I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Approval of Minutes
V. Pledge of Allegiance
VI. Public Sector At this time, members of the public who wish to make announcements may do so.
VII. Envoys and External Representative Reports
   Brian Spatocco (EGC): Last night we had RUDOTS Direction Jack Molenaar – a lot of frustration from students
   - Passed allocations guidelines
   - Passed res. against weekend exams
   - Bill to adopt new student gov. constitution
VIII. Guest Speaker
   Sybil James (Ombudsperson for Students)
   RU had an “ombuds” office in the past, surprisingly. Ombudsperson is a person who investigates problems between employees and employers or students and their university. I report directly to Dr. Furmanski and Pres. McCormick. The office was created to help students deal with the problems of the university, as well as more global concerns of the students (to make them known to the university).

   If there is an issue that I feel will direct RU students from all three campuses, I address it here in NB because issues seem to gravitate toward each campus anyway. I am a Rutgers graduate myself. I was president of the RU NAACP while a student at Rutgers. The last time I came before the board of governors was as a student protestor. I graduated from U-Penn Law School in 1991. I eventually became the Dean of Students and the RU Law School in Camden – responsible for graduations and certified students for the Bar Exam.

   There is a website for my office: http://ombuds.rutgers.edu I also have pamphlets available explaining the intent of the office as well as what kinds of issues that are pertinent. Ombuds offices are impartial and confidential in order to protect students’ confidentiality. Confidentiality has been maintained when questioned in lawsuits in California. The office is a neutral office rather than a “student advocacy” office – my main goal is to make sure fair processes occur. My office is located in Van Ness Hall. Eventually the office will be supported by an advisory board.

Akash: With all the combinations of the various Deans how will you be able to send the student to the right person?
There will be more people coming to the forefront in order to determine who the right person to send the student to.

Jim: What are some possible issues students are talking about?
Students so far are talking about graduation – ie, if I am a Cook student than I have to have graduation on Cook, whereas other affiliated students (whom that Cook student may be friends with) get to graduate in Voorhees Mall. There is really nothing we can do as of now since the policy is set, but talks about this issue are definitely warranted.
In the fall, several academically dismissed students sought my help; some students claim they were never notified of their academic dismissal.

What is the most common student complaint?
Surprisingly academic issues. Also issues with housing, RUDOTs, etc.

Grant: Do students know about this office? I only got one email about it, and then I heard about it when Dave said you were speaking tonight.
Yes, I’m aware that the office needs more publicity. We have the website and a few articles in the Targum, but if anyone has suggestions about getting the word out.

Mike C: How will you be able to ensure fairness if your definition of fairness is not how the University defines it for a certain issue.
I’m fortunate that the office has the support of the higher administration – it will be used to help even things out and make things fair for students. That’s where my strength will come from. The fact that the University even wanted to create this office shows commitment to the position.

Maurice: Is there any issue that is too small for your office?
There are some I’m sure, but as of now I can help students with any pertinent issue. When the office gets bigger, however, there may be some discretion in what types of issues.

Jim: Do you ever see the position changing once the colleges combine?
Most ombuds offices work with faculty and staff issues, but we won’t be doing that in this office. We will focus on student issues foremost.

IX. New Business
   RF06-17 Bill to Sponsor a Meal Sign-Away to Support GOYA Project’s Women Aware Initiative
   Motion to move into Old Business. Seconded. Passed.
   Motion to move by unanimous consent. Passed.

X. Old Business
   RF06-15 Bill to Co-Sponsor “The Fourth Annual EOF Family Reunion”
   Motion to move by unanimous consent. Passed.
   RF06-16 Resolution Urging the New Jersey State Legislature to alter its policies and decrease the gap between the time of increase in Tuition Aid Grants and the time of any financial effect.
   Motion to move by unanimous consent. Passed.

XI. Officer Reports
   a. President Dave Cole
      In-body 2009 election next week. Three meetings left – they will get busy because we have the Spring 2007 budget, constitution, and six special events bills. Having a constitution discussion next week.

   b. Vice President Jim Kline
      Last Sunday we had a chairs meetings – discussed how to bring the committees to a close this semester. It is imperative that we all get involved in our committees. I have
two student fee meetings after Thanksgiving – if you have concerns or questions I’m going to make my rounds around the other GAs. Blog all chairs!

c. Treasurer Michael Convente
   I’ll send out the Spring 2007 budget over the listserv, so if you have any questions send them to me or allocate@eden.rutgers.edu
d. Recording Secretary Susan Ko

e. Corresponding Secretary Khushboo Shah
   Please sign up for the envoys.
f. Parliamentarian Sharo Atmeh

XII. Committee Announcements
   SCA(Sam): We’re having a meeting after this.
   LA (Karen): Contact your legislator – I’m disappointed so far – I’d like to see someone from Edison.
   AA (Khush): Not having a meeting this week.

XIII. Internal Representative Reports
   RULA (Sharo): The RULA event was great last week – thank you Karen, Matt, Dymir, Grant, and others! We had people from both sides of the aisle who were really supportive of our cause. They want us to come back, and we are going to come back.

   BOT (Sharo): Multicultural affairs meeting at 3pm on Dec. 11.

   Latino Student Council (Sam): Blood and marrow donation drive on Nov. 27 from 11am to 4 pm on Livingston

   Campus Center (Arjun): Went over the reservation guidelines, which will change next year. Conference rooms 24 hours in advance, rooms like RSC 411 five days. The Subway restaurant in the RSC has seen a decrease in business – perhaps because of the Subway opening on Easton Ave.

   Grant: Are there any vendor leases ending after this semester?
   Yes, Masala Grill’s lease will end after this semester.

   EOPSA (Dymir): We had our last meeting last night. We will be having its annual Family Reunion event on Friday, December 1st in the Busch Student Center – around 7:15 pm.

   RHA (Grant): We had our final meeting of the semester last night. We are talking about getting sprinkler covers for the sprinklers in the residence halls.

XIV. Press Questions

XV. Public Sector

Maurice: I need volunteers to advertise the Rutgers Chapter of Big Brother/Big Sister, as well as people to become mentors. If anyone is interested, please speak to me.

XVI. Additional Information

Matt F: I had a conference call with Assemblyman Rooney – I’m in the minority but I support your causes. November 28 at 10:00am I have a meeting with my Assemblyman in Fort Lee. The schedule revival is underway – we will set up a meeting after the break.
Akash: I'm the new Referendum Coordinator for the Daily Targum term bill fee. I’m going to bring a lot of information on how you can join and be paid for it as well. UA is going to work to bring back the off-campus leadership program as well, so look for that. We’re trying to do a safety initiative, so if you have concerns, bring them to me or UA.

Andrew: Every legislator has misconceptions about Rutgers, and our meetings are changing their opinions.

XVII. Roll Call
XVIII. Adjournment