

RESIDENCE HALL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 11/4/2019

Location: Awosting Hall

CALL TO ORDER 9:03 PM

Clare: Hey everyone. How are y'all doing today?

MYSTERY ACTIVITY 9:04 PM

Clare: We will do a cool mystery activity. You each get a piece of paper. Find someone from another hall and you will draw a portrait of your new friend.

ROLL CALL/HALL REPORTS 9:12 PM

Matt O: Hey guys! So when I call your hall, if you can give me the number of people representing your hall, how many RHSA shirts you have on, how many NRHH shirts you have on, how many Conference shirts you have on, and a hall report from your hall gov if you have one.

Hall Name	Number Present	RHSA Shirts	NRHH Shirts	Conference Shirts	Hall Report
Ashokan	2	2	0	0	Discussed future programming and our Hot Seat.
Awosting	11	5	3	0	Discussed future programming.
Bliss	2	2	0	0	Discussed future programming, conference, and our event tomorrow with Scudder.
Bouton	5	4	0	1	We had our last meeting on Friday to talk about the conference.
Capen	5	0	0	0	We had our Halloween Bash.
College-Shango	3	0	0	1	Discussed NPLC and future programming.
Esopus	1	0	0	0	We didn't meet for Halloween.
Gage	1	0	0	0	Discussed programs and our Hot Seat.
Lenape	4	3	0	0	We discussed programs.
Minnewaska	2	0	0	0	Discussed upcoming programs.
Mohonk	2	1	0	0	Discussed NPLC and future programs.

Ridgeview	4	2	0	2	Discussed NPLC, future programs, bonding, and expectations.
Scudder	4	0	0	4	Discussed NPLC and our Just Dance collab with Bliss.
Shawangunk	7	3	0	4	Discussed future programs.

SENATE 9:14 PM

Salam: The Senate met last Wednesday, and the Senate will meet once a month in SUB 100N to be more visible to students, everyone is welcome to come. We are looking into Spring Fest volunteers, come and talk to me or come to the SA office in the SUB and talk to the VP of finance if you are interested. Our VP of finance started a new task force to improve the student activity fee. We asked for an RHSA member to help us. I will keep you updated on that. How many of you pay too much for textbooks? The VP of academic affairs and governance is doing an open education resources initiative to improve textbooks and make them cheaper, but we need students to share their concerns and stories. We will meet in SUB 62/63 on Thursday, November 7th at 4pm. Come share your stories of how much you are paying. We will report it to faculty.

Matt K: For those who don't know, what is Spring Fest?

Salam: We do something in the spring where we bring musicians to campus and activities with SA. I believe it's in February. I'll talk more about that next week.

NRHH 9:17 PM

Emily: If you are interested in being a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary, applications are now available on our Instagram bio, @sunynpnrhh, and our website, newpaltz.edu/nrhh. They are due on November 15th at 11:59pm. We are also having a raffle. If you follow our Instagram, @sunynpnrhh, and like the post we are doing later, you will be entered in a raffle. The prizes include NRHH pens, a squishy star that says NRHH on it, a \$15 Tops gift card, a SUNY New Paltz NRHH drawstring bag, an NRHH t-shirt worth 2 GFPs. Makes sure you follow us @sunynpnrhh and look forward to that post.

Awosting: What is NRHH?

Emily: It's the National Residence Hall Honorary and we are the top one percent of leaders on campus and our two pillars are service and recognition.

Clare: RHSA and NRHH are sister organizations. When we go to RLC, Spring Leadership Conference, or NACURH, Serena and Emily go hand and hand, and they are the link to us and the region. Talk to Emily, talk to NRHH people, it's a cool opportunity.

OLD BUSINESS 9:21 PM

Motion to Open: Ridgeview
Second: Capen

Historian

Noah: Hi everyone! Like usual, I've got some social media challenge winners to announce! So, for the Remind challenge, 3rd place was Scudder, 2nd place was Shawangunk, and 1st place was

Bouton! For the Instagram, 3rd place was Mohonk, 2nd place was Ridgeview, 1st place was Shawangunk! Tonight, I also have the results of the Creative Photo and Meme of the Month challenge winners! For the Creative Photo, 3rd place was Ridgeview, 2nd place was Ashokan, and 1st place was Lenape! For the Meme of the Month, 3rd place was Lenape, 2nd place was Ashokan, and 1st place was Shawangunk! Start thinking about creative photo ideas and looking on the Facebook page for memes now because I want to see a ton next month!

Mohonk: For what month are the creative photos for?

Noah: For November.

Clare: They're for the last week of November.

Secretary

Matt O: Here are the results from the Facebook challenge for the riddle in the minutes. 3rd place was Lenape, 2nd place was College-Shango, and 1st place was Shawangunk. The answer to the riddle was that the three RDs who currently advise RHSA are RD Chrissy, RD Katie, and RD Jeannette.

New Paltz Leadership Conference

Serena: Thanks for coming. It went well! You did great with programs! You all looked good!

Clare: Thank you all for doing well with banners and clothespins!

Motion to Close: Bouton

Second: College-Shango

NEW BUSINESS 9:22 PM

Motion to Open: Scudder

Second: Awosting

Condom Casino

Johnathan: It's almost here everybody! Condom Casino is this Saturday, November 9th in the SUB MPR from 7pm to 11pm, so be sure to come by and say hi to get some free condoms. It's also not too late to volunteer. Come see me after the meeting if you're interested in helping out. You get a cool t-shirt, and GFPs.

Buzz World Tour

Kevin: This Friday in SUB 100N from 7:30pm to 9pm. We will also send out a Remind right now of a poster that your halls can post on your Instagram. You can forward it to your PRs or Historian. There will be games, music, and us. Serena and Matt K. are wearing the shirts!

Advocacy & Inclusivity Committee

Matt K: This Thursday at 7pm during my office hours, come to the RHSA office (Capen B-16) to voice any food related concerns you may have since we do not discuss them at AC meetings with location, quality, and price. I can voice them to Campus Auxiliary Services and administration. Please come through!

Motion to Close: Ridgeview
Second: Shawangunk

UPCOMING EVENTS 9:29 PM

- Buzz World Tour (Friday, November 8th from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in SUB 100N)
- Condom Casino (Saturday, November 9th from 7:00pm to 11:00pm in SUB MPR)

HALL CONCERNS 9:30 PM

Clare: If there's something wrong in your hall that you have already talked to your RAs and RDs about and nothing has been done, this is your time to tell us.

Ridgeview: Our vending machine is mostly fixed. It's kind of a mystery box. It gave me right the drink, but it came from the slot I didn't select.

Clare: I will look into it.

Minnewaska: Our elevator is going to be fixed, but do you know when it would be fixed?

Clare: They have to call companies that put them in, in the first place. We have no staff on campus to fix them. It won't be very long, but it will probably be a couple of days.

Minnewaska: My roommate said he heard it would take three weeks.

Clare: I'll look into it and find more about the timeline.

Ridgeview: So, you know we have bathrooms close to rooms, the bathroom near my room has been closed for cleaning since fall break. The situation is that the toilet is gone. I will take a picture.

Clare: Send a picture with a room number so I can find out more.

Bliss: Our exit sign is still a problem.

STUDENT CONCERNS FOLLOW-UP 9:32 PM

Clare: I have none this week.

STUDENT CONCERNS 9:32 PM

Clare: If you have general concerns for things going on campus wide (something's broken, wrong, administrative concerns, faculty concerns), this is your moment to tell us so we can relay the information to the administration. However, if you have any food concerns (type, quality, price, location, etc), we will not hear them at this point but you can email us at rhasa@hawkmall.newpaltz.edu. Last week, I said we will do academic concerns. Anybody gather any academic concerns?

Bouton: My adviser is very unhelpful. I want to switch, but I have to ask her to do it.

Clare: Have you spoken to the dean of your department?

Bouton: She's a general adviser.

Clare: Email us the name of your adviser so we can help.

Bliss: Do all advisers have to have office hours and appointments?

Clare: Yes.

Bliss: So, what if he didn't have office hours I could make?

Clare: They should accommodate you. If they aren't, try to speak to the dean if you haven't. If you want to email us the name of that adviser, you can so we can ask them to be more accommodating.

Matt O: I don't know how everyone else feels, but I really like professors who post grades on Blackboard as much as possible. I have received final grades for classes that aren't the actual final grade I deserved, so I would challenge that and email professors and in two instances, my grade was changed because they were the wrong one. I talked to President Christian and he said he would bring it up to academic leadership, but I want to push for the initiative to see grades online because it's very helpful to students.

Ridgeview: I've asked every one of my professors who don't do it and they say no.

Clare: I had a professor and she said she didn't want to post the grades because Blackboard was not as private as giving out grades. Blackboard can still give grades out, but your professor shouldn't be holding your grades. We will take the initiative to see if that is something professors can do

Ridgeview: Two of them told me that they didn't like it because they didn't know how to work Blackboard.

Sarah: If your professors aren't posting grades, they should be available to speak with.

Mohonk: My midterm week was like a month and I think that it should be a week and if it is a week, alternatively, we shouldn't have class during that week. I had a frustrating month and I had essays before and after the break and it was stressful.

Clare: I can try to find out if professors can make their midterms due during one designated week or testing be that week. I can't imagine canceling classes, but I can reach out to the professors and see if that is an opportunity.

Ridgeview: There are classes where my class has two midterms so I don't know if that could happen for my course. Part of the problem with that is every professor teaches at a different rate.

Matt K: If you have a lot of essays, you could always try reaching out to professors.

Mohonk: When I went to register for my first semester as an education major, they recommended three education classes and one English class, but now, I have to take four English classes next semester. They need to figure out how to spread out the education classes

Bliss: I work for the dean and they have a plan, an eight semester plan. It's a plan of how you can have your education classes out of the way so you're not overloaded with education work during student teaching and fieldwork, so you have a balance of other school work.

Mohonk: It wasn't the semester plan, it was for my transfer orientation and they gave me a list of courses that I had to register for.

Clare: I will talk to the dean to see if that is something we are just seeing in the education department or other departments.

Scudder: I feel that professors should be more understanding of people with mental health issues. I'm struggling with mental health issues. I'm actually failing a few classes because I can't always make it to class because I'm too down to do anything. I feel that they should be aware of mental health issues that go on college campuses in general.

Clare: Jeannette said that if you get diagnosed with mental health issues, the DRC can help accommodate you.

Scudder: I am a part of the DRC and they aren't really helping.

Lenape: A couple of semesters ago, I took a history of jazz course that counted for a certain credit, and they changed the credit requirements, so it didn't count until I realized that and then, I took History of Rock, which counted for that credit, which I don't get why I wasn't notified about the credit change.

Sarah: I found that certain professors tend to be overworked with courseloads. Some have no time to be accessible to students. I have four hours of classes with one professor on Tuesdays, which seems a little ridiculous.

Bliss: There's only four or five therapists in the psych center, which is not enough for our campus. There's only one psychiatrist who's only here every other week and every other week, she's only here half the day, and they have somebody in Albany who they can reach over the phone, which is not enough for this campus. We need to take a step on that because we have had movements since I've been here and it seems that nobody is listening to the kids who need help. You're going to see them not reaching out anymore.

Clare: I will reach out for more. Sam was screaming a lot last year. It is hard to get progress there. I want to bring it back to academic concerns so we can get to regular student concerns. If have other concerns, especially if they are personal experiences, you can email us more info. In the future, we can have a specific concern day for that.

Lenape: I wish there was more assistance for filing for FAFSA. People in the financial aid office are nice, but I get confused and they can't sit by my side. There is a guide to look at, but I still get confused. Can there be a session to help people?

Clare: A session seems like a good idea. I can look into that.

Mohonk: For some stupid reasons, transfer students don't get midterm grades.

Capen: I'm not a transfer, but if you read the blurb under your mid-term evaluation and if it says not requested, it's because you have a person for transfer students and if you are not in EOP or SMP. As a general admissions, I don't get mid-term evaluations after that first year. Once you transfer here, once you're in your second, third, or fourth semester, you no longer get mid-term evaluations.

Ridgeview: If you are part of SMP or EOP, you need to keep meeting with your adviser every semester to see where you stand in each class and if you should S/U a class or drop a class.

Mohonk: I'm a junior, but I'm a transfer student and since I'm new, I won't get mid-term evaluations.

Ridgeview: You should for this year, but if you haven't you should talk to your professor or advisers about it. However, moving forward you shouldn't receive them.

Clare: I'm going to close academic concerns for now. Even before you speak to us, you have your advisers, deans, and the list goes up, but if you find a bunch of these concerns that you can't get help with, we are going to advocate for you.

General Concerns

Kevin: One thing about the campus is that there is a lot of construction, which is understandable, but there are a lot of obvious blockages of specific areas. In order to hide or store equipment on the SUB concourse, specifically, there is a blue fence hiding a trailer with wood and scrap metal in it. Even if they are using the trailer for materials, I haven't seen anyone in and around that fence, but it's a trailer, so it can move. That's the thing that when people visit the campus, and even for us, it doesn't make a pleasant experience. People on my tours comment that they aren't happy with the state of the campus, and things like that shouldn't be problematic. The things that they are putting there to be nicer to look at is worth looking into.

Sarah: Where the orange fence is around Old Main Quad, the part that is specifically in front of Old Library, the fence is supposed to be blocking part of the whole in the ground, but the fence doesn't extend far enough to keep people from falling in. If you step too far to the side of the

path, even though there's an orange fence there, it wouldn't prevent people from falling in a four foot deep hole.

Clare: We will get right on that.

Ridgeview: My liaison said there were two big events on the same day, NPLC and PBSO. Is it possible that RHSA and other big orgs wouldn't have conflicts with the day?

Clare: In the future, we can do our best to avoid conflict. We don't get to see these days before we FUSE the places for our events.

Ashokan: Is there a platform where people can share events?

Clare: It's Engage where all SA approved orgs have access. Reach out to SA and let them know that your part of the org. We also have an app now called Hawk's Eye as well that's being built to become a bigger platform. *What is considered the "sister organization" of RHSA?*

Bouton: Going off of construction, I'm part of a club that holds events outdoors and we're running out of space on campus, especially Old Main Quad. It's been down for two semesters.

Clare: I'll push for info, but it takes a long time sometimes.

Sarah: In reference to a previous comment, on My New Paltz, you can access Engage. Click on student activities, then, Engage, and it will show upcoming events.

Scudder: Following up on Black Solidarity Day, it's always the first Monday of November, so moving forward, you can schedule around it with other orgs.

Mohonk: The heating in Old Main isn't working. I don't care if it gets hot, but I want it to be warmer.

Clare: I know heating is tedious, but I'll look into it.

Bouton: When I was a freshman, I would look at this freshman calendar for events on campus. Are they still around?

Clare: They are posted around campus and you can request to get those sent to your email.

Kevin: Yes, it's from Jefiny in Student Development. I think the email should still go out. So, those cork board texture calendars you see, they have events on them that are sent to Student Development and are sent into all residence halls to be hung up.

Clare: They are up every week in your residence halls.

OPEN FLOOR 9:54 PM

Clare: If you have a program, meeting or any other announcement that you would like to share with the Associate Council, now is your time to share by raising your placard. You can also refer to the Tiny URL where you can post your events, but you are still welcomed to share your events. <https://tinyurl.com/nprhsacampusevents>

Scudder: I'm the chairperson for Out of the Darkness. I'm Amanda. The Out of the Darkness Walk is a suicide prevention walk on campus. We raised over \$10,000 last year and we want to raise more this year. We are looking for volunteers. Come see me if you are interested. The walk date is April 26, 2020.

Lenape: Tomorrow, we are doing our Paint, Post, Sip, and Send program. We will decorate postcards, have mocktails, and we will have postage. We only have 50 of them and it's at 8pm.

Scudder: We have a collab with Bliss tomorrow, our Just Dance program at 8pm in the Bliss Main Lounge.

Bouton: Next Monday, November 11th at 7pm, we will have an Uno tournament.

Matt K: This Wednesday, we will have a conference for Stepping Into Diversity at 5pm at College Terrace.

Kevin: Just a follow-up to a previous point, Campus Events at a Glance should be an email for all students, but if you do not receive it, you can email Jefiny at martej2@newpaltz.edu.

PASSING OF MOLLY THE MOOSE 10:00 PM

Clare: Who's got Molly?

Capen: She went to conference and got clothespins. We gave her a breast cancer awareness bracelet. We are giving her to Lenape!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK 10:01 PM

Noah: "The best part of life is not just surviving, but thriving with passion and compassion and humor and style and generosity and kindness." -Maya Angelou

ADJOURNMENT 10:01 PM

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Awosting
Second: Mohonk

Next meeting will be in Mohonk Hall!

