

Memorial Student Union, Room 201 • 50 Lower College Road • Kingston, Rhode Island 02881 • T: 401.874.2261 • E: info@rhodysenate.org

# URI STUDENT SUMMER ASSEMBLY MINUTES 23 July 2020

#### Roll Call

Present: BAGLEY, BENTLEY, TAIWO, BOVE, SIEGLE, MCGRATH

Absent: KIERNAN

# Approval of the Agenda

**Bagley:** I did receive word from Chair Kiernan, she could not make it today, she had a last minute thing she had to do. So we are going to proceed with who we have right now. I see a lot of observers which is awesome, glad to have you guys. Really quickly as we move into the Agenda, we have two things that need to be added. Chair Bove has his resolution that he wishes to add to the Agenda. It was also pointed out to me by Dr. Carl Stiles that I did not add a Public Forum to the Agenda, which is my mistake. So I am going to call for a unanimous vote unless someone wants to call against it, which is totally fine, you are more than welcome to. But if nobody says anything I am just going to add those two items to our Agenda, that will be Chair Bove's resolution and a Public Forum section.

## The motion passes with unanimous vote.

**Bagley**: Public Forum has been added after Approval of the Minutes and Chair Bove's Resolution has been added after Chair McGrath's Resolution. I am also going to call for unanimous vote on the Approval of the Agenda unless there's anyone who disagrees.

Bove: I'd like to make a motion on the Agenda.

- Bagley: Alright Chair Bove, what is your motion?
- **Bove**: I move to strike Nominations and Elections to Elect the Panel to Elect the Court, as I feel that at this time it would be best for that to be a full Assembly vote.

#### Siegle: Second.

**Bagley**: We will move into debate for this, if anyone has any questions of wishes to state opinions. If no one wishes to speak, we will move into a vote.

#### The motion passes

**Bagley**: Alright, we will strike these nominations from the Agenda, as it was expressed by Chair Bove, in order to have the full Assembly present for such talks. Is there anything further for the Approval of the Agenda? Okay, I will call for a unanimous vote once again.

#### The motion passes with unanimous vote.

#### Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- **Bagley**: Cool. Now moving to the approval of last week's minutes. Now I was not present last week and for that I do apologize, I am unaware of who took minutes for last week's meeting, so who was that? Okay, are there minutes from last meeting at all?
- Bove: John, I don't know if a recording secretary has been appointed to take our minutes.
- Bagley: That is true, there has not been an official appointment. Right now I have someone taking minutes, but I don't know about last meeting. I know our first meeting had minutes, and I will look for those because they've been requested and I should send those in. But I don't know about the meeting I was not present for. So if we

don't have any minutes, I will just call that an unfortunate mistake on all of us. But if there aren't any we will just have to move on and accept that. I do apologize.

#### **Public Forum**

- **Bagley:** Moving on to Public Forum, do we have any participants today who wish to speak for Public Forum? I know we have a few members not only form outside our body but from the Administration who are also here, if they'd like to speak just let me know. Dr. Collins, you are more than welcome to speak, and I yield you the floor for whatever you'd like to say.
- Dr. Collins: Hello everyone, happy weird summer. Thank you for everything that you're doing, what an incredible time to be in leadership. As I express everyday this has been certainly a leadership stretch for me, and I have continued to serve a role in leading the institution in many ways since January through this and serving right now also on a Governor's taskforce in terms of reopening higher education across the state of Rhode Island. So I thank you, I feel like I email President Ramsay all the time, I'm sorry Austyn, and other members of your executive board and leadership team. Just seeking student input as we navigate through this difficult difficult time is amazingly important as we move forward, so certainly if there's things you have, guestions you have or things to share, please reach out directly to Dr. Stiles or to myself, and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible. Many of you have done that already. So some moving parts and pieces right now as we plan for the start of the fall semester, certainly our goal is to have many of our classes be taught in person while we're also planning many of our classes, particularly those fifty and up, to be taught online. We're continuing to move that forward. We do know that we monitor that every day. I know at the last count, I believe that it was just about 50% of our classes as we've updated and checked everyone's rosters. And I know that's going to be really different and really weird, cause not everybody will be on campus every day, and that's such a big change as we navigate through this. And we watch institutions of higher education around the country, navigate through this. Believe it or not tomorrow I have a meeting because we're purchasing large tents to put around campus so that we can eat outside, cause you're not going to be able to eat in the dining halls. So it's going to be a lot of grab-and-go, but we'll have huge tents that are going to be across campus were persons can eat. We're making some significant changes to the dining areas on campus so that we can accommodate this. You can't serve yourself, we'll serve you in all of those locations. We're updating Rhody Market to be safe and healthy with new menu items. Obviously we've decreased density in housing, and what a hard hard horrible decision that was to make. We're doing everything we can with safety, health first with all of you and all of our community members. We've purchased trailers so that we can do on-site COVID testing. We've purchased two trailers, they have five walk up windows, so as soon as someone is symptomatic, you can get tested. We're also going to be doing a random sampling of about a hundred students a day. If you want to volunteer, faculty and staff too, myself and Dr. Stiles, you'll get notified on your phone, we have a new app coming, and when you get notified that it's your day, if you want to be random sampled, just walk over to the trailer and you get sampled. We have contracts with local hotels where we'll be providing guarantine and isolation spaces for persons. You'd have to go stay ten to fourteen days depending on how you're feeling and what your symptoms are. So all of this is in the works, we're working on communicating more with you. But we're also not trying to send out conflicting messages, because I know that's super hard, and if you just look at like Clemson yesterday, Clemson University in South Carolina said hey we're open, look what's happening, they had to actually send out an announcement yesterday saying no sorry we've changed our mind. As all of us are getting more information on a day-to-day basis, things are constantly changing. So I know how frustrating this is, it is for me too, as I'm trying to get your answers, your questions answered as I'm trying to get faculty and staff questions answered as we continue to work through this. None of us have every been through this before. The last pandemic like this was in 1917-1918. I've looked through that to see what higher education did during that time, so it's hard, it's hard on you and its certainly hard on a lot of people. So I thank you, the last thing I'll share with you is, we're going to be doing a student town forum, an open town forum on Wednesday July 29th, that begins at 7 pm, we'll have it hosted on WebEx. President Dooley, Vice President Rider, staff from Academic Affairs, myself will all be there. We want to see what questions you have, provide updates and our goals are we're going to start doing this every two weeks to provide updates and information cause the emails, we're getting about a 40% open rate right now. So as we send out these community notices to tell everybody kind of what's happening, we do track the open rate, and we're getting about a 40% open rate. And we know sometimes those emails are long, we've also got the new COVID website, has anybody checked it out yet? We're doing timely updated information. So we're doing all of those things. So I certainly have time for a couple questions if people want to ask them now, but John I'd want you to coordinate that and questions in terms of speakers, but also just wanted to thank you all, I wanted to see

you all, I miss you. I miss our students so much; I'm working from home. This is my home, so I miss you all, I miss seeing you on campus, and cannot wait to get back. I'd love to "get back to normal," I don't know what normal is anymore, and I have to keep in mind every day in our planning you know what? Normal didn't work for everybody. So I believe strongly as URI moves through this we will be a stronger better institution on the other side, as we continue to monitor and know that we anticipate approximately 25% of colleges and universities around the country are not going to make it through this. URI will. But a lot of you have friends or even family members that probably go to some of the schools that aren't gonna make it. And those announcements are just getting started. So we will make it, and our goal is to be even stronger on the other side. Thank you for everything that you're doing I look forward to working with you and I'm really happy to be with you today.

Bagley: Awesome thank you so much Dr. Collins. Director Turano, you have the floor.

- Turano: Thank you for joining us today. You coordinate with the Student Success Taskforce. Where will students go in between classes if they are commuters. The library has limited seating, Rams Den won't have seating, it will be super limited. Does the University have plans for spaces for commuters between classes?
- Dr. Collins: Right now we're filming a commercial to show space across campus. Heard a rumor that all furniture was removed from the library. That is not true. There is a lot of space still available. We've thinned it out, but there is still a lot of space. We won't be using all the classrooms all the time. A lot of the classes are online. Some classrooms will be available for people to go to. And not everyone will be on campus every day. We know everyone won't be on campus every day. I know you may want to be, and we need to accommodate for that. We will also have these huge outside tents so you can sit outside as long as you can. We know not a lot of the virus is transmitted outside. You'd be surprised how much space we have.
- Siegle: For Dr. Collins or Dr. Stiles, what is the development with student organizations? Will people be able to meet as clubs? Where do we stand with that right now?
- Dr. Collins: We are following very closely with the Rhode Island guidelines. These continue to change. We have done a walkthrough of the entire campus. All our spaces now have COVID signs for capacity. A space that seated 20 may not only seat 4. Most student org spaces are very small, maybe 1 person. Senate is slightly larger. Many meetings will be online or outside. I cannot have staff meetings of 15 for over a year. Senate will not be in Senate Chambers. We know students may be in quarantine or isolation, and we want them to be able to attend meetings or classes virtually online. We have new tech to improve the online experience. Many orgs will have to be virtual. We won't be doing First Night, it's too many people.
- Dr. Stiles: Big issue is office space for clubs in the Memorial Union, especially since most are used as hangout spaces. Signs will be posted on most rooms in the Union requiring a maximum occupancy of 1 person only. The Senate Office can only have 7. We have to monitor heavily and closely. We want people to meet. But many will be virtual. We sometimes have 60 people in the Senate Chambers. Without furniture, Chambers can only have 33 people. With furniture capacity will only be 20. We're working with Student Entertainment Committee to look at virtual programming. How do we engage students in programming that looks like watching TV? Looking to do fun things in person with distancing outside, but we'll be working with clubs and organizations to figure out what to do, especially with sports. We need to be in alignment with athletic requirements. Many sports will not even have a season but are asking to work out and practice. We've accepted the "new normal" of not going back to what we were doing before. My entire office suite can only have 13 people in it, and 11 of us are required to work there. We'll need to work on new methods of communication. Some offices like BOND or PINK will not be able to use their spaces the same. Their new capacity is only 3 people. The 193 Coffeehouse is a to-go only service. Their whole world changed. No open mic nights indoors. We're changing things. I'll be sending out information next week after there is some review. We want it to be safe. For Senate, you need to role model the right behavior like wearing masks. You need to talk to other students to make sure they're following the rules. You are visible leaders on campus and you need to be part of the process, and I will be asking a lot more of you.
- Bove: According to Governor, restaurants can be open at 66% capacity. Why can't students eat in dining halls or Rams Den?
- **Dr. Collins**: Higher education needs to follow multiple guidelines. No specific guidelines for higher education. Our dining facilities are not technically restaurants. Only space that is a restaurant under these guidelines is Rhody Market. Our dining facilities fall under the Large Event guidelines, like those that do wedding receptions or large parties. This is because we seat several hundred people. So the dining halls do not fall under restaurant guidelines. Rhody Market is going to become a sit-down restaurant with a reservation system through an app.

There will also be a take-out window. It will be converted to a brick oven pizza restaurant. Do breakfast, lunch, dinner for take-out and reservations for sit-down meals.

Bentley: How will we enforce the new room capacities? Not everyone wants to be safe.

- Dr. Collins: I'll need your assistance with this. We have a group that is meeting about enforcement. We don't want to but we have to. If there are students that are jerks, and their not wearing their coverings, or are being idiots and coughing on people, we will enforce this. There are updates to the Student Handbook about COVID. The State sets a minimum, but we can do more than what the state says. We can lower capacity further. Most of this will be up to student leaders. What I don't want to do is send everyone home again. If we can't work together on face coverings or group sizes or quarantine, we will be sending everyone home. This will be part of conduct. Students that violate this will face suspension. Not a warning, but suspension. This is not an old person disease the media lead us wrong. Students are just as susceptible to this. We know the impact this is having on our Black, Hispanic and Filipino communities. There will be serious consequences for people that don't do this.
- Taiwo: I feel scammed from the tuition assistance grant. The main goal was tuition assistance, not for displaced housing. I'm not sure how to phrase the question. What are you doing about my displaced housing if it was framed as a tuition assistance grant? Housing and tuition are very different. Housing and tuition would be different sections of the final bill we are paying. My second question is how is financial aid going out? I know some have received aid and some have not. It is making me worried. Some people may only have a week to pay. I am wondering if that is going to get adjusted. Or if there will be some sort of extension on payment plans, because there hasn't been a lot of financial aid given to students. If you were to tell me I might be paying 15k then I might not even be going to school in the Fall since my parents can't afford it. So extending the time to enroll into the payment plan is something that should be considered.
- Dr. Collins: The TAG is the COVID Transition Assistance Grant; it is not called tuition for that purpose. We do recognize that billing is separate, but the TAG was started for those who were displaced from housing. That is the amount that is 1,500 for this year and 1,500 for next fall, the fall meal plan and the fall parking. The total amount of that is about 6 million that the University is moving back to students. It is separate from tuition and is not a part of tuition. We were the first University to do this. My colleagues across the state are frustrated with me because they are getting calls from their students asking why they are not doing the same thing. Now others are looking to do this. But it is a Transition grant. I'll follow up on the financial aid. I don't oversee it so I don't want to give out false information, but I'll reach out to those who do and I can get that information back to you. The University has collected about 2 million for financial aid. Students can apply, this is through the federal government. We know things have changed since people signed up. But every time we have to increase financial aid we also have to increase tuition, since we only get 74 million from the state.

Bove: For Dr. Stiles, we're not allowed to have off campus visitors correct?

Dr. Stiles: I'm not sure. We're still learning the restrictions. But I'll look into it and have it shared out.

#### **Reports of Standing Committees**

Bagley: Moving to Chair Reports, I will be going down the list.

- Bentley: I have a report for plans I have. Dr. Collins gave a lot of information and I'll be reaching out to her. We've had a lot of questions about parking and shuttles. We'll be looking into how we can help the students by reaching out to the administration.
- Taiwo: Looking at programming for international students. Looking for ideas for the planning committee. Especially since many students may have to come early and quarantine if they're international. Any activities would be helpful. Something I was thinking of was getting one person from every org to send a rep to talk about their orgs. I'm also doing a presentation focusing on anti-oppressive behavior.

Bove: No Instruments report.

- Siegle: We just got a lot of information about student orgs, so I'll be sending out emails to them since I feel like they're in the dark on a lot of this.
- **McGrath**: Most of my work has been asking the administration about questions that I receive from students. Sometimes the questions are ignored but that's okay, others are answered.

#### **Executive Reports**

Bagley: Moving to executive reports, I'll be moving down the list again.

- Turano: I asked Collins my question because the committee President Ramsay and I are on suggested that students bring lawn chairs to sit outside between classes. They did not know about the tents. Glad we figured that out. Our fundraiser will have to be off campus, maybe Chipotle. We have a canned food drive planned for December. Not sure how that will work with the guidelines so I'll be talking to the Union. The event can be changed. I was also looking at the Africana studies at URI, which is a program and not a department. They are looking to become a department. I was wondering if Senate could start supporting the implementation of Africana Studies as a department.
- A. Ramsay: Hope everyone is doing well. Been extremely busy. Will start delegating responsibilities to Senators that are interested. I do have some concerns regarding the opening of the campus. For example, the Rhody Climber. We should work on a mask campaign. We should do something to either purchase or give away masks. We should also be making our own guidelines to help student organizations.
- **M. Ramsay**: Working on scholarship review. Working with the Scholarship Committee to help students further. Trying to keep in contact with the new senators. Will have them oriented for Fall.

#### New business - McGrath's resolution

#### SS-20/21-01 Resolution Calling on the URI Academic Administration to Make Attendance Non-Mandatory All University Classes

- Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented situation in every aspect of life,
- <u>Whereas</u>, COVID-19 has created major instability for students, through its negative effects on our economy, health and safety risks, and the loss of on campus housing, and.
- <u>Whereas</u>, many students may face difficulties communities to campus due to a lack of access to a personal vehicle, or access to public transit
- Whereas, college students are disproportionately affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,
- <u>Whereas</u>, students at the University of Rhode Island themselves are immune-compromised or live with an individual(s) who are immunocompromised
- Whereas, the health and safety of the entire URI community is of the utmost priority,
- <u>Whereas</u>, to accommodate social distancing, many students have been displaced from campus and have had to secure alternative housing, and some students are unable to find housing in close proximity to URI, let it be,
- <u>Resolved</u>, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate believes it is necessary that the URI Office of the Provost institute a university-wide statute that prohibits professors from penalizing students for missing classes for the Fall 2020 semester, therefore be it

<u>Resolved</u>, these missed classes will not count against students' grades in any way.

SPONSOR:	Chairs McGrath, Senator Bagley
BILL HANDLER:	Chair McGrath
DATE:	Thursday, July 23, 2020
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Today

McGrath: I want to push the administration to make attendance non-mandatory with this resolution. Professors are in control of attendance being linked to grade. I think it's wrong that students can lose grades because of attendance.

Siegle: This is a great idea; however, students may take advantage of this.

- McGrath: I agree, and I've thought about this. It makes this more difficult but I think there needs to be some good faith for students not to abuse this. It's being done to help them.
- **Bove**: With any program designed to help people, there will be people who take advantage of it. It's unfortunate but it's necessary. I motion to remove "Summer Assembly" from the first resolved.

## Seconded by McGrath

#### The motion succeeds

- **Bagley**: I think this is a good change. I'm an essential worker, and I am potentially exposed to the virus every day I go to work. I need to be able to immediately quarantine at any time. If in-person classes are required, I may lose grades by quarantining. This would be a good change for our working students.
- Bentley: I don't think it's completely necessary, but should we change it for just this semester? We wouldn't want it to exceed the pandemic.
- A. Ramsay: I think this bill is very important. Students have no idea if they can attend classes, there's instability. No one knows what's going on. A constituent brought up commuting from Providence to me, and how the bus may be more full with COVID restrictions. They'd have to miss class. Students shouldn't have to worry about this. I would like to see a motion to add a summary of what's being said and why we are saying it.

Bove: I agree with Chair Bentley. I motion to add "for the Fall 2020 semester" after the first resolved.

## Seconded by Bentley.

Taiwo: I don't think it should say "for the Fall semester". I think it should say "for the duration of the pandemic". If it goes into the spring, we would have to do this again.

## The motion succeeds.

- A. Ramsay: Do you think it's worth it to specify that this is targeted towards in-person classes? I feel as if you have online classes, you can attend them.
- Bagley: We did have some problems with students missing class due to poor internet. I think it is worded fine.
- Allison Lantagne: If you're sick, and quarantine, and don't have the strength to go to an online class, you shouldn't be penalized for that.
- Bove: I motion to add a line that says "Whereas, COVID-19 has created major instability for students, through its negative effects on our economy, health and safety risks, and the loss of on campus housing, and.

Whereas, many students may face difficulties commuting to campus due to a lack of access to a personal vehicle, or access to public transit."

#### Seconded by Siegle

- A. Ramsay: I like the first part. When I take this to people, it does mark on issues for students, but it's also about economic issues and many others that housing doesn't cover. It concludes our main point.
- Asante: I think the University needs to make it more well known about these things. A lot of students don't know this information. Through the summer and the pandemic, things like a deadline for August 1st is something a lot of people will miss. URI does send University wide emails all the time, but it should be sent as one concise email. With multiple emails, students don't know what's going on.

# The motion succeeds.

# The bill is passed.

## BILL SS-20/21-02 BILL CALLING FOR THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GRANT TO BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS TO STUDENTS

- <u>Whereas</u>, on June 25, 2020, Housing and Residential Life announced that the University of Rhode Island would limit on campus housing capacity to 4,400 spaces due to health and safety restrictions caused by COVID 19, displacing 1,800 students, and
- <u>Whereas</u>, it was further announced that available space would be given first to incoming first year students, then to incoming out of state transfer students, then to out of state returning students, with in-state returning students receiving the lowest housing priority, and
- <u>Whereas</u>, it was also announced that Transition Assistance Grants (TAG) in the amount of \$3,000 would be disbursed to displaced students in the form of two \$1,500 which would be made in the Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 semesters, and

- <u>Whereas</u>, the TAG Program is meant to help ease the financial adversity faced by students who have been displaced by the university's Fall 2020 housing plan, and
- <u>Whereas</u>, recently Enrollment Services has begun applying TAG to students' Fall 2020 tuition bills, rather than disbursing the funds in the form of direct cash payments to students, and
- <u>Whereas</u>, direct cash payments to students would allow displaced students to use these funds towards housing, transportation, food, and other living costs, that students will incur by being forced to live off campus and commute, and therefore be it,
- <u>Resolved</u>, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, on behalf of the student body, demands that Transition Assistance Grants be disbursed to displaced students in the form of direct cash payments, and therefore be it further,
- <u>Resolved</u>, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate calls upon the University of Rhode Island to make these funds available to displaced students as soon as possible.

SPONSORS:	Chairs Bove, Kiernan, Siegle, McGrath, Senator North
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Bove
DATE:	July 23, 2020
RECOMMENDATION:	(5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

- **Bove**: It was expressed in our leadership chat that people are upset that enrollment services is applying TAG directly to bills instead of making it a cash payment. This is an issue because TAG is meant to ease financial burden for displaced students. This money should go towards things like rent, down payments, groceries and gas etc.: It was agreed in our leadership chat that this money should be disbursed to students to use however they want.
- Asante: I have problems with this. The University is not giving the \$3000 during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. They are giving it for Fall 2020 and Fall 2021, and this could be a loophole if the pandemic ends before Fall 2021. The University needs to make the direct payments. We also need a guarantee that students will get this \$3000. Just because the pandemic may end before Fall 2021 doesn't mean students weren't affected in some way.
- **Bove**: University has committed to giving the funds out. Commitment has been made and money will be paid out, regardless of the status of the pandemic in 2021. In a perfect world it should be paid in Fall and Spring, but I think the reason they're doing this is because of the University's budget deficit.
- Asante: Point of information, is the TAG a federal grant or a state grant?
- **Bove**: I believe it is a University grant. I don't believe it's coming from the government. That money will be there in Fall 2021. I think they're deferring the cost because they cannot afford to do it during this fiscal year.
- Turano: Last resolved states "as soon as possible". I'd put a definitive date. I would also add the cash payments into the last resolved to make it more clear.
- Bove: If we give the University a date, they'll ignore us. We want students to have the money today if we could, but I think it's pretty clear that we expect it to be as quick as possible in cash payments. I don't think the University will stick a date if they're given one.
- A. Ramsay: I agree that direct payments need to be made. This should go into the Spring semester. People may or may not be displaced in 2021. If they're displaced why are they receiving grants?
- Taiwo: The University knew they'd be in a deficit. Why did they even offer this? I feel played by the whole grant. This is falling into the laps of students. Students shouldn't be worried about if this institution is making money, they should be worried about getting their education and leaving. Collins said we're the only University offering this, but so what? The goal of the grant isn't really being met. It's to help students that are being displaced. But you're not helping me if I have to rent a house. It doesn't make sense. The goal of TAG isn't being met. If you're saying you're helping displaced students, and giving them some money because you made a surprise announcement about not returning to campus, the goal isn't being met. Why does it seem like a favor? Other Universities announced at the beginning of Summer that they wouldn't be returning. URI knew it too. But it feels like a slap in the face, because 'we're the only institution that does this'. But in regards to this bill, cash payments are not possible. It would have to be through a check, it wouldn't be direct physical cash. They use a third party website.

I know it's a "transition" assistance grant, but it's being used like a tuition assistance grant. For a lot of students, the money goes straight to their tuition. You can't give me credit on housing if housing isn't on my bill.

Bove: When it says direct cash, it doesn't mean literal cash. If you remember the stimulus package that went out, most people electronically received \$1200. That is considered a direct cash payment, since they are just giving you money. I understand that we're upset we can't get the money at once, but the university can't afford that. We need to be conscious of URI's ability to pay for this. With direct cash payment it's sent out like a refund, like the housing refund. They'd send a check or put it directly into your back account. I think the 1500 to 3000 issue is a different issue, but this bill is only addressing the method of payment and not the amount.

The resolution is passed.

#### General Discussion and Open Forum

- **Bagley**: I spoke with officials in public safety, and I've decided to cancel the public safety fair. We'll be hosting a virtual fair instead. Students don't have ready access to the information they need. That should begin in September.
- **A. Ramsay**: Thank you for all your work all summer. It's been very hard this summer and you've done such a good job, and I'm happy to be able to work with you. I'd like us to start preparing for our role internally.
- **McGrath**: There was something I forgot to mention, at my meeting with the Provost and Vice Provost, they wanted to partner with the Senate to promote health and safety. Encouraging people to wear masks and social distancing.
- **Bove**: I've been working with the Board of Trustees for students to take a leave of absence in the fall semester. Some commute or don't feel safe on campus. There should be a way for students to take a leave of absence without losing scholarships. For the centennial scholarship, you need to be present for 8 semesters in a row. It's a direct contradiction to what I've been told. I'm also upset that Upass has been discontinued. It's stupid that the University gives passes for people who are wealthy enough to own a car but cannot support students that use public transportation.

Present: BAGLEY, BOVE, TAIWO, SIEGLE, MCGRATH

Absent: KIERNAN

Excused: BENTLEY