

04/13/2026 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 04/13/2026]

Meeting called to order on [04/13/2026] at 7:05 pm in ASB-429

I. Roll Call

- a. President Liz Mendicino (excused)
- b. Senate President Mihir Jariwala
- c. Senate Vice President David George
- d. Senate Secretary Hannah Golden
- e. TAS School Senator Gianna Marchica (excused)
- f. CA School Senator Peter Tunnicliffe
- g. ASB School Senator Ismael Carcamo
- h. SSSH School Senator Ava Cicero-Johnson (excused)
- i. HGS School Senator Tyler O'Connor-Dilello (late)
- j. Senator Joseph Brubaker
- k. Senator Alessia Mendicino
- l. Senator Sebastian Herrera
- m. Senator Michael Marino (excused)
- n. Senator James Nieman (late-excused)
- o. Senator Ayden Reed
- p. Senator Leana Thompson (late-excused)
- q. Senator Ahmet Angun
- r. Senator Christian Soberal (excused)
- s. Senator Kristina Kostoski
- t. Senator Brandon Ferrante
- u. Senator Julian Buitrago
- v. Senator Anxhel Larti
 - i. Late: 1
 - ii. Absent: 0
 - iii. Excused: 7

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 04/06/2026](#)
 - i. Moved: Ahmet
 - ii. Second: Peter
 - iii. 10-0-3

III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. Celebrating our Senators: 🎉
 - i. Job well done for a phenomenal campaigning period!
 - ii. Congrats to Gianna and the Dance Team, who had nationals this past weekend!
 - iii. Congrats to Allie for her role in *Nine!* (shoutout the arts)
 - iv. Congrats to all those who presented their work at Scholar's Day!
- b. **Voting period for the election starts tomorrow, April 14th, at 12:00 PM!** 🗳️
 - i. Please spread the word and help anyone who may have difficulties voting!
- c. Sign Ups (Mandatory and Voluntary):
 - i. [Spring Concert](#): Friday, May 1st
 - 1. This is mandatory and a required part of your position!
 - ii. [Relay for Life](#): Friday, April 24th, 6 AM - 6 PM
 - 1. \$25 entry (proceeds go to cancer research)
 - 2. **Click the button that says "Join This Team"**
- d. Programming Announcements:
 - i. [Club and Organization Awards Application](#)
 - ii. [SGA Superlatives](#)
- e. The State of the Student Address (1 PM) and the SGA Constitutional Convention (4 PM) will be taking place on Friday, April 17th.
 - i. Student Address is highly encouraged, Constitutional Convention is mandatory!
- f. [Upcoming Events](#):

- i. SGA General Election Raffle: Various Dates and Locations
- ii. Coping in Uncertain Times: Monday, April 20th, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
- iii. Relay for Life: Friday, April 24th, 6 PM - 6 AM (Bradley Center)
- g. Senate-Specific Notifications:
 - i. **Final liaison reports are due in 2 weeks! (April 27th)**
 - 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 (Housekeeping)**

- a. Future of the Senate?
 - i. Overall feedback on the current Senate?
 - ii. What do you want changed or added?
 1. Ayden- Bringing more people into the senate. Have a bribe maybe because at the end of the day we are serving the college so we should bring new ideas.
 2. Ahmet- I feel like in the future we should push back on what we approve of.
 3. Brandon- Having free food would be great to get more of the public to join our generals.
 4. Tyler- This is more SGA overall if we hold events in the sga office and have the public come in and have some food or drinks with us to talk.
 - a. Mihir- I agree, I think we should have more flyers.
 5. Ayden- A lot of students don't know they can come into the sga office. Getting more students to come into the office and getting to know us.
 6. Brandon- I think the only people that have come into the office are people who are aware of SGA and I think it would be more fun if we had something free to entice people.
 7. Julian- When I was in the delegate program we had a shadowing program and I think if we had it with all of SGA it would get more people involved.
 8. Ahmet- I like the idea of food as a commuter because commuters love free food.
 9. Hannah- I was a part of the shadowing program and it actually led me to this position but I think it should be in all of SGA because I know some people go into positions confused on what to do.

- a. Peter- Don't we have the past liaison forms they can look at
 - b. Mihir- Yes that reminds me to bring that up later.
10. Brandon- I think it is helpful to students to know that things are happening and show that things are changing.
- a. Mihir- So publicizing not only us but what we are doing.
11. Alessia- We have the birthday box, we could restart that idea.
- b. Senate Goals**
- i. We would like to hear one goal you wanna accomplish in your position by the end of this semester or for the next academic year.
 - ii. It can be the one in the document, or a fresh idea that's in your mind!
 - iii. Julian- Boost student involvement, I think it definitely will be beneficial.
 - 1. Getting people involved in SGA because I definitely have been doing more stuff since I joined. And not only the SGA but like other clubs.
 - iv. Brandon- I want to put QR codes around the atrium that students can vote on drinks to get and it will give students more of a voice.
 - 1. I would make it a bill and I am already working on it
 - v. Ismael- I think getting the schools more connected.
 - vi. Ahmet- I think my goal is more accessibility to returning students because they always get the short hand of the stick.
 - vii. Ayden- All of us working together and especially with EOF is targeted for one group but I would love to work with other senators. And with EOF I want to push for more events.
 - 1. Ayden- I think clashing ideas and just talking with one another.
 - 2. Ismael- I can give you an idea of talking in the fishbowl.
 - a. Ayden- yea ive been talking with people about that.
 - b. Ismael- Yea outreach is important because I didn't know about EOF until the 2nd semester of freshman year.
 - c. Tyler- I want to work on the looks of the office but also opening the doors to more people.
 - d. Peter- One of the main thing was getting more people involved and I will support the others in getting art students in making the office look better.
 - e. Kristina- This is one thing I already brought up but having more people aware of what the OSS is and what it does.
 - i. Hannah- You can work with the peer program because they talk to the freshman directly.
 - f. Anxhel- I want to promote events and maybe even run an
 - iii.

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event next semester.

- g. Joe- I want to give a message to everyone for when I graduate to focus on making sure that the SGA is out there
 - h. Alessia- I want to promote digital accessibility. I have been trying to get a workshop going.
 - i. James- Office participation is my main goal. Something specifically is called a high five project where me and my professor host a teach-in with all of the political clubs and have a civil debate. So students learn how to talk to each other when they fundamentally disagree.
 - j. Leana- I want to get more people, facilities, and offices. I have met that goal and I am happy SGA gave me that platform and I want to keep moving forward.
 - k. Sebastian- I want to work on communication and work face to face with others. It is easy to post things online and put up flyers but I think we should all inform classmates or friends about SGA.
 - l. Mihir- My personal goal is to help you guys out and be a leader. I have a belief in environments where leaders can succeed and I know it's cliché but sometimes things happen and it isn't. So for the future SGA I want this environment to be an open space where everyone to collaborate
 - m. David- To update the student discount programs. My goal wasn't just the student discount but it was about showing students what we do and I made a card to show what we do. SGA is about serving the public and my advice is to work with each other and have goals that aren't just in SGA but beyond college and careers. Always have a goal in mind and work hard. Also if you don't want to be in SGA you can still be a student leader.
 - i. Mihir- We are all part of the same team and we should all help each other succeed and you will succeed yourself. We have the power to do something great as a small college, like in Rutgers you can't meet a dean or president. We can and you should use that to your advantage.
- c. Choosing the recipient for the Senate Award!
- i. This is for a faculty member who we believe has done a lot for the Senate!
 - iii.

1. Ahmet- Mr. O'Neill, He has done so much for students with financial aid and he truly cares about the student body.
2. Micheal- David Nass, He gives students accommodations.
3. Ayden- Jack.
4. Mihir- Jason Ballson? He is very transparent as being in public safety which is very important.
5. Peter- Nicole and Mike from facilities, they have been very open as to what has been fixed or broken and also very efficient about getting work orders done. Also facilities are a huge part of campus so they already do a lot of work.

V. Public Comment

- a. Micheal- Are people recycling well?
 - i. David- No, people are recycling cups with water in it.
 - ii. Brandon- Things are going to the same place anyways.
 - iii. Micheal- They are trying to sort them out but in the residences hall its a whole issue because if its contaminated they have to dump it.

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. Mihir, Ben, and Sam (Student Leaders Council) - Discussed with Dean Van Der Wall, Mike Yankovich, Peer Interns and an Athletics representative. Here are some of the important points brought up:
 - i. **Removal of trees in parking lot:** Mike confirmed that they were nonnative, unhealthy trees. Removing them will make snow removals much cheaper for the school and make parking overall easier, and they plan to make the middle areas where the trees once were into sidewalks. They do not plan on replacing the trees with new ones entirely, but at the minimum will do a 1:1 replacement of trees throughout the campus.
 - ii. **Priority Registration:** Certain groups such as the military and athletes had changes to priority registration, where for the military only active military duty was applicable. As for athletes, priority only applied to in season athletes (this was a provost specific decision). In addition, peers have priority registration depending on their credits. Overall, work needs to be done to better communicate changes with registration as it was done poorly for this situation.

- iii. **HVAC Systems:** Confirmed by Mike that some buildings have self contained boilers and chillers that have an expedited process. However, Wings A-E, G, and Adler get their heat and cooling from a centralized system that takes around a week to switchover from hot to cold. They did the switchover last week so that is why the buildings are cooler now!
- iv. **Advisement:** Discussed as a group the failure of faculty advisement for some students (e.g. giving them the wrong classes, not helping with registration, removing holds without giving actual advisement, etc.). Overall, this seems to be a case by case basis depending on the advisors, and people have stated that they end up getting incorrect information from advisors that they need to reaffirm with other parties.
- v. **Centralized TVs:** Mike discussed a potential initiative that would see TVs all throughout campus work through a centralized network, showcasing consistent and updated information that is the same throughout. We discussed how this could help resolve TVs with outdated information and is something that has been done before for special occasions like arching day and admission days. He wants to see if the SGA is interested in this initiative.
- vi. **Spiritual Center:** Overall, very good reception, Facilities has plans to add a fountain in the pond and to add lights by the patio with outlets to potentially allow sound systems to be implemented!
- vii. Joe- What trees were there?
 - 1. Mihir- I am not sure.
- viii. Peter- Active duty gets priority registration if they will get pulled away.
 - 1. Mihir- I understand and it is a concern we brought up.
- ix. Peter- Yea I have heard of many advisement fails.
 - 1. Mihir- Yes bring them to me because the more we have the more we can help students.
- x. Peter- How would we bring this (referring to TVs) up?
 - 1. Mihir- I think it is ITS.
 - 2. David- In terms of ITS we don't control the TVs.
 - 3. Peter- If all the TVs are connected to one thing it would be easier to control them.
 - 4. Hannah- Liz talked about this and at least some are controlled by roadrunner designs.
 - 5. Peter- Can we connect to the sound system but I think it may not be the best idea.

- a. Mihir- They want it to reserve it for events, there would not be a sound system there 24/7.
- c. Ayden- Academic Policy Council Subcommittee- All cases of Academic Integrity will be retained in the Provost Office for 5 years after graduation or termination. The School offers AI tools which have very specific details on how to use them. <https://www.ramapo.edu/its/ai-tools-rcnj/> . Vice-Provost Joyce Shim is open to coming to one of our General Meetings to discuss more about the Academic Policy. Emma Rainforth is also open to coming to a senate meeting in the evening. I know we are closing in on the semester but I think this will be a good way to get more familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy in case students have any questions. If you or any students have questions about the Academic Policy you can email academicintegrity@ramapo.edu . Anything for EOF, Learning Commons, Academic Policy Council?
 - i. Ayden- The meeting will be on April 22nd at 10am.
 - ii. Mihir- I know you talked about having Emma coming in and the only option is next week.
 1. Ayden- I will probably push it back or have Vice Provost Joyce Shim.
- d. Julian- Anything for Roukema Center?
- e. Alessia- Anything for Title IX?
- f. Anxhel (Center for Student Involvement) - I met with Eddie last week and I'm glad to report that everything for the spring concert is going to plan. The part of the volunteer form that has outdoors positions is a mistake and will be removed soon. The concert will be held exclusively indoors.
 - i. Upcoming Events:
 - Spring Fling; April 14 @ 8PM at Bandshell Lawn
 - Laser Tag; April 16 @ 9:00PM in The Grove
 - Baile Inolvidable; April 18 @ 7-10PM at Trustees Pavilion
- g. Kristina - Anything for OSS?
- h. Peter - QotW: ""
 - 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 p.m-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. *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](#)- In person at the booth for ramapo students
- iii. Music at Ramapo:
 1. Ramapo CantaNOVA & Choral Concert, April 26 at 4 p.m.; 341 Ramapo Valley Rd, Ponds Church, Oakland, NJ (Adults \$10, Students Free!) [Buy tickets](#)
 2. Concert Band, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.; H-Wing Auditorium (free and open to the public)
 3. Songwriting Class Concert, April 29 at 12:15 p.m.; Adler Theater (free and open to the public)
 4. Jazz Concert, April 29 at 7:00 p.m.; the H-Wing Auditorium (free and open to the public)
- iv. Communication Arts:
 1. Thank you to all those attended Scholar's Day, April 13 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Trustees Pavilion
- v. Anything for the School of AHE?
 1. Sebastian- Right after the Senior Exhibition is the Jazz concert?
 - a. Peter- Yes
- vi. Brandon –
 1. Any ideas for possible food at Birch for SGA event?
 - a. Peter- BBQ
 - b. Tyler-Turkey melt
 - c. Brandon- Maybe some beef or empanadas
 - d. Peter- Chicken wrap thing it was really good.
 2. Flex Frenzy ends My 1st
 3. National Flavors (dumplings, mango lassi, fruit crepes, peri-peri chicken) this Thursday, April 16th
 4. Thoughts about Restaurant Night?
 5. Anything for Dining Services?
 - a. Peter- Today the morning bagels weren't there.
 - i. What time?
 - ii. Peter: 9:30
 - iii. Brandon- That is weird I will talk to them.

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- b. Hannah- I was just curious about the possibility of pushing back later at night?
 - i. Brandon- the issue is the workers need to go home
 - ii. Hannah- Could they open up positions for students to work because it will also open up more campus jobs.
 - iii. David- Having a QR code asking students what they want.
- c. Joe- For the atrium keeping just the chips and drinks open and closing everything else.
 - i. Peter- The issue is there are no cameras there .
- 6. Ahmet- Anything for Financial Aid?
 - a. Peter- When is financial aid coming out?
 - i. Ahmet- For freshmen probably late may because they look at grades and stuff for that.
- 7. James: Anything for Registrar or Cahill? Any registration questions?
 - a. Peter- There was an uproar about having small classes. If there is anyway to convince the professors to open up more seats
 - i. James- Yea but there are professors who are having up to 40 students and need more chairs in the class. I can ask them about it
 - b. Tyler- I logged into my registration and it didn't work for 15 minutes and I know I am not the only one who experienced this.
 - i. James- I will bring this up
 - c. Ahmet- Is the appeal of having small classes. I think there should be more professors and the same amount of students. I also have a question about class level restrictions about credits or?
 - i. James- What did it say online?
 - 1. Ahmet- It said class level restriction contact your professor or school. And when I contacted the professor they told me they weren't going to override it for me even though I will be a Junior.

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- a. James- So that is not right. You can definitely cont

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act the school about it.

- d. Peter- We had a random hold on our account and it was for nothing and it prevented us from early registration.

- i. James- what did the hold say?

- 1. Peter- It said academic hold but my advisor already took away the hold.

- ii. Joe- I think hold should be able to notify students

- 1. David- Yea I agree I think like a month or 2 weeks to deal with the holds.

- a. James- How do I phrase that without being like sending notifications because they do?

- i. Mihir- There should be a link to why there is an error code so you can fix it yourself.

- ii. Joe- Also with the email of when you can register to also list your holds.

VII. Adjournment

- a. **Time: 8:40 PM**

- i. **Moved: Tyler**

- ii. **Second: Ayden**