

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Responses to FY19 Budget Inquiries
April 2018

Prepared for: Sharon Birch, Office of Legislative Services, sbirch@njleg.org
Frank Haines, Office of Legislative Services, fhaines@njleg.org
cc: Barbara Berreski, NJASCU, bberreski@njascu.org

Office of Legislative Services

9. P.L.2013, c.170 (C.18A:62-4.4) provided that a person without lawful immigration status who meets other criteria may qualify to pay the in-State tuition rate at a public institution of higher education. In the current academic year, how many students at each institution are paying the in-State tuition rate pursuant to this law?

Ramapo Response:

Ramapo College had 13 students in the Fall of 2017 and 14 students in the Spring of 2018 pursuant to this law.

10. The “Madison Holleran Suicide Prevention Act”; P.L.2016, c.18 (C.18A:3B-72 et seq.) requires that each institution of higher education have individuals with training and experience in mental health issues who focus on reducing student suicides and attempted suicides available on campus or remotely for students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Please describe the efforts made by your institution to comply with this requirement. How has your institution publicized these services to its students? How many individuals are employed by the institution for the purpose of complying with this law?

Ramapo Response:

The Center for Health and Counseling Services employs six (6) full and two (2) part-time professional counselors to assist in carrying out the provisions of the Act. During regular business hours all staff are available to provide assessment and psychological treatment to students.

Five (5) of the full-time counselors rotate after hours and weekend coverage providing 24 hours a day, seven days a week access to a counselor for students in crisis. Counseling Services provides suicide prevention training to students, faculty and staff through an online program called Ask. Listen. Refer. Ask.

Listen. Refer takes about 20 minutes to complete and is designed to train users to identify people at risk for suicide, recognize the risk factors, protective factors, and warning signs of suicide and respond to and get help for people at risk. **Ask. Listen. Refer** can be accessed at <http://www.asklistenrefer.org/ramapo>

Counseling Services also provides in-person training through **Campus Connect** which is a suicide prevention gatekeeper training designed specifically for use within college and university communities. It consists of a comprehensive three-hour, interactive training program designed for use with a wide variety of campus personnel. A **Campus Connect** gatekeeper training session includes:

- Review of college student suicide statistics and fact and Discussion of suicide myths and warning signs
- Instruction on how to ask students if they are thinking about suicide and how to refer students to mental health professionals
- Discussion of typical emotional reactions experienced both by students in crisis and responding gatekeepers
- Participation in four experiential exercises and role playing

The 24/7 emergency psychological services coverage is publicized to students through many avenues including:

- A letter is e-mailed, by the Dean of Students, to every enrolled student at the start of each semester (see Appendix A). The letter emphasizes that free, confidential mental health counseling and crisis intervention services are available through Counseling Services and provides direction to the student as to how to access the services.
- The away messages and out of office agents for all Counseling Services staff direct students in crisis to call Public Safety for the Emergency On Call Counselor.
- The Counseling Services' website, <https://www.ramapo.edu/counseling/> lists information for emergency psychological services.
- Posters are displayed in key areas on campus.
- The Director of the Center for Health and Counseling Services works toward means restriction by working with on campus partners. In point, there are weather-proofed posters in the parking garage that provide hope and direction to student in crisis. Further, the Director works to assure that the chemicals in the science labs are locked to restrict access.
- Emergency services are posted outside of the Counseling Services' office main door.

- **Emergency services are advertised during all presentations, wellness fairs, and related events.**

The annual training for student leaders, such as Resident Assistants and Peer Facilitator, includes information about how to assist and refer a student in crisis.

11. According to the 2016 report of the College Affordability Study Commission, which was established pursuant to P.L.2015, c.4, the increasing cost of higher education is posing a significant barrier to students hoping to pursue postsecondary education. Nationally, after adjusting for inflation, the tuition and fees at public four-year institutions of higher education have increased over 40 percent between the 2005-2006 and 2015-2016 academic years, while increasing by 29 percent at two-year public institutions.

Please discuss initiatives that the institutions have taken in recent years to minimize increases in tuition and fees or to provide institutional support to their students.

Ramapo Response:

Ramapo has engaged in a number of initiatives to keep costs low, noting a decrease in operational State support of more than 30% since 2006.

Some examples of how we have reduced funding for the five year period from FY14 through FY18 include:

- **\$2.2 million by deferring the hiring of faculty & staff positions**
- **\$4.0 million reducing debt by refinancing**
- **Eliminated managerial pay increases one year, savings of \$0.3 million**
- **\$1.1 million by making targeted cuts, and one year assessing a 2% cut to non-salary costs across all units**
- **Deferred millions of dollars of facilities maintenance over the years**
- **Eliminated or suspended non-profitable programs and graduate programs**
- **use technology and also looked for synergies among functional groups to keep head count stable while meeting operational goals**
- **Outsourcing services if it provided financial and operational benefit**
- **Had outside firms look at effectiveness and efficiency of departments and implemented recommendations**

Senate Budget Committee Request for Hearing

1. In lieu of additional funding, what can the legislature do to support the public colleges and universities?

Ramapo Proposal:

Provide Ramapo College with the funding required to bring public transportation to its campus

- **Ramapo College is the ONLY New Jersey State public institution that does not have public bus service.**
- **Public bus service would increase enrollment from Passaic and Essex Counties**
- **The public transit link could directly advance the 65 by 25 Initiative led by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to “identify and address equity gaps in employment opportunity and educational attainment”**

Adopt a consistent formula for the allocation of State funded position counts. This would bring equity and fairness to the process. For example, Ramapo gets less than the average per capita funding as seen in the chart below.

State Funded Positions/Position Count				Undergrad	count as % of
Institution	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY18 Est FTE	vs. FY18
The College of New Jersey	859	859	859	6,639	12.9%
Kean University	1,074	1,074	1,074	9,267	11.6%
New Jersey City University	1,129	1,129	1,129	4,911	23.0%
Ramapo College	573	573	573	5,026	11.4%
Stockton University	764	764	932	7,885	11.8%
William Paterson University	1,111	1,111	1,111	7,272	15.3%

2. What is the impact of unfunded mandates on your campuses?

Ramapo Response:

In FY19 alone, the cost of the Cost of Living adjustment to unionized employees will cost Ramapo \$773,505, and step increases will cost an additional \$364,650.

3. How can the legislature make public 4 year colleges and universities more affordable for students?

Ramapo Proposal:

- **Adjust State College Contracts law, as compliance with these regulations including prevailing wage and DPMC qualification requirements drive up cost**
- **Negotiate union contracts locally- This will help with unfunded mandates and employee and manager satisfaction. Everyone will feel more engaged.**
- **Regular Capital funding from the State will lower long-term costs. We need capital funding for technology infrastructure as well as traditional capital construction projects.**
- **Lobby for P3 legislation renewal**
- **Transit link on campus for Ramapo to decrease commuting costs for students**

Respectfully Submitted,

BAW-G

Brittany A. Williams-Goldstein
Chief of Staff & Board Liaison
Office of the President
Ramapo College of New Jersey
201.684.7609/bwillia1@ramapo.edu