

WCGA & RCSGA



Spring Newsletter



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WCGA & RCSGA PRESENT OUR Spring Newsletter

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

Dear Spiders,

The Westhampton College Government Association (WCGA) and the Richmond College Student Government Association (RCSGA) are excited to continue working together this year to represent and advocate for all students at the University of Richmond. Former presidents Amal Ali and Alfie Price upheld this tradition and worked hard to ensure that the governments were innovative and productive. We want to thank them for all the time and effort they put into serving our student body. Both bodies did amazing work last year, and we are looking forward to building on the momentum and continuing to maximize the student experience on campus. We will be expanding our joint efforts and strengthening our partnership to further unify our campus.

Sincerely,

Karine Nguyen & Sassan Fahim





LEADERSHIP

WESTHAMPTON COLLEGE

Amal Ali

President

Andi Punishill

Chair of Senate

Meklet Berihun

Chair of Academic Affairs

Olga Rokhlenko

Chair of External Affairs

Katherine Nguyen

Chair of Financial Affairs

Sawyer Bernard

Chair of Student Affairs

Rose Collins

Secretary

RICHMOND COLLEGE

Alfie Price

President

Jonathan Garner

Speaker of the Senate

Angel-Xavier Elizondo

Vice President of Administration

Nick Cicchetti

Vice President of Academic Affairs

CJ Blastos

Vice President of Student Affairs

John Paschold

Vice President of Finance

Seth Jones

Vice President of Campus Services

Brenden Schildkraut

Vice President of Wellbeing

Jack Raiz

Secretary

CHAIR OF SENATE

ANDI PUNISHILL



This spring, WCGA oversaw various student-facing events and initiatives. We hosted our annual Random Acts of Kindness Week, providing a new activity or service each day for our students, faculty, and staff. For the second year in a row, we collaborated with RCSGA to table for Neurodiversity Awareness Week, educating students about neurodiversity and the importance of understanding our differences. We also held our annual Pizza over the Patriarchy event, where students came together to eat pizza, receive educational resources, and build community. Internally, we made a series of constitutional edits this semester, refining our attendance policy and bringing our constitution up to date with our administrative process. Finally, we welcomed many visitors to our meetings this semester, including President Hallock and Upen Malani, the head of Dining Services. It has been a great semester of service for WCGA, and we look forward to continuing to serve our campus community next year!



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MEKLET BERIHUN

This spring semester, the Academic Affairs Committee focused heavily on improving IB Credit transparency. We collaborated with the deans to clarify university policy on IB Credits and explored how students can better advocate for their credits to be recognized.

Shelby did an outstanding job working with Dr. Maurantonio on registration concerns and WELL100 classes. The Registrar's Office is planning to table on campus to gather student feedback and discuss ways to improve the registration process for everyone.

Alli has been instrumental in collaborating with faculty to secure outdoor seating and organize events for Neurodiversity Week, both of which will and have had an impact on our campus community.

In addition, Natalia and I are participating in a working group of faculty and staff focused on improving access to course materials. We are hearing presentations from three different vendors, and the group will soon select the best fit for the university's needs.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NICK CICHETTI



Last spring, Academic Affairs had a wonderfully productive semester! We reified our plans to bring Canva Pro free to all students (which is handily being used to create this newsletter!) Grammarly Premium is next to come, so be on the lookout.

While the project was a team effort, it was undoubtedly spearheaded by Nick Cicchetti, former VP of Academic Affairs, who graduated and is now on to bigger and better.

We plan to hit the ground running with new initiatives aimed at improving the academic well-being around campus.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OLGA ROKHLENKO

The External Affairs committee has been at work to increase the transparency between WCGA and students. One example of that is the newsletter you are reading right now! We have also continually updated our website, Instagram, Linktree, and marketing materials to ensure that information is openly available and accessible to students.



The External Affairs committee has been instrumental in continuing the working relationship between RCSGA and WCGA, and we look forward to more joint efforts (like this newsletter) in the future!

We have also been busy posting Project Spotlights, demonstrating the work of the other WCGA Committees. You can find those on our Instagram! We have also made all the posts advertising WCGA events, such as the Mental Health Day and Random Acts of Kindness Week.

We are excited to keep serving you next year!

STUDENT AFFAIRS

CJ BLASTOS



This semester, RCSGA's Student Affairs Committee prioritized the rollout of Project P.A.C.E. (Professional & Accessible Campus Engagement), a modernization initiative designed to strengthen student government outreach and provide new tools to better connect with the Richmond College community.

Following the revitalization of RCSGA's social media presence - including a revamped Instagram account (with engagement increases up to 395%), a standardized Canva brand, and the launch of a dedicated website page - our committee has introduced weekly meeting recaps to promote transparency and ensure students remain informed about ongoing initiatives.

Moreover, Student Affairs members are exploring additional initiatives, including the placement of charging stations in key campus locations, the expansion of dining options in Dhall and beyond, and collaboration with other committees to evaluate campus lighting improvements.

The Student Affairs Committee is stronger than ever - equipped, motivated, and focused on translating student input into real policy results. We look forward to increasing our momentum and continuing to deliver meaningful outcomes for Richmond College, with excellence in all we do.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

KATHERINE NGUYEN

On March 22nd and 23rd, the SOBAC committee from WCGA and RCSGA allocated funding for the 2025–2026 academic year. With \$220,000 available for distribution, 62 student organizations submitted funding requests. In the end, \$219,606.85 was allocated. SOBAC Weekend featured presentations from 41 clubs on Saturday, March 22nd, followed by the committee’s deliberation process on Sunday, March 23rd.

For the 2024–2025 academic year, Contingency Funding saw a total of \$23,691.67 in requests, with \$11,070.35 requested from WCGA. In Fall 2024, 12 clubs requested \$14,696 total (\$7,090 from WCGA), and \$9,280.58 was allocated overall (\$4,209.54 from WCGA). In Spring 2025, 10 clubs requested \$8,995.67 (\$3,980.35 from WCGA), and \$7,760.67 was allocated (\$3,880.35 from WCGA). In total, 22 clubs were supported through Contingency Funding, with WCGA allocating \$8,089.89 for the year.



FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

JOHN PASCHOLD



This last semester on the RCSGA Finance committee, our primary focus was on the SOBAC Annual Funding weekend. Throughout the second semester, we assisted organizations with their annual funding applications, holding workshops to better prepare them for success. In late March, we held the SOBAC weekend, where we spent Saturday hosting presentations from organizations, and Sunday deliberating and allocating the funding. This was an incredibly rigorous process, involving two very late nights and hard work by the committee. We will continue this work this coming year, and look forward to working with all the Student Organizations!

STUDENT AFFAIRS

SAWYER BERNARD



This semester, the Student Affairs Committee focused on tackling student concerns that we gathered in the fall from student concerns tabling. We continued to meet with Dining Services this spring to address concerns about food on campus, and expect to see standardized prices soon for making dairy-free and gluten-free substitutions across all retail locations as a result. Additionally, due to the efforts of Senator Nandita Hareesh, Housing will be piloting bathroom shelves in the communal bathrooms of one of the residence halls on the Richmond side of campus next semester. We are also happy to announce that we expanded the campus's sustainability efforts this semester. As a product of our work with Rethink Waste, students who live in UFAs and Gateways now have access to compost collection bins at all dumpster locations. We encourage any students living in on-campus apartments to take advantage of the compost services provided by Rethink Waste.

In addition to working on these projects, Student Affairs also hosted a midterms mental health event in March where we passed out coffee, pastries, and stress toys for free in Tyler Haynes Commons. We loved hosting this event and giving back to the Richmond community during a stressful time. Thank you to everyone who helped the event run smoothly. Overall, senators in the Student Affairs Committee had another productive semester. We hope everyone has a great summer and look forward to serving our community again in the fall!

CAMPUS SERVICES

SETH JONES

As your VP of Campus Services, I've been working closely with students and campus partners to improve daily life at WCGA. This month, I had the opportunity to table with WCGA and listen to student concerns directly. I also met with Dining Services to explore new dining plan options and healthier late-night food choices. These improvements are part of the commitments tied to the new 8:15 space currently under construction. Looking ahead, I'm focusing on creating more art installations and green spaces across campus to enhance our environment and aesthetics. Next semester, I'm also planning to expand efforts around sustainability to ensure a more eco-friendly campus.



STUDENT WELL-BEING

BRENDEN SCHILDKRAUT



RCSGA's Well-Being Committee was just recently established this past November. Our goal is to enhance the University's culture of well-being in collaboration with resources across campus, especially the Health and Well-Being Unit and the Dean's Offices. We believe in a holistic approach that integrates the many facets of well-being, including (but not limited to) physical health, mental health, spiritual health, inclusion, belonging, and community. In October, we are excited to be assisting the Richmond College Dean's Office with their "You Matter" programming, which will include Cup O' Joe, a speaker panel, a ropes course, and a self-care day with massage chairs, therapy dogs, and yoga (more details to follow!). The RCSGA Well-Being Committee looks forward to cultivating a healthier, happier campus community this upcoming year!

PHOTO GALLERY



CONTACT US



@WEAREWCGA

@WE.ARE.RCSGA



VERBUM VITAE ET LUMEN SCIENTAE

WORD OF LIFE AND LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE

wearewcfga.com

rc.richmond.edu/engagement/student-government.html