name but the work that they will be doing.
6. David- This is not our first club that has been similar but the culture has been different. Like the Latino med school and the med school club. We have clubs that have the same topic but different variations.
7. James- They are helping immigration help but someone is going to be too passionate and going to cross the line. They are going to have someone from IAI but I am still concerned.
  - a. Mihir- That is not something we can judge based on their presentation because that is the people and not that club itself.
  - b. Liz- Clarification, he is saying it can reflect on Ramapo if someone gives the wrong advice in legal areas.
    - i. James- that is what I am saying. It needs to be monitored better.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

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

- ii. David- I brought this up. They are not giving legal advice. They are giving sources to people who can help them.
  - iii. Ahmet- Were they not looking for a Spanish major to translate government documents. Is that not a concern?
    - Ayden- They are making the person understand the documents.
8. Brandon- A lot of their resources they get from other people.
9. Peter- We should not base our opinions on speculation but we should consider the future problems.
10. Liz- the consideration should be to the students and potentially allowing them to be in a dangerous situation. It is important especially now for this club but we have to be acutely aware of our current world.
11. Ahmet- I am impressed with their connections. I think if they rebranded they were more general without being liable for any legal actions.
12. Cesar (public)- Who is going to be advocating for this group of people if they cannot get help from anywhere else? How is it a liability?
  - a. Ismael- There is no NDA. There is no way to keep it between themselves.
  - b. Gianna- It is a liability because this campus is trying to be neutral and it is going to hurt people if we bring light to this.
  - c. Brandon- There are other clubs that give advice to different ethnicities. So this is beneficial to give help to people that can't get it.
13. Mihir- Senate consensus is that they are concerned with unlicensed students translating legal documents and wanting to do more than just advocacy for immigrants. This will put a target on their backs. There is not a clarification if they are working directly or giving resources.

14. Liz- We are representatives at a liberal arts college and it is the truth that people who are speaking out are getting in trouble.
15. Cesar (public)- This club is taking action what is the problem with that when we have clubs who talk about political things all the time
  - a. David- Taking action is the issue. They are working directly with people outside of the scope of the college which will again put a target on the students.
  - b. Liz- there is a concern if something does happen our federal funding could get cut.
  - c. Peter- Ramapo can not protect the students if something happens, and cannot protect those that are not affiliated with the college.
16. Ayden- They also have events that are not dealing with immigration.
  - a. Mihir- Overall, the club shows some real promise and in terms of the connections and events they plan on having. The organization is very well put together. However, if they do get rejected we will figure out how to get rid of the concerns surrounding immigration to get it approved.
17. Kristina- Could they hold their events without doing the legal documents. Or would that be changing the whole club?
  - a. Mihir- That is what we would talk about to them about that.
  - b. James- The club would be doing a lot of stuff that could change a person's life that we are not prepared for.
- v. Proposed: Approval of Club
- vi. Moved: Ayden
- vii. Second: Tyler
- viii. 10-7-2
- b. Cosponsorship: That's So Y2K (CPAs)
  - i. Date: Friday, April 10, 7 - 9 pm at Friend's Hall
  - ii. Presenter: Alexa Scheinberg
  - iii. Asking for \$\$ for supplies, volunteers, and marketing
    1. Funds Requested: [\\$194.32](#)
    2. Volunteers: 4 (come at 6:30 PM)
    3. Marketing Requested: Social Media, Meeting

iv. Questions:

1. Brandon- How many people did the overlook event have?
  - a. Around 200 people
2. Brandon- Will it be held in the same place?
  - a. It will be held in friends hall
3. Mihir- How do you want to have the volunteers work?
  - a. We are looking for people to serve food and be at the door
4. James- How many were there last year?
  - a. I was told 250
5. Mihir- How in terms of marketing do you want us to help out?
  - a. If you want to make an instagram post that would be great. We made a poster that you can post.

v. Discussion:

1. Brandon- With the high turn out rate I think that this is not a bad price
2. James- If we have the same budget it is good to use this money.
  - a. Joe- I think with the amount of people and the amount asked. It is a fair price.
3. Mihir- are 4 volunteers good?
  - a. Brandon- I know for the overlook one I stayed after. Would they ask for that?
  - b. Mihir- They told us the volunteers would be there during the event, they are not required to stay after.

vi. Proposed: Full monetary, volunteer, and marketing support

vii. Moved: Ahmet

viii. Second: Peter

ix. 18-0-2

c. Cosponsorship: Faith & Chai 3.0 (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship)

- i. Date: Tuesday, March 24, 6 - 8 pm at Friend's Hall
- ii. Presenter: Daniel Rajakumar
- iii. Asking for \$\$ for food and supplies and volunteers
  1. Funds Requested: \$250
- iv. Volunteers: 2-4 during
- v. Questions:

1. Mihir- You asked for volunteers. How many do you need and what will you be using them for?
    - a. We need some at the door.
  - vi. Discussion:
    1. Joe- I think with the turn out that they usually get I think the full amount is good.
  - vii. Proposed: Full monetary, volunteer, and marketing support
  - viii. Moved: Peter
  - ix. Second: Brandon
  - x. 18-0-1
- d. Cosponsorship: March is Self-Harm-Awareness Month Tabling (Wellness is Now)
- i. Date: Thursday, March 26, 1 - 2 pm at Student Center
  - ii. Presenter: Uma Advani
  - iii. Asking for volunteers and marketing
    1. Volunteers: 2-4
    2. Marketing Requested: Social Media, Meeting
  - iv. Questions:
    1. No Questions.
  - v. Discussion:
    1. Mihir- We are all happy with the requests?
      - a. Everyone- Yes
  - vi. Proposed: Full volunteer and marketing support
  - vii. Moved: Ahmet
  - viii. Second: Peter
  - ix. 19-0-1
- e. Remaining Liaison Reports
- i. **Please write your name, liaison, and summary points from your report below!**
  - ii. Kristina (OSS): I met with the director of OSS, David Nast, on February 28th. This meeting served as an introductory meeting where he gave me a detailed overview of what the OSS office does and some of the general conflicts that come up. As of right now, the office is working with nearly 800 students, and the number keeps increasing on a steady basis. One thing I found important and would like to assist with in the coming months is, according to Mr. Nast, many students either don't know what the OSS

does, or chose to not utilize their services, but there are many more students that would benefit from OSS, so we said we would come back to this in a later meeting. He also brought to my attention two current issues, one with the snow removal and how some of it may sometimes be dumped on the handicapped spots, and that is a large issue because it then defeats the purpose of those spots, making it difficult for those students to get onto campus. He also brought up that a number of the elevators and accessible doors are often not working, also making it difficult for handicapped students to get from place to place.

iii. Ismael - ASB

1. I had my meeting with Dean Petkus on February 12th, 2026, we touched upon a few subjects such as:
  - a. Expanding awareness of available student resources
  - b. Strengthening communication between students, administrations, and faculty
  - c. Increasing engagement with faculty and school leaderships
2. A proposed idea was a coffee chat with the Dean and Faculty which would be targeted to mostly underclassmen such as freshman and sophomores that can meet with the Dean and ASB professors to build relationships and ask questions relative to their field.
3. As mentioned in the academic affairs meeting about the Deans advisory board the ASB has a full fledged advisory board and I believe now we have a full social media team if I am not mistaken,
  - a. The advisory board was already established back in February. It is open for everyone and anyone in the ASB to apply, all you have to do is write a one page statement on why you want to be in the advisory board and like the Dean stated no student is rejected.
4. Scholarships: if students are wondering about the ASB scholarships they're 3 people who they should get in touch with,
  - a. Prestige Scholarships - Contact Professor Root
  - b. College Scholarships - Contact Elizabeth Brand
  - c. Faculty Scholarships - Recommended by faculty and also the Dean gives a personal scholarship.

5. In walking around and meeting with different professors last year, a professor mentioned that we used to organize a Wall Street Trip but was unsuccessful due to students not showing up for the trip or signing up then bailing.
  6. The Dean also encourages clubs to collaborate on events to show coordination between clubs within the ASB due to many networking opportunities that could benefit students, as well as showing interest in the WPR (Radio Station) and the Ramapo News Paper which he reads.
    - a. WPR is still pending and for the Ramapo News Paper I just have to clarify on what exactly I will have the ASB students due do to having some interest already within different clubs on going on the newspaper giving their opinions as well as WPR
  7. For the textbook donations it's going to be a little bit difficult trying to get books from professors but there is an area in the basement of the ASB where I think would be a great place to put the book library.
  8. For business room booking or tutoring rooms the ASB has no resources to give at the moment to have a dedicated room but the official "Tutoring room" is provided by Beta Alpha Psi Students.
    - a. A small old pavilion room may be booked for businesses to host events but has to go through CSI
- iv. Brandon - Dining Services (Meeting on Thursday, February 19th with Robert Kuan)
1. Proposed ideas: Adding QR code survey for more items in Atrium drinks department. I am currently implementing this and students are able to vote on up to 3 items per month, I know it is not a lot; however there is not much I can do unless I talk to them about the distributor.
  2. Addition of Apple/Google pay – in process and need to discuss with Aydan Reed. Proposed. However, it will need more debate in order to see that the cost is more beneficial than the possible loss. I see it as a benefit, however I can only do so much as of now.
  3. I have learned that the ways in which I can currently gain money for birch or atrium is very complicated and the budget is very tight,

only smaller changes until a larger sum is given to the dining services.

4. Talks of a renovation to birch are possibly coming soon!
  5. News: Restaurant night - March 6th, doors open at 4:30 PM, swipe plus + \$15. It costs \$30 in flex, ramapo dollars, cash or credit.
  6. Birch fruits + hot food bar is being talked about with the top brass, possibly accessible in smaller amounts until it becomes more common.
- v. Christian (Admissions) -
1. Admissions is on track to meet undergraduate goals, transfer and graduate goals are still unknown
  2. Admissions would like SGA presence at the three big events this semester:
    - a. Sunday March 29th - Admitted Students Day
    - b. Sunday April 19th - Admitted Students Day
    - c. Sunday April 26th - Spring Open House
  3. **Admissions is working on revamping campus tours. Please fill out this [form](#) as soon as possible! I would like to get it in before the break. Please don't make me hunt you down :)**

## 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 - 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 me, your life matters :)
  - i. March is Self-Harm Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge that many people struggle in silence with self-harm, to better understand what it is,

and to remind our campus community of the support and healthier coping strategies. Mental health resources are available through the Center for Health and Counseling Services.

- ii. Please take the [Student Substance Use and Mental Health Survey](#) (closes March 9th).
- c. Alessia- Anything for Title IX?
- d. Tyler- The Italian program is having an event on March 12th at 4PM in Friends Hall there will be amazing food and a live piano player in honor of the UNESCO decision to recognize Italian cuisine's intangible cultural impact!
- e. Peter - QotW: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." —Eleanor Roosevelt
  - i. Visual Arts at Ramapo:
    1. Senior Thesis Exhibition Opening, April 29, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.; [Kresge and Pascal Galleries](#) (free and open to the public)
    2. 2026 6th Annual VFX/ANIMATION Conference, April 30, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; Adler Theater (Free and open to the public)
    3. Expert's Panel, May 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Sharp Theater, \$20 general admission, \$10 students
    4. Alumni Networking Reception, May 1, 8:30-10:00 p.m.; Berrie Center Lobby, \$10
  - ii. Theatre at Ramapo:
    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](#)
  - iii. Music at Ramapo:
    1. Ramapo CantaNOVA Concert, National Masterworks Choir: Mozart Requiem, March 22 at 1 p.m.; Carnegie Hall, 881 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019; (Adults \$51, Student and Senior Discount Tickets Available at the Box Office)

2. Ramapo CantaNOVA & Choral Concert, April 26 at 4 p.m.; 341 Ramapo Valley Rd, Ponds Church, Oakland, NJ (Adults \$10, Students Free!) [Buy tickets](#)
  3. Concert Band, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.; H-Wing Auditorium (free and open to the public)
  4. Songwriting Class Concert, April 29 at 12:15 p.m.; Adler Theater (free and open to the public)
  5. Jazz Concert, April 29 at 7:00 p.m.; the H-Wing Auditorium (free and open to the public)
- iv. Communication Arts:
1. Scholar's Day, April 13 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Trustees Pavilion
- v. Anything for the School of AHE?
1. Project Arch if you went to general you get the tickets for What the Constitution Means to Me for FREE and also project Arch will be hosting an after party.
- f. Ayden- Anything for EOF or Learning Commons?
- g. Brandon - Anything for Dining services?
- h. Leana - Anything for the OVP, Women's Center or the CAP team?
- i. Joe- the heat will be on for a bit longer so don't flood Facilities with work orders

## VII. Adjournment

- a. **Time: 8:50**
  - i. **Moved: Brandon**
  - ii. **Second: Tyler**