



URI STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

21 October 2020

6:30 pm via WebEx

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Alryati, Bentley, Bove, Cajigas, Campion, Cimbal, Diaz, Gleason, Hilyard, Khalfayan, Kiernan, Kittel, Lewin, McGrath, Salvo, Siegle, Taiwo, Thiel, Urena

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

Guests: Campbell, Chang, deHayes, Diallo, Margolin, Ramsay A, Ramsay M, Stiles, Veeger, Zangari, Perrone

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vote: For: Unanimous Consent

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vote: For: Unanimous Consent

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No announcements

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Provost deHayes

Vice Provost Veeger

Bove: presented a request again for the Pass/View option for fall 2020.

Taiwo: students are struggling in their on-line courses (asynchronous) and it is being brought to the faculty's attention; the faculty are challenged with using, understanding, and integrating BrightSpace into the coursework.

Veeger: will do follow up on BrightSpace with faculty.

Cajigas: sought clarity on the email that mention a possible curfew to prevent the spread of COVID.

Veeger: that is not being implemented presently.

deHayes: spoke of reducing the number of asynchronous courses for spring 2021 and faculty being more synchronous in their teaching style.

Chang: suggested the use of the RhodyConnect app as a location for students to submit anonymous concerns about classes.

Urena: granted speaking rights to Director Asante

Asante: the exemption process for members of the Greek community is moving too slowly; concern with clinicals was at the forefront.

Veeger: noted that faculty have been notified to not count absences due to the "shelter in place" requirement and to work with students to make up missed work

- Chang:** brought forth the need and concern around diversity, racial equity, and more.
- deHayes:** stated that there has been an increased effort to recruit and employ diverse members of the academic and administrative core; academic departments will be reporting out by course on content/pedagogy, enrollment, and other numbers around equity and diversity.
- Taiwo:** inquired as to when this would be starting.
- deHayes:** spoke of current projects including the creation of the new minor focused on social action; spoke of the trainings done for the staff of the Provost Office; and would welcome student input.
- Kittel:** asked about study abroad and those majors with large international needs for experience and study.
- deHayes:** indicated there will be no international travel through the end of 2020 and probably for the full 2020-2021 academic year.
- Chang:** inquired about financial challenges being faced by the University.
- deHayes:** stated that shortfalls were pulled from reserves (\$6.5MM) and provided funding for the hotels needed to keep all on campus safe and healthy; \$2MM was added to financial aid for students.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- STUDENT ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
 - **Siegel:** No report
- ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 - **McGrath:** Met with the president and vice president of faculty senate; the Pass/Fail option exists for certain classes already (non-major classes); and that absences due to quarantine do not count against the student.
- EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 - **Kiernan:** concern with the three-person ordinance for 2020-2021
- CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 - **Taiwo:** trainings need to be completed by all
- CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 - **Bentley:** Blue Light Walk is next week; meet in the Senate Office at 7 pm
- INSTRUMENTS COMMITTEE
 - **Bove:** No report
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 - a. *Director of Information*
 - b. *Director of Communications*
 - **Alryati:** *Please update the contact sheet*
 - c. *Director of Treasury*
 - **Asante:** *Clubs are still confused as to how to access funds; working with Cheryl to coordinate meetings*
 - d. *Director of Operations*
 - **Diallo:** *Need to lead by example and do the required fund raiser – suggested 5 Guys*
 - e. *Vice President*
 - **Ramsay M:** *No report*
 - f. *President*
 - **Ramsay A:** *provided continued encouragement to committees to meet and address student needs; do the senate survey on IG.*

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

- No report

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

- a. *Liaisons*
 - *No reports*
- b. *Elections*
 - **Bove:** *Bill is on the table; no other report*

J. 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 Next Week

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 Tonight

Vote: For: Unanimous Consent

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.

SPONSOR:..... Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Siegle
DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 2020
RECOMMENDATION: (9 – 0 – 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Vote: For: Unanimous Consent

L. NEW BUSINESS

BILL SS-20/21-10 BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF FALL 2020 STUDENT SENATE ELECTION

Be it,

Resolved, that the URI Student Senate certifies the results of the Fall 2020 Student Senate Elections as presented by the elections committee.

SPONSOR:..... Elections Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chair Bove
DATE: 21 October 2020
RECOMMENDATION: (4-0-0)
EXPIRATION; Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote Next Week

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

N. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm