



**Tuesday, November 4th, 2025**

## **RHA Senate passes 2 more bills, hosts Fall Town Hall**



**November 4th, 2025** - The Maryland Residence Hall Association (RHA) hosted its first Town Hall two weeks ago on Thursday where Dennis Passarella-George, Chris Moore, John Blackwood, Amanda Spella, and Daniel Satterthwaite talked about different developments on

campus relating to resident life, dining, resident facilities, transportation, and community and belonging. Two bills, [GAR001F](#) and [SJE001F](#), were also passed during last week's Senate.

During the Town Hall, Dennis Passarella-George, Director of Resident Life shared information on upcoming campus events to foster collaboration and community, many of which are geared towards the holidays.

John Blackwood, Director of Residence Facilities also announced that Ellicott Hall is getting AC with guaranteed funding. He also shared that there have been improvements in Chestertown Hall with new air conditioning and increased bathroom privacy.

Amanda Spella, the representative for the Department of Transportation stated that break transportation during Fall Break was very successful as low cost bus options were available from College Park to New York, New Jersey, and BWI. The Department will be doing this for Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break as well.

Chris Moore, Director of Dining Services shared that Thanksgiving meals will be on November 19th. and that Holiday dinner will be on December 11th. It was also shared that there have been staffing issues due to some hiring freezes so the Dining Services Department in the process of getting critical positions filled.

The last speaker, Daniel Satterwaite, the Graduate Coordinator for Community and Belonging shared that dialogue and community advocates have assisted group training for RA's and supported their programming.

Last week the RHA Senate also passed two more bills.

The first bill, [GAR001F](#), was passed with a vote of 18-0-1. It is a resolution to support the University of Maryland Waste Audit Grant Proposal which aims to reduce waste on campus by collecting and sampling waste in various locations.

The second bill passed was [SJE001F](#) which passed with a vote of 18-0-2. It is a resolution to partner with UMD's Thrive Center in order to provide free laundry detergent to students in need.

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome Terps!

Did you have a spooky Halloween? RHA certainly did with our Halloween/Hoco senate meeting! Even spookier, we'll be heading up to Slippery Rock University at the end of this week for CAACURH, where our delegation will be taking the Homecoming energy with us to represent UMD at our regional conference!

The exec board has been eagerly at work putting together award bids for Sustainability and Student Award for Leadership Training (SALT) and having our delegation help us make pins for trading. In our absence, Sustainability Committee (SCOM) has been working with Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) and American Conservation Coalition (ACC) to save our beaver friends down in Eppley, and Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB), Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLAtE), and Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB) have been hearing fee proposals before they're brought to our next senate. I thank them all for their efforts!

Best wishes,

- Emily Shoemaker, RHA Vice-President 2025-2026

## Senate Summary (10/28/2025)

- [MINUTES](#)

- **PASSED (18-o-1) - RESOLUTION [GAR1001F](#)**: A Resolution to Support the University of Maryland Waste Audit Grant Proposal
- **PASSED (18-o-2) - RESOLUTION [SJE001F](#)**: A Resolution to Partner with UMD's Thrive Center for Essential Needs to Provide Free Laundry Detergent
- **Executive Team + Committee Updates**

## Committee Corner

**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**: works with the University's Department of Transportation Services (DOTS). Committee Coordinator: *Attowla Kouadio* ([akouadi1@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:akouadi1@terpmail.umd.edu))

- Meetings are virtual on Thursdays biweekly @ 1:00 - 1:50pm
- Come with any ideas, complaints, concerns, or curiosities about transportation!

**Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACom)**: works to ensure students feel safe and comfortable on campus. Committee Coordinator: *Giselle Maravilla* ([gmaravil@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:gmaravil@terpmail.umd.edu))

- DIACom will be meeting on Thursday Nov 6th @ 5:00 - 6:00pm on Zoom

**Sustainability Committee (SCOM)**: works on issues that concern the university's green initiatives. Committee Coordinator: *Claire Bushar* ([cbushar@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:cbushar@terpmail.umd.edu))

- Big thank yous!
  - Nithin for helping out with Campus Sustainability Month Tabling!!
  - Nithin and Gabe for collaborating on SCOM Waste Audit legislation :))
- Still working on planning Beaver Dam cleanup with SOA and ACC!
- Next SCOM Meeting: Thursday, 10/30, 4-5 pm, virtual
- Link sent out over Slack in the SCOM channel!
  - You're welcome to join us even if SCOM isn't your "official" committee

**Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB)**: works with the dining services directors to accommodate student's dining recommendations. Committee Coordinator: *Inemesit Udoakang* ([iudoakan@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:iudoakan@terpmail.umd.edu))

- No updates!

**Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATE)**: works directly with the Department of Resident Life to understand the issues faced by the on-campus residents and solve them. Committee Coordinator: *Nicole Barnes* ([nbarnes3@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:nbarnes3@terpmail.umd.edu))

- No major updates!
- ReLATE committee dates are 11/5, 11/19, and possibly one final meeting in December.

- If you ever have any ideas for improving resident life on campus please feel free to reach out to me via email or Slack!

**Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB):** works with the structures and attributes that directly affect students living in the resident halls. Committee Coordinator: *Jonas Marquart* ([jmarqua1@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:jmarqua1@terpmail.umd.edu))

- Meetings are still bi-weekly 4:30 - 5:30pm (next meeting is 11/13!)
  - @ McKeldin Library: Rm. **2113**

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A COMMITTEE!](#)

## Looking Ahead

- Watch out for some cool Winter Events coming up!!
- **Thursday, November 20th:** General Body Meeting (7:30 - 9:30p.m. @ TBD)
- **Tuesday, November 11th:** RHA Senate (7 p.m. @ ESJ 2204)
- **Tuesday, December 2nd:** RHA Senate (7 p.m. @ Stamp Charles Carroll 2203K)

## Photo Gallery

Photos from Town Hall and Senate!



Sustainability Tabling @ Hornbake Plaza



Senator Recognition: Praneel to Nithin



Claire and Nithin Manikandan @ Sustainability Tabling



Sara, Claire, Vee, and Anya @ Town Hall



Guest speakers Dennis Passarella-George, John Blackwood, and  
Amanda Spella @ Town Hall

All guest speakers @ Town Hall

Missed a previous newsletter? Click [here](#) to see all of the RHA newsletters from past school years.

Have an on-campus idea, comment, or concern? Contact us or visit our website!



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