



RCSGA AND WCGA PRESENT OUR



SPRING NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

This semester, WCGA and RCGA focused on strengthening collaboration between our organizations to improve efficiency and better serve the Richmond community. As representatives of the student voice, our committees have worked diligently to enhance campus life and advance the missions of both colleges.

This newsletter highlights the projects each committee has undertaken this semester and what they plan to accomplish in the spring. Thank you to all members of the campus community who have contributed to our work, and for a wonderful fall semester.

Before moving forward, we would like to share a few presidential priorities we were proud to support this term. These included working with the Office of Student Development, opening the dining hall as a quiet nighttime study space, and piloting the Spiders Eats initiative.

We also helped promote the Opioid Overdose Prevention Project, which placed Narcan boxes around campus to increase overdose response preparedness. Additionally, we aligned all committee names to create greater unity and clarity between WCGA and RCGA.

Looking ahead to next semester, we are excited to plan the new senior social - a senior sunset event - and to present to the Board of Trustees in the spring.

Karine & Sassan





LEADERSHIP

RICHMOND COLLEGE

WESTHAMPTON COLLEGE

Sassan Fahim

President

Charlie Sheppard

Speaker of the Senate

Ben Hack

Vice President of Administration

Matthew Fan

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Will Rafi

Vice President of Student Services

Noah Levinsohn

Vice President of Finance

CJ Blastos

VP of Outreach and Engagement

Zack Ruighaver

Vice President of Well-Being

John Burnett

Secretary

Karine Nguyen

President

Morgan Knoop

Chair of Senate

Nandita Hareesh

Chair of Academic Affairs

Michelle Darfour

Chair of Financial Affairs

Olena Naumenko

Chair of Outreach and Engagement

Minahil Mobeen

Chair of Student Services

Pera Roberts

Secretary

ADMINISTRATION & CHAIR OF SENATE

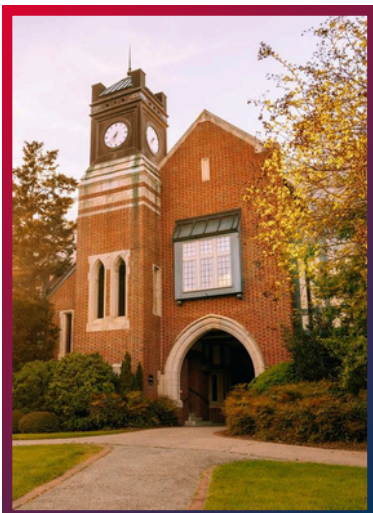
BEN HACK & MORGAN KNOOP



The Administration Committee has been actively working to strengthen the RCSGA this semester. We held internal elections to fill vacant roles, resulting in a full body. We also organized camaraderie events to build stronger relationships among members and drafted amendments to our Constitution to improve internal functioning and streamline the process for approving funds for campus organizations. Some of the major constitutional revisions include class chair responsibilities, the class chair election process, and the process for filling vacancies. The committee also hosted a successful presidential debate that was more focused on allowing candidates to respond to one another.

This semester, WCGA implemented a new investigative mindset into practice. We approach projects with a desire to improve our campus community and learn more about different avenues to pursuing our goals. Rejection is redirection: sometimes, WCGA cannot tackle every student concern we identify on campus. However, we can pivot and address issues we can control in collaboration with staff, faculty, and students. This new mindset has helped us improve our service to students and efficiently complete projects.

We were happy to host multiple events this semester, such as tabling for student concerns and our annual holiday dinner with RCSGA to celebrate a semester of hard work. We look forward to more exciting events next semester!





ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NANDITA HAREESH

This fall semester, the Academic Affairs Committee specifically focused on lab credit policy transparency, registration-related concerns, financial aid clarity, and emerging academic technology initiatives.

As chair, I met with faculty to research how science courses with laboratory components at Gottwald are credited, compiling our findings into a document shared with faculty leadership.

We hope this work opens meaningful conversations about better recognizing the workload demands of lab courses within university credit structures.

On the registration front, Georgia and Liz did exceptional work to better understand the current registration process and what changes are being made for the future by meeting with Dr. Nicole Maurantonio (Associate Provost of Academic Affairs) and other faculty members. Georgia also did outstanding work meeting with the Financial Aid Office to continue advocating on behalf of international students, ensuring they have clearer information about tax implications on their scholarships. Meanwhile, Isabella has shown incredible initiative in exploring Spider AI, working with faculty to better understand the platform and its implications for academic life on campus.

Looking ahead, we plan to explore the Blackboard to Canvas transition, AI in the classroom, and improving the visibility of academic resources for students. I am grateful for every senator's hard work this semester and look forward to what we will accomplish in the spring.

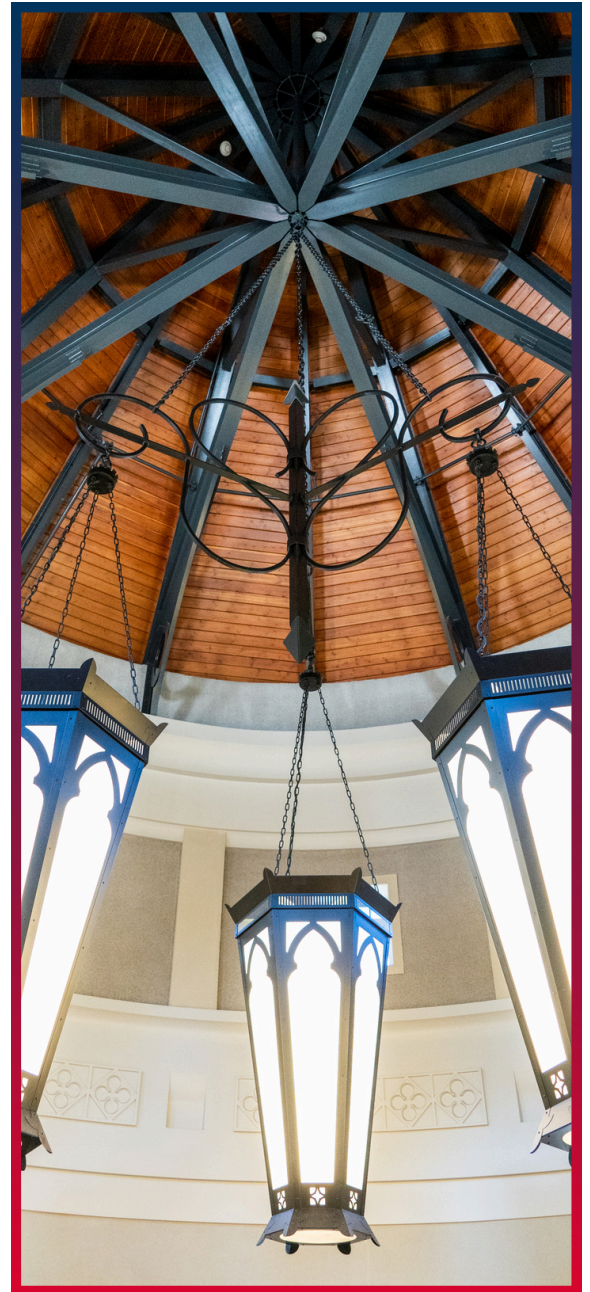
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WILL RAFI

The Academic Affairs committee

has been actively involved in initiatives to improve students' quality of life, focusing on mindfulness and equity.

This semester, we extended hours in academic buildings, spearheaded neurodiversity awareness week, revamped Gottwald study spaces, and enhanced clarity for courses offered on a rotating basis. We also worked with the General Education Curriculum Committee (GEC) to provide input on courses fulfilling new requirements. Future projects include increasing scholarship transparency and designating credit for laboratory components.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

OLENA NAUMENKO

This fall, the committee supported WCGA's programming and initiatives through social media and on-campus resources.

We collaborated with Dean Daly on the promotion of select events. Work also began on



developing a new WCGA website after access to the previous site was lost following a domain name change; it has been decided that the new page will be hosted on the University of Richmond domain under the Westhampton College website.

Committee Highlights and Project Highlights were introduced to showcase work in progress and bring visibility to the elected members. Weekly meeting summary posts were also introduced with the same purpose.

Finally, the committee was renamed from its previous title to Communications and Outreach to align with our counterpart committee at RCSGA.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

CJ BLASTOS

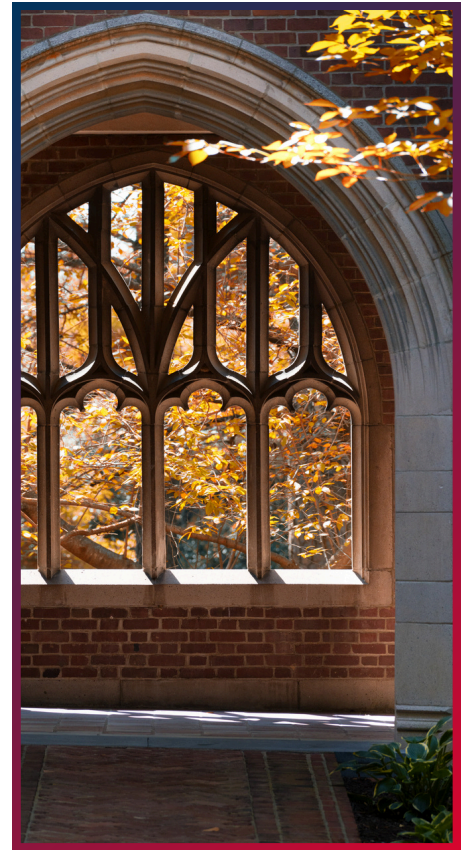
It has been an absolute pleasure to serve on the Outreach & Engagement Committee this semester!

During this time, we expanded and redefined our digital platforms, turning them from campaign bulletin boards into effective tools for communication and engagement. We have delegated social media responsibilities, developed new content strategies, and worked to better inform and connect with our constituents. With the full implementation of both Projects P.A.C.E. and P.U.L.S.E., RCSGA's outreach efforts have evolved substantially in both physical and digital spaces.

A central component of this work has been our weekly meeting recaps, which allow students to remain informed about Senate discussions even if they are unable to attend in person. Moreover, I have led weekly tabling sessions in THC - building on the success of our outreach initiatives. The feedback we gather is systematically collected, synthesized, and distributed to members of the RCSGA body to support informed and productive action.

We have also collaborated extensively with WCGA to advance our shared goal of clear and consistent communication with the student body. This partnership is reflected in our joint newsletter, coordinated outreach efforts, and the broad dissemination of information about the work being done on behalf of Richmond College, Westhampton College, and the our university broadly.

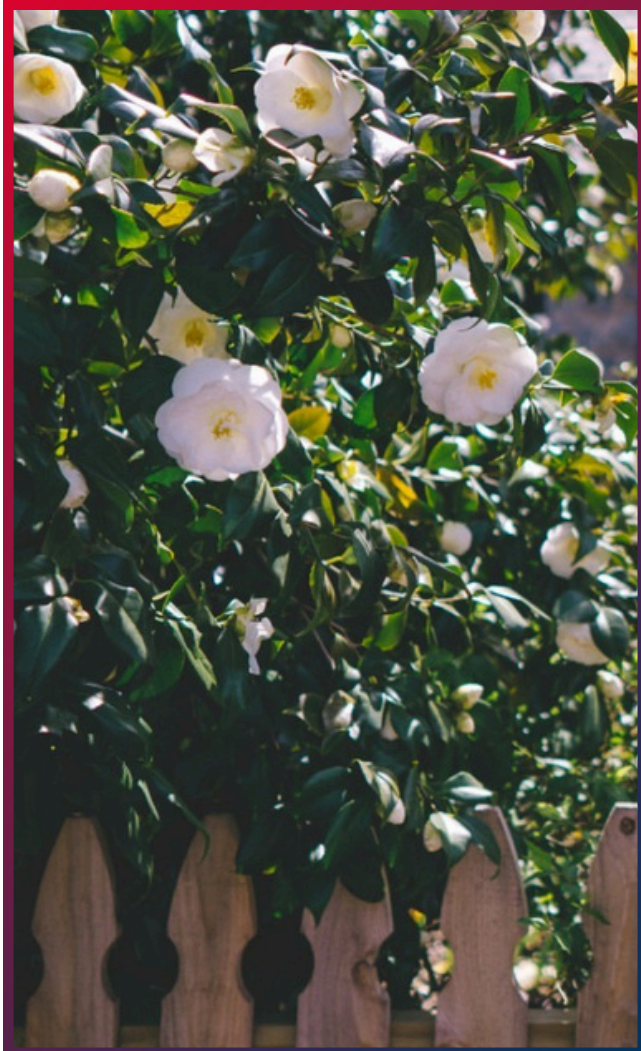
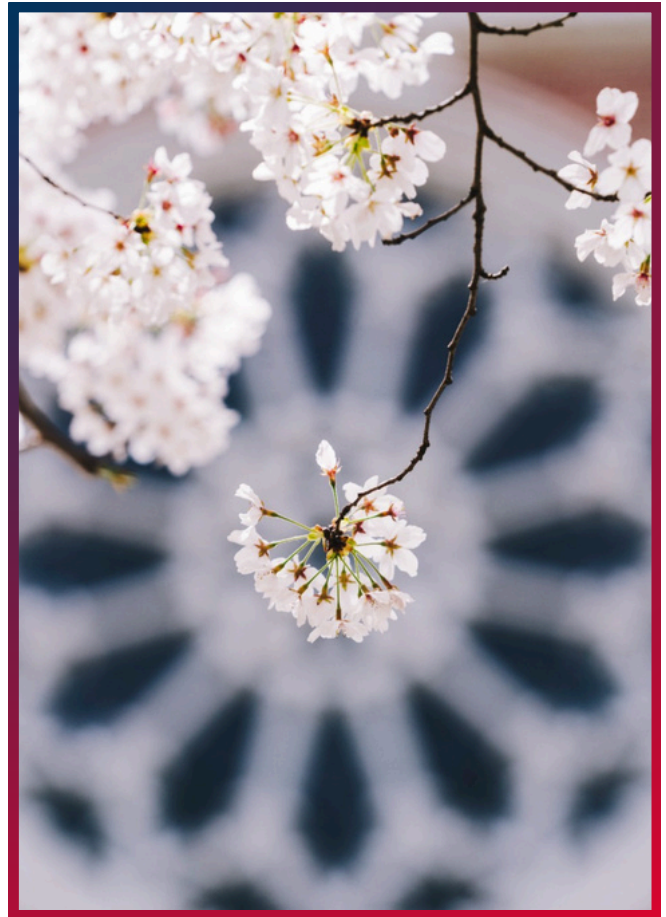
I am especially grateful to the members of my committee - Jimmy, Adam, Will, and Sam - whose time, energy, and commitment have made our progress possible.



FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

MICHELLE DARFOUR

The main goal of the financial affairs committee is to maximize the quality of student life through fairly allocating funds to student organizations. The fall semester generally consists of contingency funding, which is additional funds given to organizations on an as-needed basis. In Fall 2025, the financial affairs committee received \$4,632.55 in requests, of which we approved \$3,685.93 from 10 organizations.



We also passed a new SOBAC* guideline specifying that food at events must be purchased already prepared or prepared at the demo kitchen as an activity at said event. Lastly, the SOBAC co-chairs worked closely with the Center for Student Involvement to finalize a new timeline for the annual funding process. This year, hearings and deliberations will occur on two separate weekends in the hopes of relieving SOBAC committee fatigue and maintaining a consistent energy throughout the process.

**SOBAC - Student Organization Budget and Appropriations Committee*

FINANCE

NOAH LEVINSOHN



Finance had a productive semester, which culminated in the annual SOBAC allocation weekend from March 23-24, 2024. The committee allocated nearly \$210,000 to clubs in annual funding and have distributed over \$10,000 in contingency funding.

The full RCSGA body voted to approve an amendment that allowed solely the finance committee to vote on and approve smaller contingency requests, making both RCSGA and WCGA's contingency processes more alike. Next semester, we hope to communicate with CSI to add more food trucks to the approved vendors list.



STUDENT AFFAIRS

NANDITA HAREESH

The Student Services Committee has been actively advocating for student needs across campus throughout the fall semester. We met with multiple departments to elevate student concerns and ensure that feedback translated into tangible improvements.

A central focus was collaborating with Dining Services to advocate for greater menu variety, expanded options for students with dietary restrictions, and shortened intervals between shifting from breakfast to lunch. In partnership with Rethink Waste and CSI, we are developing sustainable event management sessions for student organizations to promote environmentally responsible programming.

Our committee members have pursued projects to enhance the student experience. Andi led efforts to improve menstrual product access across campus, with a focus on strengthening availability and equitable access.



Josie helped organize Mental Health Tabling ahead of finals week to support student well-being, providing coffee, stress-relief tools, and resource information. This effort was made possible through collaboration with RCSGA and CAPS. Tatiana and Stephanie have further advanced sustainability initiatives.

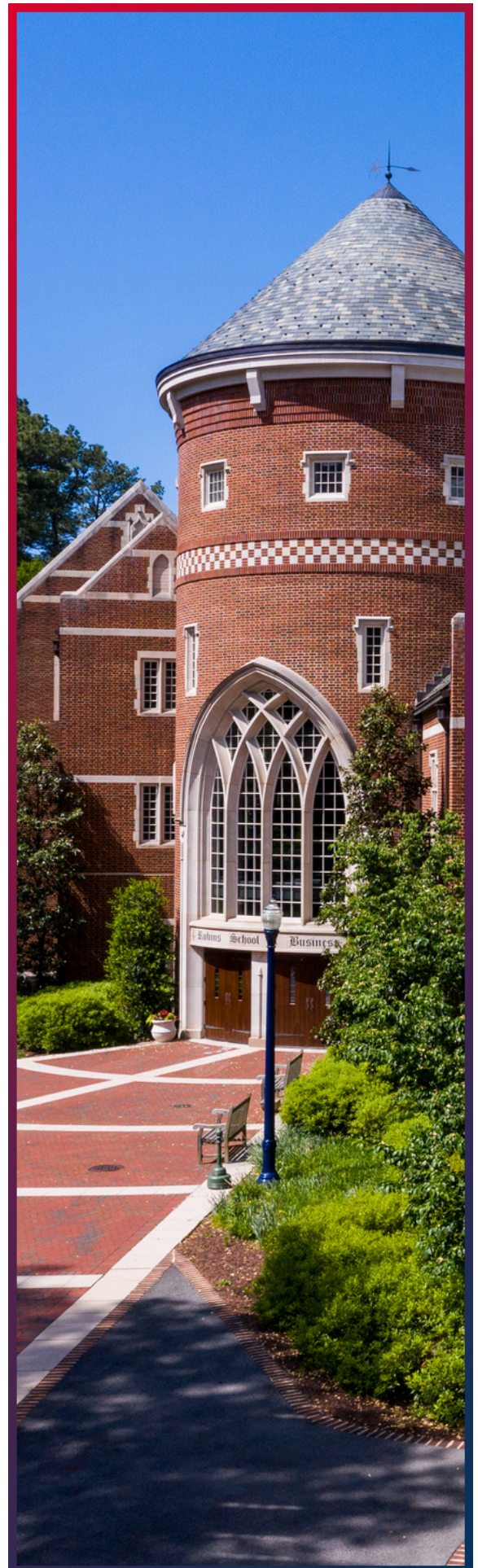
Additionally, I met with Residence Life and Housing, Center for Global Engagement, and Transportation Services. We have also continued collaborating with RCSGA regarding sustainability, study spaces, and student concerns tabling.

Looking ahead, we are committed to continuing our work across these departments, while developing a Women and Gender Minorities Health series. We hope to build on our efforts and continue translating student concerns into actionable, lasting change.

STUDENT SERVICES

MATTHEW FAN

This past semester, Student Services focused on improving sustainability initiatives and strengthening communication between students and campus partners. One of our key priorities was increasing awareness of composting resources on campus. We actively advertised the locations of compost bins to make it easier for students to dispose of waste responsibly and reduce landfill contributions, ensuring that our sustainability efforts are both accessible and effective. In addition, we worked with campus dining partners to explore and implement more sustainable packaging options across various restaurants. By encouraging the use of environmentally friendly materials, we aimed to reduce single-use plastics and minimize the campus's environmental footprint. We also collaborated with Rethink Waste to generate future sustainability ideas and identify long-term strategies for improving waste management on campus. These conversations laid the groundwork for continued innovation and stronger sustainability practices moving forward. Student feedback remained central to our work, as evidenced by tabling at campus events and gathering input from students regarding ongoing concerns and areas for improvement. Whether related to dining, facilities, or sustainability, this feedback helped shape our advocacy efforts. Finally, we worked closely with Chef Tyler to review student concerns about dining services, sorting through the issues raised by students, clarifying processes, and communicating updates to ensure transparency and accountability.



WELL-BEING

ZACK RUIGHAVER

The RCSGA Well-Being Committee

has enjoyed a productive academic year focused on supporting UR students through a range of wellness initiatives. Early in the Fall 2025 semester, we met with a variety of leaders across campus (including VP Todd Adams, Dr. Morgan Russell-Stokes, and the rest of the University's Health and Well-Being Leadership Team) to discuss ideas related to mental health, physical health, and inclusion and belonging.

These conversations helped shape our priorities for the semester and guided our efforts to translate discussion into action.

Building on this foundation, our committee assisted with Richmond College's annual Self-Care Day at the end of October, promoting student engagement at various activity stations (e.g., massage chairs, guided meditation, therapy dogs, etc.).

During the last week of classes, we collaborated with WCGA to organize a successful mental health tabling event with coffee, fidget toys, and snacks.

To complement this programming, we also created four music playlists for stress relief, studying, meditation, and exercise (available on the RCSGA YouTube channel!).

Our committee carried this momentum into the Spring 2026 semester, with several projects already underway. We allocated a portion of RCSGA funds to sponsor UR students to participate in the Monument Avenue 10k. Additionally, we are focusing on improvements related to the gym experience, including clearer weight labeling in both pounds and kilograms, and assessing the feasibility of swiping UR IDs for gym access. Beyond these efforts, we are also working with WCGA to expand the accessibility of hygiene products in women's and gender-neutral restrooms across campus. Looking ahead to the rest of the semester, we will be assisting RCSGA Senator Ethan Cole Callahan with a tabling event for promoting neurodiversity awareness. Overall, our committee has a number of exciting projects in progress, and we are eager to support student well-being in meaningful and inclusive ways.



PHOTO GALLERY



CONTACT US



@WEAREWCGA
@WE.ARE.RCSGA



VERBUM VITAE ET LUMEN SCIENTIAE

WORD OF LIFE AND LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE

