



RUSA Agenda November 1st, 2018

7:30pm @ Student Activities Center

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
5. Officer Report
6. Legislation
 - a. Bill to Ensure that Student Organizations are Not Precluded from Allocations
Under the Funding Guidelines, Section 1(A)(7)
7. Advisor Report
8. External Representatives Report
9. Public Sector
10. Adjournment

"Public notice of this meeting has been given to all undergraduate students requesting such notice. Please speak to the Secretary of the Assembly after this meeting to learn more about how you can join the email list to receive a 24 hour meeting notice and a copy of the Agenda."



**Report on the Implementation of Section 1(A)(7) of the
Amended Guidelines for Funding**

Rutgers University Student Assembly
Internal Affairs Committee

Friday, October 26, 2018

Executive Summary

The Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) funds over 400 registered student organizations on campus through its Allocations Board and in accordance with rules and regulations enacted by the Assembly. These rules are known as the “Guidelines for Funding” and were previously amended by the Assembly to require Bystander Intervention Training through Rutgers VPVA for at least two executive board officers for student organizations as a prerequisite to receiving funding from RUSA. However, despite the Assembly being told that VPVA would have the capacity to accommodate the additional training sessions, these training sessions were unable to be held for all of the student organization leaders. Thus, under the Guidelines for Funding as they currently stand, many organizations will be ineligible for funding through no discernable fault of their officers. If the Assembly wishes to prevent many of these student organizations from being unfunded, it must enact amendments to the Guidelines prior to the end of the 2018 Fall Semester.

A Synopsis of Student Organization Funding through the Allocations Board

Registered student organizations which are affiliated with RUSA, as opposed to other student governments, can apply to the Allocations Board to receive funding. The Allocations Board funds these organizations, and the Assembly itself, using student activities fees paid by every undergraduate student on the Rutgers University — New Brunswick campus during the regular academic year. The Allocations Board then funds the organizations through semester-based allocations, as approved by the Assembly, or through special events funding, as also approved by the Assembly, or through an appellate process where funds unused by the student organizations are reabsorbed into the RUSA control account and then reallocated throughout the semester. In all cases, the Allocations Board’s actions and those taken by student organizations with student fee funds must comply with the Guidelines for Funding (henceforth referred to as the “Guidelines”).

The Guidelines dictate the conditions which student organizations must meet in order to be eligible to receive funding from RUSA, in addition to how said funds can and cannot be used. While the Allocations Board is permitted to “establish subordinate operating rules and regulations,” the Assembly has the power to enact, and as needed, amend, the Guidelines for Funding which preempt any subordinate funding rules or procedures.¹ Moreover, in regards to the Guidelines for Funding as enacted by the Assembly, the Standing Rules state:

Amendments to the RUSA Allocations Board ‘Guidelines for Funding’ must be made in the semester prior to the intended date of implementation and must be passed by two-thirds vote of the Assembly before implementation.²

As such, any changes that the Assembly would seek to implement must be passed before the conclusion of the Fall 2018 Semester in order to affect funding in the Spring 2019 Semester. Practically, the Allocations Board is scheduled to convene from November 2-4, 2018 to review

¹ Standing Rules, Article 18, §3.

² Standing Rules, Art. 18 §4.

proposed budgets and to produce a funding bill to the Assembly. As a result, any substantial changes should be considered by the Assembly in advance so as to allow adequate time to incorporate such changes into their funding proposal process. Minor changes, or changes which are both necessary and would create a minimal burden, if any, could, in theory, be implemented prior to that meeting.

Funding Guidelines: Section 1(A)(7)

The Assembly, in an effort to promote Bystander Intervention Training, amended the Guidelines for Funding to require that a minimum of two executive board officers from each student organization receive said training in order for their organization to be eligible to receive funding from RUSA. The amended Guidelines, under its sections which establishes requirements to receive funding, dictate that every funding-eligible student organization:

7. Have at least two of their executive board officers complete bystander intervention training through the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) if the organization is allocated more than \$1000 in funding in a semester on or after September 4th, 2018. This clause refers to the Bystander Prevention Bill passed by RUSA in the Spring 2017 semester. The Bill encourages members of the student body to become active bystanders and supports overall Rutgers University advocacy against sexual violence.³

The Bill to which the requirement refers, indicated in an authoritative footnote, is Bill S17-1, which was previously enacted by the Assembly, originally promoting just members of the Assembly to complete this training. Under the language of the Guidelines, the same training program as prescribed in Bill S17-1 must be used and would apply to the student organizations.

Assembly Bill S17-1, which was passed on January 16, 2017, states that the program is “VPVA’s Bystander Intervention program, SCREAMing to Prevent Violence” and further specified that the program is a participatory one consisting of “two, three-hour ... sessions,” which when combined with a meal, set up, and break down time, usually ranges from six to seven hours in length.⁴ As it currently stands, no substitute or appropriate alternative, as designated by VPVA, the Allocations Board, or any other authority in RUSA, would satisfy the requirement.

Concerns Regarding the Implementation of this Requirement

When the changes to the then current Guidelines were being proposed, the Assembly was assured that VPVA would have the capacity to accommodate the large number of student leaders. However, this was evidently not the case. As such, many of the over 400 student organizations which RUSA funds are potentially ineligible for funding for the Spring Semester. Additionally, since the appropriations bill for the Special Event Funding for the spring was

³ Guidelines for Funding, Section 1(A)(7). (as of October 26, 2018).

⁴ Bill S17-1. (enacted January 16, 2017).

passed after the September 4, 2018 effective date, such funds cannot actually be disbursed to or used by organizations which do not fulfill the requirement.

This issue was discussed amongst the Executive Board and with the RUSA SVE Department Coordinator, who has been in constant contact with VPVA, the Chairman of the Allocations Board, the Parliamentarian, and the Chairwoman of the Internal Affairs Committee, among others. Based on the discussions and the above referenced information, it is the opinion of the Internal Affairs Committee that the aforesaid requirement in the Guidelines places an undue burden on student organizations which they cannot be expected to bear, chiefly due to the finite capacity of VPVA to conduct the specified training sessions for all of the student organization officers.

Recommendations of the Internal Affairs Committee

It is the recommendation of the Internal Affairs Committee, after due research and deliberation, that the Assembly amend the Guidelines for Funding by the necessary two-thirds vote to remove Section 1(A)(7).⁵ This would ensure that organizations, through no fault of their student officers, are not precluded from receiving funding for special events and general budgets.

While the Committee acknowledges that it would be possible to delay the implementation of Section 7, or specify a different program, it is not certain that organizations would be able to comply in time. For reference, the previous changed allowed for over two semesters for organizations to comply, and the University was simply unable to accommodate all of students for their training programs, and there is no indication that this will change in the near future. Moreover, in order to avoid the same issue, the Committee feels strongly that any substitute or alternative program would need to be rigorously vetted to ensure that the provider of the training would have sufficient capacity to implement the program, that organizations would not face an additional monetary cost for their compliance, and that such a program could continue in perpetuity.

Proposed Amendment:

Be it hereby resolved by two-thirds of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) that the Guidelines for Funding are amended, in accordance with Article 18, Section 4 of the Assembly's Standing Rules, to strike Section 7 within (I)(A), and its corresponding footnote, and to replace the aforesaid section with an emboldened and italicized "***Removed.***" (The period is not italicized).

However, it is the general consensus of the majority of the members of the Internal Affairs Committee that a suitable alternative be sought by appropriate personnel. Accordingly, if one such alternative is found, the Assembly may then reconsider whether or not to impose such a

⁵ More specifically, the Internal Affairs Committee is recommending that the appropriate section be replaced with the word "***Removed.***" The reason for this change is so that existing documentation which refers to that section will not accidentally refer to a new section should the Assembly add a new Section 7 which may be completely unrelated from the subject of the current Section. Section 6, which immediately preceded the section in question, was similarly removed, and likewise, it was replaced with "***Repealed.***"

requirement, or whether the Assembly may not necessarily require it, but strongly encourage or even fund it, to make it accessible to student leaders on campus. The Committee feels that the appropriate position to investigate this matter is the Director of RUSA's Sexual Violence Education (SVE) Department. Furthermore, as the Internal Affairs Committee and the Assembly may soon revise its Standing Rules, the Committee recommends that a clause be added to ensure that a successor office then becomes responsible for the charge, if necessary.⁶ For example, an online training module may be better suited to accomplish this task.

Proposed Charge

Be it further resolved that the Director of RUSA's Sexual Violence Education Department, or successor office or unit, be charged with the following task and report back to the Assembly upon a complete and thorough inquiry:

Investigate substitutes or alternatives to the Bystander Intervention Training program offered through Rutgers VPVA that would be best able to be distributed to the leaders of student organizations which receive their funding from the RUSA Allocations Board.

These recommendations are incorporated into the accompanying legislative item to be considered by the Assembly. The Assembly, if it so chooses, may then adopt these recommendations by a two-thirds vote. The Internal Affairs Committee further urges that the Assembly consider the matter at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Concluding Remarks

While the incorporation of the requirement into the Guidelines for Funding was inarguably well intentioned, it proved difficult to implement. Given this and the fact that no suitable alternative has been found which the Assembly could reasonably consider in a timely fashion, the Internal Affairs Committee recommends removing the requirement from the Guidelines, while simultaneously issuing a charge to investigate the issue further and have it reported back to the Assembly. The fact that there simply was not sufficient capacity to accommodate the leaders of all of the RUSA-funded organizations should not be held against those student organizations. While RUSA has expressed, on numerous occasions, its desire of promoting a safe campus which is free from domestic and sexual violence, the inability to implement this requirement should not be viewed as a retraction by the Assembly from these values, but simply as an ineffective attempt at promoting them.

The Assembly, in order to ensure proper student funding and to ensure that no student organization is unduly penalized, should enact these amendments expediently. If it can do so on the regularly scheduled meeting of November 1, 2018, it can ensure that these changes will be in effect for the Spring 2019 Semester and that the Allocations Board will be able to account for these changes during their preparation of the proposed spring budget.

⁶ The Internal Affairs Committee, at the time that this report was adopted by the Committee, is seeking proposed amendments to the Standing Rules to draft and then refer to the Assembly for possible enactment. Among the changes that the Committee is considering is whether or not the SVE Department should be merged with the Health & Wellness Subcommittee on Sexual Violence Education to create a standalone committee. In the event that this change is enacted, it is important, in the opinion of the Internal Affairs Committee, that the appropriate successor be charged with fulfilling this task, if it has not already been fulfilled.



RUSA Bill F18-7

Authors: N. Tharney, *Parliamentarian*; Cassidy J. Wiltshire, *Off-Campus At-Large Representative*; Alexandra M. Anderson, *Chairwoman of the Internal Affairs Committee*; Ryed Jadun, *Asian Student Council External Representative*

Sponsors: Internal Affairs Committee

Bill to Ensure that Student Organizations are Not Precluded from Allocations Under the Funding Guidelines, Section 1(A)(7)

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) previously enacted changes to RUSA's Guidelines for Funding which could not be successfully implemented,

Whereas, the Assembly, through allocating RUSA's portion of the Student Activities Fee, promotes a rich and diverse array of student organizations which contribute greatly to the student experience on the Rutgers University — New Brunswick campus, and

Whereas, the Assembly has the ability to amend the Guidelines for Funding, but must do so a semester prior to their implementation, in accordance with the Standing Rules, therefore:

Be it hereby resolved by two-thirds of RUSA that the Guidelines for Funding are amended, in accordance with Article 18, Section 4 of the Assembly's Standing Rules, to strike Section 7 within (I)(A), and its corresponding footnote, and to replace the aforesaid section with an emboldened and italicized "***Removed.***"

7. Removed.

(The period is not italicized).

Be it further resolved that the Director of RUSA's Sexual Violence Education Department, or successor office or unit, be charged with the following task and report back to the Assembly upon a complete and thorough inquiry by January 24th, 2019:

Investigate substitutes or alternatives to the Bystander Intervention Training program offered through Rutgers VPVA that would be best able to be distributed to the leaders of student organizations which receive their funding from the RUSA Allocations Board.

RUSA President

Date