



RUSA Agenda April 4th, 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. Presentation
 - a. Sustainable Governance Ad Hoc Committee Report
 - b. Undergraduate-Alumni Relations Ad Hoc Committee Report
7. Legislation
 - a. Resolution to Condemn the University's Response to Sexual Misconduct Case
 - b. Resolution to Act on the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainable Governance
 - c. Bill to Approve the 2019-2020 Allocations Board
8. Advisor Report
9. External Representatives Report
10. Public Sector
11. 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 S19-08

Author(s): Channel Jordan, *Sexual Violence Education Committee Chair*; Priti Kantesaria, *RUSA Treasurer & President of Rutgers NO MORE*; Talia Lang, *President of Women Organizing Against Harassment*; Declan Alvidrez, *Sexual Violence Education Committee Member*; Cailee Oliver, *Sexual Violence Education Committee Member*; Fred Kaleda, *Residence Hall Association and Sexual Violence Education Committee Member*

Sponsor(s): Sexual Violence Education Committee

Resolution to Condemn the University's Response to Sexual Misconduct Cases

Whereas, sexual violence has been a chronic yet under-reported issue on college campuses across the country,

Whereas, 20% of undergraduate women reported unwanted sexual contact¹ and nearly two-thirds of college students nationally experience sexual harassment,²

Whereas, among graduate and professional students nationally, 8.8% of females and 2.2% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation,³

Whereas, the Rutgers University—New Brunswick Office of Employment Equity (OEE) is tasked with investigating cases of sexual violence and misconduct involving graduate and professional students, faculty, and staff,⁴

¹ <https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/file/2380/download>

² <https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

³ <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

⁴ <https://uhr.rutgers.edu/uhr-units-offices/office-employment-equity>

Whereas, there is a conflict of interest that arises with OEE, a department paid for and maintained by Rutgers University—New Brunswick, solely leading such investigations, which must be addressed by the current administration,

Whereas, based on recent cases, such as the cases involving Professors Nabil Adam and Stephen Bronner, students have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency and efficiency on faculty and staff sexual misconduct cases investigated by OEE,⁵

Whereas, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee, established by President Barchi, was created following this dissatisfaction; however, information is not publicly available to students about the committees' membership, what the committee is tasked with, and what they have achieved since their creation in October 2018, and

Whereas, undergraduate and graduate students are largely underrepresented on the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee, which is meant to be the University's approach to address the current failings in the process of reporting and investigating cases of sexual misconduct,

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that the Rutgers University Student Assembly:

1. **Condemns** the conflict of interest involving the OEE serving as the sole investigator on cases involving faculty/staff and graduate students;
2. **Requests** that students be made aware that if the OEE/Title IX findings are used to retaliate against the survivor, putting the survivor's educational, professional and/or scholarly future at risk, that OEE/Title IX will reopen their investigation;
3. **Calls upon** each survivor's academic department to continue to fund and assist survivors, especially survivors who need to find a new advisor as a result of the independent and/or the OEE investigation;
4. **Requests** that a minimum of five undergraduate students and five graduate students, selected by their respective student governments at their discretion, serve on the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee at Rutgers University;

⁵ <http://www.dailytargum.com/article/2019/02/end-assault-at-rutgers-delivers-demands-to-barchi-at-board-meeting>

5. **Urges** that the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee publish their membership, objectives, and findings by the start of the Fall 2019 semester; and
6. **Supports** the efforts of the End Assault at Rutgers Coalition in their aim to advocate for Rutgers survivors of sexual violence.

RUSA President

Date



RUSA Resolution S19-09

Authors: Paul Ziessler, *Chairman*; Navruz Baum, *EGC President*; David Wakim, *SGC President*; Nick Tharney, *RUSA Parliamentarian*; Jessica Tuazon, *RUSA Vice Presidents*

Sponsor: Sustainable Governance Ad Hoc Committee

Resolution to Act on the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainable Governance

Whereas, the initial purpose of the Sustainable Governance committee was to explore alternative structures for student governance at Rutgers University — New Brunswick and to collaborate with stakeholders groups from within the University;

Whereas, the ad hoc committee was created with the following guidelines:

1. To evaluate pre-existing student government structures at the University,
2. To research structures at other Big Ten institutions and compile a list of desirable features,
3. To have as diverse of a membership, as possible, from as many stakeholder groups from within the University,
4. To prepare a list of recommendations resulting from discussion and debate within the ad hoc committee,
5. To prime the conversation with stakeholders prior to the Student Government Summit for collaboration and openness to new ideas, and
6. To moderate debate and conversation between stakeholders to promote compromise and collaboration;

Whereas, the natural direction the committee took placed a strong emphasis on collective bargaining and collaboration;

Whereas, Presidents of all undergraduate student governments at Rutgers University — New Brunswick — including the Engineering Governing Council (EGC), the SEBS Governing Council (SGC), the Pharmacy Governing Council (PGC), the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA), the Mason Gross Student Governing Association (MGSGA), the Rutgers Business Governing Association (RBGA), and the Douglass Governing Council (DGC) — were consulted and/or communicated with throughout the duration of the committee;

Whereas, the collaboration between all stakeholders was extremely efficient and beneficial in fostering general goodwill and an active working relationship;

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) shall adopt the following recommendations based on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainable Governance:

1. The Assembly supports the creation of a “Presidents Council” to consist of the Presidents and one additional member of all of the undergraduate student governments on campus.
 - a. The additional member for RUSA shall be the Vice President, except for instances in which either the RUSA President or Vice President will not be in attendance; in such a case, the President may appoint another voting member of the Assembly, or of the Executive Board, to serve in the interim.
 - b. The Assembly encourages the Presidents Council to meet on a monthly basis, beginning after the RUSA Spring Reorganizational Meeting and meeting during the next academic year, with the first meeting being organized by RUSA and each subsequent meeting being organized by a student government, cycling: first with RUSA then each student government in alphabetical order.
 - c. The Presidents Council shall be encouraged to discuss ongoing initiatives, pertinent issues on campus, challenges to student governance, and best practices.

- d. The Assembly encourages the Presidents Council to be transparent and publish a record of their proceedings from time to time and make the same available to other members of undergraduate student government.
 - e. The Assembly shall refer to the Internal Affairs Committee the matter of examining whether or not the Presidents Council should be a permanent fixture as an inter-governmental body and whether or not RUSA's participation should be mandated under the Standing Rules.
2. The Assembly shall organize a "Student Government Symposium" consisting of all of the undergraduate student governments at Rutgers University — New Brunswick which allocate the Student Activities Fee.
 - a. All executive offices of each student government, including chairs of standing and ad hoc committees, shall be invited to attend the Symposium.
 - b. The Symposium shall be organized on a date which is amicable to most student governments and held within the first two months of the Fall Semester.
 - c. The Symposium shall serve as a forum to discuss ongoing and new initiatives, challenges in student governance, and best practices.
3. The Assembly shall support the creation of an Executive Directory, to consist of the contact information for all executive offices of all student governments.
 - a. The Secretary of the Assembly shall be tasked with including the RUSA email accounts for all of the Chairs of Standing Committees and other Officers of the Assembly, along with the Chair of the RUSA Allocations Board.
 - b. The Assembly encourages the dissemination of this list, once completed, to all members of student government.
 - c. The Secretary shall be tasked with updating the names of RUSA's Executive Board members after the Spring 2019 Reorganizational Meetings and throughout the year, as may be necessary.
4. The Assembly shall support the implementation of an additional monthly meeting attended by the undergraduate members of the University Senate's Student Caucus

during months in which the Senate is scheduled to meet; adjacent to the release of the next Senate meeting agenda.

- a. The Assembly shall encourage all of the Student Senators from the School of Arts and Sciences to attend the meeting in order to review the business scheduled for the Senate meetings.
- b. The Assembly shall support the efforts of the other student governments to send their University Senators to the additional Caucus meetings.
- c. The Assembly shall direct the Secretary to inform all of the participating student governments of the times and dates for which the Caucus meetings shall be scheduled.
- d. The Assembly shall refer to the Internal Affairs Committee the matter of examining whether the additional Student Caucus meetings should become a permanent fixture and whether or not attendance by RUSA Senators should be mandated. The Assembly further encourages other student governments to do the same.

RUSA President

Date



RUSA Bill S19-08

Authors: Nick Pellitta, *Allocations Chair*; Priti Kantesaria, *Treasurer*

Sponsor: Allocations Selection Board; Executive Committee

Bill to Approve the 2019-2020 Allocations Board

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) is dedicated to providing a means for and promoting student involvement and awareness within the University and the community at large;

Whereas, the RUSA Allocations Board is responsible for the allocation of funds to registered Rutgers University Student Organizations as well as various registered events on an as needed basis; with a goal to promote and support diversity of programming made available to all Rutgers University students through the fair and efficient use of the student activity fee;

Whereas, the goal of the RUSA Allocations Board is to promote and support the diversity of programming made available to all Rutgers University students through the fair and efficient use of the student activity fee;

Whereas, it is essential to approve the nominees of whom have been carefully and diligently vetted by RUSA Allocations Advisors, outgoing seniors of the Allocations Board, and representative(s) of the RUSA Executive Board; and

Whereas, the nominees will undergo an intensive amount of training during the RUSA Allocations budget weekend on April 12th from 3:00PM to 9:30PM, April 13th from 11AM-10PM, and April 14th from 11AM-5PM and during the remaining Monday evening

Allocations Board meetings of the Spring 2019 semester;

Be it hereby resolved that the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) will approve the new RUSA Allocations Board; and

Be it hereby resolved that the following students (in their respective positions) be approved as the RUSA Allocations Board for the semesters of Fall 2019 through Spring 2020:

Chair: Brian Brown
Vice Chair: Caroline Bellscheidt
Secretary: Madhumitha Sivaraj
Treasurer of the Allocations Board: Sameet Hegde
Auditor: Hinita Patel
Senior Member At-Large: Luis Gasca
Member At-Large: Amira Sparks
Member At-Large: Berton Wang
Member At-Large: Evan Feldman
Member At-Large: Sanjana Bommakanti

RUSA President

Date