



## **RUSA Minutes February 7th, 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. @7:33 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Unanimously Approved
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
  - a. Motion by Jessica Tuazon, Vice President, to correct the legislation to reflect that approved by the Assembly last week.
    - i. None Opposed
5. Guest Speaker
  - a. Dr. Francesca M. Maresca, Director of HOPE
    - i. Dr. Maresca speaks about the Photovoice program as a participatory assessment of wellness on campus. The Assembly and members of the public are given an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.
6. Officer Report
  - a. Updates can be found on the Assembly website, [ruassembly.com](http://ruassembly.com)
7. Presentation
  - a. The Association of Big Ten Students Report
    - i. Members of the ABTS 2019 Winter Conference Delegation present a debrief of the Conference. The presentation can be found on the Assembly

*"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."*

website, [ruassembly.com](http://ruassembly.com). The Assembly and members of the public are given an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.

## 8. Legislation

### a. Resolution to Support The Bandana Project

- i. The authors present the legislation. The Assembly and members of the public are given an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.
- ii. Motion to approve amendent to the fourth wheras clause to replace “prevents” with “can prevent” by unanimous consent by Julie Serrano, SAS Senate Leader
  1. Unanimously Approved
- iii. Motion to add a footnote to the fourth wherese clause by unanimous consent by Neeharika Thuravil, Busch Senator
  1. Unanimously Approved
- iv. Motion to add a comma following the word “treatment” in the same clause by Nick Tharney, Parliamentarian
  1. None Opposed
- v. Motion to forego debate procedure and approve the legislation by unanimous consent by Julie Serrano, SAS Senate Leader
  1. **Unanimously Approved**

## 9. Advisor Report

### a. Lori Smith

- i. Spoke to students to read the legislation to before coming to the meeting to ensure that all necessary fixes to the bill, such as grammer as well as punctuation be brought up and ready as soon as the bill is on the floor

## 10. External Representatives Report

### a. Sean Gilbert, IFC

- i. Two thing to report on, the first is that the elections in greek life for the council exec boards have been postponed to the next semester, in addition, there is a board that has been created to have better communication within

the council as well as ensure more tasks are accomplished, if anyone has any question or thoughts to please speak to him. Second, greek life trip is upcoming and will de with recruitment as well as sexual assault in the greek community, applications are due tomorrow but to see him if interested and can possibly provide extension

- b. George Zapata, LSC
  - i. Couple things, one: the impeachment proceedings are completed and the VP was removed. The second is that the council is now offering a mentee program. In addition, offering internship positions with the council for upcoming stuff. Finally, there is a gala upcoming that will be collecting funds for hurricane victims from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.
- c. Moses Paul, EGC
  - i. National engineers week is Feb 18 - Feb 22nd, many upcoming events and suggests attending. In addition, Lockheed Martin will be sponsoring one of these events,
- d. Chanel Jordan, RHA
  - i. Last Friday was our open house for the new office (90 Davidson Rd)and will be open 9-5 every single day. In additon was leadership development day to assist possible student leaders and aid in RHA affairs. In additon, the next general body meetings is next monday on Busch. Lastly, RHA elections are upcoming and will have information sessions in addition to what roles are open.

## 11. Public Sector

- a. Marc Younker & Jill Cuzzolino
  - i. Both Jill and Marc are doing the midnight run next monday and is looking to fundraise, donations such as female hygiene products, blankes, and other home products will be greatly appreciated
- b. Alex Anderson

- i. Logan's Birthday and Cassidy's Birthday have passed and since Hinita's birthday is upcoming she suggest everyone sing happy birthday song. They did.
- c. Priti Kantesaria
  - i. Rutgers No more has a meeting next week College Ave student center 109 and will be discussing communication issues and discussing topics to combat stereotypes and other negative societal issues
  - ii. Y'all should go to Engineers Week
- d. Neeharika Thuravil
  - i. Next week on Tuesday John Wisneski will be coming to speak about why everyone should run for office.
  - ii. Weekly astrophysics fact: We have no idea what dark matter is and somehow it's holding the universe together.
- e. Nick LaBelle
  - i. Two things, one of which was that the career fair took place yesterday and today. Over 2000 students attended and showed up to these events. Second, Handshake is the new job app so let's get this bread.
  - ii. Second thing is that he was in contact with the local farmers market. He is asking if any studetns present at RUSA have any composting at their home or wherever they live?
- f. Maya Ravichandran
  - i. Wanted to let everyone know about upcoming Hackathon (HackRU) that is Women Centric. Hackathon is when students work together to code and create apps with the aid of mentors to assist in the process. Event is on Cook.
- g. Jason Yu, Jeffrey Kim, and Ryed Jadun
  - i. Wants to wish everyone a happy lunar year and had a event last week and will ensure that any and all events will be brought up ahead of time to ensure any RUSA students can attend

- h. Michael Holee
  - i. A transfer student that faced issues in this process of learning about RUSA. Interested in getting involved and unsure about the agendas for committees as well as RUSA as a whole.
- i. Zain Ahmed
  - i. Muslim public relations council is setting up a involvement fair Friday February 22nd in Cooper Dining Hall. In addition, there is an upcoming food drive that is still being planned so if you have any spare food save it for when it comes.
- j. April Nicklaus
  - i. Just had their spring campaign kickoff and had 100 people in the room and was largest since 2012.
- k. Jess Tuazon
  - i. Dominique and Jess will be co-hosting for the STEAM Conference that is coming up and suggest that anyone who can attend to try and make time cause RSVP space is running out.
- l. Suzanna Link
  - i. Dominique brought up the topic of solidarity in E-Board and Sooz wants everyone to consider those around them and if someone needs help in anyway to be there for them. We need to expand and get RUSA out there, so if there's a gap fill it. If PR can be improved, give an idea! We're all RUSA.
  - ii. There is a pending proposal for a bus video that Dominique is working on.

## 12. Adjournment

- a. @9:40 PM



## **RUSA Resolution S19-03**

**Authors:** Hinita Patel, Robert Porch

**Sponsors:** Health and Wellness Committee, RUSA Executive Committee

### **Resolution to Support The Bandana Project**

*Whereas*, suicide is the second leading cause of death, after traffic accidents, among college students,<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, there are more than 1,000 suicides on college campuses annually in the United States, before graduation,<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, 1 in 10 students will have considered suicide, and students aged 15-24 are in the highest risk group for a majority of mental illnesses, though 1 in 4 will neither seek treatment nor other help,<sup>3</sup>

*Whereas*, the stigma around mental health prevents those who struggle with mental health issues from seeking treatment, and approachable students spreading awareness of resources for their fellow students with mental illnesses can help to fight the stigma,

*Whereas*, the Assembly has previously budgeted funds for initiatives of the Assembly and of its committees for the benefit of the undergraduate student body,

*Whereas*, through The Bandana Project, green bandanas are distributed to students on campus to be tied to backpacks as a show of solidarity with students with mental illnesses and to serve as an indicator that students with these bandanas have resource cards that can direct them towards mental health resources,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/02/well/preventing-suicide-among-college-students.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://aminds.umn.edu/bandana-project>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

*Whereas*, other Big Ten universities have recently launched The Bandana Project, such as the University of Wisconsin where over 6,000 bandanas were distributed on campus for the Fall 2018 semester,<sup>4</sup> and

*Whereas*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) believes in protecting the health of students and our Rutgers community as a whole, as well as sharing resources available to students,

*Be it hereby resolved*, RUSA will support the efforts of The Bandana Project starting in the Spring 2019 semester;

*Be it further resolved*, the Health & Wellness Committee shall be charged with coordinating and overseeing the project, using the general committee budget to fund the initiative; and

*Be it finally resolved that* the Assembly hereby encourages its members, other student organizations on campus, and members of the Rutgers—New Brunswick community to participate in The Bandana Project.

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RUSA President

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Date

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.namiuw.org/the-bandana-project.html>