



URI STUDENT SUMMER ASSEMBLY MINUTES 03 September 2020

Roll Call

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

Approval of agenda

The motion is passed.

Reading and Approval of the minutes

Bagley: The minutes are almost finished.

Reports of Standing Committees

Bove: No report. Instruments will have bylaws bill for our first 2 weeks. One thing it will do is allow the President to suspend bylaws during a crisis. An example is office hours. We can only have 7 in the office. That bylaw needs to be suspended. In order to do so, instruments has to do it in a bill. We want to give the President the power to do so in times of emergency. Assembly can overturn it if needed. It will rewrite some language. Our committee will meet in person. We're a committee of 5. First amendment of the Constitution will go out as referendum.

Bagley: Have you reviewed the new handbook changes?

Bove: yes, I have.

Taiwo: No report. We were supposed to team up with international house. It fell through, no one emailed me. I am planning for us to do something with them. Will talk to Greek life and give them more time. Will talk to music as well. We want to strengthen our ties with them, and this is a good time. As for cultural, we had a small meeting already. We discussed how to meet, we're thinking a more active group chat. We'll be very local. We'll meet every other week if necessary until we can meet all the time. It doesn't make sense to meet every week with COVID. Talk to more senators, working on BASTA still and getting us trained. Looking for a date that doesn't conflict with schedules. COVID shifted a lot of schedules around. Looking for times to IStand, BASTA, and Safe Zone train. Have to talk to administration in regards to graduation rates for people of color. Want to allocate more money and resources to incoming students of color and try to get more diversity on campus. Can't pride on diversity if there isn't a standing diverse class. Working on masks. How is required work, especially with students of low income? How will they be disposed? We want to try to be friendly to the environment with disposal. We want off campus testing sites, if people can't go to campus. Look into how is testing working for off campus residents.

Kiernan: I agree with off campus testing. Would love to look into that with you.

Bove: Dr. Stiles, the University is distributing masks correct?

Dr. Stiles: We have masks available, but people should have their own masks. We have emergency masks for places like the information desk.

Bove: Thank you

Kiernan: This summer was crazy in Narragansett with the new ordinance. That's what I've been focusing on. Spoke at panning meeting and in contact with 2100. The ordinance will be a big hit to a lot of students. Hearing a lot of questions on what could happen. Keeping up to date.

I will be on Narragansett 2100 URI Student Committee. It will be a taskforce of students living in neighborhoods around the area. I will be there as the Senate University representative. I will try to help and ensure that stickers on houses are reduced and people are following guidelines. Been looking into the fines for students breaking these rules. Try to do some kind of thing for commuter appreciation. Don't know if it'll be like past years, but I will try to do something in October. Meaning to talk to Chair Taiwo and Bove for voter registration drive. Try to get that done around October. We are still allowed to and will do so with the proper precautions. Important to have one this year.

Bove: Thank you for all the Narragansett work. I spoke to Dr. Collins; she was in support of the voter registration drive. She thinks it can be done safely outside. Want to stress, don't know what the deadlines are in other states, but in more conservative states it's coming up quickly. October 4th in RI. In terms of scheduling, the sooner in September the better, I'm happy to help. Think College Dems is planning on a program to help subsidize postage for people requesting mail in ballots. Want to also help with mail in ballots.

Siegle: Hearing a lot of questions from clubs about what we can and cannot do. Will be doing virtual presidents meetings every month except September. I've been checking in with my committee. We will hit the ground running; with recognition of clubs we couldn't meet with in the Spring. After that, we will tackle the new ones coming in.

Bentley: I've been sending a lot of emails. Unfortunately, if a student pays full parking pass price and all on campus classes are canceled there are no refunds. Just as we suspected. I plan to work on hearing complaints about not enforcing social distancing and masks. Want to work on controlling complaints. Want to work on a safe way to do the blue light walk.

McGrath: I have a meeting with Provost at 11. Will be leaving early. Discussing the resolution we passed in July.

Dr. Stiles: Thank you Donna Osgood for minutes. We will work with Exec for a new DOI.

Bove: I don't know if leave of absence applies to Senate. Is DOI vacant?

Bagley: Might be vacant, depends on President Ramsay and her decision.

Bove: Dr. Stiles, now that we have a coordinator, do you have a timeline for website updates?

Dr. Stiles: Website updating is not required for coordinator. Looking into a contractor for that. We do have a new coordinator. She will be starting with us in a week and a half. She will be one of the 7 people in the office. Post virtual office hours is a good idea, or set time aside in Senate Chambers. Chambers only seat 12 people.

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