



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

URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

28 October 2020

WebEx Information

Meeting number (access code): 172 823 4952

Meeting password: urisenate

<https://rhody.webex.com/rhody/j.php?MTID=m43604314254896ede9a453e7c64950e1>

A. CALL TO ORDER at 6:40 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Alryati, Bentley, Bove, Cajigas, Campion, Diaz, Eustis, Gleason, Hilyard, Khalfayan, Kiernan, Kittle, Lewin, McGrath, Siegle, Taiwo, Thiel, Urena

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

Guests: Asante, Chang, Cox, Perrone, Ramsay A, Stiles, Tyson, Zangari

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion 1: For by unanimous consent

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion 2: Minutes of September 23, 2020 – For by unanimous consent

Motion 3: Minutes of October 21, 2020 – For by unanimous consent

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

- Stiles – spoke on the number of absences of senators and the need to attend meetings; letters going out to those senators with more than 3 absences seeking explanation and confirmation of desire to continue as a senator, non-response will be considered a resignation; bill to be placed on the floor for next meeting to remove those leaders not continuing.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee
 - Siegel – continuing to meet with prospective groups; bill on the floor tonight.
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - McGrath – continuing to work on committee's agenda items
- External Affairs Committee
 - Kiernan – no report
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - Taiwo – check your email for info; met last week and planning for November

- Campus Affairs Committee
 - Bentley – held the Blue Light Safety Walk last evening and submitted report to Campus Police; spring walk wants more senators in attendance.
- Instruments Committee
 - Bove – bill on the floor tonight
- Executive Committee
 - a. *Director of Information*
 - Margolin – No report
 - b. *Director of Communications*
 - Cox – social media blitz coming up; discount program via social media for stores in the Emporium; finishing the PSA
 - c. *Director of Treasury*
 - Asante – no report
 - d. *Director of Operations*
 - Diallo – No report
 - e. *Vice President*
 - Ramsay M – working on internal social (virtual) event for senate; court being finalized this week
 - f. *President*
 - Ramsay A – encouraged committee work and reporting; reinforced attendance requirements

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

- a. *Liaisons*
 - No reports
- b. *Elections*
 - Bove – bill on the floor tonight

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations for Moderator of the Assembly

Motion 4: Bove moved to nominate Hilyard for Moderator. Second by Siegle. For by unanimous consent.

Motion 5: Bove moved to close nominations and elect tonight. Second by Siegle. For by unanimous consent

Motion 6: Bove moved to vote on nomination of Hilyard for Moderator. Second by Siegel. For: 12; Against: 0; Abstention: 5

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 Tonight

Bove: spoke on how this bill streamlined the selection of members of the court, members of the cabinet and that the cabinet serves at the pleasure of the President.

Motion 7: Bove moved for roll call vote. For: 17; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.

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 Tonight

Motion 8: Bove moved to vote. Second by Siegle. For: 17; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.

Hilyard: Swearing in of new senators will occur next meeting.

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-20/21-11 – Bill Calling for the Recognition of "Global Brigades" as a Student Senate Organization

Whereas, "Global Brigades" mission statement is, "to participate in year round recruitment, fundraising, and awareness events that ultimately result in participation in a 7-9 day brigade, where we actively participate in programming.",

Whereas, Global Brigades 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 Global Brigades as a recognized organization.

Sponsor: Student Organizations Committee
Bill Handler: Chairwoman Siegle
Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Recommendation:.....(7-0-0)
Expiration: Valid Until next re-recognition
Action:..... Vote Next Week

Motion 9: Siegle moved to vote tonight. Second by Bove. For by unanimous consent

Motion 10: Siegel moved to recognize "Global Brigades" as a recognized student organization. Second by Bove. For by unanimous consent.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Bove: Yielded time to A Tyson.

Tyson: Introduced herself as Angie and is excited to join senate.

N. ADJOURNMENT at 7:21 pm