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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
January 22nd, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:33

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present:

Absent:

Executive: Cronan (DOT), Feroz (Vice President), Peckham (Speaker)

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Milner moves to amend the agenda, seconded by Chair Buono

- *Motion for the bill on the table to be changed from 75\$ to 50\$*

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Reyes moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Troxell

E. PUBLIC FORUM

President Parlange, Vice-President Benson, and Vice-President of the Division of Student Affairs ~ Update on Board of Trustees Regulations

- *Regulations for URI board of trustees*
- *Actions that have been taken since our last meeting:*
 - *We heard you that you needed more time and there were concerns about the regulations*
 - *473 comments voicing the concerns on the regulations*
 - *310 comments were from students*
 - *Wanted to make sure that these documents were reflective of the values of URI*
- *Summarization of redlines:*
 - *In no way trying to limit the expression of speech on the campus*

- *What we heard as part of the feedback is making sure that these regulations are neutral for faculty, staff, and visitors*
- *There is a space allocation policy that we make sure that the spaces are allocated to students first before anyone else*
- *Sounds: can not impede the business of the campus, amplified sounds is okay as long as it does not interfere with the university*
- *Bicycles, skateboard, and similar conveyance: wanted to make sure that there was an ability for accessibility still*
- *Department of Public Safety is primarily authorized to implement this policy in a way that is productive, only emergency measures are taken when there an actual need for the emergency services*
- *VP Feroz: When I was first reading this document one of the first things that I thought of was when I'm on the quad and am seeing students with hammocks, would that be considered a temporary structure?*
 - *Intent is not to limit the community on campus, would not be in any way a violation of the regulations*
- *Senator Small: I noticed that you completely removed section g, but then in section I; in addition unauthorized banners, posters that are not authorized are not allowed. It seems as if it was removed and added back later*
 - *Appreciate your comment on that, I believe they settled this as it would only be not allowed if it was destructing to the property on the URI campus.*
 - *Senator Gonzalez: what I'm trying to understand, is you would want us to stay away from expensive property*
 - *The destruction in my experiences is when the tap or way it is hung is taking paint off that would be considered destructive, but not if it doesn't.*
- *VP Feroz: In the number 6 in enforcement and violation it points to the student handbook and the graduate student handbook, so bias claims go through the same process as it would in the student handbook. Would this be the same appeals process?*
 - *It would be the same as applicable in the student handbook, and may go through different offices*
- *VP feroz: does this apply to non-uri affiliated people as well*
 - *Yes*

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- *We're glad to be back*
- *If my committee could see me afterwards I have a few things to talk about*
- *Looking for a vice chair*
- *Have a bill on the floor feel free to ask questions*

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth:

- *Hi everyone*
- *Last week I made a new groupchat so if your in my committee and are not in the groupchat please let me know*
- *When to meet in the groupchat please have it filled out by Sunday*

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Cayer:

- *Got into contact with South Kingstown and Narragansett Town Council they seem open to making sure that there are communications with the students which is great*

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- *The awards that we have mentioned last semester hopefully will be handed out in the next coming weeks*
- *If you are on the cultural committee please find me after the meeting*

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Buono:

- *So good to see you guys this semester*
- *Happy first day of classes i'm going to be sending out a link to the committee group me in the general assembly chat*
- *If you are interested in a liaison position please let me know*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- *I hope you guys missed me I missed being here*
- *So happy to see you guys, the committee assignments were sent out over the email*
- *Just text me or email me with any questions about committees*
- *If there are people or anyone you can think of for public forum just let me know*
- *Next week during open forum I will be going over senate basics again*
- *There are fliers on the table about stuff like talking at the table and how to make a motion*
- *Please fill out the formal interest form*

- Student Body President

- Student Body Vice President

VP Feroz:

- *Meeting with TAP next week*
- *Working on bidirectional shuttle services*
- *Going over the survey that will be sent to the student body that they can vote on shuttle services*
- *TAP was very open to the idea*
- *Hopefully can get some volunteers for outreach*

- Director of the Treasury

DOT Cronan:

- *We finally hit the budget season*
 - *Tomorrow morning I'm going to send out the budget request form*
 - *Every student organization will fill out a form of events for next semester and the budget you want*
 - *Those are due February 7th*
 - *There is going to be a google slideshow presentation that comes with the form as well*
 - *If you know anyone on any board of a club just tell them to check their emails*
- Director of Communications

DOC Pokherel:

- *all the new senators will be getting their headshots taken*
- *No retakes as of right now*

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Buono:

- *Wanted to give a quick round of applause to Senator Hudson for taking over last semester as chair of Campus affairs really quickly*

Senate Advisor Lucas:

- *Student organization fair on February 5th*
- *Registering student senate for a table*
- *There is a wellness fair on February 3rd*
- *Anyone that's interested in tabling for that*
- *Going to look very different in the division of student affairs and new job postings, there may be an opportunity for senators to be involved*

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations for External Affairs Committee Chair

Senator Gonzales nominated Senator Cayer, seconded by Speaker Peckham

Nominations for Academic Affairs Committee Chair

Senator Rinne nominated Senator Wentworth, seconded by Chair Buono

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-27 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCACY CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Planned Parenthood Advocacy Club” mission statement is, “To mobilize advocates and organize campaigns for reproductive freedom in the URI Community, improving the lives of students, faculty, and staff. Through raising awareness of reproductive health, rights,

and justice, educating the URI community about sexual health, and organizing campaigns promoting reproductive freedom”, and

Whereas, “Planned Parenthood Advocacy 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 “Planned Parenthood Advocacy Club” as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that “Planned Parenthood Advocacy Club” is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$50 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, January 22nd
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

- *Chair Milner moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Gonzalez*
- *Bill passes unanimously*

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:24