



RUSGA News, October 2022

Hello!

My name is Madelaine and I am the elected Student Body President for the academic 2022/23 year. Incidentally, I'm the youngest student body president in Regis history. What that means is that I am here for more than just another year, and I have a vested interest in the goals I've set out for our student government. When I first arrived on campus I assumed that student government was elitist and ineffective. You may not think that student government will affect you this year, but I have been working hard to achieve three goals: diversity, representation, and transparency.

My cabinet represents every student and degree program. This year RUSGA representatives are led by Grecia Anaya who is our VP of Social Justice and Diversity, Iris Jaramillo as our VP of Representation, Nelisse Niyongabo as our VP of Involvement, and Chantele Owusu as our VP of Academic Life.

If you have an issue, I want to make sure it is addressed. There are several ways you can do this: our RUSGA instagram account, directly emailing RUSGA members, and Friday coffee table discussions with me.

We are working towards creating transparency between the students and the Regis Administration. Regis values your voice! It is important for you to know where your tuition is being used and how you can make the most of your Regis experience. The Regis University Student Government Association seeks to represent, empower, and advocate for the diverse needs of all students and community members by promoting inclusion, student leadership, transparency and well-being. By ensuring equal access to students, RUSGA strives to build a successful and involved student body that is on the forefront of social justice and dialogue. Through collaborative action, our organization is dedicated towards the fulfillment of the University policy and intersectionality of student experiences, providing rewarding pursuits in community strength.

Below, I have included some RUSGA updates and statements from your representatives, so be sure to check them out!

RUSGA Town Hall Meetings

RUSGA is developing a new program that seeks to collaborate with departments, administration, staff and faculty, and students to explore long lasting modes of transparency and communication. What this will look like is an open Town Hall meeting that students are welcome to attend in Walker's Pub from 4:30pm-6pm every other Thursday, with a specific focus on one invited department, admin, etc. Students can submit questions before the meeting to maintain a focus and time effective agenda which will be reviewed before the meeting. The first meeting was held on October 13 with it reoccurring every two weeks.

The focus of the first RUSGA Town Hall Meeting was with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence and Student Senate to engage in thoughtful discussion surrounding anti-racism within the classroom and student concerns. Through this initial meeting, our objective is to provide clarification and effective action on how to advocate, protect, and enhance the student experience both inside and outside of the classroom when it comes to student diversity and equity.

My executive cabinet and I would like to invite you all to join us in this new program. We look forward to you being able to join us and advocate for a more student-centric and informed institute in the months to follow.

Addressing Student Concerns

In light of recent student concerns and the community experience of disconnect, lack of safety, and the unheard voices of the student body, RUSGA is dedicated to creating a platform from which students may speak and come together to support one another. We would like to encourage students to reach out to us to have a conversation on how best we may support students and their needs.

In recognition of the work accomplished now, I have been working in tandem with Barbara Wilcots, Dave Law, Karen Riley, Cody Teets, and Administration to create a space for students to advocate their needs and foster a community of transparency and collaboration between students and the University. Understandably, the process is slow and frustrating, however I have been able to accomplish student outreach, networking, and welcoming more voices to the table.

Grecia has been collaborating with Nicki Gonzales and staff/Administration in helping to create the Friday student lead diversity dialogues (Good Trouble Dialogues), in which students are encouraged to facilitate thoughtful and considerate conversation on diversity, intersectionality, and how we may all strengthen our community. As well, she has also been collaborating with the Office of Diversity and other campus partners to coordinate a Dia de los Muertos celebration on Nov. 1st to bring the greater Regis community together in celebration and awareness of Hispanic Traditions.

Additionally, Iris has been leading the student Senate on University policy review, student advocacy and representation, and proving strength and connection with clubs and organizations. Iris has been able to accomplish a forum of student representation and advocacy, and has been able to begin work on amending University policy to provide for the support and well-being of all students at Regis.

In academics, Chantele has been developing conversation and spaces with Karen Riley to strengthen students' academic experiences and connect with faculty to better support the needs of students within the classroom.

Lastly, through fun and inclusive programs, Nelisse has worked to build a culture of inclusion, school spirit, and pride in our community, and has been collaborating with student athletics to show support for our Regis teams. As well, Nelisse has been working with Dave Law and the Programming Board to host events and support clubs and organizations on campus.

As a student group, RUSGA would like to offer solidarity and recognition of student's experiences both on and off campus and personally offer gratitude for the hard work that students Chekka Christilles and Michele To have offered the student body through the Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention and Programming Board organizations. The detailed and hard work that both these two students have contributed in service of the student experience has been thoughtful, fun, and a resource for all of us here at Regis. Thank you Chekka and Michele! If you would like to nominate a student, staff, or faculty member that has gone above and beyond for the Regis community please email RUSGA at rusgaprs@regis.edu.

Helpful Links and Resources

RUSGA is dedicated towards providing effective and engaging modes of communication with the student body in an equitable manner. You can find our updates and other news on our Instagram: @regis_rusga and our website at www.rusga.org

For more information on the Office of Student Affairs please check out the official Regis University webpage Student Affairs to find the Student HandBook, Community Standards and Care, and resources to complete Incident Report Form, Reporting Discrimination Bias and Retaliation Form, Reporting Sexual Misconduct Form, and Reporting a Student of Concern Form. If you need assistance with these forms or have further questions please contact me at rusgaprs@regis.edu.

We encourage you to reach out and we want you to know your voice does matter and we, as your student government, are working to make your Regis experience not only fun, but successful! Your student government has an open door policy and we want you to reach out with your ideas and concerns. We are excited to have you all get involved this semester and build a stronger Regis community.

With gratitude,

Madelaine Johnson (she/hers),
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