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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
January 29th, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:32

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Abbott, Acharya, Buono, Boucher, Cayer, Connolly, Curry, DeLorenzo, Desmond-Igbo, Dickson, Fleming, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hudson, Macrae, Martin, Milner, Njende, Paulino, Reyes, Rinne, Sawyer, Singh, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Troxell, Wentworth, Williamson

Absent: Alemany, Lagasse, Reffelt, Romano, Small, Walding (excused)

Executive: Cronan, Peckham, Pokherel

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Senator Hailu

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Buono moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Heinrichs

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Pierre St-Germain, Director of Dining and Conference Services

- *Reminds Senate that students have two weeks after the start of the semester to change their meal plan.*
- *New hot meal machines were installed around campus.*
- *2 weeks to change meal plan after start of the semester*
- *Student composting beat testing in the dining hall*
- *Renovation of Rams Den and Hope dining hall this summer*
- *Both will be in full renovation coming next fall*
- *In about a month we will have our yearly survey for the student body which is very important that we get feedback from the student body to improve dining services*

- *There will be some prizes for the surveys, looking into doing something similar this year as well*
- *In a month we start ramadan, that way students who are observing will be able to have something in their dorms for the first meal, and eat in the dining hall at the end of the day*

Chair Buono: Hi, thank you so much for coming, is the system for ramadan is there some sort of online system

- *If the student wants something that is halal they are able to access that through asking in the dining hall, no longer 100% necessary to email ahead of time*

Senator Hudson:

What renovations are you doing specifically for the Rams Den

- *Changing the carpet to vinyl tiles, we are refixturing, removing certain aspects, for example the neon clock, not going to be changing stations or anything like that, more of a active change to modernize the space*

Senator Gonzalez:

Are you guys planning on changing the furniture as well?

- *I would like to change that, and it will be determined as of next month. It is about a 4 month lead time to bring in that much furniture, for certain the furniture inside the mainfair will all be changed. We need something in the rams den that is able to fold up, and compress like we have now. What I don't like about the rams den is the tables. Most of the wheels are broken so they slide right now. We are trying to put up a screen for movies and things like that. That way we can show movies and various things in the rams den*

Senator Buono:

Is there a place that we can advise students to go for the ramadan request

- *In a week or two on the dining services website there will be something on the facebook and website*

Senator Fleming:

How has the composting been going at the dining halls

- *It would be better if we had a little more enthusiasm, we need to figure out a way to engage the student body better, it's something that we're hoping to do at every orientation. Having it fully active at orientation would make it less of an afterthought. We do have sustainability ambassadors, but they do have to stay there for a certain amount of time. We are trying to figure out a way to further engage the students.*

Chair Cayer:

I'm a dishwasher for a dining service. One way that we could advertise composted food would be to advertise what happens when the food is not composted.

- *There tend to be fewer student dishwashers at butterfield which would be the best to have more staff at butterfield so the composting can happen*
- *Working on an allergen free place in mainfaire!*

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- *Hi everyone welcome to week 2*
- *There is a student organization fair next wednesday the 5th from 11-2 the senate and SOC will have booth there,*
- *Started a tik tok page @rhody.SOC*
- *Vice chair senator Tyler Dickson!*

Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth:

- *I appointed a vice chair senator Cole Rinne*
- *Meeting will remain mondays 5:30-6:30*
- *We did have our first meeting this week!*
- *Wrote down our goals for this semester*
- *If you are going to miss a meeting please let me know*
- *Bill on the floor today! Only affects college reps*
- *Chair Cayer shoutout for helping write the bill*

External Affairs Committee

Chair Cayer

- *Hello everyone*
- *Committee meetings thursday at 3:30 in the senate office*
- *Meeting tomorrow with the sk chief of police*
- *Senator Gonzalez is vice chair*

Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- *Award recognition for the monthly recognition award will be announced either next week or the week after*
- *A lot of initiative, anyone that has input please reach out*

Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Buono:

- *I just wanted to give you a brief point of info*
- *My committee will meet with dining service monthly just let me know if you have any other input*
- *Congratulations senator Hudson for vice chair*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- *I'm currently working on formal plans*
- *Any questions or concerns about committee assignments just let me know*
- *Senate decorum later in the meeting*

Student Body President

Student Body Vice President

Report:

- *New stop at CBLS for rhode shuttle for the Rhody hill climber, therefore making rhode hill climbers the first bidirectional shuttle at URI*
- *Rhody shuttle hours extended for Rhodyville and rhode blue line*
- *Be on the lookout for flyers or social media and Rhody today emails.*
- *Happy to have any volunteers to assist with the post-survey phase of this initiative*

Director of the Treasury

Director Cronan:

- *Budget email went out last week*
- *Budget request due february 7th*
- *Reminder email tomorrow for slots to present for over 1,000 requests*

Director of Communications

- *Hi everyone*
- *New senator headshots will be taken after this meeting today*
- *Next week we are also taking a group photo rights after the meeting next week*
- *Please sign up for spring fest*

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations for Elections Committee

Chair Cayer nominates Senator Walding, seconded by Speaker Peckham

Senator Gonzalez nominates senator Sorto-Justiniano, seconded by senator Hudson

Chair Cayer nominates Chair Cayer, seconded by Speaker Peckham

Chair Reyes nominates Chair Buono, seconded by Speaker Peckham

Chair Reyes nominates DOT Cronan, seconded by Speaker Peckham

Internal Nominations: College of Health Sciences Representative (1), At-Large (3), First-Year (1)

Speaker Peckham nominates Clayton Roach as an at large senator, seconded by senator Sawyer

Chair Reyes nominates Isabella Neighbors as an at large senator, seconded by Speaker Peckham

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-28 – AMENDMENT CALLING FOR CHANGE IN A COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENT

Whereas, University of Rhode Island Student Senate bylaws **Article I. Section 1.2** currently stipulate:

"College Representatives shall serve ex officio as the formal liaison to the college which they are elected to represent, and to this end shall work directly with the Dean of the corresponding college and with the Dean's subordinates. They shall meet with the Dean of their college at least once a month and report to Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee in regards to these meetings."

In so many words, that college representatives meet with a dean or deans subordinates monthly

Whereas, A number of the months in the academic year are too short or busy to fulfill this requirement

Whereas, A lower bar for entry would be more accomplishable, and incentivize representatives to actually meet with their respective deans

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate bylaws **Article I. Section 1.2** be rewritten to read:

"College Representatives shall serve ex officio as the formal liaison to the college which they are elected to represent, and to this end shall work directly with the Dean of the corresponding college and with the Dean's subordinates. They shall meet with the Dean of their college at least twice a semester and report to Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee in regards to these meetings."

SPONSOR:	Chair Cayer, Senator Gonzalez, Chair Milner, Senator Rinne, Senator Hook
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Wentworth
DATE:	01/27/2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Now

Senator Gonzalez moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Sawyer.

Bill passes by majority approval.

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Lauren Peckham, Speaker of the Assembly ~ Senate Decorum Presentation

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:46