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**University of Rhode Island Student Senate**  
December 11th, 2024 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

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*Recording Secretary: Matthew Cayer*

*Meeting Start Time: 6:34*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**Present:** Acharya, Cayer, Collins, Estes, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hook, Hudson, Milner, Njende, Reyes, Rinne, Santos, Singh, Small, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Troxell, Wentworth, Williamson

**Absent:** Abbott, Alemany, Boucher (excused), Connolly, Curry, Macrae (excused), Martin, McCloskey (excused), Paulino, Reffelt, Romano, Sawyer (excused), Walding (excused)

**Executive:** Peckham, Cronan, Goswami, Feroz

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Chair Reyes moves to approve, seconded by Senator Hailu*

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

*Senator Acharya moves to approve, seconded by Senator Gonzalez*

**E. PUBLIC FORUM**

**F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Student Organizations Committee

- *Org president meeting in the works*
- *Bill on the floor tonight*

Academic Affairs Committee

- *Reminder to look at final exam rights*

External Affairs Committee

- *No report*

Cultural Affairs Committee

- *Bill on the floor tonight*

Campus Affairs Committee

- *Beach cleanup on Friday*

- *No committee tomorrow (finals)*

## **G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET**

Speaker of the Assembly

- *Fill out committee placements form*
- *Senate Formal interest form being sent out*

Student Body President

- *Met with administrative policy team*
- *VP Feroz attended the dining services meeting*
- *Two or three more meetings regarding Board of Trustees policy*
- *Cards for graduating senators (Hannah Collins, Tracy Santos, Kendal McCloskey, John Estes)*

Student Body Vice President

- *Met with managers from Butterfield and Hope Mainfare to increase fulfillment of dietary restrictions.*
- *Met with Transportation and Parking about bi-directional shuttle routes.*

Director of the Treasury

- *Treasury bill on the floor tonight*
- *Treasury Committee is looking for members (members cannot be from SoC)*

Director of Communications

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

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

### **J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- *Senator Sundell emphasizes beach cleanup on Friday*

### **K. SPECIAL ORDERS**

*Nominations for Director of Communications*

- *Snaha Pokherel is nominated*

*Certification of Director of Communications*

- *Senator Hinrichs moves to begin voting, seconded by Chair Milner*  
*Director Pokherel is certified*

### **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **M. NEW BUSINESS**

*Internal Nominations*

*Senator Singh nominates Chiamaka Desmond-Igbo for first year, seconded by Senator Gonzalez*

*Senator Wentworth nominates Luke Lagasse. on campus, seconded by Senator Hook*

*Speaker Pechkam nominates Gianna DeLorenzo for on campus, seconded by Chair Collins*

*Senator Cayer nominates Liam Flemming for off-campus, seconded by Senator Sorto-Justiniano*

Senator Rinne nominates Tyler Dickinson for off-campus, seconded by Senator Acharya

*Internal Elections*

- Senator Hailu motions to begin voting, seconded by Senator Hinrichs.
- All nominations are voted in unanimously.

**SS-24/25-23 – BILL CALLING FOR THE APPROVAL OF A \$17,500.00 CATEGORY TRANSFER FOR ALPINE RACING TEAM**

**Whereas**, Alpine Racing Team is requesting a category transfer of \$17,500.00 from its Programming (130) line to its Operational Costs (213) and Travel & Lodging (700) lines, to better serve the operational needs of the organization, and

**Whereas**, the Programming (130) line for Alpine Racing Team is not highly applicable or often utilized by the organization to fund its operations, and

**Whereas**, Alpine Racing Team has been in frequent contact with Director Cronan and the Accounts office regarding this matter, and

**Whereas**, Director Cronan has determined this category transfer request is in the best interests of Alpine Racing Team’s future success, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Student Senate approves a category transfer of \$10,500.00 from Alpine Racing Team’s Programming (130) line to its Operational Costs (213) line, and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Student Senate approves a category transfer of \$7,000.00 from Alpine Racing Team’s Programming (130) line to its Travel & Lodging (700) line.

SPONSOR(S):	Chairs Collins, Hudson, McCloskey, Milner, Reyes
BILL HANDLER:	VDOT Njende
DATE:	December 11, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

- Director Cronan: Explains that this bill does not require extra funds and is simply a category transfer.
- Chair Reyes moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Acharya
- Bill passes unanimously

**SS-24/25-24 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “PHARMACOGNOSY CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

**Whereas**, the “Pharmacognosy Club” mission statement is, “to promote the growth and

development of pharmacognosy, to provide the opportunity for association among students in the sciences, and to provide opportunities for presentation of research achievements”, and

Whereas, Pharmacognosy 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 Pharmacognosy Club as a recognized organization, and be it

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, December 11th
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

- *Senator Hinrichs motions to begin voting, seconded by Chair Milner.*
- *Bill passes unanimously*

**SS- 24/25 - 25 – BILL CALLING FOR THE INSTALLMENT OF A HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED POPULATIONS LIAISON ON THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE**

Whereas, Multicultural organizations, including both non-Greek organizations and Black/Hispanic Greek-letter organizations (social and professional), provide critical spaces for cultural expression, leadership development, and academic support for underrepresented student populations, and

Whereas, These organizations enrich campus diversity, promote equity, and foster a sense of belonging among minority students, yet often face challenges in visibility, representation, and engagement within broader campus life, and

Whereas, Students from diverse backgrounds, including those interested in social and professional multicultural Greek-letter organizations, deserve an equitable platform to connect with these opportunities and feel valued as part of the university community, and

Therefore, The creation of a Historically Excluded Populations Liaison within the University of Rhode Island Student Senate will serve to amplify the voices of multicultural student organizations, facilitate collaboration across cultural groups, and advocate for their needs and interests within the larger campus framework, and

Therefore, This liaison will work closely with all multicultural student organizations, including non-Greek entities, social and professional Greek-letter organizations, and chapters, to promote culturally relevant programming, build partnerships, and ensure equitable access to resources and support systems, and

Resolved, That the University of Rhode Island Student Senate establishes a permanent position for a Historically Excluded Populations Liaison, whose responsibilities shall include

but are not limited to:

1. Student Outreach: Actively connecting with multicultural organizations to foster collaboration and elevate their presence on campus.
2. Event Coordination: Supporting culturally significant programming and promoting diversity-focused events.
3. Advocacy: Serving as a voice for multicultural organizations in Student Senate discussions to ensure their concerns and needs are addressed.
4. Partnership Building: Working with university administration, local organizations, and external Greek councils to enhance resources and visibility for multicultural groups.

SPONSOR(S): Chairs Reyes, Hudson, Milner, Senators Hailu, Gonzalez  
BILL HANDLER: Senator Santos  
DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Review  
ACTION: Vote Tonight

- *Senator Santos explains the bill. Bill ensures visibility of underrepresented and historically excluded populations to bridge the gap between multicultural organizations and the student body.*
- *Chair Reyes emphasizes the importance of the bill.*
- *Senator Hailu moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Sorto-Justiniano*
- *Bill passes unanimously*

#### **SS-24/25-26 – A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAUREEN MCDERMOTT**

**Whereas**, it is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Maureen McDermott, an invaluable member of the University of Rhode Island community who devoted her life to supporting and enriching the experiences of students, faculty, and staff; and,

**Whereas**, Maureen McDermott's leadership, dedication, and passion for service have left an indelible mark on the university, especially within student involvement; and,

**Whereas**, her tireless efforts to foster a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment at URI, through both her professional work and personal commitment to students, has created a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire future generations; and,

**Whereas**, her mentorship and advocacy for students, along with her collaborative approach to leadership, played a pivotal role in the development of several programs that enhanced the URI community and elevated the student experience for countless individuals; and,

**Whereas**, Maureen McDermott's kindness, generosity, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of URI's academic and social community have earned her the admiration and respect of all those who had the privilege of working with her and knowing her; and,

**Whereas**, we recognize that her legacy will live on in the continued work of those she mentored, the programs she championed, and the positive changes she initiated that continue to benefit the URI community; now therefore be it,

**Resolved**, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate expresses our deepest condolences to Maureen McDermott's family, friends, and colleagues, and offers our heartfelt gratitude for the profound impact she made on our community;

**Resolved**, that the Student Senate officially honors Maureen McDermott's legacy, and commits to continuing her work in fostering an inclusive, compassionate, and student-centered environment at URI;

**Resolved**, that this resolution be entered into the official records of the Student Senate and shared with the URI community as a lasting tribute to her life and legacy.

SPONSORS:	Speaker Peckham, Chairs Hudson, McCloskey, Reyes, Milner
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Collins
DATE:	December 11th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

- *Speaker Peckham reads out the bill*
- *Chair Collins explains the importance of the bill*
- *Senator Hook moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Rinne*
- *Bill passes unanimously*

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

*Pass the Gavel - Celebrating our December 2024 Graduates*

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting End Time: 7:24*