



Richmond College Student Government Association

2020-2021

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 22, 2020

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

I. Roll Call

II. Visitors

A. Dr. Eugene Wu

1. Dr. Wu is a virologist who is excited to help the body in understanding the pandemic, the standpoint of the university, or general faculty procedures.
2. The makeup of the faculty senate is: 17 senators ranging from directors to regular professors. Their goal is to represent the needs of the faculty, but also to maintain the general welfare of the student body.
3. One of their general goals is the completion of the general education curriculum. Additionally, there is a working group concerned with the maintenance of free expression on campus, and the faculty senate has been approached to participate in the upcoming equity summit. The faculty is also interested in participating in discussions on the current Greek Life situation.
4. Faculty Senate meetings are open to everyone, and more people have become engaged in the actions of the senate.
5. The faculty senate currently has no formal role in the Africana Studies program, but if it begins to bridge gaps between schools, then it will reach the faculty senate.
6. Faculty that are currently teaching remotely may petition again to teach remotely next semester. If more faculty return to in-person teaching, then it may be possible that class spaces run short
7. The student government will most likely see a version of the General Education curriculum in December

III. **President's Report**

A. Next week, the body will not be meeting due to the equity summit. Those who cannot attend on Tuesday should attend Thursday.

B. The body will be focusing on promoting voting across the student body! Do your civic duty!

C. A resolution concerning Africana Studies is due to be drafted in the coming weeks.

IV. **Vice Presidents' Reports**

A. **Academics**

1. The general education committee is meeting on a weekly basis, and if you have any questions relating to free expression or the faculty senate, let VP Greven know.

2. VP Greven and his WC counterpart are coordinating on ways to address student concerns with hybrid teaching styles in the pandemic.

B. **Administration**

1. There are 9 senators running for the class of 2024 senate seat, and 3 for the class chair position.

2. The body will be putting each candidate for the class of 2024's flyers on our Instagram

C. **External Affairs**

1. A mandatory event with SASAV will be held on Saturday, October 24th at 1:30pm

2. VP Patel has been putting up voter registration resources on the instagram

V. **Class Chair Reports**

VI. **Dean's Report**

A. The Registrar's Office has been working tirelessly to put all the forms that we need to fill out converted to online forms. The latest of these is the late add/drop forms! That process involves speaking to academic advisors and Dean Boehman, and there may be repercussions to a student's major or financial aid prospects.

B. Go to registrar.richmond.edu/forms to find forms to suit any and all needs!

C. Senator Manley recommends that the administration work to assuage some of the trepidation that students feel when reporting symptoms; students should not feel that they'll be quarantined for a runny nose.

VII. **Announcements**

A. Senator Manley: Sustainability initiatives are soon to come, as well the changes to the plastic bag policies in DHall. The composting initiative that was begun last year was suspended for a time due to COVID, but is now starting back up! Campus facilities are going to begin utilizing more electric vehicles.

B. Senator Modi has been working to help extend the hours that THC stays open. Many students feel safer walking at night in the Tyler Haynes Commons, rather than the outdoor areas.

VIII. **Open Floor**

A. President Polcari: the student government can play an active role in educating voters on the policies and candidates that play a role in the upcoming election. This goes for federal, state, and local positions.

1. VP Patel: The CCE is setting up a program to promote the election, and is working with "We the People."

2. VP Greven: The body has to be careful not to engage in any value judgements when it comes to advertising an election, which makes it difficult to prepare things like planning committees. However, CCE and We the People are highly effective

3. Senator Villagomez: Concurring with VP Greven, Senator Villagomez cautions the body not to support one candidate over another.

4. VP Spear: It's entirely possible for us to put out basic information about the candidates, even if that involves simply providing a link to an issues site. It would also be beneficial for us to provide information as to the location of the Jepson Alumni Center,

5. Senator Modi: *static*

6. Senator Levine: It's a good idea to distribute information to the student body, but more students are living off-campus than ever due to the loss of

study-abroad programs! These students are losing access to the post office, and are consequently dissuaded from voting.

7. President Polcari: There is a method of online registration in Virginia, and spreading information about that would be an excellent way to utilize our power.

8. Senator Modi: As someone who is not able to vote in American elections, it is exceptionally important to vote this year.

9. Chairman Engstrom: Would it be at all possible to do any sort of tabling? The general body's consensus is: unfortunately not

10. Senator Manley: Would it be possible for us to implement an initiative to recruit more poll officers?

11. Senator Levine: It's important to get students recruitment forms, as if you're from a state outside of Virginia, you cannot register online.

12. VP Patel: VP Patel will start creating graphics that the body would like to be sent out to the student body, and will be in contact with CCE. He could also create miniature videos explaining the voting process. Senators hoping to assist in this should reach out to VP Patel.

IX. **Closed Meeting**

A. Ryan Shepard is elected to the body.

X. **Adjournment**