



RUSA Minutes November 8th, 2018

7:30pm @ Student Activities Center

Statements are paraphrased and consolidated for the Minutes

All legislation contained in the minutes may be in its original form and may not be the final language.

Visual/Audio record available on official RUSA Facebook page

1. Call to Order
 - a. @7:35pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Unanimously Approved
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
 - a. Unanimously Approved
5. Sexual Violence Education Town Hall
 - a. 20 minutes of moderated Question Answer
 - b. 10 minutes of open Question Answer
 - i. Neeharika Thuravil, Busch Senator
 1. Do you think that it undermines the importance of the sexual assault education and awareness when you turn it into something that can be made into a skit or game?
 - a. Jackie Moran
 - i. I don't think that it detracts from the importance of the issue because people who don't know a lot about sexual violence will be more engaged and are more likely to respond to videos, games, etc.

"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."

ii. Aneesh Deshpande, Academic Affairs Chair

1. Conversations like this should be woven into our curriculum— have you thought about it? Success and/or failures?

- a. Brady Root

- i. I am hoping that VPVA and Title 9 will become mandatory on the syllabi because as of right now, they are not. There are a lot of faculty who are not necessarily informed. It's challenging when other people in the room are blaming each other and pointing fingers, which is triggering for other survivors in the room.

iii. Jeff Zhang, RBGA Representative

1. I consider sexual assault as a cardinal sin that results in everlasting damage. Have you considered an approach of harmed reduction to make survivors lives normal again? How do you think these educational measures can be deployed?

- a. Brady Root

- i. One of our staff members specializing in this is looking through statistics. Almost 80% of people use their friends as a outsource. The program is called Rutgers Cares, and the entire focus is learning about trauma. We hope that the people we train will continue to train their friends as well.

iv. Hinita Patel, Health and Wellness Chair

1. A lot of survivors develop mental health related issues as a result of sexual harrassment. Do you plan on introducing students to programs such as does VPVA and/or CAPS?

- a. Brady Root

i. Our goal is to provide students with counseling and guidance. We may introduce students to CAPS or other organizations. We can offer referrals and help someone find a specific place suitable for a student's needs.

v. Amna Ahmed, Douglass at Large Rep

1. I attended one of the screen meetings and it was a very welcoming environment. To all of you, thank you for your work. We appreciate you.

6. Officer Report

a. Updates can be found on the Assembly website, ruassembly.com

7. Legislation

a. Resolution to Cosponsor Women Organizing Against Harassment's "Write Your Reps" Event

i. Jason Yu, RBGA Representative

1. Will you provide advice?

a. The advice we have is more specifically for letter writing. Our focus is on letter writing! If you want to write emails, that is okay too.

ii. Logan Adams, Off Campus Representative

1. Will you consider making this a regular event?

a. We have thought in the past for our members calling our reps. We are a smaller organization, but if this becomes successful then we will make this a regular event.

iii. Dominique Little, University Affairs Chair

1. I just wanted to double check and make sure we wouldn't have to put any money towards this.

a. No, you do not. It comes out of RUSA Allocations.

- iv. Nick Labelle, Cook at-Large Representative
 - 1. How many students would come? Do you have a target goal?
 - a. We do not want to set a target because we will be disappointed if we do not reach this target.
- v. Ryed Jadun, ASC Representative
 - 1. For the Asian Student Council, we are given the opportunity to co-sponsor. What are the requirements to co-sponsor?
 - a. We need at least two people to come to the event as well as advertise this event.
 - b. Motion by Adeel to pass resolution by Unanimous Consent
 - i. **Passed, none opposed**

8. Advisor Report

- a. Lori Smith
 - i.

9. External Representatives Report

- a. George Zapata, LSC Representative
 - i. On Saturday, November 10th, the Latino Student Council Association is hosting a fall mentoring program from 1-3pm. Panera will be catering this event.
 - ii. I wanted to thank a certain individual for taking the time today to feed a poor man. The sacrifice she took today really touched me. Thank you Dominique Little!
- b. Cole Murphy, SAAC Representative
 - i. This game coming up is a Military Appreciation game against Michigan.
 - ii. We are doing a fundraiser in November for Prostate Cancer.
- c. Harsh Patel, EGC Representative
 - i. This past Monday we had the privilege of having the dining team speak at our last meeting.

- ii. The Engineering Food Drive competition is currently going on. This year, the winner gets a Krispy Kreme donut party.
- d. Ilce Perez, BOT Representative
 - i. If you guys are interested, there is a vacancy in the board of trustees. Eligible students must have completed a minimum of 2 full years and 48 credits as an undergraduate student. If you interested, please fill out an application. Seniors are not eligible.

10. Public Sector

- a. Julie Serrano
 - i. I wanted to clarify something with the position vacancy. Seniors are eligible if you are interested, but you must come back after you graduate to serve. I strongly encourage all of you to apply.
- b. Jason Yu
 - i. Next Sunday, Nov 15th, we are having an open mic night! It is in the Cook Student Recreation Center.
- c. Patrick Grifone
 - i. Some people are still having difficulty signing up for office hours. Please email me at chiefofstaff.rusa@gmail.com
- d. Jeff Zhang
 - i. I helped campaign on Tuesday and it was a great feeling. My message to you is to stay on course and work hard! Remember that hard works pays off.
- e. Jhanvi Virani
 - i. Outside of RUSA, I am the president of the Rutgers Entrepreneurial Society. We are having a Startup Career Fair with great internship opportunities. If you are interested, the details are on my Facebook for more information

f. Nick Labelle

- i. I have been in contact with a few colleges like TCNJ who are working on legalizing medical marijuana on campus. That is the direction Murphy is heading towards. By the end of next semester, I want to work on legislation to legalize medical and possibly recreation marijuana here at Rutgers University. Let's do this!

g. April Nicklaus, NJPIRG

- i. I went to a conference on zero waste in Philadelphia and I heard many initiatives.
- ii. We made contact with over 1500 students on Tuesday at the polls.

h. Neeharika Thuravil

- i. Quick PSA; it's getting very cold really fast. Please take care of yourselves everyone! Get a decent winter coat to keep yourself from getting sick. I had a dip in my blood sugar yesterday and it was the worst feeling I have ever felt, so please don't neglect your body.

i. Aneesh Deshpande

- i. Next week I have the opportunity to present our recommendations to all the academic deans. Given this, I ask that if you have any recommendations or concerns, please let me know so I can relay this information. We are trying to finalize our presentation by Tuesday.

j. Adeel Ahmed

- i. Thank you to everyone who went out and voted! Please get involved politically because it makes a difference. I am very pleased that Democrats took over the house of Representatives.

k. Meet Patel

- i. Happy Diwali!

11. Adjournment

- a. @9:50pm



RUSA Resolution F18-7

Authors: Alex Anderson, Talia Lang

Sponsors: Health and Wellness Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Sexual Violence Education Department

Resolution to Cosponsor Women Organizing Against Harassment’s “Write Your Reps” Event

Whereas, research indicates that college-student voter turnout increased from 2012 to 2016,¹

Whereas, the Rutgers chapter of NJPIRG has actively worked to increase college-student voter turnout,

Whereas, research indicates that personal contact of constituents to representatives has a greater impact on lawmakers than more low-effort contact,²

Whereas, research indicates a positive correlation between civic engagement and psychosocial well-being,³

Whereas, research indicates that protests and marches alone are not as effective as when they are combined with other forms of civic engagement,⁴ and

Whereas, Women Organizing Against Harassment’s “Write Your Reps” event, where students will write to their incoming representatives, will be on November 14th from 7-10pm in the Women’s Center on the third floor of the Douglass Student Center,

¹ <https://now.tufts.edu/news-releases/analysis-college-student-voting-increased-2016>

² <https://v2v.opengovfoundation.org/>

³

<https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/civic-engagement-and-psychosocial-well-being-college-students>

⁴ <https://www.bustle.com/p/do-political-protests-actually-change-anything-29952>

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly cosponsors Women Organizing Against Harassment’s “Write Your Reps” event; and

Be it further resolved, to aid in the efforts of Women Organizing Against Harassment during the “Write Your Reps” event, the Assembly will support a social media campaign for Write Your Reps that posts advertisements for the event (advertisements created by Women Organizing Against Harassment) to our social media.

RUSA President

Date