



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
January 28th, 2026 General Assembly Agenda

Recording Secretary:

Meeting Start Time: 6:31

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present:

Abbot, Tailah	Faye, Sokhna	Niro, Ryan
Capraro, Melanie	Gonzalez, Kairy	Ramos, Aaron
Connolly, Olivia	Hudson, Cameron	Ranieri, Caterina
Conte, Isabella	Keomany, Annie	Rinne, Cole
Curry, Caitlin	Konte, Bineta	Rosa, Sebastian
D'Aiello, Andrew	Kuar, Anureet	Sawyer, Lynn
Danis, Alexis	Lin, Kyanna	Singh, Arpan Utkarsh
Desmond-Igbo, Chiamaka	Macrae, Lyla	Torres, Alli
Dickson, Tyler	Martin, Beyonce	Troxell, Jackson
Dionne, Ryleigh	McConville, Max	Volek, Paige
Dontula, Sahasra	Milner, Jacob	Waddell, Dylan

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 Gonzales and seconded by Chair Troxell

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Vice President of Student Affairs Ellen Reynolds

- I really appreciate the opportunity to be here
- Vice president of student affairs, works with all of the departments that support you

outside of the classroom: i.e. dining service, resident halls, campus recreation, health services, counseling center, Memorial union, etc.

- Shout out: first faculty senate meeting, new introduction of the presidents list suggested by Chair Troxell. Our deans list is terrific but the presidents list is such a great idea for our high achievement. I really feel like the student focus is there for us
- New student housing groundbreaking on January 28th this year. It was about 18 degrees. We are constructing 912 new beds on Flagg Road. It took away a few parking spots but I promise you it will be great. Apartment styles with about 4 bedrooms. In partnership with Gilbane. First time the university has ever done this. This is going to be done more affordably for our students. Many distinguished guests for us. This University is a university on the move. Will talk about a few more projects later. I know many of you aren't going to be here to see this, but trust me it will change. We have upperclassmen that are currently not able to live on campus but want to, this will make it easier
- Dining Services update: in Main Fair the pizza place is no longer open, this is because we have signed a contract to renovate this spot. We will have limited options this summer, however late night is not going away. We need people to come for us to stay open. So if you have the opportunity, come in. Hoping to get our food truck out soon. I also want to let you know we are having a Super Bowl watch party. Rams Den Friend will be hosting a party starting at 6pm with prizes. It is more fun watching the Super Bowl game in groups.
- Fascitelli and Mackal: all of the weights and training equipment have been updated. It is not a small fee. I am going to give them about a week to take a breath and then we are ordering cardio equipment. I know Fascitelli has been busy. Rarely a weight at Mackal. I know it is not as convenient if you are in a resident hall. I do encourage you to get in use. The place is busy until 10 or 11 at night.
- Winnie: Project we started working on last year. Told us that it would take three years to get a facility dog. Originally she was going to be a guide dog but failed her training. Her counselor and her will be all over campus. They came to my office yesterday. I hope you engage with Winnie. One of the primary things we hear is that you miss your own pets.
- MU: New game room, every day we are adding new things. Trying to bring back some spaces where people are going to hang out. What we know is that students need to have a life, we are trying to see about opening it up later. Adding more food options for late night. Still actively in the works, have a vendor that bid in. The goal right now is that they will be here on or about August 1st. Very interested in being open late at night.

- Rams Den: Giant gray screen, coming spring break we are going to be putting in a screen to do movie nights and trivia. It is coming but we haven't been able to get it in quite yet.
- Memorial Union is going to be renovated, it is time. When you look around, what do you see? A well used building. As much as the team does, we need some renovations. We have student organizations that don't have spaces. We are going to engage with a feasibility study. We really need you to meet with the architects, what will support your cocircular stuff, your things you do outside of academics. Talking about a very expensive renovation project 200,000 dollars. I know food is an option but start thinking about the wish list. We are also going to be putting a new roof on this building. By the time that you come back in September there will be a new roof on this building.
- Hazing Transparency: report on our website, which went live on December 23rd. It does list that any student organization that has been found responsible for hazing has to stay on that site for 5 years. Now I need to do education and it is required for 1st years. No tolerance policy at URI for hazing. Goal is to have no others join that list
- Admissions update: Number one public university in New England for the past 2 years, TD groups has had a 10% increase from last year. Graduated 5,000 graduates from last year. Incredible things are happening. This is the place to be. About 3300. After this year we will not be doing triples.
- Resources: Rhody reports it, Student Affairs Resources, our website has the same resources. We have any type of resources that you need. Concerned about a fellow student: Rhody Report it.
- What's next: Tomorrow January 29th MLK Luncheon, shout out to Kairy for attending an MLK brunch as a representative for URI. Spring Involvement fair tomorrow 5-7pm. So important to your success. Please get your flu vaccines if you can. Winter Wellness fair on the 11th of February. Inclusive excellence away, April 2nd @ 5 pm. Rainville leadership awards, April 14th MU ballroom. Athletic directors left are at UMASS now, actively searching for one right now. President Parlange is chairing that.

Chair Gonzalez: I have been taking the bus a lot this semester, I have a lot of people telling me a lot about the game area. I feel as though that is a really really good choice. Commuters are even going there in between their classes

- So glad to hear

Senator Dylan: Is the university planning to connect the rhody market to mainfair

- I haven't been to the latest planning meetings but the goal is to break through the wall,

and have the ability to open it up during meal times to make more seating. However, be able to close it up for private events and other events. We are just sitting down now. Outdoor dining going in.

- The number one thing that we heard from students is that there is not enough parking but plains are always open. Trying to make this more accessible. Going to get to the point that we will need to build more shuttles.

Chair hudson: What goes into your guys decision to cancel or not cancel schools.

- They are talking about 18 inches of snow, I don't know if I can even get people in the dining halls. I felt so strongly that there is going to be a need for ample time. Hopefully you had a little bit of peace of mind that our emergency management services will conclude it. You could get nothing or 3 to five inches. This storm is not going to be as quick with it. Thursday at 2 we will know more, we will not be making this one as soon.

Senator Dylan: I think that canceling at least a day of advance would be good, like with the shooting during finals when you guys canceled classes at 8am.

- That was a tricky situation, but I think you were right that we could have done it better. When we are dealing with those kinds of circumstances. Our community's safety was our number one priority.

Senator Capraro: That's totally understandable however I got to campus an hour before class. I totally understand that we have to shovel around our own cars. Is there anyone that could come in and shovel the empty spots?

- Snow happens, you are paying a good premium, with the early notification we thought students would move their cars but instead plows had to plow around them. I don't know if you are allowed to park at plans. I will make sure I call in that request to try and get them cleaned out.

Chair Singh: The gym stuff is amazing and I'm getting ripped in a month and a half. Two concerns that I have: we do need a vending machine within the gym. Some nutrients we need and also water. The off campus newsletter: aesthetic of it's and getting inspiration, soon my team will be working with you

- Anything we can do to support you, I want to support our students

Chair Gonzalez: It would be nice if all the vending machines around would have healthy alternatives. Eventually I am going to have to pick between a large cookie or chips. Unless I'm wrong, the campus store is where the slightly healthier options are.

- Vending machines are state contract, I want to make sure what they offer, but I will have to see what they offer

Senator Rosa: is URI doing any extra security precautions after the Brown shooting

- Our chief of police is in contact with Brown to see what did and didn't work and what we can improve upon. I really trust the chief to get the details of what can help in those types of situations. In a minute we will have a notification. Meant to get you the warning you need in a timely manner. Getting that information out immediately. Going to department building and actively. Meeting with faculty, chairs, and departments. Students knew what to do because they were trained in high school. Have been told previously what actions to take. Spending a lot of time with our residents' halls. The reason residents' halls are locked down. Continually working on it.

Chair Niro: I am curious to know about the cameras in fine arts lot, we have been told that there is not any

- Can check on that for you.

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee:

Chair Milner:

- Thank you, believe it or not, I do not have a report this week.
- (Everyone woos)
- SOC committee please meet me afterward
- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Troxell:

- ALRIGHT EVERYONE. Set our meetings for 4:30 on Wednesday. Check out groupme. The president's list did get passed. Thank you all. That will go into effect for this semester. IF you do get that 3.8 GPA you will get that presidents list. Still deans list intact. Like to give a shout out to the committee members from last semester, thank you all for your hard work. College reps you should have access to your senate emails. At this point you should start to schedule your deans meetings.
- External Affairs Committee

Chair Singh:

- I do not have a report this week, ha ha ha I was just joking, realizing the first ever newsletter for off campus. I'm going to be working with DOC on this.
- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Gonzalez:

- Not much to talk about. Look at the agenda for next week. I do have a resolution pertaining to I.C.E. please look for this. I'm not sure when we will meet yet for my committee. We are going to meet biweekly, hopefully we'll know for sure when on Friday.
- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Hudson:

- Meeting with Tom Cooley regarding Brookside, any concerns please bring them to me
- Peace Act meeting on February 9th

- Email sent to Brookside residents please move your vehicles on Thursday to plains road lot.

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Rinne:

- Don't have a lot, been working on finalizing the committee assignments. Don't expect shuffling around starting next week. Tonight we have a nomination from our student body president for the jury. We will be voting on that next meeting.
- Student Body President

President Reyes:

- Hi guys, I hope you are all staying warm. One thing I did want to mention is that the retreat will be scheduled for two weeks from now. That is a mandatory retreat. I have one nominee for the jury today, one should be here next week. Goal to solidify the jury
- Student Body Vice President

VP Hailu:

- Hi, no report tonight
- Director of the Treasury

DOT Unjende:

- Thank you very much, speaker Rinne. Three main things: budget: working on the budget process, changing the number of things in how the process happens. We are still in the works. Trying to make sure this process is smooth. On a good time line to send out all of the processes. If you would like to be a part of the finance committee, meet me at the end of the meeting to discuss that. Finally, I want to say that there is a club that put in a contingency grant request that we have given money to before. Last time we gave them money, over the past year alone they have quadrupled their membership. Therefore more people have qualified for the final tournament, and they are now requesting 5,000 dollars. Overall it's your money and you get to decide it. As always the money is safe

Speaker: Where does the contingency grant come from and what happens if it is not used

- Contingency: money set apart if a new club or an old club needs more money that they couldn't plan for. If I am not wrong, our contingency grant line was 48,000 and we have not given it out yet. If that money is not used it goes into the next year. We try to keep a little bit for circumstances like this.
- Director of Communications

DOC Heinrichs:

- Hi guys: tomorrow we will be having a spring fest, please sign up for tabling 5-7

Chair Singh:

- Could you count that as office hours

DOC Heinrichs:

- Sure

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special Committees are able to share an outline of their committee, its purpose, expected meeting time. Chairs should share contact information so members can contact them after the meeting.

- Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Niro:

- Meeting next week on Friday in room 313 from 2 to 4. We review both the bylaws and the constitution to see if there is any redundancy or something that needs to be changed. I want to incorporate new ideas as well. Currently meets monthly
- Elections Committee

Chair Sawyer:

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- Podcast Committee

Speaker:

- Briefly the podcast committee creates a podcast, and have it up on instagram.

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Initiation of new vice chairs

Chair Singh announces Isabella conte as vice chair

Chair Gonzalez announce Ryan niro as vice chair

Chair Troxell announces Senator Capraro

Chair Milner announces Tyler Dickson as vice chair

Chair Hudson announces senator ramos as vice chair

Nomination of Jury

- President Reyes: Cassidy Bennett
 - Just transferred here last semester: I think that it is an awesome opportunity. Any questions?

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

- **Chair Sawyer: Presidential Debate the 5th of march at 6pm**
- **Chair Hudson: Please come see me if you are in my committee after.**

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: