

RHA Senate Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Juan Ramon Jimenez Room, Stamp



Call to Order

Jason Spizuoco

Open Gallery

1. Jason: Please put your pronouns on your placards and refrain from using your phone during Senate.

Attendance

Vivian Flanagan

1. Total Attendance: 24
 - a. Quorum reached

Approval of the Minutes

1. Nick: Motion to Approve the Minutes
 - a. Dominik: Seconded

A Resolution to Encourage Wearing Masks on Public Transportation

Nick Marks

1. Technical, Non-Debatables/Friendly Amendments/Question and Answer
 - a. Michael:
 - i. Remove “(Addendum C)” on line 26
 - ii. Add a space between “2021” and “given” on line 29
 - b. Dominik: How is this going to be enforced and what is the purpose of the resolution?
 - i. Nick: Conversation with DOTS was that they would like a resolution giving them a student organization’s support, as opposed to an actual action plan.
 - c. Vivian: “Buses” misspelled on line 35
 - d. Devorah: Change the language on line 25-26 to “reporting on the campus’s vaccination status means that students may have a false sense of safety based on what the science says”
2. Free Debate
 - a. Reese: Motion to Amend
 - i. Please replace lines 32 to 47 with the following:
“**WHEREAS** these buses are driven by paid DOTS employees, and **WHEREAS** drivers and passengers are often subjected to unsafe conditions due to mask mandate non-compliant bus-riders, and

WHEREAS UMD has shown no sign of lifting the mask mandate despite its high vaccination rate due to new variants and cases continuing to spike across the nation, and

WHEREAS students habitually board shuttle buses without a mask on, and risk exposing others exposing others to the virus if they are an asymptomatic COVID-19 carrier, and”

- ii. Technical, Non-Debatables/Friendly Amendments/Question and Answer
 - 1. Lines 32 to 47 could have been condensed slightly, and students aren’t the only ones subjected to this policy
 - 2. Michael: Add “according to DOTS” on line 41
- iii. Voting Procedures on Amendment
 - 1. 24 for -- 0 against -- 0 abstentions
 - a. The amendment passes
 - b. Nick: Thanks for the amendment, it looks a lot better.
 - c. Dominik: You say “UMD follows Prince George’s County indoor mask mandate.” If Prince George’s County lifts the mask mandate, will UMD be allowed to go maskless or only when the CDC declares it an endemic.
 - i. Nick: I think PG County won’t lift it until the CDC declares it an endemic anyway, at least that’s the message I got from county officials. Essentially, this will lift when PG County lifts it, which will also be when the CDC declares it an endemic.
 - d. Daniel: What if the mandate on Dec. 9 isn’t extended?
 - i. Nick: If PG County lifts the mandate on Dec. 9, then DOTS will too.
 - e. Quentin: Why is there info regarding vaccinations when this is about masks?
 - i. Nick: I think they’re pretty correlated.
 - f. Quentin: Motion to Amend
 - i. Strike lines 16-20 and add “resulting in a 98% vaccination rate” to line 14
 - ii. Technical, Non-Debatables/Friendly Amendments/Question and Answer
 - 1. The vaccine isn’t available to all age groups, and this makes it more concise and clear
 - 2. Daniel: Why do you want to strike lines 19-20?
 - a. Reese: Moving the info to line 14 to condense it.
 - iii. Free Debate
 - 1. Dominik: I disagree with lines 16-17 stating “all age groups” instead of “those vaccinated”
 - 2. Alexa: I think moving half of lines 19-20 confuses things because that clause provides context for the following clause.
 - 3. Nick: I agree with changes to lines 16-17, but I also agree with Alexa in being against removing lines 19-20.

4. Quentin: The 98% vaccination rate on campus does not correlate with the 90% drop in hospitalizations countrywide.
5. Daniel: I think lines 16-17 provide good context for vaccinations.
6. Scott: I agree with the removal of 16-17 because it reinforces the sentiment that encourages individuals to not wear a mask
7. Reese: I think removing lines 16-17 makes sense because this is regarding masks, not vaccinations, so we could include context regarding masks instead.
8. Quentin: Information specific to the U.S. doesn't work; we need statistics specific to UMD.
9. Devorah: The point of the resolution is to address why people aren't wearing masks, so these statistics back up the reasoning for needing a mask mandate.
10. Daniel: I would reiterate that lines 16-17 should be kept for context purposes as it shows a general scientific norm.
11. Natalie: I think we should remove lines 16-17 as it reinforces that the vaccine is just a shield, and it downplays the role of masks.
12. Dominik: I think lines 16-17 t also reinforces the opinion felt by those who don't want to wear masks. Also, the numbers are important for the resolution.
13. Jason: Is the body ready to vote?
 - a. Quentin: No
 - i. Period extended by five minutes
14. Reese: I think adding an addendum from the CDC later on regarding how masks are protective would be better than the information used in lines 16-17.
15. Quentin: To clarify, we're not removing the 98% statistic, as I agree that statistics are important. This resolution is to get people to keep wearing masks, so science supporting the usage of masks as opposed to just vaccination would be beneficial.
16. Natalie: I agree that statistics are important, but we can't just have them for the sake of having statistics -- we need context. Lines 16-17 aren't appropriate statistics.
17. Nick: I support Quentin and Reese's amendment, as we can add another amendment afterwards.
18. Dennis: I think we should support this and then add another amendment.
19. Daniel: Lines 16-17 help give context to information on lines 22-23

iv. Voting Procedures on Amendment

1. 18 for -- 5 against -- 1 abstentions
 - a. The amendment passes
 - g. Nick: Motion to Amend
 - i. Add the following clause after line 14 (this clause is located on lines 22-24 on the finalized resolution):

“**WHEREAS** a study by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has found masks to be 79% effective in protecting against infections, stating that “face mask use could result in a large reduction in risk of infection,” and”
 - ii. Technical, Non-Debatables/Friendly Amendments/Question and Answer
 1. Reese: Add “(Addendum #)” at the end of the clause
 2. Vivian: Add “COVID-19”
 3. Scott: Comma after “(Addendum #)”
 4. Quentin: Move the new clause to after line 27
 5. Dominik: Switch lines 18-19 and lines 20-21
 - iii. Voting Procedures on Amendment
 1. 22 for -- 1 against -- 0 abstentions
 - a. This amendment passes
 - h. Hannah: Motion to Amend
 - i. Add “and DOTS’ shuttle bus system” to line 30 (this is located on line 26 in the finalized resolution)
 - ii. Technical, Non-Debatables/Friendly Amendments/Question and Answer
 1. Vivian: Add clause after line 32 (this is located on line 30 in the finalized resolution):

“**WHEREAS** buses are considered an indoor environment, and”
 - iii. Voting Procedures on Amendment
 1. Quentin: Motion to Vote by Consensus
 - a. The amendment passes
 - i. Vivian: Motion to Amend
 - i. Remove lines 25-26 and add the following clause on lines 16-17:

“**WHEREAS** the campus’ high 98% vaccination rate may confer to students a false sense of safety against COVID-19 infection, and”
 - ii. Technical, Non-Debatables/Friendly Amendments/Question and Answer
 1. Dominik: Remove “98%”
 2. Nick: Change to “sense of immunity”
 - iii. Voting Procedures on Amendment
 1. 20 for -- 0 against -- 1 abstentions
 - j. Nick: Motion to Vote
 - i. Quentin: Seconded
3. Voting Procedures

- a. 17 for -- 3 against -- 1 abstention
 - i. The resolution passes

Executive Team Reports

1. Scott (President)
 - a. Committee to Review Student Fees has begun
 - b. Working with SGA and GSG on an administration evaluation team
 - c. Mental Health Coalition meets tomorrow
2. Jason (VP)
 - a. Me or a SAL will reach out to you soon
 - b. If you have a question post Town Hall, send them to me.
3. Vivian (MTO)
 - a. Congratulations Quentin for getting Member Monday!
 - i. Let me know about other council members!
 - b. Keep tagging @marylandrha on your event flyers
4. Aiden (SFC)
 - a. Met with the Athletics Advisory Committee, Clarice, and Nyumburu on their mandatory fee proposal
 - b. First meeting of the Student Facilities Fund on Friday
 - c. CTAC meeting last Friday, and there will be another in December
 - d. Pepsi Fund Meeting last Friday, helped allocate \$50 thousand to student groups
5. Hannah (NCC)
 - a. RLC happened two weekends ago!
 - b. 2022 Regional Business Conference team application is open, email me if you're interested.

Committee Reports

1. SCoM
 - a. None
2. DIACom
 - a. Inclusive Language Campaign
 - i. Guest Speaker: Nicole Mehta Assistant Director DEI
 - ii. Feedback on expanding ILC
 - iii. Showed posters against non-inclusive language
 - iv. Updating posters and social media presence
 - v. Talking about how to reach students most effectively
 - vi. Including non-inclusive symbols
 - b. Elkton has a table in their lobby for a sexual assault campaign with papers with info and resources
 - c. DEI ideas for Fall Welcome
3. ReFAB
 - a. Discussion on student affairs
 - b. Presentation on green roofs and other sustainable designs and Hammock Haven

4. ReLATE
 - a. Grand tour of Prince Frederick residence hall
 - b. Introduction of new ReLate advisor, Dennis Passarella-George
 - c. Discussion of RHA call to action: Show gratitude to dining hall staff
 - i. Informed that dining halls are very understaffed and are tired
 - d. Caroline basement lounge is opening potentially next fall or next summer
 - e. Recommended to have interim ResLife director to guest speak at Senate
5. DSAB
 - a. People are using their plates with meat when taking food from vegan section despite there being signage
 - i. What else can we do to prevent this?
 - b. Theft is becoming an issue at the dining halls
 - i. How can we prevent this?
 - ii. Create signage without making it seems like a challenge
 - c. Dedicate a few tables in the dining hall as “socialization tables”
 - i. Will this work?
 - ii. What should the tables be called?
 - iii. How to designate tables?
6. RPC
 - a. Talked about the influence of community policing
 - b. Talked about the benefits of outreach and how you can outreach to others.
7. TAC
 - a. Two new members
 - b. We have 2 vice-chairs
 - c. Overview of DOTS for new people from Valerie
 - d. Discussed my resolution idea
 - e. Thanksgiving Shuttle Buses

Resident Council Reports

1. Elkton held their first sexual assault awareness event
2. Cumberland had an apple cider event
3. Ellicott did a meet and greet with apple cider and donuts
4. SHAC is doing candy grams

Constitutional Question of the Day

Sarah Dresh

1. Question: Article III, Section 2, Clause 1 states: “The executive board shall consist of eight members; one in each of the following positions: (a) President (b) Vice President (c) _____ (d) Marketing and Technology Officer (e) _____ (f) Student Fees Coordinator (g) _____ (h) Chief of internal Affairs”

2. Answer: Student Groups and Organizations Liaison, National Communications Coordinator, and Programming and Community Development Coordinator
 - a. Winners: Quentin, Natalie, and Vivian

Recognition

Aarav Patel

1. Aarav recognized Dominik

Adjournment

Jason Spizuoco