



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Telephone: (401) 874-2261
Email: info@rhodysenate.org

University of Rhode Island Student Senate
February 12th, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:34

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Acharya, Boucher, Buono, Cayer, Connolly, Curry, DeLorenzo, Desmond-Igbo, Dickson, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hudson, Macrae, Njende, Paulino, Reyes, Reffelt, Rinne, Sawyer, Singh, Sundell, Walding, Wentworth, Williamson

Absent: Abbott, Alemany, Capraro (excused), Fleming (excused), Hinrichs, Lagasse, Martin (excused), Milner (excused), Romano, Small, Sorto-Justiniano, Troxell (excused)

Executive: Peckham, Cronan

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Speaker Peckham moves to amend the agenda, seconded by Senator Sundell

Senator Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Chair Milner

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Reyes moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Wentworth

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Jason Colonies ~ Narragansett Town Council

- *Just ran for town council for Narragansett in the fall*
 - *Turned the entire council over*
- *Platform: Listening and being kind to everyone, short term rentals and less restriction, building relationships with states and universities*
 - *Fixing the town relationships is the main goal*
 - *Keeping the old regulations and not attempting to be more restrictive*

- *Trying to repeal the ordinance to make it so that it is in accordance with state regulations: one per bedroom up to five*
 - *New chief of police is on the same page*
- *Wants to create more community events that involve students, we do a beach cleanup every year, shows an outreach that we haven't seen in a long time*
- *Knows that greek life tried to make a beach event this year nad was turned down*
 - *Encouraging Greek life students to reach out again, the new town council is ready to work with them!*
- *Three person to a house repeal expected to be done by spring 2026*

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Vice Chair Dickson

- *Hope your having a great week*
- *Three bills on the floor tonight*
- *All three passed the steps*
- *Recognition form will be sent out tomorrow*
- *Lecture series that we are planning*
 - *Recruitment*
 - *Planning*
 - *Going over next few months*
- *Planning cornhole tournament*
- *Tik tok @rhody.soc*
- *Looking for more fundraising activities*

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth:

- *Fundraising booth tomorrow from 11-2 in the rams den*
- *Selling DIY valentines day cards for \$2 we are also doing DIY bracelets that will also be two dollars*
- *To do one bracelet and one card is \$3*
- *If anyone is available to be at the booth please let me know!*
- *Showcasing academic clubs on our instagram*

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Cayer

- *Want to know more about what we can do to push those initiative that are being proposed by narragansett town council*
- *Anyone that can't make the meeting needs to CONTACT CAYER*
- *Needs someone to do instagram*
- *Needs a greek life liaison*

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- *Hope you all received an email from me for the cultural gala*
- *March 2nd at 5:30, please come*
- *Would be really nice to have as many senators as possible*
- *Additionally senator gonzalez has brought an initiative for a new library quote*

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Buono:

- *Another announcement: campus cleanup on february 28th at 4pm*
- *More information coming on that*
- *Follow our instagram which is going to be more active*
- *Communications liaison: Senator Macrae*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- *Tomorrow I am going to be submitting the 1,000 dollar deposit to the country club for formal*
 - *Working with the bus company to be taken, ticket prices will be coming out as fast as possible*
 - *I know a lot of us already know, committee attendance is required*
 - *Unprofessional to not go to committee meeting*
 - *Communicate with your chairs*
 - *Lucas and I are working on getting name tags updated*
 - *Be nice, kindness is free!*
 - Student Body President
 - Student Body Vice President
 - Director of the Treasury
- DOT Cronan:
- *Really happy that most clubs filled out the budget request form*
 - *Meeting with all of the 35 to 40 clubs that requested over 1,000 dollars*
 - *Budget meeting will be after spring break in about a month*
- Director of Communications

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

Lucas:

- *Elections committee meet this week*
- *Determined the dates for the election for Student Senate February 19th is the declaration period*
 - *Wednesday before Spring Break due*
 - *Starting on march 7th running for march 27th campaign period*
 - *March 25th to March 27th for elections that way we are able to advertise those three days*
- *Ice skating night is on February 21st*
- *Submissions for the elections will be done electronically, however signatures need to be done in person*

Constitutional Review Committee

- *First meeting likely on Tuesday*
- *This will be presented to the Student Senate*

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lucas:

- As a reminder that the meeting for the Board for Trustees for tomorrow, at 12:00 in the ballroom

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Speaker Peckham moves to amend the agenda again for a special election for the election committee, seconded by Senator Walding

Speaker Peckham nominates Senator DeLorenzo and seconded by Chair Buono

- Senator DeLorenzo elected

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-33 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “EXERCISE IS MEDICINE ON CAMPUS” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Exercise is Medicine On Campus ” mission statement is, “will uniquely benefit the URI community by promoting a culture where physical activity is recognized as a key component of health and wellness for everyone. We aim to: 1. Bridge the Gap Between Fitness and Medicine, 2. Create inclusive and accessible programs and 3. Foster a supportive environment: through workshops, peer-led fitness challenges, and collaborative events ”, and

Whereas, Exercise is Medicine On Campus 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 Exercise is Medicine On Campus as a recognized organization.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, February 12th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Senator Gonzalez moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Hudson
Bill passes*

SS-24/25-34 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “SOJOURN COLLEGIATE” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Sojourn Collegiate” mission statement is, “to explore faith and ask life's big questions. We are a Christian group, but you certainly don't have to be a Christian to join. We

never pretend to have all the answers because life and faith are a journey, and we're all doing our best to figure it out..”, and

Whereas, 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 Sojourn Collegiate as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Sojourn Collegiate is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$50 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 12th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Senator Hudson moves to begin voting, seconded by senator Macrae
Vote passes*

SS-24/25-35 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “NORD RARE” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “NORD Rare” mission statement is, “provide a space where people with rare diseases can share their voices and have other members of the community listen to their story”, and

Whereas, NORD Rare 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 NORD Rare as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that NORD Rare is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$50 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 12th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Senator Sawyer moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Roach
Bill passes*

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Speaker Peckham:

- *Please donate blood*
 - *One donation could save up to three lives*
 - *Wanted to encourage you guys to go donate blood if you can*

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:16