



**RUSA Bill S20 - 06**

**Authors:** Jhanvi Virani, *President*; Nicholas LaBelle, *Treasurer*

**Sponsor:** Executive Committee

**Securing Allocations to Fund Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) Act**

*Whereas*, the outbreak of COVID-19 in the State of New Jersey has resulted in a variety of financial hardships for students, including but not limited to loss of employment and housing displacement;

*Whereas*, in times of pressing crisis such as this, those in government have not only the directive, but the obligation to act on behalf of the student body in a timely and appropriate manner;

*Whereas*, as university operations scale down, student organizations allocated funds by the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) as well as RUSA itself will have to cancel on-campus meetings and events for the remainder of the semester;

*Whereas*, all Spring 2020 RUSA-funded student organization surpluses will be returned to RUSA Allocations, and due to COVID-19 related closures this semester surpluses are expected to be significantly higher than usual;

*Whereas*, both the President and Treasurer have engaged in discussion with various levels of University administration to facilitate the implementation of such a fund;

*Whereas*, the RUSA Standing Rules Article V, §7 allows the RUSA Executive Board to act on behalf of the Assembly during emergency situations that require immediate action while the Assembly is not in session;

***Be it hereby resolved that,*** RUSA authorizes the creation of the RUSA Recovery Fund, an emergency fund in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Students, for the purpose of distributing one-time financial assistance to students experiencing financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

***Be it further resolved that,*** RUSA allocates an initial donation of \$125,000 to the RUSA Recovery Fund from the Allocations control account;

***Be it further resolved that,*** RUSA, primarily via the Allocations Board and the Office of the RUSA President, will play an active role as a collaborator of this fund, and will work with the Office of the Dean of Students to advertise, manage, and approve disbursements of this fund;

***Be it further resolved that,*** the President and Treasurer are charged to determine the most efficient funding source to allow for minimal processing time as any delay could be of critical importance to a student in need;

***Be it further resolved that,*** should there be extra money in the RUSA Recovery Fund after all eligible requests are processed, that surplus should be returned to RUSA Allocations.

