



## URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA 14 October 2020

### A. CALL TO ORDER at 6:50 pm

### B. ROLL CALL

- Present: Bentley, Bove, Campion, Diaz, Eustis, Khalfayan, Kiernan, Kittle, Lewin, McGrath, Salvo, Shindler, Siegle, Taiwo, Urena
- Absent: Akanegbu, Alam, Alryati, Cajigas, Fazio, Fournier, Gleason, Hilyard, Mason, Nardone, North, Parker, Roufail, Schreiner, St. Germain, Taylor, Thiel
- Guests: Asante, Campbell, Chang, Gibson, Perrone, Ramsay A, Ramsay M, Stiles, Zangari

### C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Approved by Unanimous Consent

**Motion:** Bove moved to add Annabelle Gibson to Public Forum. Second by Siegel. Approved by Unanimous Consent

### D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- No minutes to approve

### E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No announcements

### F. PUBLIC FORUM

- **Gibson:** Spoke of her interest in Student Senate and why she was running.

### G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **STUDENT ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**
  - **Siegel:** no report
- **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
  - **McGrath:** meeting with Faculty Senate to address Pass/Fail option and Attendance Policy
- **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
  - **Kiernan:** no report
- **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
  - **Taiwo:** no report
- **CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
  - **Bentley:** invitations sent to Senate leaders and others for Blue Light Walk being held on October 27
- **INSTRUMENTS COMMITTEE**
  - **Bove:** bill on the floor for review; no further report
- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- **DOT: Asante** – no report
- **VP: Ramsay M** – panel to elect the court will meet no later than next week; serving on the Presidential Search Committee
- **President: Ramsay A** – offered support for all that are facing challenges; reaching out to the student body about needs/concerns; serving on the Governor’s task force focused on youth and the prevention of the spread of COVID-19

#### H. REPORT OF THE COURT

- No report

#### I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

##### a. *Liaisons*

- **DSS – Bove:** finalized free transportation for students with differing abilities for RIPTA Paratransit

##### b. *Elections*

- **Bove:** elections on via Campus Labs; begin at 12:15 am on Thursday, October 15 and conclude at 11:45 pm on Friday, October 16

#### J. SPECIAL ORDERS

- No special orders

#### K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### Bill SS-20/21-07 Bill Calling for the Second Amendment to the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution

**Whereas**, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution currently mandates that nominees to the Court must be elected by a Panel to Elect the Court which is made up of jurists, constituents, and the Vice President of the Student Senate, and

**Whereas**, the Student Senate constitution also mandates that the General Assembly must elect officers of the Cabinet, after the President makes at least one nomination for each vacant cabinet position with the exception of the Moderator of the Assembly, and

**Whereas**, the Instruments Committee believes these processes to be very inefficient and time consuming, and that the Student Body would be better served by a process in which the President nominates Jurists and Officers of the Cabinet, and the Assembly simply votes to confirm or reject the President’s nominations, NOW THEREFORE BE IT,

**Resolved**, that the sentence “The offices of the Cabinet are elected by the Assembly, each member thereof casting one (1) vote for each office. The candidate receiving a majority of votes is elected if they are not a representative” be struck from Article VIII, Section C of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution, and be it further,

**Resolved**, the Article VIII, Section D, be struck from the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution, and that all below sections be alphabetically re-designated accordingly, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that Article V, Section B, of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution be amended to read as follows, “The President provides leadership to the Senate, represents its interests and decisions, and makes at least one (1) nomination to each office of the Cabinet, except the Moderator of the Assembly, and each office of the Court (as defined in Article VII. Judicial Branch). All Presidential nominations to the Court and the Cabinet must be confirmed by a vote of the Assembly. The President may also dismiss officers of the Cabinet with the exception of the Vice President and the Moderator of the Assembly.

They may veto acts of the Assembly, call special meetings, refer matters to committees, and appoint undergraduate

students to University boards and committees. The President is a signatory of all Student Activities Tax revenue and all monies that are either in the Senate Accounting System or are otherwise controlled by the Senate.”, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that Article V, Section D, Part 5, be amended to read as follows, “The Moderator of the Assembly chairs all meetings of the Assembly, and they and their duly appointed officials serve ex-officio as non-voting members of the Assembly. The Moderator also appoints and removes the members of the Assembly’s standing committees; removals are subject to the approval of the committee’s chair. The Moderator of the Assembly is nominated and elected by the Assembly. The Moderator shall clearly communicate the instructions of the Assembly to the Cabinet. The Moderator may speak on behalf of the Assembly.”

**SPONSOR:** Instruments Committee  
**BILL HANDLER:** Chair Bove  
**DATE:** October 7, 2020  
**RECOMMENDATION:** (2-0-0)  
**EXPIRATION DATE:** Valid Until Reviewed  
**ACTION:** Vote in Two Weeks

**Motion:** Bove moved to change the word “bylaw” to “constitution” in paragraph 5. Second by Shindler. Passed by Unanimous Consent.

#### L. NEW BUSINESS

##### **SS-20/21-08 – BILL CALLING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF “COMMUNITY WELLNESS LEADERS” AS A RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

**Whereas**, “Community Wellness Leaders” mission statement is, “to promote mental, emotional, physical and food wellness. This organization welcomes anyone and everyone to join, and engages in a variety of activities that are healthy for the mind, body and soul. This is a safe and positive space for students to have a community of peers that are all motivated to live and experience a healthy lifestyle.”,

**Whereas**, Community Wellness Leaders meets the requirements to be a recognized 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 Community Wellness Leaders as a recognized organization.

**SPONSOR:** Student Organizations Committee  
**BILL HANDLER:** Chairwoman Siegle  
**DATE:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020  
**RECOMMENDATION:** (8-0-1)  
**EXPIRATION:** Valid Until next re-recognition  
**ACTION:** Vote Next Week

##### **SS-20/21-09 – BILL CALLING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF “NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS” AS A RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

**Whereas**, “National Society for Collegiate Scholars” mission statement is, “to grant academically successful students the opportunity to give back to their community through non-profit fundraisers and events as well as to access gifted scholarships and member benefits.”,

**Whereas**, National Society for Collegiate Scholars meets the requirements to be a recognized 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 National Society for Collegiate Scholars as a recognized organization.

<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Student Organizations Committee
<b>BILL HANDLER:</b>	Chairwoman Siegle
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, October 14, 2020
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	(9-0-0)
<b>EXPIRATION:</b>	Valid Until next re-recognition
<b>ACTION:</b>	Vote Next Week

**M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

- No comments

**A. ADJOURNMENT** at 7:09 pm by Unanimous Consent