



RUSA Agenda February 27th, 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. @7:34
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to add "Resolution S20-XX "Resolution to Endorse the Implementation of Feedback Boxes at Student Centers", Hira Hussain, College Ave Class of 2021 Representative
 - i. Seconded
 - ii. None Opposed
 - iii. Approved Unanimously
 - b. The Agenda is approved
 - c. Motion to switch debate and procedural to second on the legislation section, Tiana Youngblood, Busch At-large Representative
 - i. Seconded
 - ii. None Opposed
 - iii. Approved Unanimously
 - d. The Agenda is approved
 - e. Motion to approve the agenda, Jhanvi Virani, President
 - i. Seconded
 - ii. None Opposed

"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."

- iii. Approved Unanimously
 - f. The Agenda is 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. Motion passes
 - c. Prior meeting minutes have been approved
- 5. Officer Updates
 - a. Updates can be found on the Assembly website, rusa.rutgers.edu
- 6. Consent Agenda
 - a. Resolution S20-XX "Resolution to Endorse the Implementation of Feedback Boxes at Student Centers"
 - i. Nicholas LaBelle brings a bill to the floor to implement feedback boxes in students centers
 - ii. Motion to fix the numbering from XX to 05, Ase Awari, Secretary
 - 1. Seconded
 - 2. None Opposed
 - 3. Approved Unanimously
 - iii. Motion to fix the agenda with the proper numbering, Nick Tharney, Parliamentarian
 - 1. Seconded
 - 2. None Opposed
 - 3. Approved Unanimously
 - iv. With no new motions and no new opposition this bill passes by unanimous consent
- 7. Legislation
 - a. ~~Debate & Clerical Procedures Act of 2020~~

b. Bill to Endorse and Allocate Funding for the Open & Affordable Textbook (OAT) Program

- i. Nicholas LaBelle, Treasurer, Eric Fuertas, Off Campus At-large Representative, and Maya Ravichandran, Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson, present a bill to compel students to hand out the brochures bringing awareness to the OAT program. The Bill is left to the assembly to ask questions.
- ii. The bill moves into standard debate procedure
 1. Pro:
 - a. Neeharika Thuravil, Senate Leader:
 - i. New students are naive and are taken advantage and feel compelled to buy books and this isn't fair. Students have to take out money for books and that isnt fair to new freshman so we should help them out and ease their costs
 - b. Nine Gohel, College Ave Class of 2023 Representative:
 - i. This is a fantastic bill and is great for students because it makes it easier for students and allows them not to have to pay ridiculous costs
 2. Cons:
 - a. Gavin Mayes, SAS Senators At Large:
 - i. I paid money to use my textbooks as paper weights and and to collect dust and thus without buying books dust will spread and get everyone sick.
 - b. Adnan Akbar, Rutgers Business Governing Association Representative:
 - i. The quality of the textbooks drops
 3. Motion to replace that with who, Neeharika Thuravil, Senate Leader

- a. Seconded
- b. None opposed
- c. Passed Unanimously

4. Motion to fix grammar, Javier Perez, Busch At-large
Representative

- a. Seconded
- b. None opposed
- c. Passed Unanimously

5. Motion to change semi colon to comma after Nicholas Labelle,
Gabriel Colley, SAS Senators At Large

- a. Seconded
- b. None opposed
- c. Passed Unanimously

6. Motion to pass by unanimous consent, Neeharika Thurvail, Senate
Leader

- a. Seconded
- b. None opposed
- c. Passed Unanimously

7. Resolution passes by unanimous consent

c. Debate & Clerical Procedures Act of 2020

- i. Nicholas Tharney, Parliamentarian, presents a bill in which it would bring massive changes to debate procedure as well as adding some other rule changes within the standing rules. The Bill is left to the assembly to ask questions.
- ii. The Bill goes into standard debate procedure
 - 1. Pros:
 - a. Ase Awari, Secretary
 - i. Bill compels the secretary to take better minutes as well as better records as well. In addition, makes the

assembly more efficient with regards to asking questions as well as going into debate procedure

b. Sean Tonra, Douglass At-large Representative

- i. Thinks this bill does a great job with debate procedure, encourages differing opinions and prevents the silencing of dissenting opinions.

2. Cons:

a. Nicholas LaBelle, Treasurer

- i. The debate procedure by Nicholas Tharney is good for speed and depth. This is a good system but if you have any objections please feel free to bring them up next week.
- ii. Change the storage from paper copies to hard drive to stand by our sustainability and to save more money and not spend it on paper.

b. Tiana Youngblood, Busch At-large Representative

- i. These changes could drastically change how next years assembly is run and can cause RUSA to become just a debate procedure group. Just be wary of the impact this can have next year.

iii. Motion to change the number of debaters from three to two, Sean Tonra, Douglass At-large Representative

1. Seconded
2. Opposed
3. The Motion moves into standard debate procedure

a. Pros:

i. Sean Tonra, Douglass At-large Representative

1. This amendment is just to make it more consistent because further later it says two

debaters instead of three like it currently does

ii. Jason Yu, Cook Class of 2022 Representative

1. Not adamantly opposed to three, just that two is a good number and very efficient.

Three speakers adds a lot of time and it can really rack up

b. Cons:

i. Nicholas Tharney, Parliamentarian

1. There is a technical difference because hearing three allows us to call it into question. In addition, without suspending this we can move into a separate speakers list.

ii. Max Wang, Cook Senator

1. We should have three people because sometimes people will take advantage of it and try to limit the amount of people who can speak out against it

4. Motion to call this motion into question, Sean Tonra, Douglass At-large Representative

a. Seconded

b. None opposed

c. The motion is called into question

i. For: 28

ii. Against: 23

iii. Abstain: 3

iv. Present: 0

iv. Motion to “The Secretary is required to create and maintain two binders containing all bills and resolutions introduced, passed, or rejected, both in their original format and with amendments. One of these binders shall be given to the RUSA advisor. The Secretary shall be required to update these binders within 14 days of a bill or resolution being passed or rejected by a vote of the Assembly. Additionally, the Secretary shall keep electronic records and provide electronic copies to the RUISA advisor and to members of the Assembly and the public. The records shall include the bill/resolution number, the title, the committee sponsor, the text of the legislation, and the final vote (if any) and the disposition status (i.e., passed, rejected, tabled, postponed, referred to committee, or expired (if supervened by an adjournment sine die).”, Zain Ahmed, Off-Campus At Large Representative

1. Seconded

2. Opposed

3. The motion moves into standard debate procedure

a. Pros:

i. Javier Perez, Busch At-large Representative

1. Solid state drives are extremely fragile, however disagrees because it can be handled. Also having binders full of paper is not viable

ii. Nicholas LaBelle, Treasurer

1. Paper kills trees and this amendment ensures that by using a harddrive

b. Cons:

i. Neeharika Thuravil, Senate Leader

1. Entirely agrees with the idea of the amendment, however, solid state drives can

easily be erased and can very possibly be an issue. In addition maybe cloud storage can be a viable alternative

ii. Bryan Dan Ding, College Ave At-large Representative

1. Echos Neeharika's concerns and we should have more than one way to back it up. In addition, we should still have information from decades ago and bring all options to the table.

4. Motion to postpone amendment to next week, Sean Tonra, Douglass At-large Representative

- a. Seconded
- b. None opposed
- c. Passed Unanimously

v. Motion to moves tis bill to next week, Zain Ahmed, Off-Campus At Large Representative

1. Seconded
2. None opposed
3. Passed Unanimously

8. Advisor Updates

a. Lori

- i. Put some stuff in the slack for some opportunities, check it out

9. External Representatives Report

a. Rachel Bauman

- i. Elections coming up and she is the elections committee chair, if interested in running let her know

b. Alekhya Battini

- i. Partnering with the culture center for an upcoming sunny side event, get in touch for details

10. Public Sector

a. Neeharika Thuravil

- i. RUProgressive is having their first big event of the semester and details will be shared before the days to come
- ii. Graduating and not leaving New Jersey and going to be living in edison, if interested hit up for details
- iii. Will be running for the 2020 board of chosen free holders position, collecting signatures

b. Max Wang

- i. The lincoln annex school is being sold and even though there have been active protests and we need as many voices as we can

c. Tiana Youngblood

- i. Tomorrow from 8am - 1am, there will be huge celebration party with free food and events, if anyone interested contact for more details

d. Ryed Jadun

- i. Internship opportunity posted in the slack, if interested reach out and more information will be provided in the slack

e. Motion to go into five minute recess, Jason Yu, Cook Class of 2022

Representative

- i. Seconded
- ii. Opposed
- iii. Motion gets called into question
 - 1. F: 14
 - 2. Ag: 38
 - 3. Ab: 0
 - 4. Pr: 0
- iv. The motion to go into recess fails

11. Committee of the Whole

a. Constitution Proposal

- i. Nicholas Tharney, Parliamentarian, presents the new constitution that he brings to the floor. This is more an open discussion on the constitution and not a permanent change.
- ii. Motion to rise, Zain Ahmed, Off-Campus At Large Representative
 1. Seconded
 2. None opposed
- iii. Jhanvi Virani, as chair of the committee of the whole, presents the following conversations that need to be resolved
 1. Explore the idea of having the president and vice president be externally elected with modifications, such as a speaker internally elected, adding or expanding impeachment or recall
 2. Having a second committee of the whole discussing campus reps

12. Adjournment

- a. @10:27



Author: N. Tharney, *Parliamentarian*

Sponsor: Internal Affairs Committee

Debate & Clerical Procedures Act of 2020

Whereas, the Standing Rules, among other things, facilitate the operations of the Assembly and contain provisions which govern the Assembly’s deliberative and clerical processes, and

Whereas, the Parliamentarian solicited feedback on prospective changes to the Standing Rules and on prospective changes to debate procedure, and

Whereas, debate is indispensable from the thoughtful and careful deliberation of prospective legislative action considered by the Assembly, and

Whereas, the implementation of “standard debate procedure” has lead to some confusion as to when the Assembly unanimously supports an action or when there is actual disagreement, and

Whereas, after a resolution is adopted, there is often no formal mechanism for ensuring followthrough, and

Whereas, the Parliamentarian and the Internal Affairs Committee thoroughly review RUSA’s operating procedures and recommends changes where necessary, and

Whereas, these changes are recommended by the same, upon review of the Assembly’s rules, procedures, and practices in comparison with Robert’s Rules, the University Senate, and other student governing associations,

Therefore, be it enacted by two-thirds of the Assembly, the Standing Rules of the Assembly shall be amended as follows:

RESOLVED, the Assembly adds the following as Art. 2, Sect. 12 of the Standing Rules:

12. Notwithstanding the above, debate and deliberation for all main motions (excluding consent agenda items) and amendments:

- a. For each debatable main and amendment shall be two running speakers list: one pro and one con based on the motion as written or otherwise stated.
- b. Unless the Assembly adopts a special rule through legislation, members of the Assembly, externally elected officers, and internally elected or appointed chairs of committees or heads of departments, may add themselves to the speakers list by standing in the appropriate line, and the presiding officer shall recognize speakers from each list, alternating and starting with the con list.
- c. The speaker, when recognized shall have the privilege of using the podium or lectern and may direct comments and questions to the presiding officer, to the author of the legislation or motion if he/she/they choose to yield to questions, or address the Assembly as a whole.
- d. If no speakers exist on the con speakers list, then the Assembly may adopt the motion unanimously or move the previous question; otherwise, at least three individuals shall be permitted to speak against the motion if they so choose, before someone may move the previous question (“call to question”).
- e. The speaker shall be limited to a speaking time not to exceed 3 minutes per turn, unless extended by the Assembly. Making motions shall not count toward the speaking time, nor toward the minimum speaker requirement under the above subsection. Other speaking limits shall accord with Robert’s Rules, unless suspended.
- f. The above shall not prohibit the presiding officer to ask the Assembly if it wishes to approve a motion unanimously (e.g., in the case of grammatical amendments).
- g. The following motions shall be out of order in the pro speakers line: to amend (except for grammatical/clerical amendments adopted unanimously), postpone indefinitely, table, insert a blank, and reconsider. All other motions as prescribed in Robert’s Rules shall be in effect, unless otherwise prohibited by these Standing Rules.

RESOLVED, the following shall be added as Article 3, Section 9 to the Standing Rules:

9. Article 2 Section 12 shall not be suspended without the unanimous consent of the Assembly, unless at least two members of the Assembly have been afforded the opportunity to speak on the “con” list against the pending motion.

RESOLVED, the following shall be added as Article 4, Section 13 in the Standing Rules:

13. Every bill and resolution sponsored by a committee shall be assigned a number by the Secretary. Additionally, as an alternative track for proposing legislation, a member of the Assembly may draft a resolution or bill and file it with the Secretary who shall assign it a number; thereafter, the Executive Board may refer the resolution or bill to the appropriate committee(s) of RUSA, to the Allocations Board, or to another student government or to the University Senate. Nothing in this section shall be construed to circumvent the requirement to obtain committee sponsorship legislation, nor shall this section limit the powers of committees.

RESOLVED, the Assembly amends S.R., Art. 15, Section 4(m) to read as follows:

- m. The Secretary is required to create and maintain two binders containing all bills and resolutions introduced, passed, or rejected, both in their original format and with amendments. One of these binders shall be given to the RUSA advisor. The Secretary shall be required to update these binders within 14 days of a bill or resolution being passed or rejected by a vote of the Assembly. Additionally, the Secretary shall keep electronic records and provide electronic copies to the RUSA advisor and to members of the Assembly and the public. The records shall include the bill/resolution number, the title, the committee sponsor, the text of the legislation, and the final vote (if any) and the disposition status (i.e., passed, rejected, tabled, postponed, referred to committee, or expired (if supervened by an adjournment sine die).

RESOLVED, the following shall be added as Art. 15, Sect. 4(q) of the Standing Rules:

- q. If the Assembly includes a provision in legislation to refer the matter (including a committee report, if applicable) to a Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Director of a Department, another administrator, or a Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, the Secretary shall provide the official(s) with the resolution, bill, or report and shall request a formal response. If a formal response is returned, it shall be reported to the Assembly and published in the Assembly's records alongside the legislation as adopted and on the website or online folder.



Authors: Maya Ravichandran, *Academic Affairs Chair*; Eric Fuertes, *Off-Campus Representative*; Nicholas LaBelle, *Treasurer*

Sponsor: Academic Affairs Committee

Bill to Endorse and Allocate Funding for the Open & Affordable Textbook (OAT) Program

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) is dedicated to providing a means for promoting access to education, and there is the concern that textbooks are in recent years a cost-prohibitive part of course materials;

Whereas, the cost of textbooks has risen astronomically, evidenced by the 1,041 percent increase in the past forty years, compared to a generic 308 percent increase in the general cost of living tracked by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index;¹

Whereas, several members of the Academic Affairs Committee have engaged in conversations with Librarian Lily Todorinova to ensure the funds are used to its full efficacy;

Whereas, the Assembly has priorly supported this initiative with legislation such as: Resolution S1718-02², which commended the program; Bill S19-07,³ which promised financial aid to the program but never actualized; Bill F19-12,⁴ which authorized the endorsement of the current year's promotional language;

Be it hereby enacted that the Assembly reaffirms its support for the Open and Affordable Textbook program and will provide the following conditions to facilitate the program's success:

- I. Upon their collection of their clickers, each member of the Assembly will be provided with brochures,⁵ produced by the Rutgers Libraries, at the next general meeting.
- II. Each RUSA member is entrusted with giving the brochures they are provided by RUSA to professors. Distribution of one or more brochures to professors will count for a

¹ [Triangle Report](#)

² [RUSA Resolution S1718-02](#)

³ [RUSA Bill S19-07](#)

⁴ [RUSA Bill F19-12](#)

⁵ [OAT Brochure](#)

maximum of one RUSA office hour. Each RUSA member will submit a form⁶ detailing which professors were handed the brochures.

- III. The Vice President will be responsible for ensuring that at least half of the Assembly voting members have handed out brochures by March 12, 2020, and shall contact members that have not done so by that date.

Be it hereby further enacted that the Assembly allocates \$5,000 of the “Discretionary Funding” line-item into the “Open and Affordable Textbooks” to finance five \$1,000 grants and have the funds held in trust by the Rutgers Library Business Office until entirely expensed.

⁶ [OAT Google Form](#)