

09/30/2026 SGA General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order [Wednesday, 09/30/2026] 1:06

I. Roll Call

- a. President - Benjamin Hartmann
- b. Vice President - Ayden Reed
- c. Secretary - Alessia Mendicino
- d. Treasurer - Julia Kotowski
- e. Chief of Staff - Tyler O'Connor
- f. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Elena Gergis
- g. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla (excused)
- h. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Evelyn Santangelo
- i. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion - Brianna Pierre
- j. Secretary of Community Engagement - Uma Advani
- k. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life - Katherine Argueta
- l. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Ahmet Angun
- m. Secretary of Programming - Matthew Webb
- n. Secretary of Public Relations - Cole Werner
- o. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal (absent)
- p. Secretary of Sustainability - Aleks Soucie
- q. Secretary of Service - Lane Evers (excused-early dismissal)
- r. Chief Justice - Amerie Ramos
- s. Legislative Justice - Paul Vargas (excused)
- t. Administrative Justice - Madison Ziolkowski
- u. Senate President - Gianna Marchica
- v. Senate Vice President - Peter Tunncliffe (excused)
- w. Senate Secretary - Isabella LaGuardia (excused)
- x. ASB School Senator - N/A

- y. AHE School Senator - Peter Tunncliffe (excused)
- z. SNH School Senator - Gianna Marchica
- aa. SSSW School Senator - N/A
- bb. Undergraduate and Honors School Senator - Leana Thompson (excused)
- cc. Senator-at-Large - Michael Marino (excused)
- dd. Senator-at-Large - Harold Rodriguez (excused)
- ee. Senator-at-Large - Julian Buitrago
- ff. Senator-at-Large - Kyra Cooke
- gg. Senator-at-Large - Brandon Ferrante
- hh. Senator-at-Large - Kristina Kostowski
- ii. Senator-at-Large - Anxhel Larti
- jj. Senator-at-Large - Christian Soberal (excused)
 - i. Present: 22
 - ii. Late:
 - iii. Excused: 8
 - 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.  9/23/26 General Meeting Minutes
 - i. Moved: Julian
 - ii. Seconded: Anxhel
 - 1. 6-0-0

V. President's Announcements

- a. Hope everyone has had a great week so far as we gear up for Oktoberfest and Family Day!
- b. Encourage everyone to get out to vote! Voting ends this Thursday so let's get as many people to vote as possible!
- c. One of the biggest points from this past Student Leaders Council Meetings was first year students feeling as if they didn't belong. With that said, I'd be interested to see and gauge any other feedback that people have been feeling. Something that will continue to fuel this is SGA Open Office Hours which Uma will be going into more depth about.
- d. Continue to push out the various committees to everyone, especially first year students to get everyone involved.
 - i. Commuter Affairs Committee
 - ii. Delegate Affairs Committee
 - iii. Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - iv. Programming & Public Relations Committee
 - v. Sustainability Committee
 - vi. Fraternity and Sorority Life
 - vii. Community Engagement
- e. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please ensure we have a representative present at the OVP proclamation, as well as at any other events hosted by OVP
- f. We need a representative to attend culinary council atrium sep 30th 3-4pm (last Wednesday of every month)

VI. Cabinet Reports

a. Vice President Ayden Reed

- i. I hope everyone is having a great week! Last week we approved two allocation requests from RCNJ Choral Club & Intervarsity Christian Fellowship club
- ii. Today there will be an allocations meeting at 3pm in B226!
- iii. If anyone you know is interested in creating a club please have them reach out to sgaclubs@ramapo.edu
- iv. Just a friendly reminder if you are interested in volunteering for an open house this Sunday October 4th please use the link to register!
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLScz0zc26ifRwzAM7OGHUY68vJO2RrRM8Z7Dr58nTKZGaoyKbA/viewform>

b. Secretary - Alessia Mendicino

- i. Please remember to fill out the office hours form
- ii. Let me know if you ever have to miss your office hours or General :)

c. Treasurer - Julia Kotowski

- i. Please reach out with any budget-related questions and make sure to forward any receipts to me
- ii. If anyone has any fundraising ideas please let me know

d. Chief of Staff - Tyler O'Connor

- i. Thank you to my cabinet for submitting their cabinet reports
- ii. We now have a full cabinet!!! Welcome Kathy our new Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life and thank you to our Senate for the speedy confirmation :)

e. Secretary of Academic Affairs - Elena Gergis

- i. The Academic Fair will be held on Thursday, October 15th from 1:00-2:00 P.M.
 1. still waiting on a confirmation for location, but expect it to be in the Library Learning Commons on the third floor
 2. Please fill out this form to volunteer as a school representative for the fair: [Academic Fair School Representative](#) (feel free to share it with others)
 - a. IF YOU ARE NOT A PART OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THIS CAN COUNT AS SERVICE HOURS

3. If you have any suggestions for the Academic Fair, please either talk to me after general or reach out to me via email/GroupMe/text
 - a. email: egergis@ramapo.edu | phone #: 201-450-5582
- f. Secretary of Commuter Affairs - Matthew Zegla
 - i. Upcoming commuter events:
 1. Throwback Snacks: Tomorrow at 1 PM in J. Lee's
 2. Pumpkin Painting: Thursday, October 15th from 1-2 PM in J. Lee's
 3. Trunk or Treat: Tuesday, October 27th from 5-7 PM at the tennis court parking lot. Car registration is now open! Registration closes on October 20th at 11:59 PM.
 4. Commuter Breakfast: Thursday, November 5th from 9-10:30 AM on the second floor of the Student Center
 - ii. The commuter sign is back on display in the Berrie Center. If you or someone you know is interested in advertising on the sign or digitally on some of the TVs on campus, reach out to me!
 - iii. Thank you to everyone who came to last week's meeting. The next Commuter Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 9th, from 1-1:40 PM in A-100.
- g. Secretary of Delegate Affairs - Evelyn Santangelo
 - i. My next committee meeting is tomorrow October 1st at 1pm in A223.
- h. Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion - Brianna Pierre
 - i. Nothing to report.
- i. Secretary of Community Engagement - Uma Advani
 - i. WHEEL OF INTERACTION - At every SGA General Meeting starting next General, I will be spinning a wheel to decide which two SGA Members will go to one club event that week. The chosen pair of SGA Members is responsible for talking to either the eboard about opportunities to collaborate with the SGA or to talk to students about any changes they want to see on campus.
 - ii. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. You are never alone. Resources are available. Reach out to me privately if you're interested in learning more about resources offered
 - iii. REMINDER: SGA Open Office Hours Trial Run is running this week!
 - iv. Please tell your story at Take Back The Night - Office of Violence Prevention, if you feel comfortable. You will be either allowed to read aloud or have someone read it for you. Forms are due Monday, Oct. 12th. Take Back The Night is on October 22

- v. Thursday, October 1st - 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. - Disability Awareness Month x Queer & Trans History Month Opening - Women's Center & LGBTQ+ Services and Office of Specialized Services - Arch (Rain: Alumni Lounges)
1. Elena: I was wondering, for the wheel of interaction, if the pair have to be at the same event or if they just need to both be at an event?
 2. Uma: The whole idea with the pair is that you guys work together and it's different people getting to know each other in the SGA. Because I feel like a lot of us stick to our own friends- which is perfectly fine- but the whole idea is for you guys to talk to each other. Some people aren't comfortable going alone so that's the whole idea behind it. You can talk about it after General with your partner, get in contact with them, and then go together.
 3. Ben: Just a general comment to everybody because, for example, before this even started something that Ayden and I did was we went to one of the events that the Knit and Crochet club had. There's so many great opportunities that came out of it. For example, we met somebody who was interested in starting a club and they started talking to us, we introduced ourselves, and they realized that we're the ones that they can go to if they want to start this club. And now they're in the formal process, they're almost finished, and it's really exciting. And not only did it make it a little bit more personable- because there're people who sometimes seem a little bit more closed off, closed minded, than we really are- and that's essentially what we are trying to embody. So let's try to soak up this new initiative that's launching, and I already see a lot of potential in it so I'm really excited.
 4. Uma: I don't want to be like you guys have to interact but I feel like this is the first step. And I think this will go over better than the Open Office Hours.
- a. Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life - Katherine Argueta
- i. Hello everyone!! I'm excited to work with you all and to hear all your initiatives. The Greek Tailgate is today at 5:15 in the tennis courts parking lot! It ends at 6:45 and there is a soccer game after. I'll keep you updated on any other events coming up.
 1. Ben: Do we have to register or can we just go?
 2. Kathy: You can just come.
- j. Secretary of Governmental Affairs - Ahmet Angun

- i. Great first committee meeting everyone, our next committee meeting is TBD. Remember to come up to me at any time with questions on how to join the committee, questions pertaining to the committee, or initiatives you'd like to see our committee tackle. Thank you.
 - 1. Ayden: Are you bringing anyone to General? Like a congressman or an elected official?
 - 2. Ahmet: I talked about that in my cabinet report, Pat is cold to that idea for the time being just because of how complicated it is to bring someone here. Obviously it's still a work in progress. He wants us to go more local like in the Burgan County and Passaic County region just because it's easier for them to come here and it actually pertains to the people who live in the area. The problem is, we have to reach out to those people and it's just a work in progress. Pat's been really helpful; he's been really open to bringing people. He just said that a lot more goes into it than just inviting them over; a lot of things need to be considered, like people need to give tours and stuff like that.
- k. Secretary of Programming - Matthew Webb
 - i. OKTOBERFEST IS A GO YIPEEEEEEE!!!!!!
 - ii. We have Sweatshirts and Shirts, you will get your merch when you show up for the event
 - iii. Please sign up for Saturday events click here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_SuvHnAvPJprUg1z6XxSelTuxDT87VOO/edit?pli=1&gid=930513460#gid=930513460
 - 1. Ben: Just a comment, I feel like we should push this in the delegate group chat as well.
 - 2. Evelyn: That's the plan for tomorrow, I think Matt said he was actually going to come in and say that. And he's also going to talk about it too.
 - 3. Gianna: I have a question, I have the sign-up list here but can we include the dates that these are?
 - 4. Matthew: Yes, of course. I can do that right now.
 - 5. Gianna: Thank you. Just 'cause looking at it, some people might not know what exact dates they are.
- l. Secretary of Public Relations - Cole Werner
 - i. Good Afternoon everyone, just met with my Liaison Alex today! Great insight on everything
 - ii. Gained approx. 115 new followers and 58.2k views in the last month!
 - iii. The SGA instagram reel that was just posted has gotten a lot of attraction and has received 7.5k views!!

- iv. Make sure you like, comment, share on any SGA content that is posted, Thank You.
 - 1. Gianna: Kudos
- m. Secretary of Residential Affairs - Lismary Pascal
 - i. Nothing to report.
- n. Secretary of Sustainability - Aleks Soucie
 - i. Hello everyone, I am very excited to work with you all! If you have any questions or ideas regarding sustainability on campus please message me. I am in the works of getting everything set up!
 - 1. Ben: Yesterday at Birch, a faculty member, Donna, was upset because of the amount of waste during late night dining. I understand that this is not a “us problem”, but it’s definitely something that I just wanted to raise your attention to. She was very upset, she took like 5 different pictures with different angles of the trash can. She’s very adamant about it and I think we should be too, it’s something that we should be focused on now that we do have a Secretary of Sustainability. I’d love to see any input from your committee and your different ideas in the future.
- o. Secretary of Service - Lane Evers
 - i.  SGA Service Hours Tracker 26-27
 - ii. Submitting Service Hours: Each of you need at least 4 service hours per semester! To submit them, there is a service hour form that you can fill out either digitally or physically. Digital copies are in the Community Service SGA folder and physical copies are in the mailboxes (to the right once you walk into the office). Please fill out all the fields, get a signature from the club/person that was running the event and put it in my mailbox! If you have a digital copy, email it to me at eevers@ramapo.edu
 - iii. Our Service Trip is coming up! We will be going to Flat Rock Brook Nature Center to help with their Fall Festival. **Please RSVP here by the end of next general!** We need answers as soon as possible! [RSVP for Service Trip!](#)
 - iv. For more Service Events/Trips: [Service Calendar](#)
 - 1. If you are interested please sign up on Archway!
 - v. If you have any questions about service hours please email me or visit me during my office hours on Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm!
- p. Chief Justice - Amerie Ramos
 - i. nothing to report
- q. Senate President - Gianna Marchica
 - i. Here is our Senate Meeting Agenda from this past Monday

1.  Senate Meeting Agenda 09/28/2026
 2. We approved a Cosponsorship with ENACTUS, appointed our Secretary of Fraternity and Sorority Life Katherine Argueta, and we went over our Liaison Reports!
- r. Student Trustee - Olivia Ha
- i. Hello everyone! I cannot attend General this week, but just a quick update to let you all know that the Student Trustee Feedback form is still being improved and revised. More updates to follow.
Have a good day!

VII. New Business

- a. Reports from SGA Members on College-Wide Committees
 - 1.
- b. This Week on Campus
 - i.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Jack: Happy Wednesday! Just a couple of core announcements. I do want to thank Uma and Matt for mentioning Trunk-or-Treat. We're very excited for **Trunk-or-Treat**; just a reminder, it's going to be happening Tuesday, **October 27th from 5pm-7pm**. We are working on getting people from local elementary and middle schools to go to trunk-or-treat, so please spread the word. If you haven't registered a car and your organization is interested, please do so. If you have any questions about your car's theme or anything please let Kriselle and I know; as a reminder it's a friendly family event so make sure your themes are exciting but also family friendly and welcoming. Something we want to reiterate to clubs is to make sure you have your materials ready, you have multiple weeks to prepare and we can assist you. Again, looking forward to the Student Government Association having a car for Trunk-or-Treat. If you need help with themes you can chat with us as the advisory team or you can talk amongst yourselves, there's many ways you can go about it but i'm looking forward to your themes. There are prizes for the winners for the non-Greek cars and the Greek cars; it's going to be a fun surprise this year. If you have members of your community- little ones, family members, community members, folks you know locally- that want to come up to Ramapo, whether it's visiting or it's their 1st time at Ramapo College, we would love to have them. If you want the flyer to invite them as well we're happy to give that information. How

many people have seen Parks and Recreation? Two of my favorite characters on the show, Tom and Donna, do a treat yourself day. So we have a **Project L.E.A.D. Treat Yo Self-Care** presentation happening on **October 8th in A-101**. We're going to have refreshments, snacks, and food. One cool thing about it is we are going to be talking about ways to self care. It's super important not just for all student leaders but for everyone to do. It is kind of like a drop-in event; so if you are able to go for a little bit if you want to know some self-care practices that you can use, you can do so. You can also create your own self-care day. It takes place on National Treat Yourself Day. We encourage folks to go; if you can, RSVP on Archway. If you have suggestions of snacks I can get, you can let me know. I want to give credit to the SGA for the work you're doing. Not only just the community building you are doing, but the conversations you have with each other. Keep those conversations going. I'm so excited for election results and getting new members to join the community. If you need any support let us know, but keep up the good work.

- b. Rick: Hi everyone. Who knows what ends at noon tomorrow?
- c. Ginna: The election?
- d. Rick: I'm assuming everyone up here has voted. I can't give you the numbers right now, but you are doing really well on campus in terms of the percentage of people who are voting. I know that the 6 Senators that have been here all semester long are going to be happy when, hopefully, next Wednesday this is going to be filled with 8 new Senators. We're going to announce it tomorrow shortly after noon. This is because I know that you need folks for Oktoberfest. I'm not certain that all 8 people are going to be able to jump in, but hopefully they will be able to start filling up some of the slots for this weekend. Jack is going to put it on the website; I will list it on the SGA door. There'll be 7 new Senators-at-Large and the ASB School Senator will be announced tomorrow. I'm assuming that they're going to be inaugurated Monday night, but hopefully Wednesday, at General, we will all be here and we'll do some kind of recognition so they can be introduced to the public. I just want to reiterate a couple of announcements that have been made. The Greek Tailgate is **today at 5:15**, and hopefully a lot of you will be there. **Tomorrow, at 1 o'clock**, at the Arch, is the opening- jointly- of Queer & Trans History Month and Disability Awareness Month. Numbers have been a little bit down, but we used to have an amazing SGA turnout for the heritage months so hopefully a lot of you will be there. They're always during a common hour; it is great for the speakers and the representatives to see a lot of SGA members there. Apple cider and apple cider doughnuts will be there as well. **Next Wednesday from 12-3**, so before and after the SGA meeting, there is going to be Pridefest which is an annual event that the Women Center and

LGBTQ+ Services does. It will be outside unless there's bad weather and then it will be moved inside. So tons of tabling, music, food; so hopefully you can be out for that. We have **Founders Day** on **Friday**; we have **Oktoberfest events Thursday, Friday, Saturday**; **Saturday is Family day** also **Homecoming**; **Open House** on **Sunday**; lots of events this weekend, hopefully we'll see lots of great SGA turnouts. I will be here, a lot of my staff will be here as well. I know that Trustee Vallario is going to be here for Founders Day.

- e. Trustee Vallario: I want to thank you all for your service and your enthusiasm. It's great to see you here.
 - i. Gianna: Thank you for coming to our meeting!

IX. Open Forum

- a. Matthew: Hey everyone, a location has been determined for the bonding event on October 9th from 6-9 pm. It will be in room SC-217, the Kissinger conference room. If you haven't replied to the Google Calendar invite, please do so at your earliest convenience. The bonding event will be the activity I led at the end of summer training where we all answered questions in a circle. Please let me know if you have any questions and/or have not received the Google Calendar invite.
- b. ★ SGA Star of the Month! [October Form](#)

X. Adjournment 1:39

- a. Moved: Julian
- b. Second: Anxhel
 - i. 6-0-0