



the university of maryland
RHA ROUNDUP

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

RHA Senate votes to create mental health committee for next year



April 23 -- The Maryland Residence Hall Association Senate voted 14-0-1 to pass a resolution establishing "an ad-hoc committee to focus on issues related to mental health" for the 2024-2025 academic year.

RHA will re-evaluate the committee at the end of next year to decide if the committee should continue. The chair of the committee will be elected during the first committee meeting.

All active RHA members will be eligible to join the committee. Any non-RHA members will be allowed to attend committee meetings, but will not have committee privileges.

"There's a clear mental health crisis that needs to be addressed," said Jax Metzbowe, the author of the resolution and a senator from Cumberland Hall.

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone!

It is so nice to be formally acquainted with you all. We are so excited to get to work on our big plans for next year, and we hope that all of you reading will be a part of that! A big congratulations to our newly confirmed Senators-at-Large and Coordinators, as well as our appointees to the new executive team! We truly have found the brightest, most passionate and hardworking people for each position and are so excited to see each person flourish in their roles!

We want to say a sincere thank you to Erika Holdren and Quentin Hogle, our outgoing president and vice president, respectively. They have poured themselves into every role they have held in RHA, especially this year, and though we will miss them, we can not wait to see all the amazing things they will do. We would also like to thank all the administrators and fellow student organizations who have never wavered in their support for RHA. Finally, we want to say a big thank you to YOU! Thank you so much for all the hard work and support you have given to RHA, and your efforts do not go unnoticed and we appreciate you deeply.

You will be hearing a lot more from us, so stay tuned! Hope to see all of you at Year End Reception on May 7!

- *Samantha Briggs, RHA President, and Michelle Ameyaw, RHA Vice President*

2023 - 2024 RHA Year in Review

The Residence Hall Association, or RHA, is the premier student governing body representing on-campus students. RHA represents over 12,000 students living in high-rises, apartments, and suites owned by the University of Maryland. RHA has dual-purpose: to advocate for student ideas through its legislative assembly, the Senate, and to promote community building among residents via event programming.

This year, RHA:

- passed 25 resolutions and 4 acts/special orders
- hosted over 50 programming/community events
- engaged with administrators through 2 town halls and 5 RHA Senate guest speaker presentations
- collaborated with at least 17 other student organizations

[READ MORE](#)



Save the date! Join us for the Maryland Residence Hall Association Year-End Reception (only open to RHA councils, Senate members, and the Executive Board). Enjoy food and drinks as we celebrate everything RHA's accomplished this year!

The reception will be held in the STAMP Colony Ballroom on Tuesday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Senate Summary (4/23/24)

- **Agenda**
- **SPECIAL ORDER:** Senior Associate Vice President for Well-Being Dr. Warren Kelley
- **PASSED (14-0-1):** **Resolution JAM001S** (A Resolution to Create an Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee)
- **Confirmation of 2024-2025 Senators-at-Large:**
 - Nicole Barnes
 - Michaela James
- **Confirmation of 2024-2025 Coordinators:**

- Mikhail Labar, Dining Services Advisory Board Coordinator (DSAB)
- Emily Shoemaker, Sustainability Coordinator (SCOM)
- Anya Olson, Resident Facilities Coordinator (ReFAB)
- Akash Balenalli, Transportation Advisory Coordinator (TAC)
- Selam Fesseha, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator (DIACOM)
- Kevin Duru, Resident Life Coordinator (ReLAtE)



Erika H. received the "Senate Book" from Sam B. for their strong participation at Senate.

Committee Corner (year-end edition)

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): works with the university's Department of Transportation Services (DOTS).

- This year TAC:
 - Got a study for Knox Road passed at the College Park City Council
 - Began work for a scooter charging pilot
 - Helped support DOTS' bikeways
 - Investigated parking issues (an ongoing project!)
-

Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACOM): works to ensure students feel safe and comfortable on campus.

- DIACOM this year was amazing! It truly has been an honor to be a coordinator and to work with the VPs of Diversity and Inclusion.
 - DIACOM is only DIACOM because of the work the VPs bring forth and the ideas they contribute. It has been amazing to see how DIACOM has grown and blossomed. This year I'm proud that DIACOM:
 - Took the initiative to discuss concerns about Break Housing with the Director of Resident Life Dennis Passarella-George
 - Hosted Cultural Clothing Day to recognize, embrace and celebrate different cultures as well as to foster cultural awareness
-

Sustainability Committee (SCOM): works on issues that concern the university's green initiatives.

- SCOM is particularly proud of Maryland Beautification Day. It was a huge success!! (64 people in 9 different organizations collected 246 pounds of waste across campus!)
 - Our compost bin initiative had a slow startup, but we are excited to see the growth it will take next year. If you live in an apartment and are interested in a compost bin, please email [Ilene Stark](#)!
 - SCOM had a ton of tabling events and got a lot of people interested in RHA and making our campus more sustainable!
-

Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB): works with the dining services directors to accommodate student's dining recommendations.

- DSAB is proud of the implementation of the conversation flags to promote community in the dining halls.
 - We are also proud of organizing interactive events, such as the upcoming Spanish board game night on DATA, u, since it sets an important precedent.
 - Lastly, DSAB is proud of the work we did to publicize and bring more attention to our committee in order to welcome more feedback from on-campus residents.
-

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.

- ReLaTe reviewed and approved the housing fee for 2024-25
 - We also discussed ways to improve mental health for all on-campus residents
 - ReLaTe promoted the Campus Climate Survey ([please take it if you haven't yet!](#))
-

Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB): works with the structures and attributes that directly affect students living in the residence halls.

- ReFaB worked on improving the 4-work system through the implementation of the SHIFT program.
- ReFaB also explored options for new furniture in residence halls' common areas

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE OR CONTACT EACH COMMITTEE](#)

Photo Gallery

RHA Town Hall (4/16) + EarthFest (4/19)



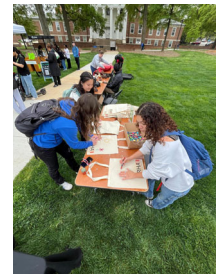
RHA Town Hall



RHA Town Hall



EarthFest (photo by Ilene Stark)



EarthFest (photo by Ilene Stark)

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

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



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