



## **RUSA Agenda November 14th, 2019**

**7:30pm @ Student Activities Center**

*\*Statements are paraphrased and consolidated for the Minutes\**

*\*All legislation contained in the minutes may be in its original form and may not be the final language.\**

*\*Visual/Audio record available on official RUSA Facebook page\**

1. Call to Order
  - a. @7:32
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve Agenda, Jhanvi Virani, President
    - i. Seconded
    - ii. None Opposed
    - iii. Approved Unanimously
  - b. Agenda has been approved
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
  - a. Motion to approve prior meeting minutes, Jhanvi Virani, President
    - i. Seconded
    - ii. None Opposed
    - iii. Approved Unanimously
  - b. Prior meeting minutes have been approved
5. Officer Updates
  - a. Updates can be found on the Assembly website, [rusa.rutgers.edu](http://rusa.rutgers.edu)
6. Presentation
  - a. Special Events Funding Presentation, Brian Brown, Allocations Chair

*"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."*

- i. Brian Brown, Allocations chair, gives a presentation on the special events that are being funded for the spring semester. The speaker is left to answer questions from the Assembly.
- a. Spring 2020 Allocations Budget Presentation, Brian Brown, Allocations Chair
  - i. Brian Brown, Allocations chair, gives a presentation on the allocations budget and how the funding will be for the spring semester. The speaker is left to answer questions from the Assembly.

## 7. Legislation

- a. Resolution to Cosponsor IFC's SVE Banner Campaign
  - i. Priti Kantesaria, Sexual Violence Education Committee Chair, presents a resolution to cosponsor IFC's SVE banner campaign in which local greek life hangs up banners showing that consent is mandatory. The speaker is left to answer questions from the Assembly.
  - ii. Motion to suspend the standing rules and skip standard debate procedure, Andrew Petryna, University Affairs Committee Chair
    - 1. Second
    - 2. None opposed
  - iii. Skips standard debate procedure
  - iv. Motion to approve all of Priti's amendments, Zain Ahmed, Off-Campus At Large Representative
    - 1. Second
    - 2. None opposed
  - v. Priti's amendments are approved
  - vi. Motion to approve by unanimous consent, Neeharika Thuravil, Senate Leader
    - 1. Second
    - 2. None opposed
  - vii. Resolution passes
- b. Resolution Regarding the Report on MidKnight Snacks

- i. Bilal Yusef Ahmed, Health & Wellness Committee Chair, presents a resolution to take note of the MidKnight snacks report. The speaker is left to answer questions from the Assembly.
- ii. The resolution moves into standard debate procedure
  1. For:
    - a. Steven Ferrales, Livingston At-large Representative
      - i. Was there on that specific Thursday on Halloween when many people dropped out. What this bill is doing is that attendance should be taken for these type of events and that volunteers be held accountable for these events.
    - b. Sean Tonra, Douglass At-large Representative
      - i. This is just taking note of an absence and not actually acting on it. It is really just something that will be noted for when attendance concerns are actually brought up.
  2. Against:
    - a. Javier Perez, Busch At-large Representative
      - i. Completely understands the points of those on the side of pro, however, Eleanor makes a good reason for being concerned because if there is this massive punishment then some people will be intimidated to even sign up.
    - b. Eleanor Meli, Douglass Class of 2021 Representative
      - i. As the resolution stands the attendance clause is a concern because it can be very unfair for people and it's a harsh way to punish people for any inconvenience that may pop up and cause them issues.

iii. Motion to remove“Be it further resolved that the Assembly notes that the Health and Wellness Committee of 2019-2020 recommends that a volunteer should not be able to cancel less than forty-eight hours before a MidKnight Snacks program without it counting as an absence towards Assembly attendance. “, Eleanor Meli, Douglass Class of 2021 Representative

1. Seconded
2. Opposed
3. Motion goes into standard debate procedure

a. Pro:

i. Ase Awari, Secretary:

1. Both Eleanor and Javier brought up great points about why it is important to remove this clause, if volunteers are punished than there will be no incentive for people to volunteer for fear of reprisal if an urgent matter pops up

ii. Maya Ravichandran, Academic Affairs Committee Chair:

1. Resolution is great overall but it would be safer and better to have some people have the flexibility to cancel for their own personal reasons. In addition, if we do pass this then we have to hold this consistent for all volunteering opportunities

b. Con

i. Neeharika Thuravil, Senate Leader

1. Those who choose to volunteer and to take this responsibility should be punished if they do bail last minute and this is all it is doing
      - ii. Derek Lin, Cook At-Large Representative
        1. What truly matters here is that the resolution just notes the absence and not actively taking action against it. We should listen to what the committee says
    4. Motion to call this amendment into question, Nicholas Tharney, Parliamentarian
      - a. Seconded
      - b. None opposed
    5. Motion gets called into question
      - a. For: 35
      - b. Against: 32
      - c. Abstain: 4
      - d. Present: 0
    6. Motion passes
  - iv. Motion to add “**Be it further resolved** that the Assembly notes that a volunteer should not be able to cancel less than twenty-four hours before a MidKnight Snacks program without being subject to the same absence review by the Internal Affairs Committee that comes as the result of an absence from a regularly scheduled meeting.”, Neeharika Thuravil, Senate Leader
    1. Seconded
    2. Opposed
    3. Motion goes into standard debate procedure
      - a. Pro:
        - i. Neeharika Thuravil, Senate Leader:

1. You cannot use an exam or something akin to get out of volunteering. But if you did, it would make sense to have the people who already judge absences in the assembly to decide for volunteering as well.

- ii. Logan Adams, Off-Campus At Large Representative:

1. When first read this amendment he thought it was as fair as it could get and that there should be some type of penalty if you're a flake. However, this amendment leaves flexibility for people in case they need to leave because it will be judged to the IA committee.

- b. Con

- i. Nicholas Tharney, Parliamentarian

1. This could actually cause volunteering to fail because it causes people to not bother signing up because they can be punished if they have to leave. This amendment all makes a more definitive stance that is more harsh and extreme and clearly the assembly has already decided that going further in the punishment direction is not a good idea.

- ii. Jason Yu, Cook Class of 2022 Representative

1. Against it because it is ignoring the fact that a committee was shut down by removing an amendment. Let IA pass further legislation discussing attendance at volunteering events

4. Motion to call amendment into question, Max Wang, Cook Senator
  - a. Second
  - b. Opposed
  - c. Motion to vote on amendment is called into question
    - i. For: 39
    - ii. Against: 20
    - iii. Abstain: 3
    - iv. P : 1
  - d. Amendment called into question
    - i. For: 30
    - ii. Against: 32
    - iii. Abstain: 2
    - iv. Present: 0
  - e. The amendment fails
- v. Motion for a five minute recess, Bilal Ahmed, Health and Wellness Committee Chair
  1. Second
  2. None opposed
- vi. The assembly goes into recess
- vii. Motion to add “**Be it further resolved that** the Assembly shall charge the Internal Affairs Committee to review attendance policies regarding volunteers cancelling at an assembly meeting and the Internal Affairs Committee shall report back to the assembly.”, Jason Yu, Cook Class of 2020 Representative
  1. Seconded
  2. Opposed
  3. Motion goes into standard debate procedure
    - a. Seconded
    - b. Opposed

- c. Motion gets called into vote
        - i. For: 44
        - ii. Against: 21
        - iii. Abstain: 1
        - iv. Present: 0
    - 4. The assembly skips standard debate procedure,
    - 5. Motion to call this amendment into question, Ase Awari, Secretary
      - a. Seconded
      - b. None opposed
    - 6. Motion gets called into question
      - a. For: 45
      - b. Against: 15
      - c. Abstain: 2
      - d. Present: 1
    - 7. The amendment is adopted
  - viii. Motion to fix all grammatical errors, Jhanvi Virani, President
    - 1. Seconded
    - 2. None opposed
  - ix. Motion to call resolution into question, Max Wang, Cook Senator
    - 1. Seconded
    - 2. Opposed
    - 3. Voting to call this motion into question
      - a. For: 35
      - b. Against: 25
      - c. Abstain: 1
      - d. Present: 3
    - 4. The resolution is called into question
  - x. The resolution is called into question
    - 1. For: 55



2. Against: 9
3. Abstain: 3
4. Present: 2

xi. The resolution has passed

## 8. Advisor Report

### a. Laura

- i. Don't run in flats
- ii. There is six more days of mercury retrograde
- iii. Take your vitamins
- iv. Getting married in eight days
- v. Training tomorrow for a student organization officer

## 9. External Representatives Report

### a. Eleanor Meli, NJPIRG Referendum Chair

- i. Update is that voting ends Monday
- ii. Will inform of results as soon as possible

### b. Rachel Bauman, Douglass Governing Council Representative

- i. Just a reminder that they are having a douglass townhall tomorrow, if interested ask for details

## 10. Public Sector

### a. Neeharika Thuravil

- i. There was a cosmologist who was also a nuclear physicist who won a nobel peace prize

### b. Logan Adams

- i. Tomorrow there is a "Legalize It" tabling event, if interested contact him for details

### c. Nicholas Tharney

- i. Squirrels are the leading cause for power outages
- ii. Making changes to standing rules, if interested fill out form that was ent out

- iii. Interested in making changes to constitution, contact with suggestions
  - d. Andrew Petryna
    - i. Repeating officer reports which can be found in the officer reports for this date
    - ii. Big chill registration is open and is hosted here at Rutgers on college avenue
  - e. Zain Ahmed
    - i. Organization is having an event of the monday of thanksgiving, if interested please let him know

## 11. Adjournment

- a. @9:45

## 12. Caucus Meetings



**RUSA Resolution F19 - 06**

**Author(s):** Priti Kantesaria, *SVE Committee Chair*

**Sponsor(s):** Sexual Violence Education Committee,

**Resolution to Cosponsor IFC's SVE Banner Campaign**

*Whereas*, sexual assault brutally violates an individual's basic human rights, and is a prominent issue on college campuses, including Rutgers University, throughout the nation,

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

*Whereas*, research indicates that at Rutgers, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 20 men will experience at least one instance of unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers,<sup>1</sup>

*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,<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, according to the iSPEAK Survey, "those students who did not identify as 100 percent heterosexual were two to three times more likely to experience sexual violence both before coming to college and since becoming college students,"<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/centers/center-violence-against-women-and-children/research-and-evaluation/understanding-and>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/centers/center-violence-against-women-and-children/research-and-evaluation/understanding-and>

*Whereas*, the number of reported sexual assaults at the Rutgers University – New Brunswick campus has increased from 2015 to 2017,<sup>4</sup>

*Whereas*, our duty to our constituents compels us to advocate for student concerns about the pressing issue of sexual violence prevention, and

*Whereas*, IFC has created banners with statements like “Stand Against Rape Culture,” “No Does Not Mean Convince Me,” and “No Means No, Wherever You Go” in the past, and displayed them on the outside of their houses, many of which are on College Avenue, and are seen by thousands of students each day;

**Be it hereby resolved**, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) will co-sponsor IFC’s Banner Campaign, which will share the following link, [bit.ly/rusve](http://bit.ly/rusve) (shares resources relating to sexual assault, domestic violence, and other SVE-related issues), on cloth banners outside of the approximately 15 fraternity houses on College Avenue Campus, alongside other statements condemning sexual violence and encouraging students to respect consent, and

**Be it hereby resolved**, should the SVE Committee deem a banner slogan inappropriate, it will contact IFC with their concerns and request the banner be taken down. The SVE Committee will approve all of the messages that appear on the banners.

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<sup>4</sup> [https://ipo.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/RU-New\\_Brunswick\\_Crime\\_Stats\\_0.pdf](https://ipo.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/RU-New_Brunswick_Crime_Stats_0.pdf)

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RUSA President

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Date



**RUSA Bill F19 - 11**

**Author:** Bilal Yousuf Ahmed, *Chairman of the Health and Wellness Committee*

**Sponsor:** Health and Wellness Committee

**Resolution Regarding the Report on MidKnight Snacks**

*Whereas*, the MidKnight Snacks Initiative was created by former RUSA President Justin Schulberg, former Livingston Class of 2019 Representative Calvin Ferrera, and former Parliamentarian Anish Patel<sup>5</sup>;

*Whereas*, the original program was created in order to address risks of intoxication by introducing “high calorie food in between the preparty and party setting”<sup>6</sup>;

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<sup>5</sup> [MidKnight Snacks Proposal, Fall 2016](#)

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*

*Whereas*, the program has changed relatively significantly in its planning, preparation, and messaging since its original conception, and these changes should be addressed through appropriate legislation;

*Whereas*, the MidKnight Snacks programming is an incredibly popular event, attracting over 1,000 people in its most recent period (October 31st, 2019 - November 1st, 2019);

*Whereas*, it is the view of the Health and Wellness Committee that additional funding should be allocated to the Safety Initiatives line item, under which MidKnight Snacks falls;

**Be it hereby resolved** that the Assembly takes note of the report on the MidKnight Snacks Report submitted by the Health and Wellness Committee, in order to create a resource from which future iterations of the Health and Wellness Committee can refer to, the Assembly may be informed through, and which creates a uniform planning, preparation, and messaging guideline;

**Be it further resolved** that once the Health and Wellness Committee of 2019-2020 determines the date it would like to host a MidKnight Snacks programming event in the spring of 2020, it shall submit appropriate legislation to the Assembly;

**Be it further resolved** that the Assembly notes that the Health and Wellness Committee of 2019-2020 recommends to the Treasurer and Allocations Board that, for the upcoming budget for the Assembly, the Safety Initiatives line-item of the budget, which MidKnight Snacks draws from, should be increased to \$9000 in order to accommodate an additional night of MidKnight Snacks.

**Be it further resolved** that the Assembly notes that the Health and Wellness Committee of 2019-2020 recommends that a volunteer should not be able to cancel less than forty-eight hours before a MidKnight Snacks program without it counting as an absence towards Assembly attendance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
RUSA President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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RUSA President

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Date