



RUSA Bill 15F21 - 11

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Sponsors: Internal Affairs

OFF-CAMPUS VOTING SEAT REALLOCATION BILL

Whereas, commuters and Off Campus-Living student populations are lumped together in the demographics census of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, making it harder for RUSA to have an accurate population of commuting students,

Whereas, thousands of students also live Off-Campus Living within the city of New Brunswick and Piscataway who have vastly different needs than commuters,

Whereas, commuters make up around 56% of the undergraduate population in New Brunswick in 2012¹ and historically, a significant portion of the Rutgers undergraduate student population,

Whereas, there are two new surveys coming out in Fall 2021 that specifically distinguishes between Off-Campus Living and Commuters,

Whereas, historically, RUSA had representatives elected by the Commuter students, as exemplified by the Spring 2013 Election Results²,

Whereas, there are no representatives to represent the Off-Campus Living population in RUSA currently,

Whereas, other Big Ten Schools Student Government such as the University of Maryland³ have both commuting and off-campus representation in their legislatures,

¹ [Article](#)

² [Spring 2013 Election Results](#)

³ [University of Maryland Bylaws](#)

Whereas, currently, under the current situation of COVID-19, there will be more people commuting to campus and fewer people living on-campus dormitories, increasing the urgency to have differentiated Off Campus-Living and Commuter representatives in RUSA for the 15th Assembly,

Therefore, the following shall be hereby enacted as the Off-Campus Voting Seats Reallocation Bill and, by proposing amendments to the Standing Rules, will require two-thirds of the Assembly and Presidential signature in order to take effect:

Be it hereby enacted, that RUSA is dedicated to representing the interests of the commuter population by allocating at least 1 seat, out of the 27 residential area seats and the Off-Campus Representatives, to the Commuter and Off-Campus Living population of Rutgers University-New Brunswick,

Be it hereby enacted, Article II Section 1(B)(a)(i)(4) within the RUSA Standing Rules shall be added to read as follows:

4. One of the Off-Campus Representative seats shall be reserved for the commuter population. This seat, called the Commuter Representative, shall be directly elected by the undergraduate students who identify themselves as commuting to the campus of New Brunswick. They shall be elected with the Residential Area representatives annually in the Fall semester.

Be it hereby enacted, Article II Section 1(B)(a)(i)(5) within the RUSA Standing Rules shall be added to read as follows:

5. One of the Off-Campus Representative seats shall be reserved for the Off-Campus Living population. This seat, called the Off-Campus Living Representative, shall be directly elected by the undergraduate students who identify themselves as living off-campus but relatively close to the campus of New Brunswick. They shall be elected with the Residential Area representatives annually in the Fall semester.

Be it hereby enacted, both the inaugural Commuter and Off-Campus Living Representative shall be elected in the elections of Fall 2022.

Be it hereby enacted, that the Assembly shall advocate for the Rutgers University Administrators to distinguish the difference between Off-Campus and Commuting populations,

Be it hereby enacted, that the Assembly shall charge the Secretary or Chair of Internal Affairs Committee or their designees to take the lead in getting the data from University Administration regarding Off-campus living and Commuter survey,

Be it hereby enacted, the Assembly shall charge the next Internal Affairs Chair to review this bill and adjust the representatives' seats allocated to Off-Campus Living and Commuter Representative,

Be it finally enacted, upon enactment, the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee shall furnish an updated copy of the Standing Rules to the Parliamentarian and the Secretary of the Assembly, and the Secretary shall publish the same on the Assembly's website.

Dates:

Internal Affairs Sponsorship

Introduced to the Internal Affairs Committee	10/15/2021
Passed by the Internal Affairs Committee	10/15/2021
Voted: 3 yays, 1 nays	

Floor of the Assembly

Introduced to the Assembly	10/28/2021
Passed by the Assembly	11/04/2021
Voted: Unanimous Consent	

RUSA President

Date