



RUSA Agenda March 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 Appropriate Funds to the Replacement of Gender Neutral Restroom Signs at Rutgers University- New Brunswick
 - b. Bill to Sponsor the StandardsTV RUSA Town Hall
 - c. Resolution Concerning the Student Activities Fee *"Motion by Jessica Tuazon, Vice President, on behalf of Ryed Jadun, to postpone legislation to next week and to appear first under the legislation in the agenda and to have four people for the bill and four people against the bill."*
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 Resolution S19-05

Authors: Nick Tharney, Navruz Baum

Sponsors: Internal Affairs Committee, Sustainable Governance Ad Hoc Committee

Resolution Concerning the Student Activities Fee

Whereas, the Student Activities Fee (SAF) is a component of every School Fee in undergraduate schools on campus to allow student governments to adequately fund organizations and activities which enhance student life on campus,

Whereas, the current SAF is based in the RUSA Constitution and is a continuation of the student fees assessed through referenda supported by RCGA and the governing boards of affiliated colleges, with administrators allowing student governments to raise fees through referenda,

Whereas, the current SAF under the RUSA Constitution does not allow student governments to easily adjust their own portions of the SAF,

Whereas, the Assembly can technically advocate directly for increases to the SAF, but no process, other than a referendum, is actually provided in the Constitution,

Whereas, the current SAF, which is actively allocated by student governments (\$28.50), has not increased in the decade of RUSA's history, and

Whereas, the number of student organizations supported by the SAF has increased significantly and the SAF has not been adjusted for inflation, thus decreasing the real value of allocated funds, as the SAF in real terms has fallen 19.7% since 2007 when RUSA was created, where the SAF, less direct disbursement, would be \$35.48 today instead of \$28.50 had it been continuously adjusted for inflation,

Whereas, in addition to the decrease in the real value of the SAF, limited increases in the campus fees and increased expenses for operating student centers results in more costs being deferred to student organizations, which in turn, places a further strain on the SAF,

Whereas, it is necessary for the continuation of funded student organizations that a sustainable mechanism be implemented to allow for incremental changes in the SAF to keep pace with inflation,

Therefore, be it resolved by two-thirds of the Assembly that a student referendum shall be held during the Spring 2019 elections in accordance with all applicable procedures under the Constitution and the Standing Rules, where —

1. The Assembly hereby approves of the following question being posed to the undergraduate student body during the Spring 2019 elections: “Shall RUSA’s Constitution be amended to prohibit increases to the student activities fee beyond 2% per year without referendum, while allowing increases less than or equal to 2% annually to be approved by student governments? (For reference, the current student activities fee allocated by student governments is \$28.50 per full time undergraduate student.)”
2. Each eligible voter shall be able to answer “YES” or “NO” to the above stated question.
3. The following explanatory text shall be placed on each ballot stating: “Student organizations on campus rely on RUSA and other student governments to fund them by allocating student fees. The RUSA Constitution does not currently place restrictions on how much they want to increase student fees; however, most student activities fee changes may have to go through a referendum. Adoption of this proposed amendment would allow each student government to adjust their fees by up to, and including, 2% annually to account for inflation and ensure that the real value of funds allocated to student organizations does not continue to decrease. Any increase above 2% would require a referendum conducted by the student government which wants the increase. RUSA would only be allowed to increase its fee (currently \$28.50 per student) by up to 2%.”
4. The ballot shall contain a link to the proposed text, to the current Constitution, and to a document showing the Constitution with the proposed amendment.

5. If a majority of students voting cast their ballots in the affirmative and at least one tenth of the undergraduate students vote, the RUSA Constitution shall be amended to add at the end of Section 6.04 the following text:

“The Student Activities Fee, after direct disbursements, shall not be increased more than 2% annually by the Assembly without a referendum. The student body authorizes the Assembly and professional school student governments to increase their direct disbursements by no more than 2% of all fees they receive each year without a referendum of the students in that school. Each professional school student government may increase their direct disbursement separately, with referenda or increases coordinated by the student government for that school. Any amount by which RUSA increases the Student Activities Fee shall apply to all students. Any increases initiated by the Assembly must be approved with a two-thirds vote as legislation.”
6. The Elections Committee shall be charged with furnishing a copy of the referendum question on the ballot to the Internal Affairs Committee for approval. The Internal Affairs Committee shall certify the results of the referendum, as required by Article 9 of the RUSA Constitution.
7. The Assembly shall authorize the authors of this legislation to coordinate a presentation on the referendum to student organization leaders and other interested parties.
8. The Allocations Board will record and publish annually the distribution of the fees collected from each school on a per student and per school basis.

RUSA President

Date



RUSA Bill S19-05

Authors: Jhanvi Virani, *Student Affairs (SA) Chairperson*; Jack Andrejco, *Queer Caucus Representative and SA Member*; Grace Daniel, *Busch Caucus Chair and SA Member*; Hira Hussain, *College Ave Caucus Chair and SA Member*; Zain Ahmed, *Off-Campus Caucus Chair and SA Member*

Sponsors: Student Affairs Committee, Health and Wellness Committee, University Affairs Committee

Co-Sponsor: Queer Caucus

Bill to Appropriate Funds to the Replacement of Gender Neutral Restroom Signs at Rutgers University- New Brunswick

Whereas, there are currently 130 single-stall public restrooms at Rutgers University – New Brunswick, and although they are gender neutral, their signs are outdated and/or binary;

Whereas, Rutgers University has been ranked as a Top Twenty Five LGBTQ+ University¹;

Whereas, binary restroom signs insinuate a lack of restroom accommodation for transgender and non-binary students on campus;

Whereas, the Queer Caucus has been working on a project to advocate for the replacement of outdated binary single-stall restroom signs with signs that are gender neutral, which accurately encapsulate the inclusive access these bathrooms are meant to provide;

Whereas, these signs, a picture of which can be accessed at the bottom of this document, have been university approved, and upon buying them for a cost of \$60 each, the Queer Caucus has in place a procedure outlined with Rutgers Facilities to have these signs installed at single-stall public restrooms across campus;

¹ <https://collegeconsensus.com/rankings/best-lgbt-schools/>

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) is dedicated to representing all undergraduate students at Rutgers University – New Brunswick, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality;

Whereas, this project will have a tangible and positive impact on a significant population of Rutgers students, including but not limited to non-binary and transgender students;

Be it hereby resolved, RUSA will partially finance the project to replace the signs on single-stall restrooms on campus with a contribution of \$5,000 from the Other Initiatives budget, which will purchase signs for approximately eighty restrooms;

Be it further resolved, RUSA supports advocacy efforts to encourage relevant administrative stakeholders to finance the remainder of this project, including but not limited to University Facilities and the office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.



RUSA President

Date



RUSA Bill S19-04

Authors: Andrew Petryna; Dominique Little, *University Affairs Chairperson*; Jocelyn Caraballo

Sponsor: University Affairs Committee

Bill to Sponsor the StandardsTV RUSA Town Hall

Whereas, StandardsTV is an online video podcast shedding light on the issues and lifestyle of Black and Brown women on Rutgers Campus, providing a unique and diverse perspective of that student population, and

Whereas, StandardsTV, with the assistance of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) Public Relations Committee, has planned a panel with various female politicians and students of color to discuss diversity and inclusion within government and politics, and

Whereas, this panel will consist of 8 participants including 4 students, chosen at the discretion of StandardsTV and the RUSA Public Relations Committee, and 4 elected or appointed officials, and

Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis, and Assemblywomen Britnee N. Timberlake and Sandra B. Cunningham are on the shortlist list of elected officials StandardsTV would like to host, and

Whereas, RUSA represents the entire undergraduate student body on the Rutgers – New Brunswick Campus and seeks to provide a forum for the open expression of student ideas and opinions, and

Whereas, sponsoring such an event would be highly beneficial to RUSA and an excellent opportunity for the student body to hear from important members of the community and government, and

Be it hereby resolved, RUSA will allocate funds directly to the camera crew and for any materials or other services needed for such an event, not in excess of \$400 from the Public Relations Committee Budget,

Be it hereby resolved, the Assembly will host this event during its weekly Thursday meeting on April 4th, 2019, before the regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly that will take place from 7:00 pm EST to 8:30 pm EST,

Be it hereby resolved, RUSA will use its channels to formally invite elected officials and other community leaders to speak as part of the town hall event.

RUSA President

Date