



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
October 16th, 2024 General Assembly Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:36

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Acharya, Boucher, Buono, Cayer, Collins, Estes, Gonzales, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hook, Hudson, McCloskey, Milner, Njende, Reffelt, Reyes, Rinne, Sawyer, Santos, Tracy, Sorto-Justiniano, Stadtman, Sundell, Walding, Williamson

Absent: Naidoo (excused), Small (excused), Wentworth (excused)

Executive: Cronan, Peckham

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Senator Estes

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Acharya moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair McCloskey

E. PUBLIC FORUM

*URI's Chief of Police Michael Jagoda and Transportation and Parking Director Joe Paradise
Chief of Police:*

- *Crime Statistics really show how safe it is on campus*
- *Respectful Campus that doesn't tolerate disrespect all around*
- *Want to not only make it a safe and secure campus but also make sure that everyone's voice is hold*
- *Looked at all of the policies to make sure they are doing constitutional policing*
- *Not just his police department but our – the students – police department*
- *Wishes to provide superior services for this campus*
- *Using more social media to connect with the community*
- *Hopes that we can do our Student Senate blue light safety walk in the next few weeks*
- *Whatever services that we can provide to make your experience more safer and effective we want to give to you*

Joe Paradise:

- *Trying to open the communication with Student Senate*
- *Wants to do some media work with Student Senate*
- *We do a lot of things in the summer to make improvements around campus*
- *Wayfinding project: App that students will be able to see what parking is available in every lot*
- *We're going to see a lot of progress this year with the app*
- *Board of Trustees improved the upgraded parking regulations this year: more clarification of parking rights, improvement of license plate readers and new technologies*
- *At the begging of the semester we try to send out communications to everyone regarding parking on campus*
- *Metered parking now for students that don't need a full parking permit*
- *First offenses parking tickets are automatically reduced*
- *Communication aspect is getting better, and trying to share more*
- *Wishes to grow the social media more*
- *Shuttles: Very challenging because of the way that we operate, trying to make them quicker and on time. Wants to make sure shuttle at URI are easier to access from the plains road lot to make it more accessible for commuters.*
- *On demand service: 5:30-1am runs seven days a week, last year over 8000 rides,*
- *Problem with on demand service: No shows; enforcing the policy that if you do no shows, 3 no shows means no access to on demand services for the rest of the semester*
- *This year we have 1103 rides, trending to be how it was last year*
- *RIPTA: pilot program, on demand , curb to curb service. Like Uber but for the South County area. Thinking of adding another shuttle because demand is so high. Really good program.*

Chief of Police:

- *URI on demand service is free, so anyone that doesn't have access to transportation to and from campus*

Speaker Peckham:

- *Wondering how Brookside parking passes were determined?*

Joe paradises:

- *There are 162 parking spaces in Brookside so we do not oversell that. Flagg road lots tend to be able to fit more permits because people tend to not park there. Brookside is now on night patrol, same for Greek housing.*

Senator Buono:

- *Would like to have the Student Senate play a larger role in social media for parking. More appealing if we present it to students. There is a lot of resources out there already but would it to be from student to student*
- *Sign up sheets for actors in a social media presentation*

Senator Walding:

- *URI EMS has four parking spots, and when we park at EMS we normally get ticketed. Is there any way we can get some accommodations?*

Joe Paradises:

- *That is definitely something that we can revisit, but unfortunately that lot is competing with faculty and staff for those spots.*

Head Jurist:

- *Representative for Military and veterans on campus*
- *Extends his thanks for helping the national guard get parking on campus*

Joe Paradises:

- *I served, and was happy to work with veterans, working on discounts for veterans*
- *Wishes to take care of the veterans*

Senator Hailu:

- Question about no show students with the on demand service
- Some drivers don't stop and mark students as no shows

Joe Paradises:

- If we get complaints we look at them, GPS tracking is part of the program so if there is a complaint we look into it
- We did have some issues for drivers but we do have to go through the app and rely on it
- Wants to hear more constructive criticism

Speaker Peckham:

- I really appreciate the effort that TAP and the police department have on campus. I always look forward to coming and chatting, especially with the public safety tents. I'm sure not a lot of other campuses give the opportunity to connect. Thank you, we really appreciate and value you!

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Hook:

- No report
- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Collins:

- Hi everybody, hope you all are having a fantastic week. Know we all have a lot of work so take a deep breath
- Committee meeting moved to tomorrow at 5pm
- Hope to see you all there
- We are meeting with director of new student programs at tuesday at 5pm to discuss URI 101 and EGR 105
- If you are a senior and you would like a stop order will be placed on friday they are 35 dollars a piece
- Waiver for North Woods Challenge Course
 - Graphic being posted to the group me about the Challenge Course
 - Any questions about it reach out
 - Meeting at Fine Arts lot at 10:45 AM sharp
 - Any questions or concerned reach out
- Office hours tomorrow 3-5pm
- External Affairs Committee

Chair Mccloskey:

- Happy Wednesday
- Housing fair was today, a couple of packets given out!
- Senator Millner and Senator Cayer shoutout! Chair Walding as well
- Next External meeting next Tuesday
- Hope to see you all at the Challenge Course
- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- Reaching out to a couple restaurants to see about getting some fundraising
- Hopefully they love URI enough to give us some
- Start planning our event for the end of the year and if you have any ideas your more than welcome to help out
- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Buono:

- Hi guys! I already let my campus affairs committee. I will be taking a leave of absence for

the rest of fall semester

- *Senator Hudson will become interim chair and interim vice chair will be Senator Estes*
- *Throughout the last couple of weeks I have had some dialogues that have led me to the conclusion that you all are some of the most intelligent people I've ever met*
 - *We all joined Senate for a reason, let your actions show that reason*
 - *You guys are so impressive and such an essential part of this university*

Senator Estes:

- *Just wanted to commend Chair Buono on taking a step back and her willingness to self preservation*

Speaker Peckham:

- *Sophia is doing an internship with the Attorney General's office, and I think it is incredibly mature of you to take a step back when you need it.*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- *Speaker of the Assembly*

Speaker Peckham:

- *Hey guys! Just a reminder going off of what chair Collins is saying our northwoods challenge course is finally here. We are meeting at 10:45 at the Fine Arts lot! Limiting parking there so we need to carpool. Highly encourage you to come if you can. It will count for office hours that week. Any questions reach out to Chair Collins or me!*
- *If you haven't already you need to RSVP for pumpkin carving with the president of URI before friday*
- *General Assembly is canceled for next week (10/23)*

- *Student Body President*

- *Student Body Vice President*

- *Director of the Treasury*

DOT Cronan:

- *No report :) but seriously about the challenge course go! Team building but also an escape*

- *Director of Communications*

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- *Elections Committee:*

Chair Walding:

- *Hope everyone's having a good week*
- *Declaration is technically this friday, might be getting an email about that though*
- *Tabling event tomorrow from 11-2*
- *If anyone can come just for a little bit that would be awesome*
- *As many people as possible*
- *Shout out to Senator Cayer! He's vital to our process :)*
- *Definitely look out for an email potentially*

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

Head Jurist Ebrahimpour

- *Jury has received a few complaints*
- *In person interview with everyone to find out what's going on*
- *Anything that you say in these interviews will be anonymous*
- *Encourage people to not tell anyone who has not been interviewed what the interview is about*

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Maureen, Student Senate Advisor:

- *Tomorrow 4 to 6pm meeting in atrium 1 for a building plan*
- *First hundred students get a dunkin card!*

- *Looking for student input*
- *Looking ahead to the future of the campus*

Senator Gonzalez:

- *Next external meeting we are going to discuss stuff about commuter lounges and commuter input. Come if you have any ideas and want to brainstorm.*

Chair Hudson:

- *When to Meet in Campus Affairs committee meeting*
- *New meeting will likely be either Mondays or Wednesdays*
- *Please fill it out*

Chair Reyes:

- *VP of Diversity and Inclusion sent out an email about inclusivity and diversity on campus for input from the students — please fill it out!*

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Addressing senator attendance issues and concerns ~ group discussion/brainstorming session

Chair McCloskey moves to enter executive session, seconded by Chair Hook

Senator Sawyer moves to suspend the rules to allow Senate Advisor McDermott and Head Jurist Ebrahimpour stay in the room, seconded by Senator Cayer

Chair Collins moves to end executive session, seconded by Chair Reyes

- *Chair Hudson: if you can't attend the campus affairs meeting tomorrow please text me*
- *Chair Collins: We want you all there on Saturday! Please return assignment waiver to me*

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 8:11