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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
October 9th, 2024 General Assembly Agenda

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time:

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Thomas Cooley, Assistant Vice-President for Housing and Residential Life (HRL) and Student Development

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee
- Academic Affairs Committee
- External Affairs Committee
- Cultural Affairs Committee
- Campus Affairs Committee

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly
- Student Body President
- Student Body Vice President
- Director of the Treasury
- Director of Communications

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Elections Committee

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-10 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “DUNGEONS AND RAMS” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Dungeons and Rams ” mission statement is, “Provide a space for students to come together and engage in tabletop role-playing games, particularly Dungeons & Dragons. The club offers a community for fans of D&D and other role-playing games to explore creativity, teamwork, and storytelling. Members can participate in campaigns, learn how to play the game, develop skills in character building, and engage in immersive adventures. It also serves as a social outlet for students to meet others with similar interests in fantasy gaming and role-playing”, and

Whereas, Dungeons and Rams 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 Dungeons and Rams as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Dungeons and Rams 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:	Chair Hook
DATE:	October 9th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-24/25-11 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECENT INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT INVOLVING OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS WITHIN LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Whereas, as representatives of the student body, the Student Senate does not condone the inappropriate events within our local communities in the past month involving students of the University of Rhode Island, and

Whereas, the Student Senate wants to reinforce the fact that the conduct of a select few does not represent the student body as a whole, and

Whereas, the actions of these students do not represent the greater off-campus URI community and the University as a whole, and

Whereas, the Student Senate hopes to continue to build strong bonds with local residents, law enforcement, and governments, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Student Senate will continue to rebuild and repair community relations through civic engagement, community service, and the desire to maintain a strong community, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate recommends that the offending parties recognize their responsibility in repairing student/community relations, and has taken the time to review university conduct and behavior policies, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate will actively seek to promote appropriate conduct from students both on and off campus.

SPONSOR:	External Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair McCloskey
DATE:	October 7, 2024
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-24/25-12 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EDC 203: MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CERTIFICATION CLASS AS A GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOME AND IMPLEMENTATION IN ALL URI 101 COURSES CURRICULUM

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island's Student Senate petitions Faculty Senate to establish EDC 203: Mental Health First Aid Certification class as a General Education Outcome and be included as one of the mental health resources discussed during all of URI 101 classes, and

Whereas, mental health is a critical issue across all college campuses including the University of Rhode Island college campus. According to a national research study conducted by the American College Health Association in 2023, around 76% of college students are affected by one of the many psychological disorders including anxiety and depression, and¹

Whereas, the Counseling Center at the University of Rhode Island is currently experiencing staffing shortages that hinder its ability to provide immediate assistance, leaving many students placed on waiting lists during critical times of need, and

Whereas, the students of the University of Rhode Island deserve accessible and timely mental health resources to support their well-being and academic success, and

Whereas, mental health education should be introduced to all students on a college campus including the University of Rhode Island campus, and

Whereas, the EDC 203: Mental Health First Aid Certification course is taught by trained and certified staff within the University of Rhode Island and can ensure proper education, and

Whereas, students at the University of Rhode Island can receive effective mental health education while also receiving 1 college credit and fulfilling general education outcomes, and

Whereas, the EDC 203 Mental Health First Aid Certification course fulfills two outcomes, C1 and C2 of the general education outcomes list, and

Whereas, outcome C1 refers to **Civic Knowledge and Responsibilities**- Develop and engage in civic knowledge and responsibilities, and

Whereas, outcome C2 refers to **Global Responsibilities**- Develop and exercise global responsibilities, and

Whereas, allowing students to fulfill general education outcomes for this class would increase the number of students that enroll in it, thus expanding mental health knowledge amongst more college students, and

¹ American College Health Association. American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment III: Undergraduate Student Reference Group Data Report Spring 2023. Silver Spring, MD: American College Health Association; 2023.

Whereas, introducing this course during URI 101 classes would help more incoming students know about it and help them be more educated on mental health from the start of their college journey

Whereas, increasing the number of mental health trained students on campus can help them as an individual and their fellow peers until professional help becomes available, and

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate asks the University Faculty Senate to establish EDC 203 Mental Health First Aid Certification class as a General Education Outcome and implemented in all URI 101 classes as a mental health resource.

SPONSOR(S): Chairs Buono and McCloskey, Senators Sorto-Justiniano, Gonzalez and Hudson
BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Reyes
DATE: October 9th, 2024
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Review
ACTION: Vote Tonight

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: