

04/27/2026 Senate Meeting Minutes

[Monday, 04/27/2026]

Meeting called to order on [04/27/2026] at xx:xx pm in ASB-429

I. Roll Call

- a. President Liz Mendicino (Excused- Late)
- 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 (excused)
- h. SSHS School Senator Ava Cicero-Johnson (dismissed)
- i. HGS School Senator Tyler O'Connor-Dilello
- j. Senator Joseph Brubaker
- k. Senator Alessia Mendicino
- l. Senator Sebastian Herrera
- m. Senator Michael Marino
- n. Senator James Nieman (late-excused)
- o. Senator Ayden Reed
- p. Senator Leana Thompson
- 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: 4

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 04/20/2026](#)
 - i. Moved: Tyler
 - ii. Second: Sebastian
 - iii. 16-0-0

III. Senate President's Announcements

- a. Final Senate Meeting of the year... 😞
- b. Celebrating our Senators: 🎉
 - i. Congratulations to our appointed members from the first reorg meeting!
 - ii. Thank you to all those who attended Relay For Life! And a special shoutout for those who stayed for a long time!
 - iii. Amazing job to all those who volunteered at MEVO on Sunday! Great turnout and great work!
- c. Cabinet and Judicial Applications have opened!
 - i. Can be found on [Archway](#).
- d. Banquet Items:
 - i. Be sure to fill out the [SGA Superlatives](#) as soon as you can!
 - ii. Also if you are interested in making a senior speech, fill out this [form](#)!
- e. Upcoming Events:
 - i. Melanin in the Moonlight, Tuesday April 28th, 8 PM
 1. [posh.vip/e/melanin-in-the-moonlight](#)
 - ii. Wellness Fair, Wednesday, April 29th, 12-3 PM (Grove)
 - iii. Denim Day, Wednesday, April 29th, 7 PM (Friend's Hall)
- f. Fun Senate next week (same time, starting in ASB-429)!

- i. Food: Chick-Fil-A, any other ideas?
- ii. Potential 3-parter? (food/hangout, manhunt, volleyball)

IV. New Business

a. [Liaison Reports](#)

- i. **Please write your name, liaison, and summary points from your report below!**
- ii. Mihir (Dean of Students) - I met with Dean Van Der Wall early in April. We spoke about the process for Alternate Student Trustee, and she was very pleased with how the voting process went. We also went over the resources in the restrooms initiative that myself and Joe started, and currently, the graphic is complete and was sent to facilities. Finally, we spoke on the major issue of faculty advisement and the lack of it within certain majors and students. She feels very sympathetic to the students involved and she took my grievances seriously. Currently this issue is being talked about within the Provost's Office. I plan on meeting her one last time this Friday.
- iii. David (ITS) - Pages going from 225 to 220 next year
 1. David- We are trying to get professors to print out their own stuff
- iv. Christian (Admissions) - We went over the Campus Tour and Volunteer feedback form!
 - a. Goals for next semester is to keep getting great turn outs for our large scale events
 - b. Keep getting information on campus tours as we work through the revamp in the coming months
 - c. On a personal goal, focus more on some bills and initiatives for Transfer and Veteran students
- v. Peter (AHE) - There's a LOT to discuss...
 - a. MFA Program Suspension
 - i. "Issues"
 - Students (Mainly Seniors) would take the ~2 graduate courses and not complete the remainder of the program.
 - Students felt misled by what the program was about because of their interpretation of it coming into Ramapo.

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- The program had been missing enrollment targets since before Dean Goldstein joined Ramapo.
- While it's not binary, continuing to run the graduate program as it currently is would likely require sacrificing funding for the undergraduate program.
- Traditional Graduate students are also not interacting with the program.
- As the cost of tuition rises due to the worsening economy, students are less likely to take the Graduate program.
- The Faculty, despite knowing about the lack of interaction with the program, didn't advertise it nearly enough to boost student engagement.

ii. "Solutions"

- The program is paused, not closed. Unfortunately, this was the best option available.
- There is currently a "Teach Out" for any students who have applied to the Master's Program.
- Should the program continue for the students in the Provisional MFA track, then it would take ~7 years, which is unsustainable.
- Dean Goldstein will be working with Professors Zach Layton and Daniel Fishkin to explore a program revision that is more aligned with the interests of more students in production concentration.

iii. "Unsolved"

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- The credits earned from the graduate courses aren't guaranteed to transfer anywhere because of how unique the program is.
- b. Academic Affairs Committee Ideas
 - i. Upcycling Textbooks: I will coordinate with the liaison for the Learning Commons to have a location for the bookswap; First floor has a lot of space, this will include signage.
 - ii. Regalia Drive: I will contact Eddie Seavers to see how accessible donation boxes would be at Graduation for both Undergraduate and Graduate students. I will also plan on connecting with Pighton and Olivia for marketing for both initiatives.
- c. Bird Strikes
 - i. After further discussion with Joe and Dean Golstein, the vinyl design is still doable. I need to connect with art students to create a design first and then get it approved through facilities. The current issue is that facilities doesn't want a design, which, if that's the case, this is no longer an issue that pertains to Dean Goldstein or the School of AHE. However, I will keep working with the Liaison for facilities and advocating to get something/anything on the windows of the academic wings to mitigate bird casualties and fatalities.
- vi. Julian (Roukema) - Kat Lamana wanted to remind incoming seniors that there are still opportunities to study abroad: "January session 2027 for study abroad is still available, contact Kat Lamana or Roukema for more information. Super ideal for seniors to have that last opportunity before you graduate, still open to other undergrads except freshmen. The deadline is October 1st." Roukema is sending more fall students in a long time (usually 9-10, it's 22 as of the meeting). She also asked if the SGA would be interested in having her or one of her ambassadors speak at Senate or General?

- vii. Ava (Psafe and SSHS) – I cannot be here tonight. Please check my entire report for more details: [click here](#)
 - a. Public Safety: Campus projects include repaving the village, improving curbs and sidewalks for better visibility, redesigning intersections over the summer, and adjusting traffic patterns near parking lots. Public Safety is developing a 35-minute self-registration lockdown training module and will rely on SGA to promote it once available on Canvas. Concerns discussed include accommodating OSS students during drills, limitations on using alarms due to state law, evaluating alert systems across buildings, and encouraging situational awareness in spaces like glass-walled rooms. Scheduling drills requires coordination with the provost to minimize academic disruption, and communication delays between text and email alerts were explained, with students encouraged to opt in for notifications. Public Safety continues outreach through campus events and is considering expanding mandatory safety modules. Additional updates include plans to better publicize ID office hours, centralize visitor parking passes at the Student Center with added resources, and address sanitation and safety issues caused by geese on campus.
 - b. SSHS: Dr. Ray says, the more students are around in the decision-making process and events the better it is. Students have a ton to offer.
 - i. invite the deans to a general meeting to answer questions
 - c. have SGA post for school-specific events that deans want to promote
- viii. Leana (The OVP & WC)
 - 1. **The OVP:** The OVP will be at the wellness fair on the 29th from 12-3 pm. Make sure to stop by their table!
 - 2. Make sure to attend the OVP's annual Denim Day on the 29th from 7-9 pm. SGA members will be walking!
 - 3. Volunteers are needed for Denim Day at 5-9:30 pm if possible! Set up and clean up.

4. Marie Attis-Springs has been appointed as the Access Belonging and Community Officer, formally known as the Chief Diversity Officer. She will be replacing Nicole Morgan Agard, who will now be the college Chief Counsel. The Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Compliance (EDIC) will be changing titles to the Office of Access Belonging and Community.
5. **The WC:** The Women's Center is having a summer reading challenge! You can collect a bingo board from 4-5 pm on Wednesday, April 29th in the Women's Center. They will have treats, plus people are invited to bring books to swap.
6. The Women's Center is hosting a book swap from 4-5 pm on Wednesday, April 29th in the Women's Center. They will have treats, plus people are invited to bring books to swap. This is also a way to promote their lending library.
7. At this Book Swap event there will be a giveaway! Anyone who attends will be entered to win.
8. On Friday, May 1st from 1:30-3:30 pm, the Women's Center will be partnering with ARM (Allies of the Ramapo Munsee). At this event, they will be presenting a collaborative playlist and listening party for native women, indigiqueer individuals, and two spirit musicians! There will also be prizes there!
- ix. Sebastian (Athletics)
 - a. All the information of the summer hours, and end of semester closing information can be found on the faculty hours page on the athletic website [linked here](#). These hours are up to date, being posted since April 8th, information will continue to be posted on the Athletic's departments social media pages as well. On May first per the CSI spring concert, the Bradley center will close at 5:30pm. May 4th-7th: The Bradley Center will close at 9:00pm. Friday, May 8th: The Bradley Center will close at 4:30pm. **May 9th – May 17th: Bradley Center Closed for general use.** The Bradley Center will re-open with summer hours on Monday, May 18th.

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- b. Students and staff here for summer housing/internships ect. can find all hours on the website with the link below. Emergency closures from the College would come from Public Safety and would also be communicated on our social media and/or website when appropriate during the summer sessions.
<https://ramapoathletics.com/sports/2008/1/21/bradleycenterhours.aspx>
- c. The facility **WILL** be closed Aug. 8 through the 24th for preseason.
- x. Alessia (Title IX): I met with Kat McGee on April 16th. First, I brought up a question that Sebastian asked me about whether Title IX and if its anti discrimination rules extend to Clubs on campus. Kat told me that she does oversee antidiscrimination in clubs. However, Kat mentioned that she can't single out one organization so any change would have to be a requirement for all clubs, regarding what's required in their constitutions. Additionally, College-wide non-discrimination rules still apply to clubs, so if any discrimination comes up this would cover it even if it's not in a club's constitution. Next, we talked about our idea of having a Digital Accessibility Workshop along with Alex and decided it would be best to save it until next semester. However, we did reach out to Kriselle about possibly incorporating a Digital Accessibility Workshop into RLI and she thinks that it would be a great idea! This will help student leaders make sure College-affiliated accounts are compliant with the new ADA rules going into effect. Then we talked about Denim Day which is going to be on April 29th. Finally, Kat wanted me to share this [Flowchart](#) with everyone that talks about how Ramapo College handles a report of sexual

misconduct and the multiple paths students can take if a student wants to come forward.

- xi. Ahmet (Financial Aid): I was unfortunately unable to attend a meeting with Mr. O'Neill because of schedule conflicts and the fact he's out of the office. He reported to me that there is nothing new to report, and all important information can be found in the previous liaison report. The FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2026 for the 2025-2026 year. As you may imagine, it is very late in the academic year and for the following year we should all make an effort to fill out HESAA and FAFSA forms as soon as they open (Usually late December) for priority aid and to make sure the school's Financial Aid office has all of your updated information. Just a reminder, all returning undergraduate students (especially sophomores) will receive their aid information for the following year towards late May early June to account for SAP. As always, it was an honor to serve the senate this year and it's an honor to liaise with the Financial Aid office, if there's any questions or concerns regarding your financial aid, please reach out to the office or to Mr. O'Neill, foneill@ramapo.edu.
- xii. Ayden Reed (EOF)- EOF is wrapping up a successful month, With the EOF picnic serving as the final event this Thursday from 1:15-2:30. A major highlight was that 70 EOF graduates were recognized by the state. EOF summer program will be making up 10% of the incoming class. EOF summer is being held in Overlook this year. Everyone who got up to 975 received the full 975 for spring 2026. Students next year will need to fill out an asset form.
 1. Academic Policy Council- Academic discussions focused on expanding programs of study for student exploration. Reviewing low-enrollement programs and clarifying why certain programs

may need to be discontinued. Medical Imaging will not be offered in the fall but students already in the program will get to finish their major and get a degree. Academic Integrity remains open for public comment until May 1st. Programs must follow the ARC procedure and discontinued programs should only affect incoming students. ACP is reviewing academic standards for majors, minors, and certificates.

- xiii. Micheal- Student Success/ Middle States Executive Team: During my April 17th meeting with the Middle States Executive Team we discussed the logistics behind Dr. Michael Bowden's May 4th visit since it is quickly coming up. I will be meeting with the external committee for breakfast and lunch where they will be asking questions about what life is like as a Ramapo student. Next semester I will be making a survey to ask students about their experiences on campus to bring back to the committee. (favorite activities, favorite parts/ experiences on campus etc...). Someone from the committee will be attending public comment to talk about the possibility of SGA presence at the all-campus meeting at 2:30-3:30
- Any questions for Student Success, or Middle States
 - 1. Learning Commons- As final week is approaching the Snack Fairy and planning for a possible snack fairy. Discussions include snack ideas, distribution, times and volunteers. Visual Arts Exhibit Final Projects are on the 3rd and 4th floor and give a quick look!
Extended Learning Commons hours during finals week, May 5th to May 11th.
- xiv. Kristina Kostoski: OSS: Dr. David Nast and I discussed the replacement of Assistant Director of OSS, Missy Long's passing, the future of TRIO funding for OSS, reorganization of OSS students to counselors, new

student attendance during open houses, student concern with the office regarding a service animal, and also pushing for more publicity. There will be a remembrance gathering for Missy Long at Padavono Commons on 5/6 from 12-1 There will be a Graduate Reception on 5/5, all students are able to attend and nominate staff, including OSS counselors, for example. The Deans of all schools will be there and so will Dr. Jebb.

- xv. Tyler O'Connor: I wasn't able to meet in person with Dean Hangen but we emailed about the final HGS faculty lunch, and the end of the semester.
- xvi. Joe - Nothing to report, but take a look at the Facilities Comprehensive Plan for future facilities updates
- xvii. Gianna Marchica (TAS/SNH) - Dean Chan and I spoke on a SNH Book Drive which has been discussed with the Academic Affairs Committee. This event would be aimed to target all SNH majors and books and materials that graduates need to get rid of as well as students still here will need. It is a great and free resource for many students on campus. Dean Chan has also brought up a concern about low attendance in courses in SNH as well as other schools.
 - 1. David- what classes are students missing?
 - a. Gianna- There is not one class but overall students are not coming.
 - 2. Peter- What type of classes are students missing?
 - a. Gianna- Mainly lectures because labs are very hands on and you really can't miss them.
 - 3. Hannah- I do think that students missing class is a problem, however, I know professors who will mark your grade down for just missing one class. Which is not fair especially if you are sick or an emergency comes up.

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- a. James- We can definitely talk to the provost, however professors have total rule on how they run their class. So the likely hood of that changing is slim.
4. Anxhel- I think the
 - a. Gianna- I think that TAS has the most adjunct professors
5. Micheal- I have experienced this, this morning when I missed a class and a professor reached out to me. And it made me feel seen.
- xviii. Anxhel Larti (CSI) - I met with Eddie Seavers on April 8, 2026, to discuss upcoming CSI initiatives, campus events, and student concerns. The Spring Concert remains on track for May 1 and will be held entirely indoors. CSI also has several April events planned, including Spring Fling, Laser Tag, Baile Inolvidable, and La Fiesta Del Barrio. Eddie encouraged student leaders to volunteer at Open House and Admitted Student Day while helping create a welcoming campus environment. We also discussed commuter transportation concerns, with students reminded to report issues early so they can be addressed quickly. Overall, the meeting focused on student engagement, successful event planning, and improving the student experience.
- xix. Ismael (ASB)
 - a. I met with Dean Petkus on Thursday 4/16/26. We went over some issues brought up about advisement and how some students are being left behind due to lack of credits because of said advisement.
 - i. He said there are two sides of every story, and to talk to the advisement office in the school to see how we can better prepare the professors and students who should be checking there graduation

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audit every semester to make sure their still on track.

- b. The miniature library should be getting some books in by tomorrow in the basement floor of the ASB Building.
- c. I have also connected with a Michael Kors Marketing Strategist whos contact information was given to AMA and there is still a real estate opportunity where you can learn some real estate business and might come out with a license.
 - i. For any inquiries just email me or group me:
 - icarcamo@ramapo.edu

xx. Brandon: Dining Services

- a. Discussed multiple issues containing to birch and atrium
- b. Religious and Dietary restrictions issues
- c. Addition of a fruits bar
- d. Addition of apple/google pay – tap to pay
- e. QR code survey for additional items in atrium drink section
- f. Daily late night items addition

Projects:

- g. Adding QR code survey for more items in Atrium drinks department – will discuss at next meeting about creation of a bill
- h. Healthier items in Birch – in process Opportunities:
- i. Not any to speak of at meeting

b. Year In Review

- i. 25+ cosponsored and cohosted events approved!
- ii. 17 Clubs Approved!

1. 8 in the fall, and 9 in the spring!
 2. Record breaker!
 - iii. 6 bills passed!
 - iv. Initiatives/Milestones by the SGA:
 1. Highest Election Turnout for the Fall in 8 years!
 2. Highest Election Turnout for the Spring in 9 years!
 3. Updating Student Discount Program!
 4. Valley Health Resolution!
 5. Public Safety Lighting Survey!
 6. Open Office for Admitted Students Day and Open House!
 7. Washington ASGA Conference!
 8. New merch! (shoutout Melissa)
 9. Amazing hosted events! (shoutout Afrona)
 10. And so much more!
 - v. Thank you all for making this year one to remember for the SGA! 🍷
- c. [Transitional Documents](#)
- i. Be sure to fill out the form for your respective liaison in the coming week!
 - ii. The previous transitional document can be found in the drive:
 1. SGA Official Drive → Transitional/Procedural Documents
 - iii. **Due by May 1st!**

V. Public Comment

- a. Uma- Kudos to everyone in the Senate and future representatives.
- b. James- I am so proud of the senate. Being in the Vp and working with the club process and seeing how everyone nit picks these clubs, I learned so much from you guys.

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. 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 I with the future of the Senate. As your future Senate Vice President, it is my job to serve all of you, 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 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
- iii. Music at Ramapo:
 1. Concert Band, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.; H-Wing Auditorium (free and open to the public)
 2. Songwriting Class Concert, April 29 at 12:15 p.m.; Adler Theater (free and open to the public)
 3. Jazz Concert, April 29 at 7:00 p.m.; the H-Wing Auditorium (free and open to the public)
 4. 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. 'POFEST: I just wanted to add that it has been confirmed that Christian and I will be performing at 'PoFest alongside Lioh!
- v. Arts week- Wed. 29th- 6pm in the berry center!
- vi. Anything for the School of AHE?
 1. James- Kudos for doing the quote of the week.
- c. Gianna - Congratulations to all representative members that were appointed to positions today and I want to say thank you for appointing me and trusting me with the position of Senate President. It's an honor and a privilege to serve you all and the student body.
 - i. Anything for TAS/SNH?
 - ii. Senators, please try to refrain from applying to any cabinet positions, especially if you were just elected!!
- d. Brandon - Anything for Dining Services?

- e. ★ SGA Star of the Month! [April Form](#)

VII. Adjournment

- a. **Time: 8:20**
- i. **Moved: Gianna**
 - ii. **Second: Peter**