

# 04/29/2026 SGA General Meeting Agenda

Meeting called to order [Wednesday, 04/29/2026] @1:09pm

## **I. Roll Call**

- a. President - Liz Mendicino
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
- d. Treasurer - Julia Kotowski
- e. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann (unexcused late)
- f. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Katelynn Haury (excused)
- g. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla
- h. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Evelyn Santangelo
- 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 Tozluku
- m. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber (excused)
- 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 (unexcused absent)
- w. ASB School Senator - Ismael Carcamo (excused)
- x. CA School Senator - Peter Tunnicliffe (excused)

- y. HGS School Senator - Tyler O'Connor-Dilello
- z. SSHS School Senator - Ava Cicero-Johnson (excused)
- aa. TAS School Senator - Gianna Marchica
- bb. Senator-at-Large - Joseph Brubaker (excused)
- cc. Senator-at-Large - Alessia Mendicino
- dd. Senator-at-Large - Ayden Reed
- ee. Senator-at-Large - Michael Marino
- ff. Senator-at-Large - Sebastian Herrera
- gg. Senator-at-Large - Leana Thompson
- hh. Senator-at-Large - James Nieman
- ii. Senator-at-Large- Ahmet Angun
- jj. Senator-at-Large- Christian Soberal
- kk. Senator-at-Large Kristina Kostoski
- ll. Senator-at-Large Brandon Ferrante
- mm. Senator-at-Large Julian Buitrago
- nn. Senator-at-Large Anxhel Larti
  - i. Present: 27
  - ii. Late: 1
  - iii. Excused: 11
    - 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.  04/22/26 General Meeting Minutes
  - i. Moved: Christian
  - ii. Seconded: Leana
    1. 15-0-1

#### **V. President's Announcements**

- a. Our Final General- Thoughts on the past year?
- b. Looking to take some time for your wellness and win some amazing prizes? Come to the Ramapo College Wellness Fair TODAY Wednesday, 4/29 from 12 to 3 pm. Get connected with campus and community resources and experience a variety of engaging activities that promote student mental health and well-being. All students who check-in to the required tables and complete a brief survey will receive a prize. Therapy animals will be at the event from 1 to 3 pm and there will be free HIV testing from EDGE NJ (\$15 gift card for getting tested!). The rain site is Friends Hall, the Student Center and J.Lee's. Questions? Email [studentwellness@ramapo.edu](mailto:studentwellness@ramapo.edu).
- c. TONIGHT at 7pm is Denim Day! Show up to support survivors of Sexual Assault and your fellow SGA members who are walking!
- d. This Friday is the Spring Concert! I look forward to seeing you all at your shifts and at the concert!!
- e. Congratulations to all of our graduating Seniors!
  - i. Rick: I had no idea Christian and Peter were performing this friday so congratulations!
  - ii. Christian: I would like to give a massive kudos to Liz, for everything.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

- a. Jack: Congratulations on a great year with SGA, the amount of work you all have done being great partners and representing our student leadership as well on Campus you guys have all done great work and keep it up! Can't wait to see what next year brings

- b. Rob: There will be changes with the amounts of prints students will have for the semester. As well as we have implemented an email filter for spam, I am not sure if many of you have noticed but there have been less and less spam emails going in. Also ITS is redoing their website, so people take a lot at the website when you all can!
- c. Rick: We can not make any of you guys do it, but those who are coming back I highly encourage you to tell others about this, to know what is going on and to make sure students are updated on what is going on.
- d. Rick: So I just want to see if I can see everybody. There's Tyler, James, Aiden, Ben. I just wanted to congratulate the 4 of you for the election 2 weeks ago. Probably I've been here 16 years and probably half of the time there's a president, vice president ticket that are running unopposed. And while great people have been elected, I think it's better for the student body when there's competition, their people are running. And I think that's what drove you guys to have the highest turnout as a student body in 9 years. I think the average turnout nationwide is about 10% of college students who voted in SGA elections. And you guys had 14 point one%. That's the highest spring total, probably like maybe 12 years, and there was a fall, there was a fall 9 years ago where it was 16%. But I just want to thank the 4 of you guys for running a great campaign, and I'm looking forward to working with all 4 of you in some capacity next year. And those of you that are not graduating next year, I hope that you will consider running so that we will definitely continue to have competition. All across the board, particularly the top of the ticket.

## **VII. Cabinet Reports**

- a. Vice President
- b. Secretary - Melissa Alvarez-Vazquez
  - i. Such a bitter sweet moment today, thank you everyone for making this year so fun!
- c. Treasurer - Julia Kotowski
  - i. Nothing to Report.
- d. Chief of Staff - Benjamin Hartmann
  - i. Nothing to report
- e. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Katelynn Haury
  - i. Nothing to report
- f. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla
  - i. Thank you all for a great year!
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Evelyn Santangelo

- i. Thank you all for an amazing year. So happy that I got to serve in this position and so excited for next year.
- h. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion - Chantalle Reyes
  - i. Nothing to report
- a. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life - Samantha Schley
  - i. Upcoming events
    - 1. Sigma Delta Tau is having a sticker tabling Thursday, April 30th from 1-3 in the student center
    - 2. Alpha Phi Omega is crocheting baby blankets for NICU babies, Friday May 1st from 7-8:30 in A218
- i. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Amanda Shortt
  - i. Pat was very happy with the group we brought on the trip, lots of compliments given from the speakers we listened to! Thank you all for a great year :)
- j. Secretary of Programming - Afrona Tozluku
  - i. End of the Year Banquet
    - 1. It is **THIS SUNDAY, May 3rd**, from **6-8 pm** in the **Pavillion**. DRESS NICE!
    - 2. Also, please fill out the superlatives form <https://forms.gle/JiKW6nPOBiEkNmFS9>. Fill it out for one or all members, anything helps!
    - 3. If you would like to give a graduating senior a speech at the formal, please fill out this form. There are a lot of seniors graduating so I will try to limit it to one speech per senior. Here is the link for that. <https://forms.gle/vip6fqHqNYWHVUDm7>
    - 4. We will also be having the formal after the Banquet from 8-10 pm.
- k. Secretary of Public Relations - Kaitlyn Kroeber
  - i. Thank you all for a great year!!! Good luck on finals :)
- l. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
  - i. Nothing to report
- m. Secretary of Sustainability - Kristen Senesi
  - i. Nothing to report
- n. Secretary of Service - Emily Beck
  - i. I am happy to present certificates to those who completed more than 10 hours of service this semester! And a \$20 gift card to the bookstore for the member who completed the most hours this academic year!

1. 68.5 hours Emily
  2. 57.5 hours Mihir
  3. 12.5 hours Katlyen
  4. 30.5 hours Ayden
  5. 56 hours Chantelle
  6. 24 hours Sam
  7. 13 hours Leana
  8. 96 hours Ben
- ii. I am grateful for my time in this position in the past year :) Good luck with finals everyone!
- o. Chief Justice - Aidan D'Oria
- i. Congratulations everyone!
- p. Senate President - Mihir Jariwala
- i. Congratulations to our next Senate President and Vice President: Gianna and Peter! 🎉
  - ii. Reminder to continue working on your [transitional document!](#)
  - iii. Last Senate Meeting:
    1. Went over our liaison reports!
    2. Reviewed the past year and the accomplishments we had as a Senate!
    3. Everything we have discussed can be found in the [minutes](#).
  - iv. Thank you everyone for making this a year to remember. Truly proud of each and every one of you. Keep on growing as a leader and as a person. Love you all 🤗



- q. Student Trustee - Sarah Glisson

- i. Nothing to report

## **VIII. New Business**

### ***a. Guests: Middle States Implementation Team***

- i. Leah Warne: Pleased to meet you. Hi, everyone. My name is Leah Werner. Hi, I'm a professor in psychology, and I'm also the co-chair of the executive committee for the Middle Stage Rear creation process. The other co-chair, Joe Connell, and myself visited SGA in the fall. You may remember us. And so we're coming back again just to encourage your participation on Monday. So we are going to be having a visitor from the Middle States, which is our accrediting body. His name is his official title is the vice president. lies on for middle states. And he's going to be giving an open presentation to the American. between 230 to 330 in the pavilion on Monday, May 4th. I know that some of you will be in the classroom that time, but for those of you who are free, we really encourage your attendance. Um, and just again, to re-explain what we are quite, what accreditation is. So it's essentially when an external body assesses whether menopause is meeting its stated goals and giving you the quality education that it promises you. And the other really important part about this is we need accreditation to function, to operate as a college, without accreditation, we would not operate as a college. We would have to close as a college because of the important roles that it plays. And so one of the key things that is going to be great about this presentation is that he's going to be introducing middle states and what it is. And also in that, so it'll demystify what accreditation is, because it is pretty abstract. And also in that, we'll be able to help give SGA like clearer role of the types of ways that you can help contribute to this process. In the upcoming year, we're going to be doing a lot of data collection and running feedback. And we are, like, ways that SGA may play a role next year are things like gathering student perspectives on key issues on campus, helping us interpret student facing policies and practices. participating in discussions about campus climate and student support, and potentially contributing to or responding to findings that shape the direction of the college. So this is a three-year process that is incredible, like an incredible amount of labor, and so we also want to make it meaningful and worthwhile. And so it helps us kind of reflect on our strengths, give us and give us direction for the future and also like in that sort of areas to improve. And so students

are at the center of everything that we do, and so we would really appreciate your participation on Monday. And having some folks from SGD will help them be able to explain to folks next year what's gonna entail when we're gonna be coming back again. So that's essentially what it's all about. Does anybody have any questions?

1. Nobody had further questions
  2. Rick: Leah meeting all students who also want to change their username
- b. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees
1. Alessia: Mission Fulfillment Committee (04/15)
    - a. New minor in cyber security.
    - b. Name Change from Minor in Business Analytics to Minor in Business Analytics and Applied AI
    - c. Name Change from Humanities and Global Studies Contract Major (B.A.) to Major in Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A.) as well as a proposal for Interdisciplinary Studies.
    - d. Authorizing New School Structure and Names
    - e. Intellectual property- Proposed policy that would define the rights of RCNJ and its faculty, staff, students, and contractors concerning intellectual property rights.
    - f. Talked about strategies to get more people to live on campus.
    - g. Strategic partnerships with high schools and colleges
    - h. Meeting enrollment goals
- b. This Week on Campus
- i. Liz: Our Final General- Thoughts on the past year? I just wanted to, especially because we have a pretty light agenda today, open the floor for us to kind of recap on the past year, bless you. Um, kind of talk about how we were feeling. Um, any takeaways, any kudos, like just final thoughts, I would really like to hear from multiple people, like not to put everyone on the spot, but I think, you know, especially as seniors, we've done a lot of reflecting on the past year, in the past couple weeks. I would just really love to hear from you all, like any feedback, any kudos, any comments.
    1. David: at least in the last year, where, at least the Senate has had so many new faces, and in general has had so many new faces, and I think even concerning that, like, you guys are general, really, really long job, being leaders on campus, being involved, right, showing up stuff, how you treat each other. Um, you know, true to others, right? Even in the hallway else here, you guys, like, behave, like, for other people as well. Like you guys have really just been phenomenal leaders, right? Over the past year and I just want to say, let me hear some part of all of you and I know you guys will do great things.

2. Christian: So this is actually my first full year in college. My 1st fall semester, I didn't go back after Thanksgiving break, do some family stuff. So this is my 1st full academic year. And what did I academic years? I told myself after I graduated high school, I would never do student government again. And then this annoying person named Peter said, you should join SGA. And I'm so, so, so, so glad I did because this organization is truly a cornerstone of the campus, and I'm so happy that I get to be a part of it and to work with people, to make campus better, and to learn from other leaders and just overall better myself as a human being with the phenomenal examples that everyone here provides.. And, you know, even when things get tough and busy and we're all swamped with work, we still all show up, have a good discussion, and always, you know, work towards great initiatives that truly benefit the student body. So, I'm glad I ended up joining. And I'm glad that I applied to be a senator, and I'm glad I was reelected, and I'm glad I'm going to be here for another year.
3. Ayden: I was starting to reflect on like, wow, the time went by so fast. One thing I would always say is that I would always be a senator at heart. I mean, even though I'm leaving the Senate, I know, um, Peter and Gianna will do a really good job, keeping in court now. And I know they will make a lasting impact when you guys leave. One thing I want to say, like, even though I'm a freshman, you know, some, you know, I came in with the end and I came in, Sebastian, you know, fall. We're all here for each other, you know, we're a big group, but a big family at that. So, like, if a problem occurs or anything, we should always be here for each other. And another thing is, even though I'm vice president, I'll pop in the Senate a couple of times because like I said before, that's where my heart will always weave. Well, I just want to thank David and Mihir, especially, we're making my 1st college actually one of the best. And every single, you know, setting game, even though, you know, it was serious, we always had foreign, but I think that's the biggest thing I could say. But again, you know, I love you guys all for a lot of my heart, every single one of you, no matter what our differences were, no matter where we're fighting, or not, you know, you guys truly are amazing people. And when you guys this summer, when you guys take time for yourselves, because we have a busy year ahead, we're in a good way. So I want to thank you all for this experience. I want to especially thank David

Mihir, Liz, Melissa, and of course, Benjamin Hartman. It's gonna be a great year. So I'm so excited to see where this goes

4. Athm: I just wanted to give kudos to all the board and all the senators who are graduating this year. Since joining the SGA, my late fall semester this year, it's truly been eye-opening. My freshman year, I'm a sophomore right now. I used to go to school, come back, you know, because it's great, school is great. come back. I never really cared for her on campus stuff. Then I joined the SGA and it truly has been, you know, an amazing experience, but it's an honor and a privilege to work with all of you, especially David and Mihir, you guys have truly been, you know, great role models. I know you guys are gonna go and do great things, and the same goes for the rest of you as well.
5. Ben: I want to give my kudos to my e-board. You guys have been truly been there for me and even after the election in the spring last semester I did not get the position I wanted you all encouraged me to continue and to come back to the SGA as Chief of Staff. I think that alone shows a lot of who you guys are as people, trying to uplift people and, you know, encourage others to try to go on to pursue their passions and what they really care about. And I think also, you know, thank you to everybody for making this such a productive year. I know that even in the hallways, people just come up to each and every single one of you and they'll reach out for help and every single time you always reach and extend the hand to help them up. And I think that alone speaks volumes about who we are, people, who we are at the SGA. And again, I'm just so excited to see what we can do for that semester or next year.
6. Sam: I want to give kudos to those who have not really gotten the recognition they deserve, I want to give kudos to Leana, Gianna, Ava and Evelyan. You guys do so much for the SGA!
7. Leana: Kudos to Afrona, I admire you and your hard work!
8. Mihir: I said a good piece during Senate, but I also want to stay in front of everyone. There's 2 big things is, you know, this year was very diverse. From all the milestones to the challenges, the good, the bad, the ugly, there was a lot, you know, that happened this year, and, you know, we pulled through. I think, especially from my four years, this is woman, if not the most successful SJs that I've been a part of. And each of you have done a phenomenal job in adding to that. And all I hope, especially, you know, whether you're

staying or whether you're going, I just really hope that you guys gained one thing from this, whether it is, you know, a life lesson, a new skill, even something learning about yourself, just something. I want you guys, you know, leaving SJ to be like, okay, I got this. Like, I got I got something out of this. I don't want you to feel unfulfilled, especially in your role. And, you know, even though I always, you know, joke, that sentence number one. Truly the cabinet, you guys are phenomenal people as well. You guys do so much within your fields. And even though my heart will always be inside it, my love for a cabinet is also a very high. And the 2nd thing is, you know, even though in 2 days, it'll be May 1st and the new admission takes over, you know, it's not the end for us. Being a leader is always gonna be eternal. We're always gonna be here, you know, afterwards to, you know, help you guys out to provide advice, but also the most importantly, just be your friends. Because at the end, you know, this is one big family and the family doesn't, you know, depart once we move on. So, you know, once again, they need guys, you guys have done phenomenal work.

9. Liz: I do really want to thank my eboard, Melissa, Mihri, David, Ben, Aidan. Julia, uh, you guys really have been a phenomenal support system this year, and you've all done a phenomenal job, and, I mean, we work very closely together, obviously, and we see each other all the time. But I mean, while we're giving recognition to the e-board, I would be remiss not to give recognition to this e-board because what we do and what I have done and what we accomplish would not have been possible without all of you. Truly, truly, truly, could not be more thankful for all of you. And something else, I remember what it was. Um, I think that, especially in the times that have been difficult, it is really shown not to rehash what everyone's been saying, but who we are, because when we're faced with a challenge, we rise to it. When we're faced with something that feels insurmountable, we rally around one another. And I know that we will continue to do that in the future and that we will continue to rise to the challenge. But I'm very proud of all of you. very excited to see what Ben and Aiden and Gianna and Peter accomplish. Um, I'm I'm just so thankful to have been a part of this and to have led you for the past year.

## **IX. Open Forum**

- a. Christian - Congrats all on an amazing semester!

- i. Thank you everyone for volunteering at our Admitted Students Day and Open House. Let's keep this momentum going!
  - ii. Speaking of volunteers...Please fill out [the volunteer exit form!](#) It's very short and we greatly appreciate your input!
  - iii. Anything for Admission?
- b. Leana - Congratulations to everyone on an amazing year! It was lovely working with you all and I can't wait for another great year!
- i. Denim Day is tonight from 7-9 pm! Come support!
  - ii. Anything for the OVP, the Women's Center, the CAP team, or the Safety Committee?
- c. Peter - QotW: "I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be." –Dirk Gently (*The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul* by Douglas Adams)
- i. Thank you all so much for trusting Gianna and me with the future of the Senate. As your future Senate Vice President, it is my job to serve all of you, so please let me know if there's anything I can do to accomplish that.
  - ii. Visual Arts at Ramapo:
    1. Senior Thesis Exhibition Opening, April 29, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.; [Kresge and Paschal 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
  - iii. Music at Ramapo:
    1. Songwriting Class Concert, April 29 at 12:15 p.m.; Adler Theater (free and open to the public)
    2. Jazz Concert, April 29 at 7:00 p.m.; the H-Wing Auditorium (free and open to the public)
    3. Black American Music (BAM) Club Tiny Desk Concert!, April 30th at 9:00 - 11:00 p.m.; The Grove/J. Lees (dependant on weather); (free and open to the public)
  - iv. I just wanted to add that it has been confirmed that Christian and I will be performing at 'PoFest alongside LI0H!
  - v. Anything for the School of AHE?
- d. Tyler- Thank you everyone for such an amazing year, also if anyone has any final words for HGS I am meeting with Dean Hangen on Friday
- e. Ava – It has been a pleasure working with you all. I can't wait for next year. Check out my Public Safety liaison [report!](#)
- f. Brandon - Hello everyone I have had my final meeting with Robert this past week and wanted to give some more information on events!

- i. Shrimp Scampi - Today during dinner hours (5 - 8PM) Please also watch as last time people have reported feeling ill after eating shrimp.
  - ii. Flex Frenzy ends tomorrow
  - iii. There aren't many times which Birch will be partnering with people in the future as of now, so please if you want to do a collaboration, talk to me or Grace Velarde
  - iv. Anything for Dining Services
- g. James N – Hi everyone! It has been an absolute pleasure working with many of you this semester, in order for us all to become better leaders and better students by each other's side. I was proud to help aid in the biggest election we've had in nine years, and thank you so so deeply to all those who have supported me on this journey. I must confess I will not be talking about liaisoning today, as I believe there are some student ideas and concerns that are much more important beyond some of the typical minutia we may discuss. As the voice of the STUDENT body, first and foremost, I would like to make the following points regarding students first. The following list is a set of ideas that I had come up with, with the help of people like Tyler, that I would love to see implemented on this campus for the betterment of all students with or without my presence:
- **Office Beautification Bill** (repaint, cleaner governing style, club involvement & murals)
  - **"Save the Birds" Bill/Initiative** (doubling down on this so it is actually 100% complete)
  - **Dramatically Expanding QR Codes around campus Bill/Initiative** (tampon refills, gym equipment fix requests, etc...)
  - **Adding Firepits/More (cost efficient) hangout spots for students**
  - **"High-Five Project" between different political clubs & teach-in events** (hosted with Professor Gonzalez, to encourage fair political dialogue between *all* viewpoints on topics of choice).
  - **Shuttle Bus Near Dunkin Dropoff**
  - **Better/More Accessible Mailroom hours**
  - **Separate Career Fairs based on Academic School/Major (ex: humanities career fair)**
  - **Bookstore "selling books to sell back" announcements, a textbook donations program** (expanding on what they already do)

These are just some of the large concerns I heard from students in my time in SGA, and although our resources may be limited – our dreams must never be small. It is my deepest hope that either myself, in whatever capacity, or others can make more of these ideas a reality to better the lives of

our fellow students. Had I seen some of these things as a freshman myself, my mindset would have been helped dramatically. If anyone has further questions on any of these topics or ideas, please feel free to contact me. At this current time I will not overshare ideas that I believe may be absorbed into the achievements of others instead. But I sincerely hope that the student body as a whole can benefit, and it will, despite the ideas on the table – because this is a group of people who give that extra sense of care, diligence, and consideration. It has been an honor working with you all this semester, and to any seniors in the room, congratulations on your achievement!

- h. ★ SGA Star of the Month! (Please inform us of any issues with the form)
  - i. Melissa Vazquez

**X. Adjournment @1:55pm**

- a. Moved: Ayden
- b. Seconded: Tyler O