



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 2nd, 2024 General Assembly Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:34

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Emami, Hook (excused), Scola, Small (excused)

Executive: Cronan, Peckham

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motioned to approve made by Chair Reyes and seconded by Chair McCloskey

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motioned to approve made by Senator Milner and seconded by Senator Cayer

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Pierre St-Germain, Director of Dining and Conference Services

- *Here to address the possibility of bringing more ethnic food into the dining hall*
 - *Commented that President and Vice-President were not in attendance to discuss their dining hall related campaign platform statement that he came to address*
- *Few changes since last year: Pepsi Products*
 - *Changed to Pepsi products because they offered the school a more appealing contract and offered some money for their sustainability efforts on campus.*
 - *Pepsi wants to be more involved with the student activities*
- *Vending Machine: Just Baked, meant as a convenience for the students, opportunity for students to get a meal later in the evening after dining services have been closed*
- *Rhody EatZ: food truck out Wednesday through Saturday later at night for food*
- *Rockbot; can change the music in the dining hall through that app*
- *Wants to implement each year a different cultures food traditions for at least one holiday every year; Day of the Dead celebration this year*
 - *Senator Cayer: One thing that we wanted to start working on is accessible food*

options for commuters and late night meals accessible for students. Marketing toward commuters might be something to think about.

- *Commuters have access to brookside and Gurtz cafe; that's what's accessible to them*
 - *Chair Buono: Campus affairs instagram and rhode senate could be a way for us to reach out to commuter students*
 - *Chair Collins: Brookside bistro is a great place, in the years to come with more students is there plans to make something similar in other dorm buildings*
- *From the looks of it, at some point we would have to have a third dining hall and other spots to eat on campus with an influx of students. Besides that maybe looking at expanding food options at corner stores.*
- *As we start to expand housing we probably will be looking at apartment housing bringing grocery stores to campus is important*
 - *Chair Buono: As we heard during his speech he is very open to a changing environment, and feedback. The best thing is the feedback, if campus affairs sends out a google form I really suggest you put your feedback in and consider these things.*

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Vice Chair Stadman:

- *Many clubs or organizations can contact Joey or come to office hours*
- *Few bills later*
- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Collins:

- *Nothing super big to report*
- *If you are a senior and planning on graduating please like the group me message so stools can be purchased. Friday is the deadline!*
- *Northwoods Challenge Course: if anyone has any question please let Chair Collins know as she is a facilitator there*
- *Academic committee is thinking about doing a project with senate history*
- *Feel free to email, call, or text Chair Collins with any question*

Senator Hinrichs:

- *Writing Center in Roosevelt, if anyone ever needs help or assistants it is a great resource*
- External Affairs Committee

Chair McCloskey:

- *Props to everyone that was at the first committee meeting yesterday*
- *Meeting 2-3 pm on Tuesday in the senate office*
- *2100 foundation: Group of landlords that try to work with the community and the students and make sure that everyone has a say. Student advisor council - incorporating URI students to the fabric of Narragansett, review police reports, supply information. Any interest please respond to the text in the group me that will come tonight or tomorrow morning*
- *Northwood Challenge Course: I'm excited to go and it is important that we try to foster connection between everyone in the senate. Team bonding could help us get to know each other better!*
- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- *Cultural committee meeting Wednesdays at 3:30*
- *Hillel Center is reaching out to see if any student orgs want to be apart of the potluck that*

they are doing

- *Event coming for next semester*
- *Bill next week on the floor: Mental health related bill*
 - *Mental health first aid certification class, education on mental health is really important*
 - *One credit class implementation as a gen ed requirement*
 - *This way people can get a valid credit for taking the class*
- *Campus Affairs Committee*

Chair Buono:

- *Thank you so much for the patience of the committee*
- *Were trying to bring forth initiatives involving mental health*
- *In our Student Senate capacity initiatives, raising awareness on mental health can be extremely important and help the community engage.*
- *Please read the bill for next meeting*
- *How many of you have heard of Rockbot?*
 - *Initiative that have come in the past are really important for us to communicate with the students on campus*
- *Committee is looking for a communication liaison, essential for the campus affairs committee*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- *Speaker of the Assembly*

Speaker Peckham:

- *Happy official October!*
- *Course date for challenge course is October 19th, 11AM-1PM, does count as office hours*
- *Carpool list in group me for rides to the Challenge Course*
- *If your seat is removed for attendance you are able to appeal that decision, we as a general assembly will then confirm that appeal*
 - *Student Body President*

- No report

- *Student Body Vice President*

- Chair Reyes provided a reminder about the Leadership Without Limits conference on Saturday; free lunch and goody bags provided

- *Director of the Treasury*

DOT Cronan:

- *Happy October!*
- *Investing in ideas for booths, any ideas please see Director Cronan*
- *Any ideas about fundraising to DOT Cronan! :)*
- *Senate history -> Finding out how to access archives and minutes from way back when*
 - *Director of Communications*

- No report

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- *Elections Committee*

Chair Walding:

- Elections committee please stay after

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-06 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI Photography Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URI Photography Club” mission statement is, “To give URI students the opportunity to express themselves through photography. To provide a collaborative environment for members to enhance their technical skills and artistic vision through workshops, critiques, and hands-on practice. The club often organizes photo shoots, exhibitions, and discussions, fostering both creative growth and technical proficiency. By bringing together students from levels of experience, the club also encourages networking and the exchange of ideas, creating a supportive network for aspiring photographers to learn from one another and share their work with a broader audience”, and

Whereas, URI Photography Club 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 Photography Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that URI Photography Club is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Hook
DATE:	September 25th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Motioned by Senator Gonzalez and Seconded by Chair Walding
Bill passes with unanimous consent.*

SS-24/25-07 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI Surf Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URI Surf Club” mission statement is, “Bring the sport of surfing to the URI campus. Making it more accessible and enjoyable to the student body and providing connections outside other student organizations”, and

Whereas, URI Surf Club 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 Surf Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that URI Surf Club is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Hook
DATE:	September 25th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Motioned by Senator Hailu seconded by Senator Hudson
Bill passes with unanimous consent.*

**SS-24/25-08 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI Badminton Club”
AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “URI Badminton Club” mission statement is, “Unite players all over the URI campus who have a love for playing badminton. This organization strives to teach other students the ins and outs of badminton while being able to have fun with their friends, meeting new people, and playing matches with people of all different levels of experience. Badminton is a sport that requires endurance, strength, strategy, and patience. Members of the club will learn these skills and the importance of working together”, and

Whereas, URI Badminton Club 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 Badminton Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that URI Badminton Club is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Hook
DATE:	September 25th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(3-1-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Motioned by Senator Rinne Seconded by Chair McCloskey
Bill passes with unanimous consent.*

SS-24/25-09 – BILL CALLING FOR THE NAME CHANGE OF “STUDENT ALLIANCE FOR THE WELFARE OF AFRICA” TO “AFRICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the organization “Student Alliance for the Welfare of Africa” will change their name to “African Student Organization”

Whereas, African Student Organization continues to meet the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges African Student Organization as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that African Student Organization will keep the financial status of Student Alliance for the Welfare of Africa.

SPONSOR:	Speaker Peckham, Chair Buono, Senators Stadtman, Sawyer, Estes
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Hook
DATE:	October 2nd, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Motioned by Senator Chair Reyes Seconded by Senator Sawyer
Bill passes with unanimous consent.*

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Senator Milner:

- *If anyone is interested in being a poll worker please do it!*
- *You can work at a bunch of different positions*
- *Go to vote.org and register to vote!*

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:28