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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
November 5th, 2025 General Assembly Agenda

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:32

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 from 10/29 made by Chair Gonzalez and seconded by Chair Niro

E. PUBLIC FORUM

- Kelley Ryan Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services
 - Good evening everyone my name is Kelley Ryan and I've worked at the university for 10 years
 - 2019 started as continental victim advocacy
 - VPAS used to be in the women's center but is now in health services to make sure that we have a place that is neutral and confidential for the students that come in
 - Confidential for student in reporting the university and police
 - Giving a brief overview for what is available for students and how we have evolved and what is the training that students are receiving
 - Confidential: legally unable to speak to anyone or give names to anyone of students being affected, i.e. Kelley, graduate training clinic, marriage and family safety, any of the licensed therapist, and mental health counselors
 - Everyone else is private, i.e. RA's, that means that they are supposed to report to the university which is then given to certain representatives, i.e. victim

intervention staff, police,

- Role in this; need to reach out to the student, comes through title 9, reach out to give them resources if they have been impacted
- Doesn't mean that the student has to do anything with it
- Kelley Ryans role: VPAS 24 hours a day, if a student presents to health services or the URI police department, she gets a phone call and talks to the student on the phone or comes in. My first order of defense to ensure that the student is safe. To make sure that they do feel safe. Second, talk about medical options. Train students that they can walk into health services for 7 days a week; every student that has been impacted by sexual assault everything is free, including testing, STI testing, and prophylactic treatment. Going over medical options: do they need emergency medical evaluation, look at if that person is going to go have a forensic exam done. Either takes the student herself or friends can take them (50 dollar gift card is provided). My job is to sit with that student, go over everything from are they feeling safe in that moment, moving student very quickly, can move off campus people to campus. I.e. until they can get intervention through no contact orders or police interventions
- What does it look like if they choose to report? Something that is gone over. Always work where the incident occurred. Vast majority of our students don't want to report to the police. Explain what is available through the university to report them.
- Title 9 is the federal policy that we follow a lot of it has to do with where the incident occurs, go over in a student center way and help decide if they choose to report.
- One question: How do you feel about going to class for the next few days: able to put out deans alert that go through health services. This way they get three days out of class. Comes across as a medical incident. If a student does not want to move forward without investigation they can do a supportive measure in which they can do a mutual no contact order. That allows students to feel that they are more comfortable going through. Can do frequent check ins. Does a weekly support groups. That is a group that they are able to come into the support groups.
- Job changes in what the student needs.
- 1st semester really looking at the first six weeks, that's when we see the most

sexual assaults on our campus. What we look at is when the student is most vulnerable. This year was my third year, where at orientation we do a presentation called a road to responsibility where everyone first year that comes in, give information about substance abuse and harm reduction. Then we talk about interpersonal violence, including the red zone, then we do extensive talks about what consent looks like, and what it doesn't look like. Then we talk about what it looks like to be apart of the community. Makes sure that the campus climate is a safe space for all of our students.

- Brightspace module that they have to do before coming to school
- Do surveys, at the end of the presentation to get people's email so they can reach out back to me if needed
- Do URI 101 class: looking at what students have for resources on campus, and how to support someone that has been impacted. Want an environment where people support one another and where people who commit this behavior are held accountable.
- Train students on the report it page

Chair milner: Thank you for coming tonight. Wondering if you could explain more in depth what you do at orientation?

- One hour presentation with all students, it's myself and 3 or 4 orientation leaders who deliver a lot fo the material. That way students are more likely to listen and to see what expectations are. During that presentation we give some real life scenarios, and normalizing understanding and talking about consent, and how to ask for consent. Putting the ownership back onto the incoming students, that way that climate has expectations. We also do a survey for students who had already been impact by interpersonal violence and wanted to talk before coming to the unviersty.
- Talk to parents about resources as well

Speaker Rinne: When a student comes to you, do not report but give you information but do not wish to proceed. Do you include this in the statistics?

- Yes we do, CLEARLY report is required by the federal government. I look at my confidential list, and report it as a date and no name attached.

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- Everybody hello, happy wednesday. Happy the senate merch is in

- Heres a few things from the best committee in the student senate
- Presidents meeting is happening next thursday, november 13th 6 pm, pastore auditorium 124 : reviewing student conduct, and previewing the re-ecognition process. Giving them updates about student senate information and rhody connect. 51 confirmed attendees. If you don't go you will be delayed in booking for the memorial union
- Student issues survey, yielding floor to senator d'aiello: created a comprehensive survey that dives into dining, parking, and a lot of other things. Want to have some guidance in where we should allocate our time.
- Would love to see as many of you as possible at the presidents meeting. Main thing I love about this job is that I get to see peoples passions come to life. It would be great to see you there

- Academic Affairs Committee

- External Affairs Committee

Chair singh:

- Good evening everyone,
- Tomorrow the actual
- Kingston emporium towing situation: when

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair gonzalez:

- Hey yall hope your having a good night
- Student organization achievement awards are going to be posted on the cultural affairs instagrams
- Will be given out at the MUSIC ball
- If you have

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair hudson:

- Housing and dining is holding a survey you can get 20 bucks in your ram account
- Me and vice chair rammos and senator dionne, senator niro, and chair gonzales all had a meeting with the five cent cigar, please read about it. Voiced our concerns. Proud to communicate to the students concerns. Making progress and were not done yet.

Speaker Rinne:

- When your saying you brought attention what are speaking of

Campus:

- Brought up towing, parking referendum and other concerns

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Rinne:

- Reminder about decorum i just want you guys to keep in mind to use decorum as tool and not a limitation about our speak. When decorum breaks it can seem hostile, our decorum rules are obvious and some ideas are more subtle. Consider not what you say to someone, but how you say it and your tone. Think deeply about what your questions will make them feel. This isn't to say you have to tread, but don't alienate your peers.

The effec that your words have on people, even if it doesn't break any rules technically please keep that in the back of your mind

- Student Body President

President Reyes:

- Multicultural ball that I mentioned last week was officially posted on monday, check it out, tickets being sold on eventbright this following week
- Thank you to those whos participated in DOC's videos for this coming week
- Five nominees for jurors, last one can not make it tonight but I will be introducing them
- Be respectful to people that take their time to be here, stay within certain range and tone when addressing people

- Student Body Vice President

Vp Hailu:

- HELLO PEOPLE
- Hope you had a lovely start of the week
- Purpose dinner that happened on monday was very successful, series of recurring dinners monthly. We had more of a close one on one interaction with these professors. Hoping to expand it more and maybe have students get credit when they attend this.

Senator bremer: DAI LIASON:

- Meet with associate director of DAI to discuss accessibility around campus, hopefully getting tabeling set up to get student concerns
- Director of the Treasury

DOT UNJENDE:

- In my mind there are two main events: when we allocate money and spend it, for which i want to thank you for your vote of confidence and request. THere is nothing on the floor tonight and I want to ensure you that your money is safe
- Director of Communications

DOC heinrichs:

- Not to much from me if you ordered senate merch you should have received it,
- If you have any interest in the FIT check reel we can include you

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Niro:

- Meeting in the coming weeks
- Elections Committee

Chair Sawyer:

-
- Podcast Committee

Chair neighbors:

- Fourth episode came out over the weekend
- Next episode will be filmed tomorrow with clayton and andrew to talk about military and veteran students

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Coordinator Dewitt:

- One thing to keep in mind recently the student senate specialist position

was posted through the URI channels closes on the 22nd and there is a committee that will go through the application. Goal to have someone in the office by the spring. Full time with benefits. Going to be in there during an irregular time frame, so they are there when you are there. Keep checking in with yourselves and your friends. The rest of the semester will go by fast. Take care of yourselves as you are preparing for finals and the rest of the semester.

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Voting of prospective Jury members

- Cameron, tickner, Walker, and Croes Candidates. Voting begins.

Results: - Cameron was not accepted, Tlckner, Walker and Croes were accepted jurors. Thank you to all four of you for coming.

Nomination for Academic Affairs Committee Chair

Senator Troxell nominated by senator Volek and seconded by entor D'aiello

Chair hudson nominates senator dionne and seconded by

Chair Milner nominate senator D'aiello

Senator Dionne:

- Hello, everybody if you do not know at this point. I am currently on two committees. Just recently gained some interested in doing more with academic affairs. I choose to do this for a few reasons but I want to help better my community and fight for my right. Really passionate about this and I would love to talk about.

Senator troxell:

- My names Jackson, been on academic affairs since I joined senate last fall. Served as vice chair for semester. I have a good idea about what the chair should be doing. Have an academics bill on the floor tonight.

Senator D'aiello:

"I recognize that I'm a new voice in Student Senate, but I've had the privilege of spending the past few months trying to get involved, but more so observing our operations.

We've had a productive start to the semester, and through your acts of strength and advocacy, you've inspired me to throw my hat in the ring as academics chair!

Along with a new voice, I also bring a new set of eyes to the Academics Committee and Student Senate at

large, and I'm excited for the opportunity to reconfigure the way we operate within the apparatus of Senate and the community at large

That being said, I have a bunch of ideas swirling around in my head- everything from equalizing grading scales to redefining academic integrity on campus- I'm okay taking a back seat and letting these ideas pan out, but I would hypothesize that they would be more effective if I had the opportunity to get hands on and mediate the discussions with the committee and cater the different implementations along the way

In my time on this committee, I've identified a strong group of committed members who have set an incredible foundation for the year, but I've also noticed a few functions of the committee that have been brushed aside.

Components of the committee such as semesterly meetings with dean's are crucial for us to know what's going on in the academic sphere- that's the name of the game

Other things like academic complaints have taken a backseat to our operations, and I think it's lucrative for us to reinstate them

I trust in the democratic process to elect a qualified candidate- we're all in this room because we are qualified, elected representatives. That being said, I'm super excited to see how the next meeting goes, and I wanted to thank you all again for inspiring me to throw my hat in the ring."

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-25/26-21 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRESIDENT'S LIST TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS

Whereas, academic excellence is a cornerstone value of the University of Rhode Island and deserves appropriate recognition, and

Whereas, according to section 8.57.10 of the university manual, The University of Rhode Island recognizes students each semester who complete 12 or more credits and earn a quality point average of 3.30 or higher, and

Whereas, the Dean's List serves as a crucial benchmark for incentivising student success, and

Whereas, many students consistently exceed the expectations set by the current Dean's List structure by achieving significantly higher academic performance, and

Whereas, establishing a President's List would provide distinct recognition for students demonstrating exceptional academic performance, and

Whereas, such recognition would incentivize academic excellence and distinguish the highest-performing students, and

Whereas, fellow public, R1, New England peer institutions have similar thresholds for academic achievement, including:

University of Maine

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

University of Massachusetts Lowell

University of New Hampshire

So Be It:

Resolved that, The University of Rhode Island Student Senate recommends that The University of Rhode Island establish a President's List acknowledging students each semester who complete 12 or more credits for a letter grade and achieve a 3.80 quality point average, functioning in a similar manner to the Dean's List.

SPONSOR(S):

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

Academic Affairs Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

Vice-Chair Troxell

EXPIRATION:

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

ACTION:

(6-0-0)

VOTE TONIGHT

Senator Troxell:

- Requirements of a 3.8 to be on
- Rational: wanted to both incentivize and recognize high academic performance for students
- Incentives academic excellence.

- Intent to keep the deans list where it is 3.3 threshold to make the deans list
- Want to keep this in place because students work to achieve this goal
- Many of our peer institutions have a very similar setups, with a deans list and a presidents list
- As far of support around the bill we have been talking with deans and administration
- Gotten positive responses back so far
- Been talking with the provosts office, which received a positive response.
- Working with a member of the faculty senate, working with him to change the university manual
- If we pass the presidents list tonight this will potentially be on the facult senate floor in november

Senator Waddell:

- Question regarding QPA, to clarify why you choose it

Senator Troxell:

- Essentially the same but choose this because this is how it is written in the university manual

Senator niro:

- Is there a reason that the committee choose this

Senator Troxell:

- Looking at other peer institutions, this is the bar that they set

Chair Singh:

- If everything goes well, what is the time frame that the list will be published

Senator Troxell:

- Possible for this semester

DOC heinrichs:

- Can you be on both deans and presidents at the same time

Senator Troxell:

- No, thank you for clarifying

President Reyes:

- Have you gotten feedback outside of this community

Senator Troxell:

- Students I have talked to have responded well

Chair niro:

- 3.7 would be more of an affective standard

Senator Troxell:

- Were discussing this, we thought about it, but looking at peer institutions this was not the case. Looking at peer institutions is important for faculty setting

Senator D'aiello:

- Most of the other peer institutions, had 3.8 because it is far enough away from the 3.3 to keep this summa cum lade.

Speaker Rinne motions to do a roll call vote and chair singh seconded.

Bill passes with 2 nays and 24 i's bill passes

SS-25/26-22 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ‘PAPUAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION’ AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

- Student representatives

Chair Milner:

- Can you tell us about the events that you will put on and events

Student representatives:

- MSSC, evolving and planning on making events in the future

Chair milner:

- Happy to work with you on planning events

Move on to voting

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Endorsement for Senator Troxell to become Academics Chair On Behalf of former Chair Wentworth, Chair Sawyer

- Hi everyone, I hope you’re all doing well this evening. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend tonight’s meeting myself, however I still wanted to express my unwavering support for Jackson Troxell’s campaign to become the next Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. Jackson has been an incredible Vice Chair this semester, and deserves every last bit of support to take my place. Right after my former Vice Chair Cole Rinne was elected as Speaker of the Assembly, Jackson enthusiastically came up to me immediately to inquire about whether he could fill the role. He is one of the most attentive, intelligent, and charismatic people I have ever met, and I truly believe that he would do an incredible job as Chairman. Regarding our current bill on the floor tonight, Jackson was an asset when it came to drafting, planning, and finalizing this concept. I am very proud of all the hard work he has put into our committee, and I encourage you all to

vote for him considering his expertise in relevant committee affairs. As a member of Academic Affairs for over a year, Jackson is no stranger to student rights, and I know that he will welcome the inquiries of all students as to how we can better the academic experience here on campus. If you're unsure about who to vote for, let this endorsement be a firm reminder that Jackson has put the most time and energy into this committee, and will surely do an excellent job continuing the initiatives that he led alongside me.

Thank you for listening and enjoy the rest of your meeting!

Chair Milner:

- So everybody we have three excellent qualifying candidates to speak on behalf of my good friend senator D'aiello. Andrew has had a lot fo experience. Harrington ambassador and is dedicated to what he has done. I know he is passionate about initiatives . have seen his personal efforts in my committee. He doesn't just think about things but get to point of the problems. He is always happy to chat. He is a great person to not only do the talking but is incredible. He is a great fit and has the right temperament for it. As someone with 3 major and 2 minors. As a senior this is a good time. I give him my full endorsement.

Chair hudson:

- I want to personally endorse riley, he was one of my first friend at URI. he listens he cares and is really nice. He will listen to your concerns. He is honest and willing to tell yout things that you need to hear. WIthout a doubt i endorse him with his full backing if you elect him he will be a phenomenal chair.

President Reyes:

- Over the weekend I sent a couple of polls for formal. Please stay on the lookout for that groupchat so you guys can stay up to date
- We have a very special birthday in the room. DOT Unjende. WE ALL SING A BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JOHN

Senator Bremer:

- I can attest to senator Dionne's character. Man of strong principle and morals. Pleased to see him as academics chair.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:54