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# CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

# Ramapo College of New Jersey

(Last Updated April 2023)

**CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION** 



505 Ramapo Valley Road Mahwah, NJ 07430



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#### Preamble

We, the students of Ramapo College of New Jersey, to improve student life and serve in the best interest of the student body; to represent, lead and unify the student body; and work with the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, and Staff of Ramapo College; do hereby establish the Student Government Association of the Ramapo College of New Jersey and adopt this constitution.

#### Article I: Names

The name of this organization shall be called the Student Government Association of Ramapo College of New Jersey; hereafter referred to as "SGA".

#### **Article II: Objectives**

The purpose of SGA is to serve as the official voice of the student body while acting as the formal liaison to the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, and Staff. SGA shall work to improve student life and serve in the best interest of the student body.

#### Article III: Membership

#### **Section I: Requirements**

**Clause I**: The requirements for membership outlined hereafter shall not apply to Delegates, whose requirements shall be defined in the Delegate Program by the Secretary of Delegate Affairs.

**Clause II**: SGA members shall: be enrolled students of Ramapo College; maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5; and be in good academic and social standing within the policies of Ramapo College as determined after Advisor review.





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**Clause III**: SGA members shall be in attendance at all meetings required of their positions as defined in the Bylaws and herein.

**Clause IV**: All SGA members must serve as active members on at least one SGA Committee.

**Clause V**: SGA members must serve office hours on a weekly basis, as defined in the Bylaws.

**Clause VI**: SGA members shall hold a term of office lasting 1 May through 30 April; withstanding associate members and Justices.

**Clause VII**: SGA members must fulfill the duties expected of their positions as outlined in the Bylaws and herein;

### **Article IV: Executive Board**

#### **Section I: Members**

**Clause I**: The Executive Board of SGA shall comprise the Student Government President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chief of Staff.

**Clause II**: All members of the Executive Board of the SGA shall be a student of Ramapo College for at least one semester at the time of their election or, in the case of the Chief of Staff, appointment.

#### **Section II: President**

**Clause I**: The Student Government President shall be the officer to establish the vision of the Executive Board and ensure that the goals of the SGA are aligned with those of the Constitution.





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**Clause II**: The Student Government President shall be in attendance at all SGA General meetings, Cabinet meetings, Executive Board meetings, and Board of Trustees meetings.

**Clause III**: The Student Government President shall meet with the President of the College at least, but not limited to, once a month.

**Clause IV**: For Senate endorsed policies, bills, resolutions, and legislation to be valid, they must be signed by the Student Government President.

**Clause V**: The Student Government President shall have the power to veto legislation approved by the Senate within a timely manner.

**Clause VI**: If the Senate overrides a Presidential veto for legislation, the President is obligated to sign said legislation.

**Clause VII**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Student Government President, the Student Government Vice President will assume the position and duties of the Student Government President as stated in Article IV Section 2.

**Clause VIII:** The Student Government President shall propose Bylaws to the Senate at fall semester training. Bylaws need to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

**Clause IX:** The Student Government President shall review the constitution before fall semester training.

**Clause X**: One of the two SGA advisors will be the Director of the Center for Student Involvement, unless they decline the position, in which case the Director can designate a CSI staff member to take their place. In the event of a vacancy of the second SGA





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advisor, the SGA President will nominate another advisor to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the entire organization.

**Clause XI**: The Student Government President shall appoint SGA members to college-wide committees.

**Clause XII**. The Student Government President shall be allowed to say "on behalf of the SGA" for ceremonial purposes.

**Clause XIII:** The Student Government President shall remain in regular contact with the Faculty Assembly and Ramapo Staff Association.

### **Section III: Vice President**

**Clause I**: The Student Government Vice President shall assume the responsibilities of the Student Government President during planned and unplanned absences of the Student Government President.

**Clause II**: The Student Government Vice President President shall chair the Club Process & Allocations Committee or equivalent body with advice from the Center for Student Involvement.

**Clause III**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Student Government Vice President, the Student Government President shall appoint a current elected or appointed member to fill the Vice-Presidential position. This nominee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

**Clause IV**: The Student Government Vice President shall serve on the Electoral Committee.

#### **Section IV: Treasurer**

Clause I: The Treasurer shall oversee all financial operations of the SGA.





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**Clause II**: The Treasurer shall submit monthly financial reports, which include budget updates, monthly expenditures, and a year-to-date budget update to the Executive Board, Cabinet, and Senate.

**Clause III**: The Treasurer shall run at least one audit of the organization per academic year.

**Clause IV**: The Treasurer shall hold at least, but not limited to, one monthly meeting with Student Activities Revenue Management or equivalent body.

**Clause V**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Student Government Treasurer, the Student Government President shall appoint a current, matriculated Ramapo student to fill the Treasurer position. This nominee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

**Clause VI**: The Treasurer shall serve on the Club Process & Allocations Committee or equivalent body.

**Clause VII**: The Treasurer shall be in charge of keeping a record of all Student Government Check Requisition paperwork and submitting it to Student Activities Revenue Management and a file copy to the Secretary of SGA.

**Clause VIII**: The Treasurer shall act as an ex officio member of the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees or equivalent body.

**Clause IX**: The Treasurer shall physically and/or digitally maintain and file all financial documents at the direction of the President.

**Clause X**: If the budget invoices, paperwork, payments, etc. are not finalized by 30 April for that academic year, the outgoing Treasurer is expected to assist the newly elected





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Treasurer to ensure all financial documents are reconciled for the outgoing Treasurer's term.

### **Section V: Secretary**

**Clause I**: The Secretary shall record the minutes of all General and Cabinet meetings, and forward copies of the minutes to the Organization and other designated college officials.

Clause II: The Secretary shall maintain all organizational documents.

**Clause III**: The Secretary shall maintain attendance records of members at all General meetings.

**Clause IV**: The Secretary shall physically and/or digitally maintain all General and Cabinet meeting minutes and ensure that meeting minutes are accessible to the public.

**Clause V**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Student Government Secretary, the Student Government President shall appoint a current, matriculated Ramapo student to fill the Secretary position. This nominee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Senate. The Senate Secretary will temporarily fill in the role.

**Clause VI**: The Secretary shall author, with support from Student Government, an annual report of Student Government noting the Association's achievements, challenges, and financial records.

**Clause VII:** The Secretary shall maintain SGA physical mail and legislative policies, and be responsible for maintaining the physical office space, and ensuring the efficiency of office supplies, including all printers, computers, etc.





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#### Section VI: Chief of Staff

**Clause I**: The Chief of Staff shall serve as the chief advisor to the President and Vice President.

**Clause II**: The Chief of Staff shall carry out the agenda set by the President and Vice President, including special projects and tasks as assigned.

**Clause III:** The Chief of Staff shall serve as a resource to assist the Executive Board in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

**Clause IV**: The Chief of Staff shall ensure that tasks and projects assigned to the Cabinet are completed efficiently in a manner that best represents the Student Government Association.

**Clause V**: The Chief of Staff shall work with the President to conduct performance evaluations and meet individually with Cabinet members.

**Clause VI**: The Chief of Staff shall assist the Secretary in maintaining the Student Government Office.

**Clause VII**: The Chief of Staff shall maintain and share the documents and reports of the Cabinet.

**Clause VIII**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief of Staff, the Student Government President shall appoint a replacement.

**Clause IX**: The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for the management of the SGA website and shall request WordPress training(s) from the Office of Marketing & Communications on an as-needed basis.

**Clause X:** The Chief of Staff shall not be an elected position of the Student Government Association.





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#### Article V: Cabinet

#### **Section I: Members**

**Clause I**: The Student Government President shall have the power to appoint their Cabinet, with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate under set guidelines.

**Clause II**: The Cabinet shall consist of a Secretary of Academic Affairs, a Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion, a Secretary of Sustainability, a Secretary of Programming, a Secretary of Public Relations, a Secretary for Commuter Affairs, a Secretary of Delegate Affairs, a Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life, a Secretary of Governmental Affairs, a Secretary of Service, and a Secretary of Residential Affairs.

**Clause III**: Each Cabinet member shall submit no less than three secretarial reports each semester.

**Clause IV**: Vacancies in the Cabinet are to be filled such that the Student Government President shall nominate a student candidate for the vacancy to be confirmed by the Senate with a two-thirds vote.

**Clause V**: The Chief of Staff shall be held accountable for maintaining the effectiveness of the Cabinet which shall be considered part of the Executive Branch.

**Clause VI:** If applicable, each Cabinet member is encouraged to meet with their respective liaisons on a minimum of a biweekly basis.

#### Section II: Secretary of Academic Affairs

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Academic Affairs shall serve as the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.





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**Clause II**: The Secretary of Academic Affairs shall remain in regular contact with the Teaching and Learning Core.

**Clause III:** The Secretary of Academic Affairs shall hold at least, but not limited to, one monthly meeting with the Provost/Vice President of Teaching, Learning, and Growth or equivalent position.

**Clause IV**: The Secretary of Academic Affairs shall serve as the student representative at Provost Council meetings.

**Clause V**: The Secretary of Academic Affairs shall be responsible for making sure there is a student representative on Faculty Task Force Committees.

### Section III: Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion will serve as a liaison between the SGA and student cultural and religious clubs/organizations.

**Clause II**: The Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion shall serve as the chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, which shall be made up of representatives of all multicultural and religious clubs and organizations, as well as other clubs that choose to participate.

**Clause III**: The Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion shall promote the active recruitment of a diverse student body and faculty.

**Clause IV:** The Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion seeks to enhance the quality of life of all students.

**Clause V:** The Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion shall alert the SGA to all social justice issues concerning the campus and its community.





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**Clause VI**: The Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion shall aid the campus community by establishing and co-sponsoring events that include diversity dialogue to create a culture and community of respect.

**Clause VII**: The Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion will serve as a liaison between the SGA and the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Compliance.

### Section IV: Secretary of Sustainability

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Sustainability or a trained designee shall be in attendance at Senate meetings during which co-sponsorships are being discussed to provide input on sustainable purchasing practices.

**Clause II**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall be in attendance at all the President's Committee on Campus Sustainability (PCCS) meetings.

**Clause III**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall be the liaison to the Director of the Sustainability Center or equivalent position.

**Clause IV**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall serve as a liaison between the SGA and Ramapo Green, connecting all student clubs and organizations interested in sustainability issues.

**Clause V**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall be in charge of overseeing and enforcing appropriate sustainable procurement policies and procedures.

**Clause VI**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall serve as the chair of the SGA's Sustainability Committee, which will be made up of representatives from each of the clubs and organizations that choose to participate.

**Clause VII**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall advocate for and help develop student-led sustainable policies on campus.





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**Clause VIII**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall advocate for and help recruit participants for the Sustainable Living and Eco-Stewardship (SLE) Program.

**Clause IX**: The Secretary of Sustainability shall aid the campus community in establishing and co-sponsoring events that generate sustainability dialogue and awareness across the college community.

### Section V: Secretary of Programming

**Clause I:** The Secretary of Programming shall serve as the chair of the Programming Committee.

**Clause II**: The Secretary of Programming shall meet with the Associate Director of the Center for Student Involvement or their designee regularly.

**Clause III**: The Secretary of Programming shall be responsible for coordinating the following, but not limited to, events:

Founders' Day

The End of the Year Event

**Election Events** 

Inauguration

Oktoberfest

The scope of responsibilities of Oktoberfest will be determined annually via collaboration between the SGA President and the Programming Committee.





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### Section VI: Secretary of Public Relations

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Public Relations shall serve as the chair of the Public Relations Committee.

**Clause II**: The Secretary of Public Relations shall be responsible for communicating to the public about SGA events, meetings, and necessary updates, and measuring the effectiveness of those communications.

**Clause III**: The Secretary of Public Relations shall strive to upgrade and maintain SGA's community presence and technological assets.

**Clause IV**: The Secretary of Public Relations shall be the administrator of all Student Government Association social media accounts.

**Clause V:** The Secretary of Public Relations shall remain in regular contact with the College Social Media Strategist & Content Manager or equivalent position.

**Clause VI:** The Secretary of Public Relations or their designee shall be in attendance at all college-wide Social Media Group (or equivalent body) meetings to foster collaboration and learn additional skills.

**Clause VII**: The Secretary of Public Relation shall be responsible for all print advertising, including but not limited to bulletin boards, posters, flyers, etc.

Clause VIII: The Secretary of Public Relations shall serve on the Electoral Committee.

### Section VII: Secretary of Commuter Affairs

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Commuter Affairs shall serve as the chair of the Commuter Affairs Committee.





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**Clause II**: The Commuter Affairs Committee shall be a body of students working to unite and represent the best interests of commuter students.

**Clause III**: The Secretary of Commuter Affairs must meet at least once a month with the Center for Student Involvement Commuter Affairs Staff.

### Section VIII: Secretary of Delegate Affairs

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Delegate Affairs shall oversee the recruitment of Delegates into their Delegate Program as stated in Article VIII, Section I.

**Clause II**: The Secretary of Delegate Affairs shall maintain a portfolio of all active delegates and file said portfolio with the Secretary.

**Clause III:** The Secretary of Delegate Affairs shall be the chair of the Delegate Affairs Committee, which shall include current delegates, to assist in the coordination of the Delegate Program.

### Section IX: Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life must be a member of a Greek organization.

**Clause II**: The Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life shall hold at least, but not limited to, one monthly meeting with the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, or equivalent position.

**Clause III**: The Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life shall hold at least, but not limited to, one monthly meeting with UCGC, PFC, IFC, and CPH.

**Clause IV**: The Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life shall act as an advocate for the Fraternities and Sororities of Ramapo College.





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**Clause V**: The Secretary of Fraternity & Sorority Life shall work as a liaison between the community of Fraternities and Sororities and the student population at large to develop a wholly integrated community.

### Section X: Secretary of Governmental Affairs

**Clause I:** The Secretary of Governmental Affairs shall work as a liaison to the Ramapo College Government Relations Officer, or equivalent position.

**Clause II:** The Secretary of Governmental Affairs shall collaborate with the SGA President and SGA members of other colleges and universities to work on government-oriented initiatives such as letter-writing campaigns.

**Clause III:** The Secretary of Governmental Affairs shall be the designated member to reach out to different government representatives for various advocacy efforts.

**Clause IV:** The Secretary of Governmental Affairs shall gather appropriate contact information of other college and university SGA members and government representatives to utilize for different initiatives and projects when necessary.

### Section XI: Secretary of Service

**Clause I**: The Secretary of Service shall enforce the SGA member requirement of 4 community service hours per semester through a procedure of their choosing.

**Clause II:** The Secretary of Service shall maintain appropriate records in the SGA office and Google Drive.

**Clause III:** The Secretary of Service shall actively search for and coordinate community service projects and opportunities both inside and outside of the college.

**Clause IV:** The Secretary of Service shall be the liaison to the Civic and Community Engagement Center staff and encourage members to participate in civic and community engagement activities.



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#### Section XII: Secretary of Residential Affairs

**Clause I:** The Secretary of Residential Affairs shall be a student that currently lives on campus.

**Clause II:** The Secretary of Residential Affairs shall be responsible for advocating for the needs of residential students on campus.

**Clause III:** The Secretary of Residential Affairs shall be the liaison to the Office of Residence Life.

**Clause IV:** The Secretary of Residential Affairs shall actively work to engage the residential student population through programming and/or co-sponsorships with Residence Life staff.

**Clause V:** The Secretary of Residential Affairs shall serve as a liaison between the SGA and residential students.

**Clause VI:** The Secretary of Residential Affairs shall help to promote specialty housing programs.

#### Article VI: Legislative Branch

#### Section I: Definition

**Clause I:** All Legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Legislature of the Student Government Association of Ramapo College of New Jersey, which shall consist of a Senate.

#### **Section II: Members**

**Clause I**: A Senator is a student who represents the student body by exercising their vote on associated issues and hearing their concerns, as well as creating resolutions to pass on to the administration of Ramapo College.

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**Clause II**: The Senate of the SGA shall be composed of twenty-one Senators elected by the student population.

Clause III: The Senate shall be comprised of the following:

School Senators (5)

Senators-at-Large (15)

Graduate Senator (1)

**Clause IV**: The Senate shall have the power to vote on SGA policies, bills, resolutions, and legislation.

**Clause V**: Quorum is required to vote. A quorum shall be defined as one more than one-half of all current senators.

**Clause VI**: A simple majority is required to pass any legislation. A simple majority shall be defined as one more than one-half of non-abstaining votes.

Clause VII: A two-thirds vote is required to override a Presidential veto.

Clause VIII: The Senate shall elect a Senate President by a simple majority vote.

**Clause IX**: The Senate President can nominate an advisor for the Legislative Branch to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

**Clause X**: The Senate President shall be held accountable for maintaining the effectiveness of all members of the Senate.

### Section III: Senators-at-Large, Full Term

Clause I: The number of Senators-at-Large elected for a full term will be ten.





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**Clause II**: Senators-at-Large shall be in attendance at all SGA General meetings and all Senate meetings.

Clause III: Each Senator-at-Large shall have one vote in the Senate.

**Clause IV**: Each Senator-at-Large shall hold at least one Senate liaison, to be approved by the Senate President.

**Clause V**: In the case that multiple Senator-at-Large members want the same liaison, each interested Senator will make a statement as to why they should have said liaison and the simple majority of the Senate will determine the Senator for that liaison.

**Clause VI**: Each Senator-at-Large shall submit no less than three liaison reports each semester.

**Clause VII**: Unassigned liaisons may be delegated to other SGA members at the discretion of the Senate President.

### Section IV: Senator-at-Large, Abbreviated Term

**Clause I**: The number of Senators-at-Large elected for an abbreviated term will be five or more, depending on vacancies in the Senate at the time of the elections.

**Clause II**: At least one of the Senator-at-Large positions of an abbreviated term shall be filled by a First Semester First-Year Student, except in the case that no First Semester First-Year Student runs for the position.

**Clause III**: The Senators-at-Large with an abbreviated term shall be elected into office by the following process:

The Secretary of Public Relations shall advertise the five open positions at the beginning of the fall semester.





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Candidates shall have the opportunity to campaign and run for Senator-at-Large positions by abiding by the guidelines stated in the Bylaws.

The candidates will be elected by the student body through an official, organized election run by the Senate President.

The election results must be announced no later than 1 October.

**Clause IV**: The Senators-at-Large of an abbreviated term shall hold a term of office lasting from 1 October through 30 April.

### **Section V: School Senators**

**Clause I:** There shall be one School Senator elected to represent each academic school at Ramapo College.

Clause II: Each School Senator shall have one vote in the Senate.

**Clause III**: Each School Senator shall hold a Senate liaison with the Dean of the academic school which they represent.

**Clause IV:** Each School Senator shall be a member of the Academic Affairs Committee.

Clause V: Each School Senator shall submit no less than three liaison reports each semester.

**Clause VI**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of School Senator, the Dean of the respective academic school shall be informed by the Senate President to promote elections.





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**Clause VII**: Each School Senator must have attended Ramapo College for at least one semester.

#### Section VI: Graduate Senator

**Clause I:** The Graduate Senator must be a student enrolled in a graduate program at Ramapo College.

**Clause II**: The Graduate Senator shall be the student representative to the Graduate Council, which comprises the Directors of the Graduate Programs and other relevant College officials.

**Clause III**: The Graduate Senator shall submit no less than three liaison reports each semester.

**Clause IV:** In the event of a vacancy in the position of Graduate Senator, the Graduate Program Directors shall be informed by the Senate President to promote elections.

#### Section VII: Senate President

Clause I: The Senate President shall be an elected Senator.

**Clause II**: The Senate President shall be elected by a majority vote by the incoming Senate before the inauguration. The incoming Student Government Vice President shall hold a tie-breaking vote, if necessary.

**Clause III**: The Senate President shall maintain a secure working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order.

**Clause IV**: The Senate President shall chair all SGA General meetings through the use of Robert's Rules of Order.

Clause V: The Senate President shall serve as liaison to the Cabinet.





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**Clause VI**: The Senate President shall appoint a Senate Vice President to be approved by a simple majority of the Senate.

Clause VII: The Senate President shall appoint a Senate Secretary.

**Clause VIII**: The Senate President shall design and issue the liaison report template at the fall semester training.

**Clause IX**: The Senate President shall hold the responsibility for running elections for the Senator-at-Large of abbreviated terms positions.

**Clause X**: The Senate President shall hold at least, but not limited to, one monthly meeting with the Dean of Students/Vice President of Student Well-Being or equivalent position.

Clause XI: The Senate President shall serve on the Electoral Committee.

### Section VIII: Senate Vice President

**Clause I**: The Senate Vice President shall be an elected Senator approved by a simple majority of the Senate.

**Clause II**: The Senate Vice President shall be permitted to hold a liaison at the discretion of the Senate President.

**Clause III**: The Senate Vice President shall have the responsibility of the SGA email address.

**Clause IV**: The Senate Vice President shall help Senators in revising their liaison reports before their presentation.

**Clause V**: The Senate Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating co-sponsored events or activities with other clubs and organizations.





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**Clause VI**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Senate President, the Senate Vice President will assume the position and duties of the Senate President as stated in Article VI Section VI.

Clause VII: The Senate Vice President shall serve on the Electoral Committee.

### Section IX: Senate Secretary

**Clause I**: The Senate Secretary shall record and maintain the minutes at all Senate meetings.

**Clause II**: The Senate Secretary shall maintain office hours on a weekly basis, as defined in the Bylaws.

**Clause III**: The Senate Secretary shall be appointed by the Senate President and be approved by a simple majority of the Senate.

**Clause IV**: The Senate Secretary shall not be an elected member of the Student Government Association.

**Clause V**: The Senate Secretary shall hold a term of office lasting from 1 May through 30 April.

**Clause VI**: The Senate Secretary shall physically and/or digitally maintain and file all Liaison Reports at the direction of the Senate President.

### **Section X: Interim Elections**

**Clause I**: In the event of a vacancy of the Senate, an interim election shall be held in the following manner: The Senate must pass election legislation by a two-thirds majority to initiate an election. The Secretary of Public Relations will advertise the vacancy to the student population;



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Candidates must complete a petition OR complete an application process (as determined by election legislation) to become eligible;

Eligible candidates will be elected by the Senate.

**Clause II**: Elected Senators will assume the position and duties of the Senate as stated in Article V.

**Clause III**: An interim election must take place if there are less than twenty-one (21) total senators after abbreviated term elections have taken place.

Clause IV: Any appeals shall be directed to the SGA Advisor(s).

**Clause V**: Senators elected through interim election shall hold a term of office lasting from the moment of inauguration through 30 April.

### Article VII: Judicial Panel

### **Section I: Definition**

**Clause I**: All Judicial powers herein granted shall be vested in the Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association of Ramapo College of New Jersey which shall consist of a Judicial Panel.

**Clause II**: The Judicial Panel shall exist to create new rules binding to SGA and its members by rendering rulings through the publication of decisions in response to requests brought before the Panel.

**Clause III**: The Judicial Panel shall hold SGA accountable for acting in accordance with, and carrying out the duties of; the Constitution, Bylaws, legislation, and rulings rendered by the Panel.





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**Clause IV**: Each Justice shall attempt to mediate internal disputes and shall request a decision for arbitration through a ruling by the Panel when deemed necessary or requested.

**Clause V**: Each Justice shall request decisions on SGA conduct when deemed necessary or requested.

**Clause VI**: Review and provide impartial and unbiased guidance on all proposed bills prior to being introduced to the Senate at a public meeting.

### **Section II: Members**

**Clause I**: A Justice is an SGA member who provides judicial decisions in response to requests before the Panel.

Clause II: The Panel shall be comprised of the following:

**One Chief Justice** 

One Conduct Justice

One Procedural Justice

**Clause III**: All Justices are appointed in the instance of a vacancy and shall serve in their position until their resignation, impeachment, or graduation.

**Clause IV**: Justices shall not hold any other position in SGA during their term, withstanding the Temporary Justices.

**Clause V**: Justices must bring all requests made of them before the Panel to receive a response of either a decision or rejection.





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#### Section III: Chief Justice

**Clause I**: The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the SGA President and Senate President through a process of their determination with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate under set guidelines.

**Clause II**: The Chief Justice shall provide at fall training the Constitutional and legal duties expected of the Executive Board, the Senate President, and the Senate Vice President, to which the Chief Justice shall hold them accountable.

**Clause III**: The Chief Justice shall digitally record all decisions published by the Panel and shall hold SGA accountable for all rulings rendered past or present.

**Clause V**: The Chief Justice shall review the actions of the Executive Board, Senate President, and Senate Vice President and request decisions by the Panel when necessary.

**Clause VI**: The Chief Justice shall act as the head of the Judicial Panel, coordinate its proceedings, and represent the Panel when necessary.

**Clause VII**: The Chief Justice shall act as the Chair of the Electoral Committee and schedule meetings and assign tasks to committee members as they see fit.

**Clause VIII:** The Chief Justice shall work with the President to review the constitution and suggest constitutional amendments as needed.

**Clause IX:** The Chief Justice shall act as the liaison between SGA/members of the Ramapo College Community and the Office of Student Conduct.

**Clause X:** The Chief Justice shall maintain office hours on a weekly basis, as defined in the Bylaws.





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### **Section IV: Conduct Justice**

**Clause I**: Conduct Justice shall be chosen by the President and Chief Justice through a process of their determination with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate under set guidelines.

**Clause II**: The Conduct Justice shall provide at fall training the Constitutional duties expected of Cabinet, to which the Conduct Justice shall hold them accountable.

**Clause III**: The Conduct Justice shall hold SGA accountable for attending Committee meetings, office hours, and volunteering for events, and request decisions by the Panel when necessary.

**Clause IV**: The Conduct Justice shall review the actions of the Cabinet and request decisions by the Panel when necessary.

**Clause V:** The Conduct Justice shall hold a seat on the College Disciplinary Review Board, <u>pending approval</u> by the board after a process of their determination.

**Clause VI:** The Conduct Justice shall maintain office hours on a weekly basis, as defined in the Bylaws.

Clause VII: The Conduct Justice shall serve on the Electoral Committee.

### **Section V: Procedural Justice**

**Clause I**: The Procedural Justice shall be chosen by the President and Chief Justice through a process of their determination with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate under set guidelines.

**Clause II**: The Procedural Justice shall provide at fall training the Constitutional duties expected of the Senate, to which the Procedural Justice shall hold them accountable.





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**Clause III**: The Procedural Justice shall hold SGA accountable for abiding by motions and legislation passed by the Senate and request decisions by the Panel when necessary.

**Clause IV**: The Procedural Justice shall review the actions of the Senate and request decisions by the Panel when necessary.

**Clause V**: The Procedural Justice shall hold a seat on the Club Process Committee and help the Committee Chair review new club constitutions and provide guidance to clubs in the constitution creation process as needed.

**Clause VI:** The Procedural Justice shall maintain office hours on a weekly basis, as defined in the Bylaws.

Clause VII: The Procedural Justice shall serve on the Electoral Committee.

### **Section VI: Decisions**

**Clause I**: Each Justice must write a response of Yes or No to all decision requests brought before the Panel within ten business days.

**Clause II**: The responses must be organized and published together in a single decision document by the Justice who brought the request before the Panel.

**Clause III**: Concurring Yes or No responses stated by two or more Justices shall be the official response of the Panel.

**Clause IV**: The decision shall be published to SGA via email, discussed at a General meeting, and contain the following items:

<u>The Request</u>: authored by the Justice bringing the decision request before the Panel. Shall ask the decision that is requested of the Panel as a single sentence question answerable by Yes or No.



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<u>The Response</u>: authored by the Justice bringing the request before the Panel. Shall state each Yes or No response to The Request and highlight concurring responses as the "Official Response."

<u>The Ruling</u>: co-authored by the concurring Justices. Shall render concise statutory parameters agreed upon by all concurring Justices which shall act as new rules to which SGA is now bound.

<u>The Reason</u>: authored by each Justice to explicitly state their Yes or No response to The Request, followed by the factors taken into consideration, the reasoning of the Justice, and any additional relevant information.

**Clause V**: Decisions may be overturned by a % vote of the Senate within a timely manner.

**Clause VI**: The Panel shall respond to requests on matters previously addressed, already pending, and not pertaining to SGA with a rejection, which must be concurred by two or more Justices and announced at a General meeting.

**Clause VII**: Rulings rendered by decisions shall not circumvent, undermine or invalidate any part of the Constitution or prior decisions.

**Clause VIII**: Rulings rendered by decisions may strike sections of the Bylaws and passed legislation, introduce articles of impeachment, and dispense disciplinary action.

**Clause IX**: Decisions shall defer to existing rulings unless all three Justices concur on an overturning ruling.

### **Section VII: Hearings**

**Clause I**: The Panel shall hold at least one open hearing during a General meeting to receive testimony on a pending request before the Panel if deemed necessary unless



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the hearing is in response to SGA member matters, in which hearings shall be closed and only relevant parties may be invited.

**Clause II**: Any Justice may call for additional open or closed hearings and ask for the attendance of any parties relevant to a pending request.

**Clause III**: The Senate may call for additional open or closed hearings through a two-thirds vote.

**Clause IV:** Failure to attend hearings as a relevant party shall be considered grounds for impeachment.

**Clause V**: A written response to questions sent by the Panel may be submitted by the time of the hearing in place of attending as a relevant party.

### Section VIII: Temporary Justice

**Clause I**: A Justice must recuse themselves from publishing responses to pending requests on the advice of either the President, the Advisors, or the Senate through a two-thirds vote, with such advice being concurred upon by two Justices responding to the same pending request.

**Clause II**: A Temporary Justice may be nominated by the President and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate to publish a response to the pending request from which a Justice has been recused.

**Clause III**: The President, Advisors, and Senate through a two-thirds vote, may establish a secondary Panel of three Temporary Justices, charged with responding to a specific pending request.

**Clause IV**: The Temporary Justice shall hold their position until their response is published in a decision.





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**Clause V**: A Temporary Justice shall under no circumstance concur with a ruling to overturn a previous ruling; with any such concurrence rendering the entire decision invalid.

#### **Article VIII: Associate Members**

#### **Section I: Delegates**

**Clause I**: Delegates shall be members of SGA through participation in the Delegate Program.

**Clause II**: Delegates shall maintain office hours on a weekly basis, as defined by the Delegate Program and the Bylaws.

**Clause III**: Delegates shall hold their positions so long as they abide by the requirements of the Delegate Program as defined by the Secretary of Delegate Affairs.

#### Section II: Student Trustee

**Clause I**: The Student Trustee shall act as a liaison between SGA and the Board of Trustees.

**Clause II**: The Student Trustee and Alternate Student Trustee shall be invitational members to Cabinet meetings.

**Clause III**: The Student Trustee shall meet with the Student Government President at least, but not limited to, once a month.

**Clause IV**: The Student Trustee and Alternate Student Trustee shall serve as the co-chairs of the Higher Education Committee (CA\$H).

**Clause V**: The Student Trustee and Alternate Student Trustee shall maintain office hours weekly, as determined by the Bylaws.





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**Clause VI**: The Student Trustee and Alternate Student Trustee shall be present at a minimum of a certain number of General Meetings as described in the Bylaws.

**Clause VII**: Selection of an Alternate Student Trustee shall occur in a manner to be decided by the current Student Trustee, including:

By a vote of the Senate with a majority vote at a specially designated General meeting in the Spring Semester. The Student Government Vice President shall hold a tie-breaking vote, if necessary

Through SGA general elections

Through special elections to be organized by the Student Trustee.

**Clause VIII**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Student Trustee, the Alternate Student Trustee will assume the position and duties of the Student Trustee. The selection process for a new Alternate Student Trustee shall begin immediately.

**Clause IX**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Alternate Student Trustee, the selection process for a new Alternate Student Trustee shall begin immediately.

**Clause X**: The Student Trustee shall hold a term of office lasting 1 July through 30 June.

**Clause XI**: The Alternate Student Trustee shall hold a term of office lasting 1 July through 30 June. The Alternate Student Trustee shall become the Student Trustee following their term as Alternate Student Trustee.

### Section III: Student Governor

**Clause I**: The Student Governor shall act as a liaison between SGA and the Ramapo College Foundation.





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**Clause II**: The Student Governor shall sit on the Ramapo College Board of Governors and Alumni Board.

**Clause III**: The Student Governor and Alternate Student Governor shall be invitational members to Cabinet meetings.

**Clause IV**: The Student Governor shall meet with the Student Government President at least, but not limited to, once a month.

**Clause V**: The Student Governor and Alternate Student Governor shall serve as the co-chairs of the Philanthropy Committee.

**Clause VI**: The Student Governor and Alternate Student Governor shall maintain office hours weekly, as determined by the Bylaws.

**Clause VII**: The Student Governor and Alternate Student Governor shall be present at a minimum of a certain number of General Meetings as described in the Bylaws.

**Clause VIII**: Selection of an Alternate Student Governor shall occur in a manner to be decided by the current Student Governor, including:

By a vote of the Senate with a majority vote at a specially designated General meeting in the spring semester. The Student Government Vice President shall hold a tie-breaking vote, if necessary

Through SGA general elections

Through special elections to be organized by the Student Governor.

**Clause IX**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Student Governor, the Alternate Student Governor will assume the position and duties of the Student Governor. The selection process for a new Alternate Student Governor shall begin immediately.





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**Clause X**: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Alternate Student Governor, the selection process for a new Alternate Student Governor shall begin immediately.

**Clause XI**: The Student Governor shall hold a term of office lasting 1 July through 30 June.

**Clause XII**: The Alternate Student Governor shall hold a term of office lasting 1 July through 30 June. The Alternate Student Governor shall become the Student Governor following their term as Alternate Student Governor.

#### Article IX: Impeachment

#### **Section I: Grounds**

**Clause I**: The Senate may impeach any and all members of the Student Government Association.

**Clause II**: Grounds for impeachment include violations of, disregard of, or non-compliance of any part of the Bylaws or Constitution of the Student Government Association.

**Clause III**: Grounds for impeachment include failure to maintain policies and standards for the position they hold.

**Clause IV:** Grounds for impeachment include failure to maintain conduct that is in the best interest of the Student Government Association or of the student population.

**Clause V:** Grounds for impeachment may be recommended by any member of the Judicial Panel; any recommendation must have appropriate reasoning.





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#### **Section II: Proceeding**

**Clause I**: Impeachment charges may be proposed by any member of the student body and must be introduced to the Senate by any currently serving Senator.

**Clause II**: Initiation of impeachment processes must be approved by the Senate by a two-thirds vote.

**Clause III**: Upon Senate approval of impeachment processes, the impeached member shall be given no less than one week to prepare a defense.

**Clause IV**: Impeachment hearings shall occur in closed session meetings chaired by the Judicial Panel and attended by the Senate, the Secretary, Student Government Association Advisor(s), and the member being impeached.

**Clause V**: An impeached member may be removed from office following a four-fifths vote by the Senate.

Clause VI: Senate quorum at an impeachment hearing will be two-thirds of the Senate.

#### **Section III: Appeal Process**

**Clause I:** A member impeached or removed from office has the right to one formal appeal, to be heard and decided upon by the SGA Advisor(s).

**Clause II**: The appeal meeting will be scheduled by the Advisor(s) and will not be a regularly scheduled SGA meeting.

**Clause III**: The Advisor(s) may submit a written recommendation to the Senate for reinstatement of the impeached member, which would require a two-thirds vote.





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#### **Section IV: Sanctions**

**Clause I**: If impeached and removed from office the student shall immediately be stricken of all rights and privileges granted by their office.

**Clause II**: If impeached and removed from office the student may not run for or be appointed to any SGA office for one year from the time of their removal.

#### **Section V: Non-Elected Members**

**Clause I**: Members of Cabinet may be removed from office by request of the Student Government President and the Chief of Staff.

**Clause II**: The Chief of Staff may be removed from office by request of the Student Government President.

**Clause II**: The Senate Secretary may be removed from office by request of the Senate President.

**Clause III**: Delegates may be removed from office by request of the Secretary of Delegate Affairs.

**Clause IV**: In the event of the removal from office, the Student Government President shall be succeeded by the Student Government Vice President.

**Clause V**: In the event of removal from office, the Senate President shall be succeeded by the Senate Vice President.

### **Article X: Amendments**

#### **Section I: Constitution**

**Clause I**: The Constitution shall serve as SGA's primary governing document, to be adhered to by all members at all times.



**Clause II**: Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any member of the organization and must be introduced to the Senate by any currently serving Senator.

**Clause III**: Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be passed by three-fourths of the Senate.

**Clause IV**: Major Constitutional revisions may be proposed by any member of the organization and must be introduced to the Senate by any currently serving Senator.

**Clause V**: Senate quorum required to pass a Constitutional amendment or revision will be two-thirds of the Senate.

#### **Section II: Bylaws**

**Clause I**: The Bylaws shall serve as SGA's primary organizational document, to provide additional rules, which may create exceptions to the Constitution for specific circumstances.

**Clause II**: The Bylaws may create exceptions to the Constitution for specific circumstances, but shall never circumvent, undermine, or invalidate the Constitution.

**Clause III**: Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by any member of the student population and must be introduced to the Senate by any currently serving Senator.

**Clause IV**: Amendments to the Bylaws may not be introduced if they shall decrease the representation of the student population.

**Clause V**: Proposed amendments and revisions to the Bylaws must be passed by two-thirds of the Senate.





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#### **Article XI: Ratifications**

#### Section I: The Constitutional Convention of 8 April 2019

**Clause I**: The following propositions have been approved by a three-fourths vote of the Senate on 8 April 2019 and are hereby effective immediately:

Proposition #J

Proposition #1

Proposition #2

Proposition #3

Proposition #4

Proposition #5

Proposition #6

Proposition #7

Proposition #8

Proposition #9

Proposition #10

Proposition #11

Proposition #12

Proposition #13

Proposition #14

Proposition #15

<u>CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION</u>



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Proposition #16

Proposition #17

Proposition #19

Proposition #20

Proposition #21

### Section II: The Constitutional Convention of 29 April 2019

**Clause I**: The following propositions have been approved by a three-fourths vote of the Senate on 29 April 2019 and are hereby effective immediately:

Proposition #1

Proposition #2

Proposition #3

### Section III: The Constitutional Convention of 15 January 2022

**Clause I**: The following propositions have been approved by a three-fourths vote of the Senate on 15 January 2022 and are hereby effective immediately:

Proposition #1

Proposition #2

### Section IV: The Constitutional Convention of 29 August 2022

**Clause I**: The following propositions have been approved by a three-fourths vote of the Senate on 29 August 2022 and are hereby effective immediately:

Proposition #1

Proposition #2

#### <u>CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION</u>





#### Section V: Constitutional Amendments, 30 November 2022

**Clause I**: The following propositions have been approved by a three-fourths vote of the Senate on 30 November 2022 and are hereby effective immediately:

Proposition #1

Proposition #2

Proposition #3

Proposition #4

### Section VI: The Constitutional Convention of 17 April 2023

**Clause I**: The following propositions have been approved by a three-fourths vote of the Senate on 17 April 2023 and are hereby effective immediately:

Proposition #1

Proposition #2

Proposition #3

Proposition #4

Proposition #5

Proposition #6

