



## **RUSA Agenda February 14th, 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. Approved
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
  - a. Approved
5. Officer Report
  - a. Updates can be found on the Assembly website, [ruassembly.com](http://ruassembly.com)
6. Legislation
  - a. Bill to Support the Ban the Bag Initiative
    - i. Dominique Little, Nick LaBelle, April Nicklaus, and Andrew Petryna present legislation on dining services and to ask for funding towards this initiative. The Assembly and members of the public are given an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.
    - ii. Moving into standard debate procedure
      1. Julie Serrano, SAS Senate Leader, For
        - a. A great initiative to help around campus and try to be innovative. In addition lowers carbon footprint and help the environment

*"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."*

2. Alex Anderson, Douglass 2020, Internal Affair Committee Chair,  
For
  - a. Very beneficial environmentally due to the fact that a plastic bag will be substituted with a carry bag that can be reused.
- iii. Motion to approve the bill by unanimous consent by Julie Serrano, SAS Senate Leader
  1. Seconded
  2. No Opposition
  3. **PASSED**
    - a. Unanimous consent
- b. Bill to Amend Bill F18-10
  - i. Nick Tharney, Alex Anderson, and Nick Pellitta present the legislation with regards to Amend Bill F18-10. The Assembly and members of the public are given an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.
  - ii. Moving into standard debate procedure
    1. Nick Labelle, Cook At-Large Representative, For
      - a. Compromise is the ideal of any democratic institution so it is ideal to vote for it, in addition, it is a good solution for everyone involved
    2. Jason Yu, RBGA Representative, Against
      - a. Compromise is important, however, rapta was passed with overwhelming majority, yet IA has still pushed the deadline to release the cap sheets. It has been a year and it should get released by now
    3. Priti Kantesaria, Treasurer, For
      - a. This is a perfect example of a compromising relationship and since a solution was found by all parties it is an ideal

and best solution to solve this issue with regards to allocations

- iii. Motion for a 5 minute recess, Jeff Kim, EGC Representative
  1. Seconded
  2. Opposed
  3. Motion Called into a vote by hands
    - a. For: 4
    - b. Oppose: 34**
    - c. Abstain: 0
    - d. Present: 0
    - e. Motion Fails
- iv. Motion for another standard debate, Nick Tharney, Parliamentarian
- v. Motion to call to question by Julie Serrano, SAS Senate Leader
  1. Second
  2. Oppose
  3. Motion Called into a vote by hands
    - a. For: 36
    - b. Oppose: 3
    - c. Abstain: 1
    - d. Present: 0
    - e. Motion Passes
- vi. Bill is voted on by roll call
  1. For
    - a. Logan Adams
    - b. Amna Ahmed
    - c. Mahmoud Ajaj
    - d. Alexandra Anderson
    - e. Ase Awari
    - f. Rachel Bauman

- g. Nicholas Brennan
- h. Matthew Brower
- i. Memphis Chen
- j. Jill Cuzzolino
- k. Laura Esteban
- l. Masser Ghannam
- m. Sean Gilbert
- n. Hira Hussain
- o. Nimra Jaqob
- p. Chanel Jordan
- q. Albert Joseph
- r. Emily Kane
- s. Joanna Kim
- t. Jeremy King
- u. Balaji Krishnan
- v. Nicholas LaBelle
- w. Dominique Little
- x. Eleanor Meli
- y. Cole Murphy
- z. Hinita Patel
- aa. Meet Patel
- bb. Ilce Perez
- cc. Maya Ravichandran
- dd. Mustafa raza
- ee. Brady Rivera
- ff. Julien Rosenbloom
- gg. Nikhil Sadaranganey
- hh. Julieline Serrano
- ii. Neeharika Thuravil

jj. Cassidy Wiltshire

kk. Marc Younker

2. Oppose

a. Aarushi Govil

b. Jeffrey Kim

c. Rishi Shah

3. Abstain

a. Bijan Terani

b. Nick Tharney

c. Jason Yu

4. Present

a. None

**vii. PASSED**

**1. For: 37**

**2. Oppose: 3**

**3. Abstain: 3**

**4. Present: 0**

7. Advisor Report

a. Laura Christiansen

i. Attend some performances by your fellow rutgers students

ii. STEAM conference sold out.... Apply for the Frank Pallone Town Hall instead

8. External Representatives Report

a. Chanel Jordan, RHA

i. RHA members attended the regional business conference. RURHA submitted a bid for Nick Lee as RHA President of the Year, he won on the regional level and will move on to the national level.

b. Cole Murphy, SAAC

- i. A gang rape survivor came to speak to the football team yesterday as well as the wrestling team. The Football Coach has decided to dedicate one of the games to rape survivors.

## 9. Public Sector

### a. Nick Tharney

- i. I agree with one of the members that spoke against the RAPTA bill tonight. I agree but the compromise allows IA to have oversight in this move towards transparency. A bill before RAPTA mandated more transparency in the auditing process and that led to improvements in the auditing process, so the compromise is a good move for us.
- ii. We will need to elect the RUSA members to sit on the Allocations Interview Board at the next RUSA meeting.

### b. Masser Ghannam

- i. Next Tuesday, the PCRF will have a speed meeting at Murray Hall at 7:30PM to discuss joining next year's eboard

### c. Neeharika Thuravil

- i. RU Progressive has rescheduled the John Wisneski Town Hall for February 26th because of the poor weather on the previously scheduled date. This is a non-partisan town hall
- ii. I'm so sad about the death of the Opportunity rover. She was very impactful and has gone to join her sister Spirit in rover heaven

### d. Andrew Petryna

- i. If anyone is interested in learning more about Alpacas there is a Alpaca Farm in Hacketstown, a beautiful place to visit and there is million dollar Alpaca there named Beethoven

### e. April Nicklaus

- i. Plastics campaign is doing a big push hand people who help out with that can get a free t-Shirt, motto is "Break free from plastic".

ii. As of last year the New Brunswick city Council passed a bill for 100% renewable energy and to contact her with any interested company owners interested in sustainability

f. Nick Tharney

i. Back to alpacas. They are indeed one of the only domesticated animals in South America. Prevalence of domesticated animals leads to a development of civilization

g. Priti Kantesaria

i. Betsy devos is proposing to changes to title 9 and has given a comment ability to interested parties. The comment period was extended and encourages all students to reach out and leave a comment before it is closed. It's very applicable to our lives as students in higher education. Feel free to talk to me about writing and submitting your own comment.

h. Brady Rivera

i. Yesterday had the opportunity to go to cooke and discuss medicare for all. What they are planning to do is to join with New Jersey Universal Health Care committee and to reach out and promote medicare for all.

i. Nick LaBelle

i. Expressed gratitude to all authors in the bill that was passed tonight and looks forward to working more in the future with those persons

ii. There is a french avant garde production going on at Cooke Douglass and suggests everyone to go

j. Dominique Little

i. Event coordinator for the Rutgers NAACP chapter here and it was founders day on Feburary 12th. To celebrate the end of the month they will be having a basketball tournament and all students are allowed to join and make a team and play. The proceeds are going to a highschool outreach campaign to give students the ability to stay the night at rutgers and learn about rutgers and possible organizations.

k. Jason Yu

- i. Wants to say happy valentines day to everyone and happy singles day
- ii. This day last year the parkland shooting occur and wants to have 18 seconds of silence for the victims of the tragedy

l. Jessica Tuazon

- i. Nominations for the modeern mark awards close tomorrow night and suggests students to nominate for students, faculty and staff, and student orginzations. In addition, can also nominate anonamously  
[bit.ly/MyMarkAward](https://bit.ly/MyMarkAward)
- ii. Happy Valentines Day

m. Suzanne Link

- i. If anyone is interested in a higher educational anoucemnt with the governer she will be posting the link in the facebook group and will occur Feb 20th at Rutgers Camden

10. Adjournment

- a. **@8:52 PM**





## **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,<sup>1</sup>

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

*Whereas*, the State of New Jersey uses more than 4.4 billion plastic bags annually,<sup>3</sup>

*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,<sup>4</sup>

*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,<sup>5</sup>

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

*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,<sup>7 8 9</sup>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/10/plastic\\_bags\\_are\\_piling\\_up\\_this\\_plan\\_will\\_force\\_us.html](https://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/10/plastic_bags_are_piling_up_this_plan_will_force_us.html)

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

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

<sup>6</sup> [https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/ed061800/files/uploaded/cua\\_plastic\\_bag\\_usage\\_around\\_world\\_august-2015.pdf](https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/ed061800/files/uploaded/cua_plastic_bag_usage_around_world_august-2015.pdf)

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

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article\\_8bf453e0-5ead-5a88-ba61-cbc509b59e75.html](https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_8bf453e0-5ead-5a88-ba61-cbc509b59e75.html)

<sup>9</sup> <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,<sup>10</sup>

**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.

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RUSA President

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Date

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<sup>10</sup> 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,<sup>11</sup> 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

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<sup>11</sup> 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.

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RUSA President

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Date