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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
December 4th, 2024 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:34

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

- Present: **Abbott, Acharya, Boucher, Cayer, Connolly, Curry, Collins, Estes, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hook, Hudson, McCloskey, Macrae, Martin, Milner, Njende, Paulino, Reyes, Reffelt, Romano, Sawyer, Santos, Singh, Small, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Troxell, Walding, Wentworth, Williamson**
- Absent: **Aleman, Rinne, Wentworth**
- Executive: **Peckham, Cronan, Goswami**

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Chair McCloskey.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Reyes moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Hinrichs.

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Lucas DeWitt, Coordinator of Organization Advising and Interim Student Senate Advisor ~ Presenting on URInvolved and the Fall 2024 Student Senate Elections

- *Very excited to be here*
- *Discussing URInvolved and Fall 2024 Senate Elections*
 - *Way for one to be able to stay connected and involved, opportunity for a way for students to find information about getting involved on campus*
 - *URInvolved keeps track of all of the positions you've had at URI*
 - *News section, so people that are leaders or clubs can release information and news about the clubs*
 - *A way to transition leadership positions more easily*
 - *Way to give feedback on events*
- *Organization management: way to keep track of active roasters and e boards*

- Give the autonomy to student organization leaders to keep track and manage their club in a way that they see fit
- Student resources; meant to gather all student organizations and departments into one place
- Helps find a sense of belonging and campus community this way
- Features: student organizations pages, events section, event pass; to keep track of who goes to the events, uri involved transcript,
- URI involved transcripts keeps track of all of your involvement, option to put reflections

Fall 2024 student senate elections:

- Utilized URI involved for this
- Ballots created for each of the open senate positions, and then able to add in all the candidates
- Able to create eligibility lists; ex. First year representatives only allowed first years to vote.
- Allows for fair elections
- Help in growing turnout for elections

Reminders:

- Tomorrow 4-6pm Maureen McDermott Memorial
- Rainville nominations are open: student, organization, faculty get nominations in!
- Spring student organization fair

Questions

- Chair Reyes: From when URI involved was first established to now have you seen a higher usage?
 - Mr. Dewitt: There's a way to keep track of involved users, this time last year we were at 12,000 involved users and now we're at about 25,000 involved users. Nearing almost 1600 to 1700 events that have been posted on this platform so far. By spring semester we will have almost 2000 events in the spring 2024 semester.
- Speaker Peckham: Are you able to see the data from student orgs and past events?
 - Mr. Dewitt: There is an event feedback portion in the platform and an event attendance portion. This January we are integrating demographic data from e-campus and that way we could tell the story of what student involvement looks like on campus.

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- We have four bills on the floor tonight, all the clubs came to us, they are verified and have met all the requirements
- Engaging in Presidents meetings
- Trying to make the recognition process more streamlined and more successful

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Collins:

- Happy Wednesday, if you have any questions about exams or last day of classes please reach out
- Meet with head of library services yesterday and got to learn more about it yesterday
- If you would like to know more about the library, reach out!
- Tip of the week: find a new study spot this week

- *My vice-chair, Molly Wentworth, will be taking over when she graduates*

- External Affairs Committee

Chair McCloskey:

- *Meeting with the chief if you have issues or something that you want me to bring up please lmk*

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- *Reaching out to give recognitions for the three organizations for the three multicultural club recognition award*
- *Really important bill on the floor next week so hope everyone's here*

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Hudson:

- *Planning on doing a beach clean up on December 13th 3:30 to 4:30 more information coming about that soon*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- *Hope you had a relaxing thanksgiving break*
- *Congrats to the new senators!*
- *Next Wednesday is last meeting*
- *Internal elections next week: 2 on campus, 2 off campus, and 2 first year representatives spots open*
- *Committee request form open this week, please have it done before the last week of classes*
- *Everyone has to fill it out even if they're already on a committee*
- *Memorial for Maureen McDermott tomorrow at 4pm on the ramp outside of Memorial Union*
- *Want to take a minute to remember Maureen and her legacy*
 - *Ask that we take a moment of silence to honor her memory*

- Student Body President

President Goswami:

- *Congratulations to the new senators*
- *Hope you have an enjoyable experience here*
- *Congrats to Tracy Santos on receiving the Santos award!*
- *Encourage you to go to events and challenge you to meet other sides of campus*
- *Director of communications appointment next week!*
- *Group picture potentially next week*
- *Meeting with the housing director sometimes next week to address RA issues*
- *Meeting with the faculty senate vice president: working on accessibility for students*

- Student Body Vice President

-Message: Will be meeting with the TAP director and the dining director to discuss concerns about food on URI including dietary restrictions

- Director of the Treasury

DOT Cronan:

- *Budget is coming up very quickly once we get back to school*
- *Typically during the budget we form a treasury committee*
- *Treasury committee does not serve as a replacement to the other committees*
- *Come see me if your interested*

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

-Elections Committee

Chair Walding:

- *Congratulations to the newly elected senators*
- *If anyone knows anyone that would like to be apart of Senate internal elections next week please tell them to come!*

Speaker Peckham:

- *We also have a cheat sheet for the new senators in how to engage in general meetings to make it easier and less intimidating.*

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-18 – BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THE FALL 2024 STUDENT SENATE ELECTION

Whereas, the list below includes those who have confirmed their elected senate positions

Martin, Beyonce (First Year), Abbott, Tailah (On Campus), Romano, Carli (At Large), Curry, Caitlin (Off Campus), Connolly, Olivia (Off Campus), Singh, Arpan (First Year), Troxell, Jackson (Education & Professional Studies), Paulino, Victor (College of arts & Sciences), Macrae, Lyla (College of Environmental & Life Sciences), Alemany, Lindsey (First Year), therefore so be it

Resolved, that the open positions for On Campus Representatives, Off Campus Representatives, and First Year Representative are conditional on the acceptance of the positions by those elected by the end of the day, and be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate hereby certifies the official, tabulated results of the Fall 2024 election as presented by the Elections Committee.

SPONSOR(S):
BILL HANDLER:

Elections Committee
Chair Walding

DATE: December 4th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Spring 2025 Re-Election
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Collins moves to begin voting, seconded by Chair Milner

Vote passes by unanimous consent.

Swearing in of newly elected senators

SS-24/25-19 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “RED CROSS CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the Red Cross Club mission statement is, “Working with the Providence Red Cross, students can work hand in hand with the community, by preparing local towns with resources for natural disasters. It can help students gather leadership skills and responsibility or even show students what disaster relief efforts are. Showing students what’s going on in the world around us can offer hands-on opportunities. By simply coming to a meeting, students can learn more about a topic. The club can strengthen students’ collaborative skills and responsibility”, and

Whereas, Red Cross 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 Red Cross Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved that Red Cross 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: Chair Milner
DATE: December 4th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION: (4-0-0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Senator Hinrichs moves to begin voting, seconded by senator Sorto-Justiniano.

Vote passes by unanimous consent.

SS-24/25-20 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “CHINESE GAMES CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the Chinese Game Club’s mission statement is, “To spread the culture and language to other URI students. For example, learning how to play Mahjong or Chinese chess/checkers.

During Chinese festivities, we can host events in which students can learn more about Chinese culture. Also, as a Chinese Flagship student, I can spread information about the program in which students can have the opportunity to travel to Taiwan.”, and

Whereas, the Chinese Games 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 Chinese Games Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved that Chinese Games CI 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 Milner
DATE:	December 4th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Chair Reyes moves to begin voting, seconded by Chair Collins.
Vote passes by unanimous consent.*

SS-24/25-21 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “GOLF CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, Golf Club’s mission statement is, “To provide unique opportunities for students to play, learn, and compete in a competitive golf setting. Our members will learn skill development, leadership and teamwork skills, sportsmanship, integrity, physical well-being, and school spirit along with pride. As there are no other options for students to play competitive recreational golf as a part of a team, our club will give them an opportunity to be a part of one.”, and

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

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Milner
DATE:	December 4th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Senator Gonzalez moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Cayer.
Vote passes by unanimous consent.*

SS-24/25-22 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Student Organ Donor Advocates” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas. SODA’s mission statement is, “The purpose of the volunteer training is to learn about organ donation and become more comfortable with having meaningful conversations about the topic. There will be at least one volunteer training session on campus per semester. The purpose of the other educational events is to learn about organ donation from social, ethical, and biomedical perspectives”, and

Whereas. SODA 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 SODA as a recognized organization, and be it

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Milner
DATE:	December 4th, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Chair Walding moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Sawyer.
Vote passes by unanimous consent.*

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Chair Milner:

- You should join SOC

Senator Cayer:

- If any new senator want a mentor I’m offering

Senator Gonzalez:

- I’m open for a buddy too

Lucas:

- Congratulations to you all!

President Goswami:

- Love to see a table full! Hope we can all prioritize attendance

Chair Collins:

- Join Academics
- If you have any exam rights questions let her know
- An incomplete basically means you submit your work at a later time and receive an I on your transcript
- Keep in mind that you need to have a passing grade to request an incomplete

Speaker Peckham:

- Would love some buddies, also a great resource for new senators!

Chair Walding:

- If anyone has questions you can email the elections email!

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:25