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**University of Rhode Island Student Senate**  
November 19th, 2025 General Assembly Agenda

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*Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer*

*Meeting Start Time: 6:32pm*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to approve the agenda made by Chair Singh and seconded by Senator Macrae*

**D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

*Motion to approve the minutes made by Chair Hudson and Seconded by Chair Niro*

**E. PUBLIC FORUM**

- Jay Wegimont, South Kingston Town Councilman
  - Thank you councilman Wegimont for coming and thank you to Chair Sign for making the invitation, it means a lot to be able to communicate with you as it is important for us as students to interface with leaders from the communities around us. The floor is yours!
  - Rhody, Rhody, Rhody Chant, Speaks about transportation to South Kingston. Discussed the RIPTA changes, will need student support for advocating for public service (especially on weekends).
- I believe rhode island is somewhere you can graduate and get a good paying job
- Rhode island "punches above their weight"
- People in rhode island innovate and work hard
- Rhode island bring people together to build something stronger
- URI students shapes the towns, and is actively engaged in part of the story (spend money, and shapes culture)
- Wants everyone to consider staying in south county when they graduate; couldn't

imagine living anywhere else

- Next year 2026 elections: URI has a voice.
- Thousands of students every year come to south kingstown and make it better
- If we work together this town and university + all the students can make a better rhode island

Speaker: Any questions. First from Chair Singh, thank you for inviting him tonight

Chair Singh: your presence here tonight marks the advent to which our two governments communication. What I hold in my hand is the intersection between Kingstown road and south road. There is not crossroad here, it is very risky and hard to cross for students. Makes it pretty risky to cross that road and night. Pretty good for the safety of the commuters. The Ribta situation is a cruel situation. Thank you for being here

- Think this is a really good question. Raise your hand if you own a car. We all know that there is a lot of traffic, even last year we lost a URI community member by a traffic fatality. We all know that there is a lot of cars and traffic. You have my email, and also if you want to pass a resolution about this to our body. As you have noticed that there is a large body of construction on this road. The more people that come together and make it known that we need more pedestrian stuff here that would be better. To answer your question longly happy to address it and look at it as quickly as possible. Any more issues we are happy to address

Chair Niro:

- I know recently that construction has been going on, on a new high school in south kingstown. Is this project finish date the same for this as it was?

Councilman:

- 6 months ago there was some delays coming up, but we did put a fire upnder them to make them back on schedule to open back up in the fall of 2027. We have them come in every time we meet to give us an update.

Speaker:

- You mentioned the initiative to get the RIBTA buses running again ont he weekend. IS there any other initiatives we would be interested in

Councilman:

- New EMS station going in. There is no real safe way to walk or ride your bike in south kingston. You can run on the highway but you are going to get wacked at some point. I thought to myself how can we make this safel. Building a bike path/pedestrian road. We will not be able to have ideas go forward unless we propose them. A lot of young people

are excited about being able to ride their bikes to the beach. Youth advisor board for the town of south kingstown from the age of 16 to 19, I want the young people to be able to give their ideas. A little bit of a controversial idea. I wrote a proposal and submitted it. If you watch the next meeting you will see this

- Lakeya Francis, Director of Student Involvement
- HI, my name is Lakeya. I am the new associate director of Student Involvement, some of this has to do with the student senate. Recently I worked at DUKE and UCONN, doing a variety of things. Excited to work with you are. Email: [Lakeya.Francis@uri.edu](mailto:Lakeya.Francis@uri.edu). Office downstairs in MU 210

## **F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- Hi everybody hope we are doing well we are in week 13 this week. We held a extremely successful presidents meeting. Over 100 club presidents. Thank you to melissa and everyone for you support. Had a lot of thing son the agenda. Again working toward the goal of having a comprehensive URI community
- Senator Caitlin Curri has written a bylaw change to have one presidents meeting per semester. Previously this has been a once a month kind of thing, however that is difficult to do. So we want to have this changed in the bylaws
- Studnet issue survey is up, we have over 120 responses so far. This will help us shape our policy decision. We had people do this at our presidents meeting, but please also do it. AND SEND IT OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS. This is going to change our actual policy
- One more recognition bill of the semester.
- Just greatful to have everybody in this room
- Academic Affairs Committee

CHAIR TROXELL:

- My committee will be doing a booth on december 8th from 2pm to 4pm, downstairs. Most likely in collaboration with istand thank you lila for connecting us with them
- COLLEGE REPS you are required to meet with your dean twice a semester. This will be enforced next semester. I will be sending you an email in january with some advice on that
- External Affairs Committee

Chair Singh:

- Good evening
- Meeting with southern rhode island chamber of commerce,
- Had a meeting with the office of international students and scholars regarding ICE regulations on campus.
- Had an amazing blue light walk with CHAIR hudson who was dressed up as he was going to florida
- Thank you for listening to the councilman tonight
- I do have a resolution on the floor tonight
- Have a good night
- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Gonzalez:

\_ studnet organization achievement awards coming up on friday at music's ball please sign up. We have 13 submissions for this. This initativce has brought me a better understanding of all the

clubs

Yielded time to senator Ebrahimpour:

- Military ball last Saturday, 104 attendees, thank you to all the senators who showed up t
- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Hudson:

- Wanted to give a special shout out to Chair Singh, senator Ramos, for a very successful blue light walk
- Meeting with Brian Corulo today, for new parking spaces to be added on campus would be hard to do, where we were thinking were wetlands and we can't build on these for ecological and lawful reasons. Other plots are not owned by the university. In the 20 year plan they are adding 500 spots. This will include five parking garages in various places around campus. Brookside lot 22 we will lose 5 spots due to handicap spaces being put in.
- Planning to do an initiative for clubs
- Booth in December, maybe DIY's or raffle for fundraising
- Point of information- Chair Singh, is the booth a fundraiser? How long is the campus plan? 6 year plan, there's different things left to evaluate, fundraiser
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## **G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET**

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Rinne

- Remember that we have many guests tonight, be mindful of the speakers.
- Special orders after the bills
- Student Body President

President Reyes

- Will attend the Faculty Senate Meeting to present last week's Bill Presidents List, along with Chair Troxell
- Student Body Vice President

VP Hailu:

- Today was the cultural fest event. Thank you to Chair Gonzalez and Chair Singh
- Rest of the semester: planning for the coming events that I started this semester.
- Director of the Treasury

DOT UNJENDE:

- Hope you all are having a great week so far, good news: your money is safe
- The transfer bill that I talked about two weeks ago, had to have some amendments so it will be on the floor next week. Which is our last meeting which I apologize for. Remember we are not giving more money just transferring

- Director of Communications

DOC HINRICHS:

- Not present :(

## **H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Niro:

- Next Friday at 3:15, please everyone show up. Hopefully discussing changes to the bylaws
- Elections Committee

Chair Sawyer:

- Newly elected senators are here tonight
- Working on Spring Semester elections, seniors encouraged to join the committee
- Podcast Committee

Chair Neighbors:

- Not much to say tonight, the second part of the veterans day podcast will be coming out tomorrow.
- Next podcast will be filmed tomorrow
- Thank you to everyone in my committee for putting up with my 2am texts

## **I. REPORT OF THE COURT**

## **J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **M. NEW BUSINESS**

### **SS-25/26-28 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI DEBATE UNION” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “URI Debate Union” mission statement is, “to foster an inclusive debating community on campus; promote open conversation where students can safely share their opinions on important topics, to enhance students critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and public speaking skills”, and

Whereas, URI Debate Union 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 Debate Union as a recognized organization.

SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION:

EXPIRATION:

ACTION:

Student Organizations Committee

Chairman Milner

Wednesday, November 19th 2025

(6-0-0)

Valid Until next re-recognition

Vote Tonight

**Yielded floor time to URI Debate union representative:**

- Want people to have a safe space to talk about uncomfortable topics, our goal is to bring people together to talk about political and philosophical issues. We want people to know the URI has a voice, that's what URI debate union is about.

**Chair Niro:**

- You mentioned Brown students, are you talking about the university

**URI Debate Union:**

- Yes

**Chair Gonzalez:**

- I feel like I really appreciate you thinking of this and creating it. When do you meet

**URI Debate union:**

- 5 o'clock on Thursday

**Chair Singh:**

- Do you all have a plan to have formal training events with a faculty event

**URI debate union:**

- Just got in contact with a faculty member, who was previously in the debate union

**Chair Singh calls to question and Chair Milner seconded**

**Bill passes unanimously**

**Motion to amend to amend the bill to reflect the current year, SS-25/26-26**

**Motion to amend to reflect one off-campus seat opened**

**SS-24/25-26 – BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2025-2026 STUDENT SENATE FALL ELECTIONS**

**Whereas**, the Student Senate Fall election results as presented by the Elections Committee for the election for representative seats for the 2025-2026 term.

**Resolved**, that the passage of this bill officially accepts the election of the following students

**First-Year Representatives (1)**

(Senator-Elect) Anureet Kuar

**At-Large Representatives (1)**

(Senator-Elect) Sebastian Rosa

**Off-Campus Representatives (1)**

(Senator-Elect) Emma Bigos

**College of Nursing Representative (1)**

(Senator-Elect) Chiamaka Desmond-Igbo

**College of Education Representative (1)**

(Senator-Elect) Alexis Danis

**Resolved**, that the passage of this bill shall open the internal election process for these remaining seats immediately.

**College of Pharmacy Representative (1)**

**Off-Campus Representative (1)**

**At-Large Representatives (1)**

**First-Year Representatives (4)**

Sponsors:	Speaker Rinne, Senators: Dickson, Niro, Dionne, Chair Milner
Bill Handler:	Chairwoman Lynn-Sawyer
Date:	Wednesday, November 19th, 2025
Expiration:	Valid Until Reviewed
Action:	Vote Tonight

Bill passes unanimously.

Chair Aingh: This resolution, we do not disagree, but we condemn the towing situation. Are there any questions.

Speaker: does everyone understand the voting situation?

**SS-25/26-27 – Resolution Condemning Improper Towing Practices at the Kingston Emporium**

**Whereas**, University of Rhode Island (URI) students are an integral part of the Kingston and South Kingstown communities and deserve fair, transparent, and lawful treatment from local businesses and contracted services; and

**Whereas**, multiple URI students have reported that vehicles parked at the Kingston Emporium have been towed without the presence of clear, properly displayed, and legally required signage indicating parking restrictions, towing policies, or enforcement procedures; and

**Whereas**, the absence of proper signage creates confusion, contributes to financial hardship for students, and raises concerns regarding the towing company's compliance with state and municipal regulations; and

**Whereas**, unfair or improperly administered towing practices undermine the values of fairness, integrity, and student support upheld by the University of Rhode Island and its Student Senate; and

**Whereas**, the Student Senate is committed to advocating for the rights, safety, and well-being of all students, and ensuring that businesses operating near campus adhere to transparent and lawful practices

**RESOLVED**, That the University of Rhode Island Student Senate formally condemns the towing of students' vehicles from the Kingston Emporium parking areas in the absence of clear and legally compliant signage and that the Student Senate affirms and stands by the core values of the University of Rhode Island, including fairness, accountability, and respect for the student community, and that this resolution shall be formally forwarded to:

- The Chief of Police, South Kingstown Police Department, and
- The Chief of Police, University of Rhode Island Police Department

Sponsors: Senators: Bremer, Waddell, Torres, Niro, Ebrahimpour

Bill Handler: Chair Singh

Date: Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

Expiration: Valid Until Reviewed

Action: Vote Tonight

Bill passes 25-4-1 resolution passes

### **SS-25/26-29 BILL AMENDING THE STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS**

**Whereas**, the University of Rhode Island Student Bylaws Section 9, Part 1 Student Organization Committee 9.9 reads as follows:

*The Chairperson and committee members shall organize and attend monthly meetings of all recognized student organization presidents and or their designees in order to promote communication, community involvement, and training as deemed necessary.*

**Whereas**, the current mandated monthly meetings are less efficient, less attended, and less consequential, oftentimes failing to garner any significant audience of student leaders,

**Whereas**, revising the requirement to one meeting per semester for organization leadership allows for greater attendance, more efficient training, and streamlined communication between the Student Organization Committee and recognized student organizations,

**Whereas**, the meeting is to be advertised at least three weeks in advance to give student leaders ample time to prepare and send representatives; with only the president of the senate recognized organization required to attend,

**Therefore**, updating the frequency in which meetings are to be held will allow for more accountability and engagement between the Student Organization Committee and recognized organizations,



**Resolved**, be it enacted by the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, that the Student Senate Bylaws, Article 9, Section 9, be amended to replace the current subsection with the following:

9.9 *The Chairperson and committee members shall organize one meeting each semester of all recognized student organization presidents and/or their designees in order to promote communication, community involvement, and training as deemed necessary. Attendance shall be required for both the president and/or their designees of each organization. The meeting is mandatory; any organization which fails to send a representative will receive a penalty at the discretion of the committee and relevant professional staff.*

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SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION:

ACTION:

Student Organizations Committee

Senator Curry, Chairman Milner

Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

(6-0-0)

Vote Next Week

Senator Curry:

- Jake kind of explained it already the bylaw says that we need to have a presidents meeting every month. This is not obtainable with how much work has to go into a presidents meeting. Are there any questions about these bylaw changes.

#### **K. SPECIAL ORDERS**

- Nomination for Vacant Seats

Seats that are open:

- College of pharmacy: Daniel wheeler nominated by chair niro and seconded by chair singh
- At-large: Kyanna Lin nominated by senator bremer and seconded by senator stover
- Off campus: tre hamlin nominated by senator kiomani and seconded by chair singh
- First year: Sokhna Faye Nomination by senator ebrahimpour and seconded by chair singh, Bineta Konte: nominated by senator gonzalez and seconded by senator stover, Terrezz Osborne nominated by Senator singh and seconded by senator gonzalez, Sahasra Dontula: nominated by senator niro and Seconded by senator gonzalez

All in favor of accepting these members to our senate internally say I.

Congratulations to those seven

- Swearing in of newly elected senators

Thank you for being patient in the some what clunky internal election process. Now that we are all at the table finally. For those new people we can go around in a circle and introduce ourselves.

WENT AROUND THE TABLE:

#### **N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

- **Lucas:** I wanted to introduce myself. I'm Lucas Dewitt, I know new senators. I owe new and updated tent cards.
- **Speaker:** reminder we do not have a meeting next week, next meeting is december 3rd

#### **O. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting End Time: 7:36*

*New senators internally elected:*

- Daniel Wheeler College of Pharmacy: [Daniel.Wheeler@uri.edu](mailto:Daniel.Wheeler@uri.edu)
- Tre Hamlin Off-Campus Representative [Tre.Hamlin@uri.edu](mailto:Tre.Hamlin@uri.edu)
- Kyanna Lin At-Large Representative [Kyanna.lin@uri.edu](mailto:Kyanna.lin@uri.edu)

*First Year Representatives:*

- Sokhna Faye [Sokhana.faye@uri.edu](mailto:Sokhana.faye@uri.edu)
- Bineta Konte [Bineta.konte@uri.edu](mailto:Bineta.konte@uri.edu)
- Terrez Osborne [terrez.osborne@uri.edu](mailto:terrez.osborne@uri.edu)
- Sahasra Dontula [sahasra.dontula@uri.edu](mailto:sahasra.dontula@uri.edu)