



RCSGA & WCGA



NEWSLETTER

**University of Richmond
Annual Report (2021-2022)**



Main Entrance



Richmond College Student Government Association & Westhampton College Government Association

2021-2022

RCSGA LEADERSHIP

Anthony Lawrence
President

Sai Poluri
Administration

Arju Patel
Speaker of the Senate

Reide Petty
Academic Affairs

Noah Goldberg
Student Affairs

Kevin Spear
Finance

Jalen Jones
External Affairs

Karthik Lalwani
Executive Secretary

Sai Poluri
2022 Class Chair

Mohamad Hussein
2023 Class Chair

William Emerson
2024 Class Chair

Alfie Price
2025 Class Chair

WCGA LEADERSHIP

Penny Hu
President

Meghna Melkote
Chair of Senate

Jordan Jones
Academic Affairs

Lauren Oligino
Student Affairs

Ushna Arshad Khan
Financial Affairs

Reeja Khan
External Affairs

Amal Ali
Executive Secretary

Mia Dini
2022 Class President

Lily Dickson
2023 Class President

Annika Juergen
2024 Class President

Abby Spiller
2025 Class President

Richmond College Student Government Association & Westhampton College Government Association

WHAT WE DO

We are a group of students, elected by students, who advocate for student needs on campus. Our aim is to amplify student voices on campus and to promote our University's values.

More information can be found in our RCSGA and WCGA Year in Review found on our websites and [linked here](#).

CONTACT US



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Richmond College Student Government Association & Westhampton College Government Association

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

As the year is coming to an end we thought it would be important to take a trip down memory lane and highlight some of our initiatives and accomplishments. This year has had its ups and its downs but in the end, we were able to help steer this University in a positive direction.

During this year, RCSGA and WCGA hit the ground running and supported different communities in the face of adversity. Some highlights include fundraising for organizations like SASAV, supporting the CARE office, seeing the development of the Callisto website, and sponsoring the Byron Hurt lecture. Our fight against sexual violence neither started nor ended this year, there is still much work to do, but we are elated to see how much further we have come.

Tangible change in the form of resolutions was another important theme in our bodies this year. The resolution to integrate gender dynamics into the Well 100 curriculum, and get community representatives on the Board of Trustees were at the front of our minds. Both of these initiatives were successful! We know it is increasingly essential to advocate for students' voices to be heard at the table where change is made and that will always be a goal of the WCGA and the RCSGA.

We saw the conclusion of an initiative started by prior RCSGA and WCGA representatives and had incredible, sustained, and powerful advocacy and activism from the Black Student Coalition, representatives on the Naming Principles Commission, and countless student support. Thankfully, a sigh of relief could be had this year as the names of six buildings came down. We all did it together - thank you to everyone who took the surveys, voiced your opinions, and stood up for what you believed was right!

As we close this letter and this chapter of the year, we want you to know that we thank you for the opportunity to represent you, and we thank you for trusting us to lead with love, dedication, and a selfless desire to see this school flourish like never before. Although this year will come to an end, we, like those who will come after us, will keep you in our hearts, advocating for, fighting for, and working for you, adding our voices to yours.

With love,

**Anthony Lawrence, President of the 106th body of the RCSGA
Penny Hu, President of the 107th body of the WCGA**

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

Academic Affairs

The Academic Affairs Committee has been primarily focused on cultivating a productive relationship between the student government and the Faculty Senate. Ensuring that the faculty are aware of student concerns is a crucial component in any campus movement, and They have helped to accomplish that by keeping open lines of communication. In particular, Academic Affairs has been tracking the progress of the Africana Studies department and providing input into the hiring process by helping to interview new candidates for teaching roles. Motivating the university community to demand an Africana Studies Department took a momentous effort last year, and now it's up to us to make sure that change goes smoothly.

In addition to this initiative, Academic Affairs has been focused on bringing student concerns regarding COVID-19 and class absences to the faculty. Additionally, they played a part in the passing of the new General Education Curriculum through the Faculty Senate. They have pushed and will continue to push, to make sure that no student unable to attend class is left behind by their professor.

Finance/Financial Affairs

The Finance Committee lead by WCGA Comittee Chair, Ushna Arshad Khan and RCSGA Comittee Vice President, Kevin Spear focuses on one main task: making sure that student organizations at the University of Richmond get the funding and financial support they need through both the contingency and regular SOBAC process after reviewing the guidelines and evaluating applications. During the spring semester, financial affairs is responsible for all the logistics of SOBAC processes. This involves hosting information sessions, office hours, as well as deliberations. The committee also revises SOBAC guidelines annually and proposes new guidelines to the Student Governments accordingly.

Additionally, the financial affairs committee also manages the contingency budget. The contingency is an extra pool of funding for student organizations to pull from during the year on a need by need basis.

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

External Affairs

Vice President Jalen Jones and Committee Chair Reeja Khan along with their teams, have been productive this past semester. Both committees worked very closely on running the naming and logo competition along with the voting process for the new student organization lodge. Moreover, both committees collaborated with web warrior to implement a digital covid campaign in an effort to keep the community safe and aware. WCGA also implemented weekly Instagram agenda previews in an effort to create transparency between students and the student government and to open a platform where students would get the chance to submit questions.

Moreover, this semester, Chair Khan worked on continuing an ongoing tradition of implementing Westhampton week, a week to celebrate Westhampton history along with promoting values of inclusivity and supporting fellow peers.

Overall, VP Jones and Chair Khan had a great time working together and ensuring transparency and open flow of information on campus.

Administration/Administrative Affairs

This year, the Administration committee worked on constitutional edits, including attendance and election policies, as well as planning events within RCSGA and WCGA. They are also responsible for making sure that the meetings run smoothly.

RCSGA VP of Admin, Sai Poluri, was responsible for planning running the elections for the academic year 2022-2023.

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

Student Affairs

The Student Affairs Committee's work focuses on fostering a safe, happy, and healthy student community. In order to more accurately address these needs, RCSGA and WCGA have done all joint meetings and projects this academic year. Operating as a joint committee, they have supported the implementation of Spider Safe Walks, an app allowing students to request a walking buddy who will escort them across campus at night. Moreover, they ran the book exchange to cut textbook costs, and help organize the lantern event.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR COMMENTS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO ANY OF US!



Richmond College Student Government Association & Westhampton College Government Association

CLASS PRESIDENT/CHAIR REPORT

The Class Presidents/Chairs of Westhampton College and Richmond College have been working together to foster the notions of sustainability and support for their fellow spiders!

Here are a few examples of their efforts:

During the Fall 2021 finals week, WCGA and RCSGA Class Chairs and Presidents worked together to come together to lift off some of the stress from the student body by distributing cups filled with snacks and their love and care for the community. The initiative turned out to be successful as all the cups were distributed within a short time period!

In collaboration, both RCSGA and WCGA class of 2023 chair and president, Mohammad Hussein and Lily Dickson initiated a program called FLI4FLI. Currently, they are working closely with the FLI director within the Student Center for Equity, and Inclusion. The program will aim to connect sophomore and junior FLI students to better understand the aspects of college that they were not aware of.

In RCSGA, the class of 2025 Chair, Alfie Price, took the initiative to eliminate presence of mold in first year dorms. Also, he worked with other students to organize a mental health event that allowed for the often stigmatized phenomenon of mental health to be brought to the fore, and normalized.

As the threat of Covid-19 decreases, the Chairs and Presidents hope that next semester the new Student Organization Lodge, The Cave, will allow for us to have a space for class events where we can actually all be together.

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Resolutions

Building Name Survey Resolution

Resolved: Students to have a voice in finalizing the decisions made by Board of Trustees and naming principles commission regarding building names: Ryaland Hill and Mitchell-Freeman Hall

Gender Dynamic Resolution

Resolved: Changing the WELL 100 course in order to accurately address topics such as gender dynamics, rape culture, male privilege, and toxic masculinity.

Called on the university to expand its gender dynamics discourse to include non-binary identities and to incorporate intersectionality across all lesson plans. Lastly, allowing student organizations to be involved in shaping class content.

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Resolutions

Interim Name Change Resolution

Resolved: Request the University to create an interim name for what is now Ryland hall while the Naming Principles Commission formulates their principles

Call for a historically and politically neutral interim name for Mitchell-Freeman Hall while the Naming Principles Commission formulates guiding principles and procedures.

Request that the Naming Commission, University, and Board of Trustees consider the requests in a timely fashion and with elevated priority.

Student and Staff Trustees

Resolved: Request the University of Richmond Board of Trustees to expand the Board with a Richmond College and a Westhampton College undergraduate student and a staff trustee.

Call on the Board of Trustees to be more transparent with any decision-making process related to the University of Richmond

Recommend the Board or Trustee members to engage more with the campus community, host an annual event to meet with all community members other than the student representatives

Quick Glimpse of the Year



Verbum Vitae et Lumen Scientiae

Word of Life and the Light of Knowledge

