



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
October 15th, 2025 General Assembly Agenda

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:32

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present

Abbot, Tailah	Gonzalez, Kairy	Ramos, Aaron
Bremer, Conlan	Hudson, Cameron	Rinne, Cole
Capraro, Melanie	Keomany, Annie	Roach, Clayton
Connolly, Olivia	Macrae, Lyla	Sawyer, Lynn
Conte, Isabella	Martin, Beyonce	Singh, Arpan Utkarsh
Curry, Caitlin	McConville, Max	Stover, Madeliene
D'Aiello, Andrew	Milner, Jacob	Torres, Alli
Dickson, Tyler	Neighbors, Isabella	Volek, Paige
Dionne, Ryleigh	Ranieri, Caterina	Williamson, Alexa

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by chair gonzalez and seconded by chair hudson

Motion passes unanimously

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve last meeting minutes made by Chair Singh and seconded by Senator Bremer

Motion passes Unanimously

E. PUBLIC FORUM

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- Hello everyone hope your doing well missed you all last week hope you missed

- me
- Four bills on the floor: Three recognizing student organizations, and one changing the bylaws
- Each student organization will talk about their student organization and questions will be at the end, please be respectful in asking question
- Senator Diello and myself have talked about codifying the six week student organization recognition period capping, meaning they need to have all of their forms in before those six week period ends. This bill requires a 75% majority so hopefully if you have questions
- Student issue survey: Asking students about what is bothering them on campus, accompanied by an outreach campaign, including interactive booths.. Generally hoping to get 50 to 100 submissions in a two to three week span.
- Academic Affairs Committee
- Senator Capraro in place of Chair wentworth:
 - Working on the draft of the presidents resolution before it goes on its floor
- External Affairs Committee
- Chair Singh:
 - Good evening, the cigar and my pookies
 - Booth last friday with chair hudson and chair gonzalez
 - If you want to do a booth do it with campus affairs its really entertaining
 - Will be shooting reels for it, that will be interesting
 - Meeting with the graduate student association to discuss future collaboration
 - Tik tok is running
 - Meet with VP ellen wellers this afternoon; discusses off campus newsletter
 - I assure you that we will have an off campus news letter by the spring semester
- Cultural Affairs Committee
- Chair Gonzalez:
 - The only thing I have to announce right now is the tarrot card fundraiser next tuesday 12-2pm and next friday 2-5pm
- Campus Affairs Committee
- Chair hudson:
 - Follow @campursaffairsURI on instagram, put it on your storys and follow!

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly
- Speaker rinne:
 - Need to be focused on attending the general meetings and our committee meetings, being pretty lenient with what counts as an excused absence, I know that we were all students and academics do come first but we were all elected and should be here. If we find out people are abusing it we are going to crack down on that
- Student Body President
- President Reyes:
 - Presentation at one of the faculty senate meeting comign up this month, just so you know our picture we took will be showed at that meeting
 - Should have gotten an email about the pumpki ng carving with the president please RSVP yes or no, great idea for everyone or most of us to show up, he loves hearing everyones ideas
 - This friday there is the Women in color conference that is open to everyone of any race and background it is a great place to network with a great key note

- speaker, they always stick around to talk with student
- Attendance is important,, currently wwe don't have a jury, but that does not mean that lacking in attendance is allowed either
- Student Body Vice President

Vp hailu ;

- Hi guys how are you doing I'm doing well
- Task force: Private resource, send out a text on group me, send me resources that helped you with any problems on campus, one page and one website for URI in general so that resources are accessible, this is still in the works, this is just currently a research kind of things. First pilot with senators
- Working on DAI and different aspect for accessibility for dorms and academic buildings on campus. I will be having to talk with different people, working with the two liason on that.
- Same with Ra's, I know I said that I had been reaching out to each of them and they are coming to me and getting feedback for them directly. Hopefully we c an get it more frequently and not something that happens once in a while.

Senator bremer:

- Just a point of clarification this is going to be used as a larger accessibility audit on campus

VP Hailu:

- Yes, I want to find the best resource and people to talk to so that we can get through to the people that will help with accesibility issues on campus
- Director of the Treasury

DOT Unjende:

- So on my end, nothing much to report
- Director of Communications

DOC Heinrichs:

- Nothing crazy, the merch order was pushed back to thursday so if you want to get a last minute order you can do it by tomorrow, please get the polo
- If you want to be featured and have not yet on the senator spotlight please fill that out

Senator Stover: Where can you find the

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Niro not present but Chair Singh reporting:

- Could not have constitutional review committee because of personal issues, hopefully a meeting next week, hoping for a revision to the constitution and bylaws by spring semester

- Elections Committee

Chair Sawyer:

- Declaration period is now over, anyone that didn't do the two dedication form and also fill out the packet is not eligible.

- Podcast Committee

Chair Neighbors:

- Hey guys hope your having a good one
- Next episode should be coming out tomorrow, it is a long one so it will be broken up into two episodes because milner had a lot to say, all good things though

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Singh:

- People meeting with president parlange on the 20th of October if you would like to come please do

Senator D'Aiello:

- Whats this meeting about

Chair Singh:

- Updates of the external affairs committee

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SS-25/26-11 – BILL AMENDING THE STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS TO REFLECT NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION POLICY

Whereas, the Student Organizations Committee is responsible for recognizing and supporting student organizations on campus; and

Whereas, student organizations currently may submit recognition applications and model constitutions at any point during the academic calendar; and

Whereas, the lack of submission structure creates administrative challenges and restricts organizations from having adequate time to transition into Senate recognition and utilize funds; and

Whereas, establishing a six-week deadline ensures sufficient time for Senate review, while providing organizations with time to apply; and

Whereas, organizations that miss the deadline will retain the ability to apply and be reviewed the following semester; and

Whereas, following the deadline, the Student Organizations Committee will utilize the remaining weeks of the semester to advise, support, and run programs to assist the existing club roster

Resolved, be it enacted by the University of Rhode Island Student Senate that:

Section 1. Definition

- 1.1 The Student Senate may recognize student organizations whose missions and actions are unique and serve to better the University community.
- 1.2 Recognition may be granted by a majority vote of the Assembly.

Section 2. Eligibility for Recognition

- 2.1 No student organization may be recognized which does not have at least ten (10) members, of whom a majority are undergraduate students.
- 2.2 The Student Organizations Committee will maintain a Model Constitution and no student organization may be recognized unless it has approved a constitution containing all provisions of the Model Constitution or reasonable substitutes therefor.
- 2.3 No student organization may be recognized which cannot demonstrate that it does not present an undue risk to the health, safety, and welfare of its membership or the student body.
- 2.4 Student organizations must meet and follow the proper election rules for officers provided by the Student Senate. Student organizations must meet weekly or monthly.
- 2.5 The Student Organization Committee will advise the Assembly on whether or not a student organization should be recognized based solely on the provisions of the Student Senate's instruments of organization.
- 2.6 No student organization shall be recognized unless at least one (1) member of the executive board have received Bystander Awareness Training through the i-Stand Program.
- 2.7 Training sessions will be offered at the first and last Presidents Meeting of the year.
- 2.8 If members are not able to attend these trainings offered at the President's Meeting, they must set up their own training through the i-Stand office within a reasonable time as deemed appropriate by the Student Organizations Committee.
- 2.9 Following the elections for the executive board in the Spring, clubs will have until the first President's meeting of the following semester to train their executives.
- 2.10 The Student Senate functions as though it were inherently recognized.

Section 3. Senate Recognition Period

- 3.1 All student organizations seeking Senate recognition must submit their recognition application and model constitution within the first six (6) weeks of the academic semester; deadline to be advertised and disseminated by the Student Organizations Committee and the Student Senate Director of Communications.
- 3.2 Applications submitted after the six week deadline shall be processed the following semester with no delay or late penalty.
- 3.3 Exceptions to the deadline may be granted only in cases of administrative error or extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the Student Organizations Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- 3.4 Organizations that miss the deadline are encouraged to attend workshops and advising sessions hosted by the Committee during the remainder of the semester to prepare for future recognition.

Section 4. Rules for Recognized Student Organizations

- 4.1 The President of each Senate recognized organization must attend a monthly Student Organizations Meeting hosted by the Student Organizations Committee either in person or by proxy to discuss upcoming events and reflect on relevant experiences. Five (5) business days' notice will be given for these meetings.
- 4.2 Student organizations, once recognized, must reapply annually in order to be re-recognized.

- 4.3 If student organizations have a problem or dispute between them, the officers may reach out to the Student Organizations Committee to mediate the issue. This complaint must be made in writing or through an email

Section 5. Non-Discrimination Clause

- 5.1 No student organization shall be permitted to discriminate, limit membership, or in any way impede equal opportunity on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, age, marital status, political affiliation, nor religious affiliation nor any other non-merit factor unless limitation in membership is relevant and important to the mission of the organization.
- 5.2 Limitation in membership is relevant and important to the mission of the student organization if including members whose nature or viewpoint disrupts the functioning of the organization in such a way that the organization's freedom to associate is compromised.
- 5.3 The Student Organization Committee determines whether limitation in membership is relevant.

Section 6. Revocation of Recognition

- 6.1 The Senate may, at any time, cease to recognize any student organization which poses a clear and direct threat either to the Student Senate or the Student Body, jeopardizes the Student Senate's status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, or fails to meet recognition requirements. Such an act must be done through legislation proposed by the Student Organizations Committee.

SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION:

ACTION:

Student Organizations Committee

Chairman Milner, Senator D'Aiello

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

(7-0-0)

Vote TONIGHT

Senator D'Aiello:

- I explained it last week and I hope everyone had a chance to read it
- I joined student senate to
- Been a privilege to see everyone talk about the things that they love
- This bill is in no means going to be a barrier of entries in the club
- When clubs come to us late in the semester we find it not equitable to spend money and time on clubs that come later in the semester
- It's also unfair to the clubs that were recognized in the first part of the semester

Chair Sawyer:

- So just for clarification clubs would have a six week period to get in their paperwork to you and get recognized?

Senator D'Aiello: Correct, clubs would have six weeks to submit their paperwork

Senator Stover:

- What made you choose the six week deadline instead of the eight or nine weeks

Senator D'Aiello:

- WE thought that pushing it later into the semester your pushing it past thanksgiving in finals week, past that point we want to assist them in

Chair Gonzalez:

- I have a lot of concerns about the six week period, it is hard on top of being a student, that six weeks is not a lot of time in the grand scheme of things, I don't think six weeks is a lot of time to get into the school year and classes

Senator Curri:

- Just to reiterate, what senator milner and D'Aiello, if a new clubs get a package late into the semester

Chair Singh:

- Think about the finances, you can get ten people in two weeks, you start a club. As student senators it is not only our duty but think about the finances and clubs that were recognized in the first few weeks. I don't see any point in voting against this, i condemn that viewpoint.

Chair Gonzalez:

- I don't think condemning my opinion is very appropriate

Senator D'Aiello:

- If the club submits their paper at the end of the six week deadline, it still takes a few weeks for the SOC committee to get through it. At the end of the semester it is
- Goal of treating each club equitably and equally
- Unfair to the club that had to stretch that the full semester

Chair Hudson:

- Trying to get a club organized at any time, is fine with me. Trying to get a process started at any semester. College kids are busy. If you have any club, however long the process takes it takes

Chair Milner:

- I totally get spontaneity, it is not a barrier to entry. This isn't a barrier to entry it is just a lid on things. They will be considered after october 17th just not this semester.

Chair Gonzalez:

- I definitely agree with having a deadline, but I don't like that it's six weeks, I do agree that financial packages is difficult, but I just don't agree that it should be six weeks. I think that there is something that could be done. I think maybe if you could make it in a way that we could add on something about the clubs not receiving this package after

Chair Singh:

- To be honest I don't speak for the motion or against the motion I speak for what is right, as chair Milner said he would completely support these clubs

Chair Sawyer:

- Just for clarification purposes, these clubs would have six weeks to get fully recognized, but any time after that you guys would still help them with getting recognized the semester after

Senator D'Aiello:

- Correct this is just a way to ensure that clubs are getting fair treatment and clubs that are being recognized at the beginning of the semester are not at a funding disadvantage to those that get recognized at the end of semester. We will still help out clubs that are looking to be recognized the next year or semester after however this way it is equitable.

Motion to Call the Question Made by Senator Curry and seconded by Chair Milner

Voting by blind ballot no talking. Yes, No or abstention. If you can not spell it please get close enough

No names on it

VP and Speaker Sidebar

The results are in totally 27 votes were cast totally 2 abstentions, 20 were yes so the bill passes with an 80% majority.

Congratulations SOC committee

Thank you everyone for being quiet during the vote

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-25/26-14 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI ROLLER HOCKEY” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URI Roller Hockey” mission statement is, “*Provide a fun alternative to ice hockey that allows students to continue to play hockey at a competitive level in college*”, and

Whereas, URI Roller Hockey 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 Roller Hockey as a recognized organization.

SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION:

EXPIRATION:

ACTION:

Student Organizations Committee

Chairman Milner

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

(6-0-0)

Valid Until next re-recognition

Vote Tonight

Speaker: Chair Milner is there anyone here from roller hockey

Roller hockey representative:

- Goal is for people to be able to play that is time and cost effective
- 800 dollars to play

Chair Milner:

- Was wondering if you could

Roller hocker:

- 4 tournaments each semesters
- Play in Tiverton, long island, northern new jersey, and philadelphia, last year in fort myers

Senator Sawyer:

- I know you said that it costs 800 dollars how do you plan to help the students that can't afford this, because that's still pretty expensive

Roller hockey Team:

- Fundraiser and payment plans available

Chair Singh:

- What is the procedures in having new individuals join the club

Roller hockey team:

- At the club fair and had a free tryout for anyone that wanted to

Speaker:

- During the tryouts did you have a certain number that were cut

Roller hockey representative:

- No one was cut this year

Begin voting

Bill passes unanimously

SS-25/26-15 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “HAITIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the "Haitian Student Association" mission statement is, *“To celebrate and promote the rich culture, history, and contributions of Haiti, while fostering unity among students of Haitian descent, people of color, and the broader Caribbean diaspora”*, and

Whereas, Haitian Student Association 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 Haitian Student Association as a recognized organization.

Resolved, that Haitian Student Association is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

Student Organizations Committee

Chairman Milner

DATE:

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

(6-0-0)

EXPIRATION:

Valid Until next re-recognition

ACTION:

Vote Tonight

Chair Milner Yields his time to the HSA representative:

- Secretary, VP, and Treasurer here
- Our president couldn't be here today but she's great
- Tried to get the ball rolling this summer
- Keep hearing on campus that students who are haitian did not know there were either haitian on campus
- Mission to create an inclusive and powerful space through meaningful events and education initiatives
- Want to do collaboration with other student cultural clubs

Chair Milner: Could you enlighten the senate about some events you put on

HSA representative:

- One of the big event we want to have a banquet, we want to do collaborations specifically historical events
- Want to do game nights
- Want to provide different haitian snack
- Want to host haitian dance classes

Chair Singh:

- Is HSA.URI your instagram handle

HSA representative:

- Yes

Chair Singh:

- Amazing reels, as a person of color I want to make sure that

Chair Gonzalez:

- I watched you guys putting out so much content I've been watching, making me happy to see you grow as a unit. See your reels to, I think y'all will be great in the future

Senator Roach:

- How many members do you have at the moment and how many do you expect to get after the senate funding

hsA representative:

- Currently 15 but hopefully up to 50 members after we are able to host more event

Motion to begin voting

Unanimously passes

SS-25/26-16– BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Rhody First” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the "Rhody First" mission statement is, *“To support, empower, and celebrate first-generation college students.”*, and

Whereas, Rhody First 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 Rhody First as a recognized organization.

Resolved, that Rhody First is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(6-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Chair milner Yields his time to Rhody first representative:

- Trying to help first generation students on campus specifically by getting peer support
- Want you to think back to freshman year and want to imagine that there is no one here to help you. I just think that it is important that we have peer mentors
- Provide peer resources including campus resources and mental health resources
- Give students general mentoring, just trying to navigate the world. Get some footing get some support and see what other students have gone through. Being from another country and just being overwhelmed.
- Want to make sure students thrive academically, personally

Chair Stover:

- How many members do you have currently and after you get senate funding

Rhody First representative:

- Currently have 13 members and with support we will be able to attend more events this year and host more fun activities

DOC heinrichs::

- As someone who is not a first generation student it's great that you're doing this and making other students aware of the struggles of being a first generation student

Senator Singh:

- Kudos to you for starting the club, URI student senate is here to help you

Chair Gonzalez:

- Have you maybe thought about reaching out to the talent development program, I think TD is a great resource maybe you can collab in some sort of capacity

Rhody first representative:

- All of our E boards are TD scholars actually, we want in the future to get this collaboration cemented, and hopefully getting general pitching in the future

Lucas Dewitt:

- Do you know incoming first year class how many students identify as first generation

Rhody First representative:

- I don't know that statistics, because we are being very inclusive with this term, I feel like it's a larger majority than people think.

Lucas Dewitt:

- Looking online 1 in 3 are first generation students and 1 in 4 transfer students

President Reyes:

- Used t work with ashley... stoles?

Rhody First representative:

Bill passes unanimously

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:37