



RUSA Minutes January 24th, 2019

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. @7:37PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. None opposed
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
 - a. None opposed
5. Officer Report
 - a. Updates can be found on the Assembly website, ruassembly.com
6. Legislation
 - a. Resolution to Advocate for A327/1149/3254
 - i. Julien Rosenbloom, Legislative Affairs Chair, and Bijan Terani, Livingston At-Large Representative, presented the resolution to the Assembly.
 - ii. Standard Debate Procedure
 1. FOR
 - a. Marc Younker, College Ave Class of 2022 Representative
 - i. No one should be forced to pay for textbooks in the core requirements. It's the 21st century so we can do better than that

"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."

- b. Alex Anderson, Internal Affairs Committee Chair
 - i. This is a really great bill that can be revolutionary for members of the Rutgers community. Plus the Legislative Affairs Committee did a lot of work in researching and writing this legislation.
- iii. Motion to make grammatical changes by Nick Tharney, Parliamentarian
 - 1. None opposed
- iv. Motion to pass by unanimous consent by Nick LaBelle, Cook At-Large Representative
 - 1. Failed
- v. Motion to call to question by Zain Ahmed, Off-Campus Caucus Chair
 - 1. **Passed (iClicker Q1) (47-1-0)**

7. Advisor Report

- a. Lori
 - i. Two events coming up, one student organization officer banquet in addition there will also be a STEAM Conference and the MARK Conference
 - ii. Applications for FIGS Instructors and RUPA are also open now.
 - iii. Annual MLK Dream week, with high profile speakers such as Dr. Brittany Cooper and Opal Tometi, Founder of the Black Lives Matter Movement

8. External Representatives Report

- a. Chanel Jordan, RHA
 - i. First GA meeting on Monday (they are bi-weekly FYI)
 - ii. Open house next friday in the Busch Res Life Office next the Buell Apartments Bus Stop
 - iii. Spring Leadership Development Dday is next Saturday in the Academic Building
- b. Kira Harris, MGSGA

- i. Recently MGSGA has had poor communication with Rutgers with regards to building maintenance, asking for help on how to approach the situation
- c. Ryed Jadun, ASC
 - i. Wants Asian Student Council transparency and was able to have Jhanvi able to attend and aid in the process
- d. Nick Tharney, RBGA
 - i. Meetings are at 9:30PM in the LSC every Tuesday
- e. George Zapata, LSC
 - i. February 2nd, will have a leadership meetings with every organization involved with CLAC
- f. Sam Salem, PHC
 - i. Tomorrow at 5PM is the deadline to sign up for formal recruitment

9. Public Sector

- a. Patrick Grifone
 - i. New Deputy Chief of Staff has been appointed, Ase Awari
 - ii. New office hours sheets will be in the office for RUSA members to fill out
 - iii. Working more on office hours to be well known throughout the Rutgers community
- b. Julie Serrano
 - i. Senate Meetings tomorrow
 - ii. Two new openings in the Senate and will be posted and available for people interested in joining
- c. Jhanvi Virani
 - i. Caucus meetings are tonight, will discuss “coffee with the constituents”, an upcoming event that has been mentioned to all caucus chairs
- d. Aneesh Deshpande
 - i. Involved in TED and upcoming Conference next month in the Livingston Student Center, if anyone is interested he encourages applying and getting involved with the speakers

- e. Jeff Zhang
 - i. Let me know if you want to go to a reading of the Great Gatsby or to Gov Ball
- f. Zain Ahmed
 - i. A meeting is scheduled with director of off campus living and encourages people to give him any questions if they have some
- g. Ryan Cassidy
 - i. Registration is open for the Spring 2019 Intramural season
- h. April Nicklaus
 - i. NJPIRG: At the end of last semester they won the national antibiotic campaign and was able to stop McDonalds from continuing its use of antibiotics in its cattle
 - ii. Held training for other NJPIRG groups
 - iii. Working on many campaigns this semester and prepping for elections in the Fall
 - iv. Continuing with the Open Textbooks campaign, like we talked about tonight
 - v. Asking if anyone is interested in any possible internships/jobs and if interested to reach out
 - vi. PIRG Student leaders are leaving to the citizens climate conference and will give updates on that next week.
- i. Sooz
 - i. Committees Chairs are to meet with Nick Tharney tonight to confirm committee meetings times available to all members of the body in order to schedule reassignment by tomorrow at noon
 - 1. -Nick Tharney: Deadline for making reservations is 1/31
 - ii. Attendance at all committee meetings are mandatory
 - iii. If anyone has any questions to be asked at the ABTS Conference, feel free to contact them to bring

iv. Reading legislation is NOT OPTIONAL

10. Adjournment

a. @8:34

11. Caucus Meetings



RUSA Resolution S19-01

Author: Julien Rosenbloom, Bijan Terani

Sponsor: Legislative Affairs Committee

Resolution to Advocate for A327/1149/3254

Whereas, the mounting textbook costs for many courses often make attending higher education institutions unattainable for many students;

Whereas, Rutgers students spend up to \$1,500 annually on textbooks, according to NJPIRG¹;

Whereas, initiatives at Rutgers pertaining to open textbooks have already saved students up to \$2 million in spending, which has proven to lead to higher grades amongst students;

Whereas, the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) has identified the issue of open textbooks and course material affordability to be one of shared concern between both undergraduates and lawmakers;

Whereas, several members of the New Jersey Legislature have introduced bills that would require public institutions of higher learning in New Jersey to submit a plan to the Secretary of Higher Education to transition universities' most popular courses towards open textbook usage;

Whereas, the New Jersey Senate version of the bill passed unanimously in 2018 and the New Jersey Assembly version of the bill passed committee unanimously and is awaiting action; and

Whereas, legislators and staff have been eager to work with the Legislative Affairs Committee to bring this issue to the forefront of the Assembly and aid in efforts to bring it to the floor for a Spring vote;

Be it hereby resolved, that RUSA endorses Assembly bills 327, 1149, and 3254² and their efforts to encourage a mass transition to open textbooks at New Jersey university campuses; and

Be it further resolved, that RUSA supports advocacy efforts to bring Assembly bills 327, 1149, and 3254 to the floor of the Assembly for a vote.

RUSA President

Date

¹ ["Estimated Savings from Rutgers Open and Affordable Textbooks Program Tops \\$2.1 Million in its Second Year"](#) by Rutgers University Libraries

² [Assembly Committee Substitute for A327/1149/3254](#)