



**URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
30 September 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER at 6:39 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Alryati, Bagley, Bentley, Bove, Cijigas, Campion, Diaz, Eustis, Gleason, Hilyard, Kiernan, McGrath, Shindler, Siegle, Taiwo, Thiel, Urena

Absent: Akanegbu, Alam, Fazio, Fournier, Kittle, Lewin, Mason, Nardone, North, Parker, Roufail, Salvo, Schreiner, St. Germain, Taylor

Guests: Asante, Campbell, Chang, Collins, Perrone, Ramsey A, Stiles, Zangari

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA by Unanimous Consent

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

E. PUBLIC FORUM

- Dr. Collins, Vice President for Student Affairs

- Stated she had two topics to speak on tonight: gathering of groups of students on campus and support for sponsored programming on the weekends to combat these gatherings

➤ First topic is her the concern with students gathering on Friday and Saturday nights in larger groups near the Complex and the concerns this brings forth for safety of all. Also, that the gatherings have non-students as well.

- Spoke of initiatives to prevent gatherings including addition of lighting trees; this actually attracted students to the location.
- Spoke that students found to be in violation of safety guidelines are addressed and the student conduct system is working to address the violations.
- Seeking input on how peer-to-peer assistance can help prevent the spread of COVID; how do we do successful messaging to students? And is seeking ideas from Student Senate

Bagley: expressed the thought that enforcement should be soft (not arresting students); talk with students who violate the polices and move them through the conduct system; and asked how we can message those that are not students.

Bove: stated there is a perceived lack of consequences

Bagley: hold the students accountable but concerned with national perception of the role of police in addressing large crowds

Bove: limits need to be enforced with violators

Cajigas: asked how do we support the students that are following the policies and recognize that and to not blame all for the actions of a few

Chang: suggested a three strikes rules – on the third scan of their ID move them through the student conduct system

Bove: not in favor of a three strikes rule; if you are caught in a group of 100 that's it, there is no second chance.

Shindler: sought clarity on scanning of IDs – who, how, and when

Motion: Bagley moved to extend public forum by 10 minutes. Second by: Theil. **Vote:** For: 16; Against: 1 – motion passes

Motion to change: Bove moved to expand with no limit to public forum. Second by: Siegle. **Vote:** For: 2; Against: 15 – motion fails

- Believes a majority of our students are doing the right things.
- Concerned that students “switch” groups while keeping to the stable group size, thus increase potential for spreading COVID. Encouraged everyone to keep doing the right things.
- Stated she is not in favor of arresting students.
- Second topic she spoke of the coordinated and sponsored programming happening on Fridays and Saturdays
 - Encouraged the planning of smaller events as the weather is getting colder and outside events will not be viable soon.
 - Explained the request for funding to support the plan for weekend events as presently student organizations cannot plan their usual larger scale weekend events.
 - Stated her request to the President and DOT of Student Senate was for \$50,000 to support the weekend programming initiatives in addition to funds already being allocated by offices within the Division of Students Affairs and is seeking additional funding from the University.

Bagley: suggested engaging student organizations as co-sponsors

Thiel: yielded time to Chang

Chang: suggested creating a way for student organizations that are not able or planning to use all their allocated funds to a fund to support campus-wide programming

Bove: had concerns with student organizations not being able to host in-person events

Motion: Bove moved to extend public forum by 10 minutes. Second by: Taiwo. **Vote:** For: 23; Against: 5 – motion passes

Hilyard: encouraged communication to student organizations about ability to co-sponsor coordinated weekend programming

Stiles: information was shared out to student organizations about the ability to host in-person meetings/events and the limits to doing so; additional reach had been done about co-sponsoring but more can be done

Taiwo: asked why the amount of \$50,000 and why this was not planned for in the University budget.

Collins: explained that budgeting is done the October prior to the fiscal year; at that time, there was no pandemic so this was not included in budget requests. Stated she was asking the University for \$80,000 to support programming. The opportunity to partner with Student Senate allows for better programs and events to be planned and provided. Also shared that families are asking for refunds of fees including the Student Senate fee; visibility of providing programs via this fee may alleviate the call for refunds.

Bove: asked when a decision was needed by.

Collins: shared that the cost of programming for this weekend was \$10,000. The programming provided and paid for by the University for O-Week was over \$130,000 and was not in any operating budget for any office.

Bentley: yield time to Chang

Chang: feels that the activities being provided do not reach enough students

Collins: thanked the Student Senate for their time, thoughtful ideas, and feedback.

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Academic Affairs Committee

- Met with President Ramsay and members of the Faculty Senate regarding the actions of Faculty Senate around spring break. Faculty Senate felt September was very late to be making decision and failed to ask for student input.

Bagley: keep pushing to have the student voice heard.

- Campus Affairs Committee

- Working on the Blue Light Walk; waiting on an updated campus map of the blue lights; working to survey students in isolation / quarantine about treatment, services, etc.

- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - No report
- External Affairs Committee
 - Meeting with the Narragansett 2100 advisory board on October 6
- Instruments Committee
 - No report
- Student Organization Committee
 - Continuing to meet with prospective student organizations
- Executive Committee
 - a. *Director of Information*
 - *Introduced herself; asked committee chairs to provide her with minutes of meetings*
 - b. *Director of Communications*
 - *No report*
 - c. *Director of Treasury*
 - *Requested the removal from the agenda of SS-20/21-07 as the amount requested was within the DOT's allowance to approve without Student Senate approval.*

Motion: Bove moved to remove SS-20/21-07 from the Agenda. Second by Bagley. **Vote:** Approved by Unanimous Consent

- d. *Director of Operations*
 - *No report*
- e. *Vice President*
 - *Working on getting contacts for members of the Court*
- f. *President*
 - *Putting forth a fifth candidate for the Court*
 - *Spoke with Faculty Senate about their processes and the need to include the student voice. Academic Calendar Planning Committee of Faculty Senate will be seeking input from students about their wants and needs.*
 - *Proposed changes to the Student Handbook – COVID Addendum*

2. **Quarantine / Isolation / Separation.** At any time, the University may request or require a student to quarantine/isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test, COVID-19 like symptoms, and/or exposure to a person who has tested positive. The University will require students to return home for isolation/quarantine when able to do so safely. The University has a limited number of quarantine and isolation spaces that will be available on-campus or through contracted hotels for students that are unable to return home. Dining for quarantining/isolating students will be coordinated, as needed.

All students are required to adhere to any shelter-in place order issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health and URI Health Services. Students must fully adhere to isolation or quarantine for the duration of the time indicated in the order. **If any student violates the conditions of their isolation or quarantine, they will be subject to immediate Emergency Suspension, removal, and additional conduct action including dismissal from the University.**

Off-campus students that test positive for COVID-19, exhibit COVID-19 like symptoms, and/or are exposed to a person who has tested positive may be required to relocate to a quarantine/isolation space for the duration of their isolation if space is available.

3.) **Contact Tracing:** One of the key elements to combating COVID-19 is the role of contact tracing. Staff from the Rhode Island Department of Health and Health Services may serve as contact tracers. Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 or is identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case will be required to participate in an interview with contact tracers and adhere to the requirements of isolation or quarantine based on the outcome of the interview.

If you are contacted by a contact tracer, you must answer the call or return the message. If it has been determined that a student is actively averting attempts at contact tracing to avoid possible testing, isolation or quarantine, they will be subject to immediate Emergency Suspension, removal, and additional conduct action

including dismissal from the University. For more information on contact tracing please visit <https://health.ri.gov/covid/contacttracing/>.

Bagley: thought this was a good plan and positive thought about seeking student input; keep pushing to have the student voice heard. Stated the quality of the hotel rooms needs to meet the quality of the residence hall rooms.

Bove: expressed concern with off-campus students being forced to relocated

Bagley: how are essential workers being addressed if they are quarantined?

Asante: expressed concern with moving students from their rental properties off-campus to quarantine location or to home.

Bove: yield time to Chang

Chang: regarding relocation of individual who tests positive and the impact on the rental unit for public health reasons – is just the student in quarantine or is the whole house; what is needed? How is this communicated?

Ramsey: please forward thoughts and concerns via email to president@rhodysenate.org so to consolidate and forward thoughts, concerns, reflections.

G. REPORT OF THE COURT - No report

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

a. Liaisons

- *Public Safety:* Bagley: tents have been brought up to code; power outage was fixed quickly; wants to coordinate a meeting on the hotels with Campus and External

b. Special Committee

- *Elections:* Bove: Have had 8 declarations; declarations close on Friday, October 2

I. SPECIAL ORDERS

a. Nominations for the Court

- *President Ramsay has put forth Olivia Johnson, a sophomore with prior experience in student governance, as the fifth candidate for the Court*

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SS-20/21-04 CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR URI STUDENT SENATE ADMIN

Whereas, the URI Student Senate Admin requests a contingency grant for a new desk unit and a laptop,

Whereas, and at an estimated cost of \$3800 for the new office secretary,

Resolved, that the assembly approves the contingency grant request from URI Student Senate Admin, in the total amount of \$3800.

SPONSOR:	Treasury Committee
BILL HANDLER:	VDOT Senator Urena
DATE:	Wednesday, September 23, 2020
RECOMMENDATION:	(2-0-0)
EXPIRATION DATE:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Tonight

Urena: explained the bill and what monies were for.

Bagley: this is equipment and furnishings for Alicia Perrone in the office.

Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstain: 0 – motion passes

K. NEW BUSINESS

SS-20/21-06 BILL CALLING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF “GERMAN CLUB” AS A FUNDED STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “GERMAN CLUB” mission statement is, “to provide interested students with the space to learn about the German culture outside of the classroom”,

Whereas, German Club meets the requirements to be a **funded** student organization, and

Whereas, it is custom for the senate to do so therefore, be it

Resolved, The University of Rhode Island Student Senate recognizes German Club as a **funded student** organization.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Siegle
DATE: Wednesday, September 30, 2020
RECOMMENDATION: (7-0-0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION: Vote Next Week

Kiernan: groups meet all the requirements to be recognized.

Bagley: clarity sought on the word "funded"

Motion: Bove moved to eliminate the word "funded" from the bill. Seconded by: Bagley. **Vote:** Approved by Unanimous Consent.

Motion: Siegle moved to vote tonight. Second by: Bove. **Vote:** For: 17; Against: 0 – motion passes

Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstain: 0 – bill passes.

SS-20/21-07 CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR URI PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

~~Whereas, URI PRSSA is requesting a Contingency Grant for a virtual national conference which gives students amazing Networking, Career Building and Personal Learning Opportunities,~~

~~Whereas, it is vital for the URI chapter to attend the local chapter development sessions,~~

~~Whereas, for the requested amount of \$750, which is half of the conference total cost.~~

~~Resolved, That the Student Senate assembly approve the total requested amount of \$750 for the conference that will be held on October 26th – 29th.~~

SPONSOR: _____ Treasury Committee
BILL HANDLER: _____ **VDOT Senator Urena**
DATE: _____ Wednesday, September 30, 2020
RECOMMENDATION: _____ (2-0-0)
EXPIRATION DATE: _____ Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: _____ Vote Next Meeting

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Stiles: shared out two documents – one on attendance and one on contact information; please provide updates and corrections.

M. ADJOURNMENT at 8:06 by Unanimous Consent