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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
February 5th, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Matthew Cayer

Meeting Start Time: 6:33 pm

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Abbott, Boucher, Cayer, Connolly, Curry, DeLorenzo, Desmond-Igbo, Dickson, Fleming, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hudson, Macrae, Martin, Milner, Njende, Paulino, Reyes, Reffelt, Rinne, Romano, Singh, Small, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Troxell, Walding, Wentworth, Williamson

Absent: Acharya, Alemany, Buono (excused), Lagasse, Sawyer (excused),

Executive: Peckham, Cronan, Goswami, Feroz

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Milner moves to amend the agenda to change the amount of funds newly recognized clubs receive from \$75 to \$50, and change the order of events that were under special orders, seconded Senator Hinrichs.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Rinne moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Troxell.

E. PUBLIC FORUM

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Student Organizations Committee

- *Bills on the floor tonight*
- *Good interaction at Student Org Fair earlier in the day.*

Academic Affairs Committee

- *Next week Academics will be having a booth for Valentines Day to raise money for the Student Senate.*
- *Bill should be put on the floor later on to standardize curriculums.*

External Affairs Committee

- *Jason Colonies from Narragansett Town Council coming next week.*

- *Committee please meet with Chair Cayer after the General Assembly.*

Cultural Affairs Committee

- *Also hosting a booth next week.*
- *Planning a Multicultural Gala.*
- *Cultural Committee meet with Chair Reyes after the General Assembly.*

Campus Affairs Committee

- *Meeting with dining services director in an upcoming committee meeting.*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

Speaker of the Assembly

- *Student Senate formal is going to be April 18th from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm at the Quidnessett Country Club. There will be a bus picking up students from the Memorial Union and possibly Wakefield for off-campus students.*
- *Talk to Speaker Peckham about committee changes and if you are going to be absent.*

Student Body President

- *Working with the Vice President of the Faculty Senate to make economic concerns like subscriptions and online books for classes more accessible by switching to open source curriculums in classes.*
- *Student Senate podcast being created by Senator Singh.*
 - *Lucas Dewitt speaks on podcast: Great way for people to know about Student Senate in general and as a leadup to Spring elections. Podcast will be on Instagram to start and possibly on Youtube later on depending on how it goes. Senator Singh will send out a Google Form for senators who are interested.*
- *Wants to create more collaborative posts on the Student Senate Instagram with the committee Instagrams.*

Student Body Vice President

- *Bidirectional shuttles survey has now launched, should be updated on the bus tracker app and flyers for a survey about shuttle services are being distributed. (survey closes February 21st)*

Director of the Treasury

- *Budget request forms are due this Friday.*
- *Many clubs have not yet filled out their request forms, asks senators to please remind anyone who is on a club's executive board.*
- *Contingency grant bill on the floor tonight.*

Director of Communications

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

- *Lucas Dewitt: Time to meet for committee has not yet been formed. Currently setting up a schedule for the elections.*

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations for Vacancies

- *Senator Troxel nominates Melanie Capraro for College of Health Sciences Rep, seconded by Senator Gonzalez.*

Nominations for Constitutional Review Committee

- Speaker Peckham and Lucas Dewitt explain the committee and its purpose .
 - Senator Hudson, Chair Reyes, Chair Cayer, Senator Gonzalez, Speaker Peckham, Chair Milner, and Senator Hinrichs.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Senators

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-29 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF THEATER TECHNOLOGY” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “USITT” mission statement is, “Provide a community for designers, technicians, managers, any anyone interested in theatre technology to learn new skills, network, and be part of a nationally accredited organization”, and

Whereas, USITT meets the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization, and

Whereas, it is custom for the senate to do so, therefore be it

Resolved that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges USITT as a recognized organization.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, February 5th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

- *Chair Milner explains the bill, emphasizing to ask questions if there is any.*
- *Chair Cayer moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Singh.*
- *Bill passes unanimously.*

SS-24/25-30 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI WOMEN IN SPORTS” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URI Women in Sports” mission statement is, “To empower members through professional development, networking, and mentorship opportunities while fostering a space that champions gender equity and diverse voices in the sports industry.”, and

Whereas, URI Women in Sports meets the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization, and

Whereas, it is custom for the senate to do so, therefore be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges URI Women in Sports as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that URI Women in Sports is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$75 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairman Milner
DATE: Wednesday, February 5th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION: (7-0-0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION: Vote Tonight

- Chair Milner explains the bill, as well as the next bill. (SS-24/25-31)
- Lucas Dewitt asks a question about the bill SS-24/25-31, asking if the club has any relevance to the club, Women in Computer Science.
- Senator Troxel moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Hailu
- Bill passes unanimously

SS-24/25-31 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Women in Data Science” mission statement is, “To offer community to female identifying students in Data Science, and to develop a community of support to aid in networking, resume building, internship searches, and to hear from professionals with industry experience”, and

Whereas, Women in Data Science meets the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization, and

Whereas, it is custom for the senate to do so, therefore be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges Women in Data Science as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Women in Data Science is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$75 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairman Milner
DATE: Wednesday, February 5th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION: (6-1-0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION: Vote Tonight

- Chair Milner moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Macrae
- Bill passes unanimously.

SS-24/25-32 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF A \$2,000.00 GRANT OUT OF THE TRAVEL AND LODGING CONTINGENCY LINE TO THE URI POWERLIFTING CLUB

Whereas, the URI Powerlifting Club submitted a budget request on time for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and is thereby eligible to apply for contingency grants, and

Whereas, on January 22nd, 2025, the URI Powerlifting Club submitted a contingency grant for \$2,364.00 to Director Cronan to cover travel and lodging expenses for the USAPL 2025 Collegiate Nationals in Oklahoma City, OK, and

Whereas, Director Cronan has met with the E-Board of URI Powerlifting and has determined the club's participation in the tournament will encourage greater participation, enhance their reputation, and represent the University of Rhode Island's dedication to athletic growth and sense of community, and

Whereas, in accordance with the Student Senate Finance Handbook, contingency grants for travel and lodging expenses are awarded on a 50% cost-sharing basis, requiring student organizations to supplement the remaining costs through fundraising efforts, and

Whereas, the URI Powerlifting Club has demonstrated their commitment to this requirement by securing the necessary funds in their Fundraising (900) line, and

Resolved, that the URI Powerlifting Club receive a \$2,000.00 contingency grant from the Travel and Lodging Contingency line to help cover the costs for the USAPL Collegiate Nationals in OKC from April 3rd to 6th, 2025, which will both boost the club's athletic standing and strengthen URI's reputation as a competitive institution.

SPONSORS: Speaker Peckham, Chair Buono, Senators Acharya, Sawyer, Singh
BILL HANDLER: VDOT Njende
DATE: Wednesday, February 5th, 2025
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote Tonight

- *Director Cronan explains the bill.*
- *Senator Walding asks for clarification.*
- *Lucas Dewitt further explains the function of the bill.*
- *Senator Walding asks what happens if the club does not pay the \$2000.00 back, as Director Cronan previously explained.*
- *Director Cronan explains that this bill would not be presented if the organization did not have a good reason and reputation.*
- *Senator Hailu moves to begin voting, seconded by Chair Reyes.*
- *Bill passes unanimously.*

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Matthew Cayer ~ Bill and Resolution Writing Presentation

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:26 pm