

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

The Voice of On-Campus Students

Designed and Compiled by Vivian Flanagan, Marketing and Technology Officer



PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

Scott Cronin

Hello friends,

The end of the year is finally upon us. I'm very glad we were able to spend this time together in person but I do feel as though it has made the time fly by. When I look back at the past year chronologically, I struggle to put things in the correct order. The first major event we held this year was the RHA Dance Party during Fall Welcome. Over 500 people attended and it made me extremely optimistic for the year. I saw so much potential in this organization that night.

Throughout the year, we have accomplished a lot. First, I would like to touch on the programming that RHA has done this year. All of our councils across campus have held so many successful events in their halls and communities. From egg hunts to carnivals, we have hosted dozens and dozens of events this year. We have heard amazing feedback from so many students across campus. I am unbelievably proud of every single person in every hall council for the work you have done. We build community like no other organization on this campus.

Aside from programming, we have also done some amazing advocacy this year. From the amazing and unprecedented progress we made with student fees, to the many resolutions we passed in the Senate, we have not stopped advocating for our constituents. And we never will.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with you all this year and I am so excited to do the same next year. Thank you for your hard work and I hope you all choose to return and continue to do the amazing work that RHA is capable of doing.

Sincerely,
Scott Cronin





VICE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

Jason Spizuoco

I was even more proud of the Senate this Spring than I was after the Fall semester. It was very clear that almost all of the senators had grown comfortable in their new shoes, and it was a wonderful sight to see. We saw a large increase in the number of senators who presented legislation, and even saw a few take up vacant positions of leadership. I am so proud of everyone who put time and effort into making RHA a better place, and thus UMD a better place. I truly hope that everyone returning to campus returns to RHA in some capacity and continues to shape campus for the best.

When I was elected vice president at the start of the year, I was very nervous. It wasn't a position I originally wanted nor did I think I was ready for. But I'm happy to say that the support from the entire organization made it an extremely rewarding experience that I am fortunate I had the privilege to be a part of. I have made friends with students from all over campus that I otherwise would have never met. Building community in this way is one of my favorite parts of RHA, and the VP position allowed me to do this to an even higher level than I had in previous years. For this I am most thankful. Always try to build community, I firmly believe it makes your time in college a lot happier and welcoming. Building community helps both yourself and others around you, so take some time every day to make a little conversation with those around you.

Finally, I look forward to hearing about RHA in future years. It will always be a part of me and a part of my time in college that I will look back on fondly. I hope that as many of you as possible can also find this sense of joy in RHA. I'll always be around if you'd like to talk, so feel free to reach out. Have a great summer, and good luck on the rest of your studies!

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ABOUT RHA

RHA is the primary student-governing body that represents the interests of the over 12,500 resident students at the University of Maryland. Each of **RHA's 15 hall and area councils** works to represent the interests of their hall or area's residents and to build community through fun and engaging events. Representatives from each council, called **Senators**, convene biweekly at **RHA Senate meetings** to **debate and vote on campus-level legislation**. RHA prides itself on its ability to effectively communicate student concerns to university administrators. **RHA regularly serves the Departments of Resident Life, Residential Facilities, Dining Services, Transportation Services, and the Office of Sustainability in an advisory capacity.** The organization also advocates for resident-driven policies and priorities on behalf of students living on campus. RHA is committed to empowering its student leaders to work to facilitate community development and campus engagement. It hopes to nurture a generation of leaders, ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

STUDENT FEES

Hi everyone,

As outgoing Student Fees Coordinator for RHA, I wanted to keep you all updated about the latest developments with mandatory fees. Before I begin I want to say that RHA is grateful to every department for their dedication with transparency and for giving students the opportunity to provide feedback on the student fee process.

This past semester, RHA Senate debated three resolutions on whether to support the plans to increase the rates for room and board, Dining Plans, and the Parking Permits paid by commuter students. After a thoughtful and careful debate, RHA decided to support the proposed increases for Dining Services and Resident Life but not for the Department of Transportation. As a result of RHA Senate advocacy work relating to DOTS, it is a pleasure to announce that DOTS is on track to hire 135 student workers as bus drivers with wages above \$15 dollar per hour. In addition, RHA has announced its support for a DOTS plan to add 10 - 12 new buses on routes starting in the summer and continuing throughout the years.

I would like to thank DOTS for being so responsive to student concerns and coming up with a plan that begins to get students better bus service while remaining affordable. Finally, mandatory fees continued to go through CRSF, up to the President's Cabinet, and make their way to the President and the Board of Regents. Thank you for an exciting year and if you have any questions please reach out!

Sincerely,
Aiden Wechsler



SENATE

Below is a list of all passed legislation from the Spring 2022 RHA Senate session.

RBA001S A Resolution Supporting an Immediate Increase in Hourly Minimum Wage to \$15 for Student Workers

NWM001S A Resolution to Provide RHA Support to Help Solve Issues Faced by BikeUMD

DLS001S A Resolution Urging Residential Facilities to Address Infrastructure Issues and Improve Flood Response Plans

SAC001S A Resolution to Support the Passing of the FUTURE Act

NRH001S A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fee Proposed by the Department of Dining Services for Fiscal Year 2023

RBA002S A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fees Proposed by the Departments of Residential Facilities and Resident Life for Fiscal Year 2023

SAC002S A Resolution Restoring the Constitutional Review Committee for the Spring 2022 Semester

Note: The Constitutional Review Committee (ReCON) is a committee erected on an as-needed basis, comprised of RHA members selected from a pool of applicants. ReCON seeks to make edits to RHA governing documents. ReCON legislation is denoted by the ReCON bill code (ReCON###S).

NWM003S A Resolution to Endorse the Pilot Test of the Department of Transportation's New Camera Parking Enforcement Protocols

SMD001S A Resolution Supporting the Student Crisis Fund as the Beneficiary of the Spring 2022 Dining Dollar Donation Drive

RBA003S A Resolution to Support Green Roofs and Walls on Campus

RBA004S A Resolution to Support the Institution of the Refillery Through Public Outreach Events

ReCON001S A Resolution to Create the Coordinator Position

SNB001S A Resolution Calling for Decarbonization by 2035

ReCON002S A Resolution to Reform the Senator-At-Large Position

ReCON003S A Resolution to Outline The Impeachment Process

ReCON004S A Resolution to Alter the Role of the Chair in Senate

ReCON005S A Resolution to Change the Powers of the President

ReCON006S A Resolution to Establish the Presidential Personnel

SENATE



Dining

Chair: Nikki Hamidi

Dining Services Advisory Board's (DSAB) focus is to improve the dining experience with the **Department of Dining Services** at all three of their current dining halls and convenience stores. Over this past semester, we generated creative ideas generated, namely culturally diverse additions to the menu. We wanted the dining hall experience to be more than just coming in to grab a meal, so we tailored our menu during holidays and nationally known events to include dishes like king cake during Mardi Gras, finger food during March Madness, and no meat options on Earth Day. Lastly, we created and presented a fee proposal that included paying dining services employees \$15 hourly starting wage.

Diversity and Inclusion

Co-Chairs: Jack Doggett, Quentin Hogland

The **Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACom)** is centered around inclusivity and appreciating diversity, thus the committee sought out to execute campaigns that would respect this focus alongside **Ben Beltran, Coordinator of the Common Ground Multicultural Dialogue Program**. This semester, we started with the Heritage Month Trivia Nights where residents got to learn more about Black History and Women's History. Most notably, Oakland Hall put on a Black History Month jeopardy night to impressive turnout. Throughout the semester, we also worked on Inclusive Language Campaign tabling events as well as efforts to talk to professors about using inclusive language in lectures. We wrapped up the semester by creating a calendar for next year with a lot of religious observances and holidays included. Thank you all for a great year and we look forward to doing more good work!

Police

Chair: Arav Patel

Vice Chair: Aquib Mokaddem

The **Resident and Police Committee (RPC)** is a joint partnership between RHA and the **University of Maryland Police Department (UMPD)**. Members of UMPD that attended meetings included **Chief Mitchell, Sgt. Hoaas, and Lt. Kenner**. The most pressing issue discussed over the course of the semester was mental health. The **Critical Intervention Team (CIT)** at UMPD allows officers in softer uniforms, as well as PG County officials, to be the lead respondent on mental health emergencies, meaning students will be less overwhelmed when incidents occur. RHA and UMPD also teamed up to attend a campus mental health awareness walk, which helped bond the community after hearing guests speak difficult stories of their past.

Residential Facilities

Chair: Reese Artero

Vice Chair: Crystal Niu

The **Residential Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB)**, overseen by **Director of Residential Facilities Andrea Crabb**, has worked diligently this semester to develop projects improving the quality of Resident Life. This past semester has been characterized by our theme of sustainability, especially in light of the upcoming construction projects outlined in the Strategic Plan. Members of ReFAB were invited to attend Strategic Plan brainstorms, and to tour the new Johnson Whittle Hall following its furnishment. Our largest accomplishments legislatively are highlighted through RBA003S, A Resolution to Support Green Roofs and Walls on Campus. We also discussed the distribution of feminine hygiene products at residential hall lobbies or front desks, as well as conveyed concerns over washroom privacy and other dormitory issues.

SENATE

“ This committee has been able to communicate UMD community issues...

Resident Life

Chair: Devorah Sklute

Vice Chair: Natalie Yeager

The **Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATE)** focuses on students' wellbeing and happiness in the Residence Halls, constantly searching for ways to make Terps' experiences in dorms better. This past semester, ReLate worked alongside **Dennis Passarella-George, the Director of Resident Life**. With Dennis, this committee has been able to communicate UMD community issues with the housing portal for room selection for Fall 2022, discuss initiatives for flooding issues, and began looking into ways to provide feminine hygiene products within dorm buildings. The discussion in ReLate contributed to flooding legislation passed within the senate (**DLS001S**). All of the topics discussed in committee have related to the mission of ReLate in that they have had a direct and profound impact on students' well being and overall happiness on campus both within and outside of residential halls.

Sustainability

Chair: Sam Briggs

Vice Chair: Ben Goforth

The **Sustainability Committee of Maryland (SCOM)** discusses and creates initiatives to promote sustainability on campus in collaboration with **Lisa Alexander, Coordinator of Sustainability Programs**. A few from this past semester are SustainableUMD, GreenTerp, the Arboretum, SOA, and the Campus Recycling and Solid Waste Unit. Our largest initiative was the Adopt-a-Garden initiative in partnership with the Arboretum. We have largely supported the Refillery through financial and advocacy routes. Finally, we tabled at EarthDay Fest, and informing students about what we do.



Transportation

Chair: Nicholas Marks

The **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)** liaises to UMD'S **Department of Transportation Services (DOTS)** through our partnership with **DOTS Director, David Allen**. This semester, TAC called on DOTS to provide additional funding, personnel, and resources to **BikeUMD (NWM001S)**. This resolution has been credited with the development of the bike lanes on campus that will be constructed by the end of next year. Also, RHA supported the implementation of a pilot test for a parking camera program that would help remedy much of the complaints our organization has about student fees (**NWM003S**). In many ways, it was a follow-up to a bill from the fall that advocated against the continuous raises of student fees.

PROGRAMMING

This semester, RHA's councils hosted dozens of engaging and informative events for their residents.

For Valentine's Day, several councils passed out candy grams - Denton Hall even welcomed Teddy the Terp to help deliver them!

For Black History Month, SHAC and Centreville hosted their own trivia nights. Cumberland Hall hosted a bra and menstrual products drive and Easton hosted a Sexual Assault Awareness Month panel.

As the weather became warmer, the councils collaborated to host the North Campus Field Day and South Campus Carnival, complete with games, free food, and raffles. Councils also took part in UMD's Earth Day festivities alongside SCOM members.



ACE COMPETITION WINNERS

Council

1st Place: South Hill

2nd Place: Cumberland

3rd Place: Ellicott, La Plata

Member

Natalie Yeager

YEAR-END RECEPTION

On April 26, RHA hosted its annual Year-End Reception to celebrate the accomplishments of its members and present awards to outstanding individuals. Here are this year's winners:

<i>Tracey Kiras Outstanding Advisor Award</i>	Tiffany Harris
<i>President of the Year Award</i>	Livi Carey
<i>Member of the Year Award</i>	Liv Ryder
<i>Senator of the Year Award</i>	Nick Marks
<i>Rookie of the Year Award</i>	Sam Briggs
<i>Dependable Member Award</i>	Arjun Pramanik
<i>Council Building Block Award</i>	Cumberland Hall

<i>Selfless Leadership Award</i>	Jason Spizuoco
<i>Richard Stimpson Award for Excellent in Service</i>	Cameron Hewitt
<i>Martin A. Taylor Distinguished Service Award</i>	Michael Purdie



REGIONAL REPORT

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) RHA is a member of regional and national level organizations. The National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) is at the national level. The Central Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (CAACURH) is the regional level and a part of NACURH. Affiliations with CAACURH and NACURH allow UMD to communicate with other universities, gaining a new perspective on programming and other initiatives to be executed back at UMD.

National Communications Coordinator (NCC) Hannah Klein and RHA President Scott Cronin each attend a bi-weekly regional meeting with other NCC's and presidents to maintain consistent communication. This semester, the annual CAACURH Regional Business Conference (RBC) was held online from February 18-19. In preparation for RBC, NCC Hannah Klein developed three bids. **Outstanding Advocacy Initiative** to recognize UMD RHA's advocacy in including laundry in housing costs, **Student of the Year** to recognize Vice President Jason Spizuoco, and **Distinguished Service** to recognize Chief of Internal Affairs (CIA) Michael Purdie. Listed in order, these bids can be found at: ter.ps/advocacy22, ter.ps/soty22, and ter.ps/rbcservice22.

At the conference, voting representatives from UMD RHA and the Jim Henson Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) were in attendance. This included NCC Hannah Klein, RHA President Scott Cronin, and NRHH President Cameron Hewitt. At the conference, UMD RHA won its bids for Outstanding Advocacy Initiative and Student of the Year. UMD RHA's winning bids will move on to NACURH 2022 which is set to occur from June 24-26.



RECOGNITION

MEMBER MONDAY

Every other Monday, the RHA executive team selects a member of the RHA general body for recognition via RHA's instagram. Here are this year's recognized members:

Livi Carey, Quentin Hogle, Reese Artero, Samantha Briggs, Sam Whitlock, Arjun Pramanik, Nick Marks

LEADERSHIP

Every Senate session, members of Senate exchange the Leadership Book, in which past and current RHA members detail their experiences as leaders. Here are this year's recipients:

Nick Marks, Daniel Oyebola, Aquib Mokaddem, Aarav Patel, Dominik Blaho, Reese Artero, Vivian Flanagan, Nikki Hamidi, Jason Spizuoco, Arjun Pramanik, Alexandra Figaro

EXECUTIVE BOARD (2022-2023)



Scott Cronin
President



Aiden Wechsler
Vice President



Alexa Stimpson
Chief of Internal Affairs



Reese Artero
Marketing and Technology Officer



Livi Carey
*Programming and Community
Development Coordinator*



Steven Berit
*Student Groups and Organizations
Liaison*

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Hannah Klein
*National Communications
Coordinator*



Stephanie Kologrivov
Student Fees Coordinator



Vivian Flanagan
Senator-at-Large



Quentin Hogle
Senator-at-Large



Kylee Robertson
Director of Organizational Engagement

THANK YOU!

RHA Advisor: Aaron Hood

Senate Committee Directors: Lisa Alexander, David Allen, Andrea Crabb, Valronica Scales, Colleen-Wright Riva. Ben Beltran, Chief Mitchell & Sgt. Hoaas

Hall/Area Council Advisors: Evan Kiser, Aspen Shackleford, Amanda Bogdan, Chris Carter, Katie Wilhelm, Tori Eichenlaub, Kayla Hudson, Nikki Charleston, Markell Saunder, Tiffany Harris, Jorge Almonte-Florimon, Gabriela Cabrera, Charmayne Wyche, Ray Ward, Olivia Murphy, Karlana Walker

Shared Governance Partners: Student Government Association, Graduate Student Government
All Departments of Resident Life Staff