



RUSA Agenda February 14th, 2019

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 Support the Ban the Bag Initiative
 - b. Bill to Amend Bill F18-10
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."



RUSA Bill S19-01

Authors: Dominique Little, Andrew Petryna, April Nicklaus, and Nicholas LaBelle

Sponsor: University Affairs Committee

Bill to Support the Ban the Bag Initiative

Whereas, the effects of plastic bag use devastate marine ecosystems, endanger animal life, and create a larger greenhouse impact compared to the effects resulting from reusable bag use,¹

Whereas, in New Jersey, contaminants of phthalates and Bisphenol A (BPA) have been found in several NJ counties, leading to crop reduction,²

Whereas, the State of New Jersey uses more than 4.4 billion plastic bags annually,³

Whereas, over a dozen municipalities in New Jersey have already banned the sale of single-use plastic bags and created alternative incentives for eco-friendly bags,⁴

Whereas, legislative bans on single-use plastic bags have been proven to be a statistically significant method of reducing their use and facilitating the implementation of new environmentally friendly initiatives,⁵

Whereas, numerous U.S. cities and states have already introduced similar bans on plastic bags to reduce their use and environmental impact,⁶

Whereas, various other Big Ten schools have implemented or considered similar measures in their cafes and through their takeout services; Minnesota, in particular, created a student-division of biodegradable packaging,^{7 8 9}

¹ <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/plastic-bag-ban/environmental-impacts>

² <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/plastic-planet-how-tiny-plastic-particles-are-polluting-our-soil>

³ https://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/10/plastic_bags_are_piling_up_this_plan_will_force_us.html

⁴ <http://nj1015.com/more-places-in-nj-banning-plastic-bags-in-2019-is-your-town-next/>

⁵ <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1082&context=socssp>

⁶ https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/ed061800/files/uploaded/cua_plastic_bag_usage_around_world_august-2015.pdf

⁷ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-updates/3936>

⁸ https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_8bf453e0-5ead-5a88-ba61-cbc509b59e75.html

⁹ <http://btn.com/2016/09/10/minnesotas-biodegradable-bags-make-grocery-shopping-more-green-btn-livebig/>

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) has served as a sponsor for the Cupanion reusable bottle initiative in which reusable bottles were provided to all students with a meal plan since Spring 2017,¹⁰

Whereas, the initial purchase will cost \$25,000 for 25,000 bags,

Whereas, each Rutgers-New Brunswick student with a meal plan would automatically be issued one reusable bag at the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester,

Whereas, the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) Student Chapters has pledged to contribute \$5,000 to this initiative,

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly allocates up to \$5,000 from the general committee budget through the University Affairs Committee towards the Rutgers Reusable Bag Program for the year 2019.

RUSA President

Date

¹⁰ RUSA Bill F17-2

<http://ruassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Bill%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8Bto%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BSupport%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BCupanion%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BReusable%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BBottle%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BInitiative.pdf>



RUSA Bill S19-02

Authors: N. Tharney, *Parliamentarian*; N. Pellitta, *Chairman of the Allocations Board*

Sponsor: Internal Affairs Committee

Bill to Amend Bill F18-10

Whereas, RUSA Bill F18-10 amended Section 5(d) of the RUSA Allocations Process Transparency Act (RAPTA) (R. S18-1) in order to extend the time afforded to the Allocations Board to review and revise their allocations process to accommodate the increased transparency, implemented under RAPTA,

Whereas, the Allocations Board has reported in the preambulatory clauses of Bill F18-10 that they are making modifications to their current system,

Whereas, the Internal Affairs Committee has previously been “charged with [the] further review of this- [allocations transparency] matter,” (Bill F18-10), concurrently with the Allocations Board,

Whereas, the Internal Affairs Committee strives to provide the Assembly with comprehensive information and the assurance that the RUSA allocations process can effectively transition to a more transparent one in order to ensure that the Assembly’s representatives and that the student body can better understand how their student fees are used to fund organizations and events on campus,¹¹ and

Whereas, the Internal Affairs Committee, in reviewing the legislation and in consultation with the members of the Allocations Board, feels that an extension is needed to diligently re-review

¹¹ Members of the Assembly and of the student body are encouraged to review the “Rutgers University Student Assembly Report on Allocations Transparency” by the Internal Affairs Committee and the Internal Affairs Subcommittee on Allocations Transparency that accompanied the RUSA Allocations Process Transparency Act (RAPTA), enacted as S18-1.

the relevant information and documents, accurately assess the full impact of the release of internal documents of the Allocations Board as it revises its processes, and ensuring that the Assembly is sufficiently informed on the matter as it relates to the allocations process, the legislative history, and the findings of the committee,

Therefore, be it resolved by a vote of the Rutgers University Student Assembly —

1. The first operative clause of Bill F18-10 is hereby amended to replace “February 15, 2019” with “September 20, 2019”; and
2. The Internal Affairs Committee shall be charged with reviewing all pertinent records of the RUSA Allocations Board and shall be authorized to access the same, provided
 - a. Records not released to the public shall only be reviewed in closed session, and confidential information shall be redacted in public reports until such time as the records are made public, but no later than September 20, 2019, after a series of presentations to the Assembly regarding the findings of the report,
 - b. Information made public under either RAPTA or rules of the Allocations Board at the time of any such reports or publications shall not be required to be redacted, and members of the Assembly shall be privy to such records when published, and
 - c. The Internal Affairs Committee shall be responsible for reporting its findings from time to time to the Assembly and to members of the student body; and
3. The Allocations Board shall furnish such records to the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee posthaste and shall prepare a report on the changes it makes to its funding processes, audit systems, and by-laws, no later than ninety days (90) after such changes become effective, but no later than September 5, 2019.

RUSA President

Date