



Richmond College Student Government Association

2020-2021

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 8, 2020

“To create and ensure the highest quality of life for Richmond College.”

I. Roll Call

II. Visitors

A. SASAV Presentation (Sam Mickey, Esmi Castillo, Sophia Hartman)

1. The RCSGA reached out to SASAV to discuss issues of internal standards. For the past three weeks, they’ve been designing a plan for mutual cooperation. Some of the goals of this partnership include:

- a) Having bold discussions about the cultures we tolerate as Richmond students and as student leaders.
- b) Recognizing problematic behaviors at the institutional and individual levels.

2. ACTION STEPS:

- a) A public statement with SASAV highlighting the activism that student organizers engaged in while responding to the recent changes to Title IX.
- b) A focus on the importance of supporting student support groups in creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus.
- c) A consent workshop designed and operated by SASAV titled the “Collaboration Kickoff.” This event would be mandatory for RCSGA members, and would focus on the difference between consent and wanting. RCSGA is invited to join in on the brainstorming process for this event.
- d) SASAV requests the ability to prepare a thorough Review of the RCSGA Constitution and address concerns to the body.

3. QUESTIONS:

a) VP Greven: Is the University required to shift its policies to match the new Title IX Policies, and what are SASAV's specific issues with the policies?

(1) The new policies provide the bare minimum of necessary protection. SASAV believes that RA's should not be mandatory reporters, and that the adoption of updated Title IX policies could lead to the mis-adjudication of the system.

III. President's Report

A. Regarding the Equity Summit on September 29th and October 1st, the September 29th date will be made mandatory for RCSGA members.

B. A Slack account has been created for the entire senate so that members can more easily cooperate on individual projects, and track others' progress.

C. Next week, Tracy Cassalia of the Title IX office will be coming in to discuss the SASAV concerns brought up tonight.

IV. Vice Presidents' Reports

A. Administration (VP Lawrence):

1. WC Senator Melkote and VP Lawrence came to a decision recently prohibiting students from hanging flyers on friends' dorms.

2. They have also created a schedule for the class of 2024 to follow which denotes the info sessions and relevant deadlines for aspiring senators.

3. QUESTIONS:

a) VP Greven makes the point that students ought to be allowed to post friends' posters on their doors, comparing it to posting a friends' story on their Instagram story

b) Senator Villagomez argues that prohibiting students from posting flyers in dorms outside their own gives an unfair advantage to those in smaller dorms.

B. Finance (VP Spear):

1. Clubs are now permitted to distribute items to their members in a socially distanced manner, so spread the word!

V. **Class Chair Reports**

A. **Class of 2023:**

1. Chairman Engstrom's idea for a movie night has fallen through, and so has morphed into a possible cornhole tournament.

VI. **Dean's Report**

A. Keep an eye out for large gatherings; WVU went online very recently, and "we're always one weekend away" from doing the same. If anyone is hearing rumors of potential gatherings, report them as soon as possible. However, if there is no report made to the administration, then there is very little that the university can do.

B. **DISCUSSION:**

1. Senator Villagomez: Are students still allowed to go off campus for food or work?
 - a) Students are allowed to leave campus for essential purchases, but are strongly encouraged to practice as much caution as possible in order to minimize potential exposure.
2. Chairman Engstrom: Many students go to the river Thursdays and Fridays.
 - a) Even in outside spaces, it's recommended that students either continue to distance or wear a mask.
3. Senator Manley: How will prevalence testing results be conveyed?
 - a) It may be incorporated into the Richmond dashboard, but the administration is unsure as of yet.
4. Senator Modi: What happens if an incomplete report is made listing people rather than an address?
 - a) The university is not the police, and they are far from the CIA. They don't have the means or the inclination to track students unless an address is provided.

VII. **Announcements**

A. Senator Manley has been preparing a food pantry for the past few weeks, and urges any members of the body looking to get involved to contact him.

B. Senator Levine has recently met with Molly Lewis from the Housing Department to discuss improving the body's accessibility to the student body. He and Senator Patel

intend to distribute flyers with a link to an RCSGA form where students can report concerns directly to the body.

VIII. **Open Floor**

A. Free Expression Discussion:

1. VP Greven: As a private university, the university has no onus to maintain free expression; however, free expression is a pillar of both the liberal arts and democratic society, leading Senator Greven to press the university to release an official statement supporting freedom of speech at the University. He would like the body to officially voice its support for a recent draft statement released by the free expression task force, and hopefully approve the draft by next meeting.

2. Senator Modi: How does this translate to student employees on campus, such as RA's?

a) VP Greven: The free expression statement focuses on the rights and responsibilities of Richmond students in their capacity as students, rather than employees. However, separate protections can be forthcoming in future work.

B. RA Hazard Pay Discussion:

1. VP Spear: The document in question is wrong to say that Resident Assistants should be given hazard pay due to the precedent it sets; if Resident Assistants are given hazard pay, then all student employees would deserve hazard pay by the same principle.

2. VP Greven: The University is facing incredible budgetary pressures, and this is an area of unfair cost that the university cannot afford. Also, the risk assumed by Resident Assistants is not wildly beyond the risks assumed by the rest of the student body.

3. Senator Modi: Workers at the Cellar do not see much human contact, while RA's on patrol duties must walk through spaces that could have housed potentially hundreds of people.

4. Senator Villagomez: Students were given the option to come to campus; it's staff that rely on UR for their livelihood that ought to be provided with hazard pay.

5. Senator Barnett: Many workers on campus that are also at increased risk of exposure, not only RA's.
6. VP Poluri: RA's assume more of an inherent risk than other work duties due to their unique position; they share a living space with other students, rather than just a working space.
7. Senator Villagomez: RA's are the ones monitoring the campus at all hours of the day.
8. President Polcari: If the body feels passionate about student pay, then we can start laying the groundwork for a wider struggle.

IX. Closed Meeting

A. SASAV Vote

1. It may be necessary to save discussion of Title IX to next week, but the body's collaboration with SASAV is approved.

B. Greek Life Discussion

1. The Goal of the Greek Life Task Force is to foster conversation on the path forward for the UR social scene, and highly encourages students to reach out. Before any major steps are made, we need a clearly defined plan.

X. Adjournment