

RESIDENCE HALL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 9/13/21

Location: SUB409

CALL TO ORDER 9:05 PM

Emily: Hey everyone! Thank y'all for coming to tonight's meeting, we're going to get started. If you have not already gotten your folder for you hall, come up and get it now!

MYSTERY ACTIVITY 9:05 PM

Emily: Let's jump right into our mystery activity. We're going to go around and each say one word to hopefully make a cohesive story.

"One day when I was a young giraffe, I was alive and eating fruit, carrots, and leaves in trees."

ROLL CALL/HALL REPORTS 9:07 PM

Saskia: Hey y'all! 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	1	0	0	0	Preparing weekly meeting times for the rest of the semester.
Bliss	1	0	0	0	No report.
Awosting/ Bouton	0	0	0	0	None.
Capen	0	0	0	0	None.
College-Shango	1	0	0	0	Found a schedule for meetings and have begun planning programs.
Esopus	4	0	0	0	Had an election with no representative present, RA Liaison took an audio recording of the meeting and noted who was elected to what positions.
Gage	2	1	0	0	President was elected on Wednesday, weekly meeting times have been set.
Lenape	0	0	0	0	None.
Minnewaska	1	0	0	0	Meeting Tuesday night.

Mohonk	4	0	0	0	First meeting being held this Thursday.
Ridgeview	1	0	0	0	First meeting tomorrow, continuing outreach to fill more positions.
Scudder	1	0	0	0	Appointing a President Wednesday, no weekly meeting time yet.
Shawangunk	0	0	0	0	None.

SENATE 9:11 PM

Chet: Senate is a governing body on campus focusing on student advocacy and empowerment. Meetings are going to be biweekly with optional office hours for Senators. We fill in a bunch of committees around campus, like the finance committee, programming boards, all that sort of thing. Our secondary elections are happening tomorrow. Our Senate is not currently running because we have 6 members sitting, so hopefully that will be changed tomorrow and even afterwards if there are still more seats appointments will likely happen afterwards. If anyone is interested in being part of the Senate, we have many openings for the different residence halls. Each residence hall gets one representative. I'll have more information next week on what seats are still available if anyone is interested in running for those. I'm not trying to steal you from RHSA; you can do both! It's a great way to get some volunteer work and have a voice in what's going on around campus!

NRHH 9:13 PM

Eric: We just sent out emails to get the rest of our chapter ready for the semester. We're planning on having our first meeting Sunday.

OLD BUSINESS 9:13PM

Motion to Open Old Business: Collango
Second: Scudder

Committee Corner

Madison: Advertising Committee starts September 16th and that happens every other Thursday from 6 pm to 7 pm. Programming Committee occurs every Thursday from 7 pm to 8 pm. Safety Committee is held every other Thursday from 5 pm to 6 pm.

Motion to Close Old Business: Ridgeview
Second: Gage

NEW BUSINESS 9:14 PM

Motion to Open New Business: Minnewaska
Second: Bliss

Big Bang Buzz Bingo

Logan: This Friday Sept 17th from 7:30 pm to 9 pm in SUB 6263 we are doing Big Bang Buzz Bingo. We have some fabulous prizes for all of you, so you guys should come! For all of you who don't have RHSA shirts yet, this is the first Buzz event when we give out our RHSA that you can wear to every meeting. Saskia and I will show you the design you will be getting at the Bingo event! They are Star Trek themed, so look forward to getting one of these if you come.

Emily: Our biggest prize is quality toilet paper! We have Charmin Ultra Soft for you guys, 96 rolls!

Logan: We also made a prize bundle from the bookstore! And you get to hear each of us call out a bingo game, so be there!

Spirit Week

Allison: In your folders, you'll find the Spirit Week packet! Spirit Week is September 27th to October 3rd. The packet has all the information you need for everything going on. In the packet we have our schedule of events and general information you need to know. We have information about our banner competition, our lip sync competition, our field events, and our scavenger hunt rules. For the first kickoff we're having dinner in the dining hall from 6 pm to 7 pm on Monday, September 27th. We're just asking that someone from your hall come and pick up your sign, which you're going to use for scavenger hunt pictures. What our scavenger hunt is, essentially, is at the packet there's a long list of places to go and take pictures. Then we have our typical AC Meeting that Monday at 9 pm. On Friday October 1st we're having Cowboy Karaoke from 7:30 to 9 pm. We don't have a location yet but it will be in the SUB. That Friday is your last day to finish lip syncs, scavenger hunt, and banners. 10:30 to 11:30 am on Saturday we're going to have a Banging Bagel Breakfast in the RHSA. That is when your lip sync tracks and banners are due. We'll also be giving you guys bagels because we know you do a lot of hard work during Spirit Week so come and get a free bagel! From 12:30 to 4:30 we're going to have a cheer off and field events. We'll ask all halls to come to Parker Quad where we have field events set up and you can compete against other hall govs. It's a lot of fun and builds a lot of hall spirit. At 6 pm, concluding Spirit Week, we're going to have you guys perform your lip syncs, show off your banners, and give out awards like the winners of Spirit Week. Yes, there is a winner of Spirit Week because you win points throughout. Sunday, October 3rd is our rain date, so if we do get rained out on Saturday because everything is taking place on Parker Quad then we're going to hold it on Sunday. There are a lot more specific rules for banners and stuff, but those rules are found in the packet. If there are any questions you can ask them now or you can email us or dm us on Instagram. Lastly, we're giving you guys a good banner to paint on but our banner supplies are not coming until Tuesday so we ask that sometime this week after Tuesday you come to our office hours in the RHSA office, Capen B-16, to pick up your banner. You can check our Instagram, all of our office hours are on there as well as on our website. We just ask that somebody comes to pick up your banner so you can start working on it whenever it works for you. Any questions?

Bliss: What times are your office hours? Do I have to come during a meeting?

Allison: We have office hours where we sit in the RHSA office- if you check our Instagram or the website you can see those times. We just ask that you come to somebody's following Tuesday.

Emily: We also know that for the paint you have in your hall gov offices, you might not have access to them or they're really crusty so we are ordering paint as well. If you want to set up a time when you and your hall gov can come to the RHSA office and paint your banner, we will have fresh paint and some paint brushes. Banners are hard work, but you get to know your hall gov better through doing your banners.

Mohonk: Where is the RHSA office?

Emily: Capen B-16. If you go in between Capen and Scudder, it's the first door on the right in Capen.

Logan: If you're thinking about coming this Friday during my office hours, this week I am unfortunately not having office hours but next week I will be.

Emily: Our Instagram is @nprhsa, if you want to find our office hours there. Any other questions in regards to Spirit Week? You can also email us if you have any questions going forward.

Esopus: Point of Information. Do we have any information about treasurer training?

Emily: I sent all the liaisons the contact sheet. If you already have your treasurer, you can talk to Logan after the meeting and give him their contact information. That is happening as soon as we have the treasurer numbers and whatnot.

Motion to Close New Business: Collango
Second: Minnewaska

UPCOMING EVENTS 9:22 PM

- Big Bang Buzz Bingo | Friday, September 17th | 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- Spirit Week | Monday, September 27th - Sunday, October 3rd

HALL CONCERNS 9:23 PM

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

Mohonk: Every hall should have monthly cleaning in the suites and bathrooms because of Covid.

Emily: I can try to find out the schedule for you, but we definitely do have monthly cleaning in the suite bathrooms.

Esopus: We have a situation with our ACs. They have not been working in our entire hall. Our SRA has been contacted, and someone has put in a work order.

Emily: I'll check up on that and give you guys an update next meeting.

Gage: We have not been able to solve the Molly situation, because the card reader to the office is not working.

Emily: I'll check up with Mandy on that. Thank you for letting us know. I think we're going to put Molly on hold for right now.

Bliss: Bliss hall was supposed to receive Molly the Moose; when she returns will we get her?

Emily: Yes. Any other hall concerns? 3. 2. 1. Seeing none.

STUDENT CONCERNS 9:26 PM

Emily: 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), we will not hear them at this point but you can email us at rhsa@hawkmail.newpaltz.edu.

Gage: I have a professor who is immuno-compromised who has been trying to move class virtual and the administration has been fighting him on this. He just got a hybrid situation, but we're in a really small classroom and we're running out of seats. I don't think it should be this hard for him and other faculty who are at risk or who have family members who are at risk to get the accommodations that they need.

Emily: Did they submit something to administration to move classrooms? I'll bring it up to administration and see if we can find a compromise.

Mohonk: Faculty and administrators should not be in trailers. We had a pandemic, the school was renovated, and they still need offices. The black studies department and the math department have been in trailers for a long time. I've gone to office hours with professors in trailers, and then some others in the Humanities building so I think it's unfair.

Minnewaska: I think there should be masks in the entrances of buildings if you forget one since they are required.

Emily: I know last year they made professors have to have masks in the classrooms, so I'll definitely check on that because we even had New Paltz masks we used to give out.

Bliss: There was a point when I was looking for a spare mask in the Student Union Building and they had none at any of the desks.

Emily: I'll check up on all of those issues. I'll give an update next meeting, otherwise I will email all of you. These are all great concerns, so thank you for voicing this to us.

Gage: Some of my professors have lenient absence policies but some of them do not, and I think that should be reconsidered given our current situation. If someone is feeling unwell, I would want them to use an abundance of caution without fear that they're going to be penalized for it.

Mohonk: A professor has said if you're sick you need to find your own way to get the information because he won't give it to us.

Esopus: A lot of professors are going back to their old absence policies, which are very strict especially during a pandemic. Some professors have said if you miss more than one or two classes you start losing whole grade points.

Emily: That is the standard, but during Covid you understandably want people to be safe especially with so many classes. I will definitely bring these up to administration.

Esopus: I'm part of the Scholars Mentorship Program and we have the MLK office in the SUB which is just for SMP students. We have our office hours there but reception is open 9 to 4 and the building closes at 9, so it's supposed to open with our IDs but sometimes they don't work. Also, someone is supposed to be in there to track our study hours but usually no one is in there. We're getting our hours in, so we just want to be able to claim accountability for that.

Esopus: One of my professors said the administration will not allow them to have Zoom as an option if people have to quarantine. Personally, I think that's ridiculous because we have Zoom now so students should be able to watch class as they are quarantining. Administration is not letting them use Zoom in class because they don't want us to take advantage of it and move entirely online.

Emily: We're meeting with administration this Friday, so thank you for your concerns. I'm definitely going to voice all of this to them. Some professors may be doing it on a small scale, but it shouldn't have to be downplayed because it should be accessible.

Mohonk: I wish administration would make the students feel more at home and loved. I feel like I don't get support or feedback from administration, so how are we supposed to improve the school?

Esopus: Are we doing Hot Chocolate with the President this year? Since he's leaving, is it an option to see if any of the VPs, especially in faculty and student affairs, are available to do that since the President's position is in limbo?

Emily: That's an amazing question, I'll definitely ask. That event is basically where students can have hot chocolate or tea with the president and you're able to talk one-on-one with him and voice your concerns. Maybe that would make you feel more welcome. They did it outside last year so I hope that they do it again, but I will definitely confirm for you.

Mohonk: I don't feel the school is transparent with scholarships that are available to students. I know that there is a website on the New Paltz page that shows scholarships, but I feel like they're very obscure and it's a way to make it harder for students to see what scholarships are available.

Esopus: The development office on the 7th floor of Haggerty is in charge of scholarships. They're very helpful and willing to find scholarships available to you, but I agree there should be more awareness in the student body.

Esopus: My hall is very far from academic buildings and I don't see any campus transportation, so can we get a bus around campus? Especially with winter coming, and most of the shortcuts and tunnels being closed around campus due to construction. Can we have a discussion with UCAT about their route?

Emily: I'm not sure we can get a bus because I don't think we have a big enough budget, but that's definitely something good to work towards in the future.

Mohonk: Binghamton has rental bikes and scooters, so if we have the budget that might be good to implement. I would also love to see more school spirit around campus. Can we have a homecoming?

Emily: That is a great idea for transportation. Also, Spirit Week and Blue Day are coming up! Spirit Week is a great way to show your school spirit and especially hall spirit. If you want to get excited about your hall, Spirit Week is the time to do it! You can splurge your budget and get matching shirts for your hall gov, you get to take pictures around campus with your hall government members, it's so much fun. We do have Blue Day coming up and Orange Day in the spring semester where you're supposed to show more school spirit and administration does a lot of events on those days so you can feel welcomed at New Paltz.

Logan: Also for showing school spirit: at our bingo event this Friday one of our prizes is from the bookstore and includes some items that would help you show your New Paltz school spirit!

Esopus: A few years ago SA had a homecoming. If our SA could bring that up to the EBoard, that would be great.

Emily: If you guys have any more student concerns, feel free to email us at rhsa@hawkmail.newpaltz.edu. I appreciate all of your concerns and care for our campus community, and I'll give you guys an update next meeting.

OPEN FLOOR 9:27 PM

Emily: 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. Are there any open floors?

Logan: For those interested, during open house weekend you can help give tours and give information to visitors through CREW. It looks great on your resume. There are interest meetings on September 13th, Wednesday September 22nd at 6 pm in SUB 409, and Friday October 1st at 6 pm in SUB 409. They will give you more information if you are interested. You get a free shirt, and it's just a fun time. Join CREW!

Esopus: Active minds is a new mental health club that opened on campus that is trying to work on advocacy. We're trying to reduce the stigma around mental health and give students resources that would help in residence life and on campus. If you are interested, we meet Sundays at 3 pm in SUB 402.

PASSING OF MOLLY THE MOOSE 9:48 PM

Emily: Molly the Moose is our mascot- a little stuffed moose who we dress up and pass around to the halls! She is currently on vacation in the Gage hall government office, but she will hopefully be back soon.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK 9:49 PM

Saskia: "Things are only impossible until they're not" - Captain Picard, Star Trek:TNG

ADJOURNMENT 9:50 PM

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Ridgeview
Second: Minnewaska

Next meeting will be in SUB409!

