- **CALL TO ORDER - at 6:32 p.m.**
- **ROLL CALL - Present:** Bentley, Bove, Cajigas, Campion, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Henry, Hilyard, Khalfayan, Lewin, McGrath, Salvo, Shindler, Siegle, Taiwo, Thiel, Urena, Williams

  Guests - Kelly Mahoney, Campbell, Brush, Perrone, Stiles
- **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- **READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -** the minutes from the last meeting were approved by unanimous consent
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

  - Caleb Hilyard reported that six senators were removed due to absence and for not responding to an email that was sent to confirm their participation in the Student Senate. Caleb Hilyard also reqested that new senators submit their requests for committee assignments.
- **PUBLIC FORUM**

  - Kelly Mahoney, *Executive Director of External Relations and Communications,* made remarks to the Senate. She thanked the Student Senate for their leadership and requested feedback regarding the communications that are provided to the University community as a whole. Chair Bentley commented that there were no problems with the communications that were being received and he felt that they were informative and distributed in a timely fashion. President Ramsay said that she liked the app that was being used for announcements but would like to see text messaging used as another type of communication tool.
- **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

  - Student Organization Committee - Chair Siegle reported that her committee was preparing for the re-recognition process and had two bills on the floor for new committees to be discussed later.
  - Academic Affairs Committee - Chair McGrath reported that the flyer outlining final exam rights was still being finalized and he had a meeting schedueled with the Provost and Vice Provost on Thursday.
  - External Affairs Committee - Senator Shindler gave the report for Senator Kiernan and reported that they were working with the Narragansett 2100 group and there was a scholarship for off campus students.
  - Cultural Affairs Committee - no report
  - Campus Affairs Committee -
  - Instruments Committee - no report

- Executive Committee
  - *Director of Information - no report*
  - *Director of Communications - no report*
  - *Director of Treasury - no report*
  - *Director of Operations - no report*
  - *Vice President - The court has been established.*
  - *President - President Ramsay reported tha she had been working on a task force regarding COVID-19.*
- **REPORT OF THE COURT**
- **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**
  - *Liaisons - no report*
- **SPECIAL ORDERS**
  - *Nominations for College of Arts and Sciences Representative - none*
  - *Nominations for Off-campus Representative - none*
  - *Nominations for College of Nursing Representative - Chair Siegle nominated Katherine Blake. Nomination was seconded and approved.*
  - *Nominations for At-Large Representative (2 seats available) - Chair Bove nominated Adriana Turano. Nomination was seconded by Grace Kiernan and approved.*
  - *Nominations for University College Representative - none*
  - *Nominations for Off-Campus Representative (4 seats available) - none*
- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**
- **NEW BUSINESS**

  **SS-20/21-12 – BILL CALLING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF "URI SUSTAINABLE FISHING CLUB" -**
  Motion by Chair Siegle to vote tonight. Motion seconded and approved by unanimous consent. Bill was passed with 19 votes.

  Whereas, the "URI Sustainable Fishing Club" mission statement is "to establish a community of people unified by the idea that we can have fun fishing while helping the environment to preserve the sport for many future generations.",

  Whereas, URI Sustainable Fishing Club 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 URI Sustainable Fishing Club as a recognized organization.

## SS-20/21-13 – BILL CALLING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF "INVESTMENT CLUB"

Motion by Chair Siegle to vote tonight.  Motion seconded and approved by unanimous consent.
Bill was passed with 19 votes.

Whereas, the "Investment Club" mission statement is "to teach students how to invest and grow their knowledge of the stock market. In this club, we look to encourage all members to get involved in the market and grow their knowledge. We do so by discussing the trends of the market, the impacts of daily events on the market, and how to make smart purchasing decisions.",

Whereas, Investment Club 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 Investment Club as a recognized organization.

## Bill SS-20/21-14 Resolution Calling for Faculty Senate and Senior Leadership Action on needs of the Student Body

Chair Bove made a motion to change bill to what was in the chat.  Motion was seconded and approved.

Bill was passed with 19 votes.

Whereas, since March of 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly disrupted the lives of students and their families, with many students facing mental health, financial, and other significant issues and disruptions in both their personal and academic lives, and

Whereas, throughout the course of this global pandemic students have struggled to deal with the shift to primarily virtual learning, and the isolating effect it has on their lives, and

Whereas, in addition to the struggles many students were already facing in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, in June of 2020 it was announced that nearly 2,000 students who were already guaranteed university housing would no longer be provided with an on campus housing assignment, leaving many students to either find housing elsewhere at additional expense, to commute to campus, or to switch to a fully remote course load for the Fall 2020 Semester, and

Whereas, the negative implications of this plan disproportionality impacted in state, low income students who lacked the financial resources to obtain housing in the areas surrounding the University of Rhode Island, and those who lack adequate access to public transportation, especially students of color and students with disabilities, and

Whereas, even as some students returned to campus for the Fall 2020 semester, COVID-19 restrictions continue to significantly impact students lives, with many students both on and off campus struggling with isolation, a lack of access to in-person instruction, and many students have struggled to connect with others on campus either through student organizations, support groups, and other social networking opportunities, all of which have predominantly moved online, preventing many form forming social bonds at the university, and

Whereas, for these reasons students are struggling both academically, and in their personal lives, with many students struggling to keep up with the course work and to absorb information through virtual learning platforms, and many students are finding that they cannot perform academically the way they used to and many students are seeing their grades slip, and

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate has repeatedly called for action from the University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership, as well as the Faculty Senate, to do what they can to ease the burden on students this semester, through actions such as instituting an alternative grading option for the Fall 2020 Semester, through disbursing the Transition Assistance Grant as a direct cash payment to students, as well as other policy changes and initiatives to aid the student body in these challenging times, and

Whereas, despite these calls for action, the University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership and the Faculty Senate, have refused to take steps to aid the student body, and instead have chosen to conduct business as though the Fall 2020 Semester was a typical semester, all while students are struggling and falling behind, and

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership and the Faculty Senate have, on several occasions refused to consider student needs and opinions on issues affecting the student body, such as the University's Fall 2020 Housing Plan, the amendment of the 2020/2021 Academic Calendar, and the grading policies for the Fall 2020 Semester, and

Whereas, the Student Body is the heartbeat of our institution, and it should remain at the center of the University's core mission, as without the Student Body and its financial resources, the University would cease to exist, and

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, will not stand for the University's continued indifference towards student needs and concerns and the disregarding of student voice in decisions affecting the Student Body, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate demands that action be taken by the Senior Leadership and the Faculty Senate to address the needs and concerns of the Student Body, and therefore be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate calls upon the Faculty Senate to hear and consider legislation passed by the Student Senate, and that action be taken to implement the Student Senate's legislation, or to address the concern brought forth to the Faculty Senate, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate demands Student Representatives to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees, and Student Representatives to the Faculty Senate, be given voting power so that students actually have a say in actions taken by the University, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate condemns any actions taken by the University or the Faculty Senate which affects the student body and were made without the consideration of student feedback.

| | |
|---|---|
| SPONSOR: | Chair Bove |
| BILL HANDLER: | Chair Bove |
| DATE: | November 18, 2020 |
| RECOMMENDATION: | (5-0-0) |
| EXPIRATION: | Valid Until Reviewed |
| ACTION: | Vote Tonight |


## SS-20/21-15 CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR COVID FUNDS FROM THE

## OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Bill was passed with 18 votes.

Whereas: URI Student Senate Admin is requesting a Contingency Grant for the Office of Student Involvement and,

Whereas: In order to support the efforts to bring safe, engaging and fun programming to our student community during the Covid-19 pandemic and,

Whereas: The Office of Student Involvement will receive requested amount of $50,000 which will cover various on campus programming events expenses and,

Whereas: Allocated funds given by the Student Senate will be only contingent on the Office of Student Involvement collaborating and,

Whereas: Working with any Student Senate recognized organization for each programming event planned on campus for the student population.

Resolved: That the Student Senate assembly approve the total requested amount of $50,000 for the Office of Student Involvement.


SPONSOR: Treasury Committee
BILL HANDLER: VDOT Urena
DATE: November 18th, 2020
RECOMMENDATION: (2-0-0)
EXPIRATION DATE: Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote Tonight

### Bill SS-20/21-16 Resolution Calling for an Alternative Grading Option for the Fall 2020 Semester


Chair Bove made a motion to vote by a call of the roll .  Bill was passed with 19 votes.

The Senators voted as follows:

| Aye: | Nay: | Abstain: | Not Present: |
|------|------|----------|--------------|
| Bentley | | Henry | Alryati |
| Bove | | Kittle | Degnan |
| Cajigas | | Taiwo | Johnson |
| Campion | | | Gleason |
| Diaz | | | McGrath |
| Gamache | | | Parker |
| Gibson | | | Pine |
| Hoover | | | Pitts |
| Khalfayan | | | Roufail |
| Kiernan | | St. Germain | |
| Eustis | | | |
| Lewin | | | |
| Salvo | | | |
| Shindler | | | |
| Siegle | | | |
| Thiel | | | |
| Tyson | | | |
| Urena | | | |
| Williams | | | |


Whereas, since March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted the lives of students and their families, with many students facing mental health, social, financial, and other significant issues and disruptions in both their personal and academic lives, and

Whereas, throughout the course of this pandemic students have struggled to deal with the shift to primarily virtual learning, and the isolating effect it has on their lives, and

Whereas, after students were sent home and forced to adapt to virtual learning upon the university's closure last spring, students' academic performances suffered enormously with many students struggling to keep up with their classes while dealing with the mental, social, and financial or economic burdens caused by the pandemic, and

Whereas, due to the struggles faced by students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate voted to give students an alternative grading option for the Spring 2020 semester allowing students to choose either an Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory (S/U) or a letter grade for each class, and

Whereas, while the University of Rhode Island reopened its campus with a mix of in-person and virtual classes, students both on and off campus are still facing major challenges both academically and in their personal lives, and

Whereas, due to the university's housing policies for the Fall 2020 semester, nearly 2,000 students who were guaranteed university housing were denied an on-campus housing assignment, forcing thousands of students to either find alternative housing or switch to an entire virtual course schedule for the Fall 2020 semester, and

Whereas, students both on and off campus continue to struggle with the challenges posed by virtual learning, including isolation, difficulty absorbing information over virtual platforms, and struggling to build a support network at the university due to student organizations, academic and social support groups, and other social networking opportunities moving online for the foreseeable future, and

Whereas, it has been expressed by both students and faculty that students are struggling to keep up with their classes due to the limitations of virtual instruction, as well as the mental and physical burnout many students are experiencing while the pandemic continues to rage across the country, and

Whereas, these hardships that students are facing are not trivial in nature and encompass more than just academic life. The multidimensional issues that students are facing are intersectional and transcend into the academic experience of students, and

Whereas, these multidimensional issues include but are not limited to housing, food and technology insecurities, lack of access to safe environments, risk to illness, unexpected and unprecedented familial and household and employment responsibilities, and severe mental health crises. These hardships exacerbated by the pandemic need thorough attention and immediate action when considering their impacts on students' academic performances and responsibilities, and

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate conducted a survey of the student body to see how students felt about how the Fall 2020 semester has been going and received feedback from hundreds of students that overwhelming expressed they were struggling and that an alternative grading option was needed, providing the following attached feedback, and now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate demands that the Faculty Senate implement an alternative grading option for the Fall 2020 semester, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate calls upon the Faculty Senate to take action on this matter immediately to meet the needs of the Student Body.

SPONSOR:                        Senate's Leadership

BILL HANDLER:                  Chair Bove

DATE:                           November 18, 2020

RECOMMENDATION:   (12-0-0)

EXPIRATION:                    Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION:                         Vote Tonight

### URI ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE FALL SEMESTER 2020 TESTIMONY

Moving online has been extremely difficult- I am not learning as well and I am finding that professors are less lenient and giving more work and grading harder because we are online. This has been my worst semester of college so far for academics.

Quarantine after quarantine

I understand online classes are the safest option, but it is hard to stay engaged and motivated.

I have been struggling to keep up with my course work and feel as though I have not received the empathy that we as students need right now from faculty. I am someone that never struggles with school, but this semester has been my most challenging semester and I believe that it is because I am completely remote. There is rarely a time I feel like I do not have anything to do. I am always

stressed about the next assignment or that I missed a deadline. The transition over to bright space has also been extremely challenging. Personally, I think that my GPA will be affected this semester and being a senior this really disappoints me. If there was a pass fail option for classes I would feel extremely relieved.

I have a mix of mostly online classes and one in-person. It's hard to be a commuter and have to balance finding places at URI to do my online classes and then go to my in-person class as well

It's been tough to really focus with online classes and somewhat the connection loss between teacher and student.

I feel cheated out of my money, because 2 of my labs are now online so I'm not getting the full experience at all that I would need going forward in pharmacy

This year has been one of the most difficult years of adjustment for everyone. For not just the students but also the teachers I feel like a lot of material is not being absorbed as much as usual

I wish some teachers, especially all online classes, had mass tort zoom meetings with students.

This academic year was very stressful and overwhelming. I felt as if I couldn't get in contact with professors or advisors. And I was struggling academically and mentally this year.

I think with everything being online it's easy to just rely on notes for quizzes/exams which means we aren't really understanding anything we are being taught. We aren't focused on understanding the material and knowing it because we have it right in front of us for every assignment. I feel like in the future and in the real world this style of learning will only hurt us.

I understand where the University is coming from, but I think policies need to be updated during this unprecedented time.

I feel as though my academic experience this year has been difficult because I can never catch a break. The amount of work I've been doing this semester is very overwhelming. I feel as though the professors should do more work during the class than giving us so much work to do after.

A majority of my classes are very overwhelming this semester compared to previous semesters and they are hybrid classes. As an off campus student who also works and has been for off campus for three years this semester has been the most difficult to handle.

It is extremely difficult to comply with the non-uniform standards of the different classes. My previous Deans List grades are in decline because of a lack of understanding different standards required by diverse styles of teaching in the new system while I previously excelled in the pre-Covid system. We should be helped with it through a pass/fail option for some courses.

I feel as teachers are running courses normally and that's just not the case. We're living in a pandemic where we have to be in a constant state of adaptive behavior. Little to no teachers are working around this and just expect us to understand the material as if we were learning first hand.

My concern is that the class of 2021 won't have a proper graduation because URI is not acting fast in punishing those who are breaking the rules. Please work on this. URI has had enough time now to figure away so we don't have a wack graduation

online school is hard especially if it's asynchronous. i'm taking stem classes- since i'm a biological science major. These classes (like organic chemistry) are hard to do on your own. yes, professors have office hours and always instill extra help but it's definitely a different experience

I have no weekly synchronous classes, I am teaching myself enough to hand in assignments and pass but I'm learning nothing, there's no reason I should be paying full out of state (!!!) tuition to take online classes... I understand many things are in place for our safety but they need to be better. All the classes I've enrolled for in the spring will also be delivered online and if nothing changes, I will have gone my entire senior year (25% of my time at URI and 25% of the tuition I've paid) without learning much of anything and having taught myself anything I did learn. At this point I'd rather just have my degree than pretend to be gaining anything from the next several months. I don't mean to be harsh, but this has been my experience and I really hope procedures ensure more professor interaction takes place... asynchronous classes may be convenient for students and teachers alike but in my opinion it is lazy. I don't even have recorded lectures- just posted slides from previous years' lectures. As much as I enjoy the freedom of asynchronous classes, I truly believe synchronous classes should be mandated for all online classes that would have been delivered in person pre-COVID. I think that would solve a lot of issues, help students learn, allow students and professors to connect more and return a small piece of normalcy.

Professors are not flexible and accommodating enough

I find it to be an interesting academic year, however I find it to be somewhat normal because of how the classes have been

This sucks

It's 10x harder with covid.

It's just difficult to manage teaching myself classes and the work involved with those classes

I am taking most of my classes online and one in person class which I have to commute for. I don't find my in person lab very rewarding because all I am doing is the math for the experiment. The amount of work we get in each class is overwhelming to the point where I'm not reading textbook chapters for any of my classes. Some of my online classes aren't notifying us when hw is due and the professor doesn't mention it in class, which leads me to miss assignments. My experience is okay but it could be way better.

I have found that some of the material in my higher-level classes specifically is harder to understand in an asynchronous class. When talking about philosophical ideas or more abstract concepts, not being able to meet and have a face-to-face discussion (even one online) inhibits my learning experience.

I hate zoom university

I like being able to make my own schedule with the online asynchronous classes, but it's also difficult to motivate myself to get work done when I don't have to go to class 2-3 times a week.

It's been great so far. No complaints besides some teachers aren't on board with bright space. it's hard contacting them as well. especially when all we do is take tests and nothing more. not even attendance

As a nursing student I am extremely frustrated and nervous about my education. Being a member of greek life has made me miss out on 2 more weeks of clinical which is already cut short being that we are all online after thanksgiving. I was also cut short last semester and only went to the hospital twice. After 2 full semesters of clinical I will probably have only gone to the hospital about less than 1/2 the number of times I should have. There is NO way to make up clinical online. I feel very behind and it's embarrassing. There needs to be exceptions for students who seriously can not get the education necessary through online learning.

The workload is double the normal amount and I have to teach myself. I don't feel like i'm learning anything

Not learning anything

Asynchronous classes should be better structured and/or completely replaced with synchronous

I'm currently not allowed to attend in person classes due to the Greek life shelter in place. And I do feel like it's having a negative impact on my learning experience.

I'm only a part time student so I am able to complete all of my work and things like that but had I had an internship (which was my plan) I'm not sure if that would be the same. Idk what to say as far as pass/fail because I had such a small course load. No doubt things are stressful on everyone and I can see teachers handling out more assignments as they go through their own burnout. I know I'm not learning as much as I "should" be which is troublesome. I just think everyone is really burned out and I wish there was a push from the university of "right now isn't about getting as much work done as possible given the circumstances"

I am completely online even after attempting to have one in person class. I only meet with two classes on web calls each week and even then, there's little interaction between students and the Professor. I feel that I'm only doing readings and discussion posts to receive a grade and be able to say I completed this semester

Professors don't respond to emails and generally aren't teaching material very well in asynchronous classes

I am an off campus student living with an individual who is at risk if they get COVID-19. I think that in person absences for people like me should be permitted if cases are on the rise for the consideration of my housemate's health. This should also be applied to at risk students.

It sucks

Lots of stress from online classes. I feel pressure to attend classes even though I feel uncomfortable with the situation

I've found it hard and stressful with the amount of work and the online lectures

A lot of professors are making participation about 15% of our grade when we're over Zoom. It makes it really hard to even get the chance to say anything.

I'm always stressed, always feel behind and I'm always catching up... even when I think I'm ahead. I'm submitting so much and learning so little.

My main concern is the amount of work being given for each class. This semester has been tremendously stressful and has impacted my mental health extremely negatively. We haven't had a single day off yet and the workload every one of my classes seems to increase as time goes on. This makes me very worried about not having spring break. I understand the implications of trying to discourage students from traveling, but I need the time off to catch up on work, sleep and get a mental break. I cannot take 13 straight full weeks of class. The 6 straight weeks we have encountered so far in fall semester have been very overwhelming so I can only imagine 13.

It's harder to learn the information through a computer even if the class is on zoom. It's also hard to focus in class if it's online.

I have had very accommodating professors within the COP. As a healthcare provider I am not comfortable being on campus in such large groups. Some of my lectures are 30-50 people when state guidelines advise for no more than 15 in a social setting. Most of my professors have allowed me to stay home on the basis of disability accommodations, but think this should be an implemented policy university wide that it is up to the student whether or not they are fully remote.

I had to drop two classes already because I couldn't keep up with the work and I don't feel like I'm learning anything.

Challenging

I just feel like this semester is stressful and annoying because the workload is way more than it used to be. Also being off campus is really hard when I'm used to being on campus

Professors are still unsure of how to incorporate students who can't attend in person into in-person lectures, which screws over some people just because the professor doesn't want to go through the trouble of figuring out a solution.

My professors are supportive, but it is too much to handle having so many asynchronous classes.

It's been very difficult learning with the back and forth online and in person classes. There is no way that professors are fair with exams and quizzes that students in quarantine have to take from the exams and quizzes in person students take. I am from a state very far from here and it's not fair that my program made me come all the way here to take the course despite giving quarantine students the option to take exams and quizzes online. (And all the classes can still be taken and be accessed online.) I also feel that they are giving us too much of a workload and the homework and

studying never ends. I constantly feel burned out since there's so much to do and even after I complete something, there's always another thing still left to do. Also, URI did NOT plan this semester out well and they poorly executed everything having to do with covid safety and testing and housing and especially spring break. They had the audacity to send all students an email trying to implement a curfew that applied to everyone living on campus when it has been the freshman who have been outside late at night in huge groups blasting music and fooling around this past month. There were no repercussions and no one of authority did anything about the situation and they have no plans to except implementing that curfew. URI board members or whoever is in charge of deciding to reopen the school should have not done so in the first place. Again, they should have also made it so we had the option to take all of our courses online from the safety of our homes. Thank you for creating this survey. It really helped with letting off some steam and hope whoever reads this has a nice day. We are all in this together <3

I loved going to class everyday so being online is tough

I feel like I'm not gaining anything from online learning, yet I'm still paying full price.

I wish in person classes were more of an option for the smaller courses so we can still distance but be in person. I feel like I focus better on my lectures when I am in person, plus it's more helpful when I have other people to discuss with.

This is ridiculous. First of all I'm paying out-of -state tuition for all online classes which isn't fair and also it is not at all the same as learning in person. professors don't communicate like you do with them in class and it is very hard to stare at a screen all day. This school is embarrassing because we waited 2 months to test everyone when we should've tested everyone from the beginning and it could've solved all of this. Also discriminating greek life but that's another story like if someone is negative do not make them quarantine for no reason.

I feel like teachers are creating more work to make up for the fact that classes aren't meeting in person. It also feels that things are being rushed so not only is there a lot of work, but it's also building up quickly. Personally, due dates were more helpful because it allowed me to work on a schedule, but there isn't any leniency in late work which isn't helpful at a time like this.

I just have a lot of teachers using a few different platforms for classes and it can be difficult at times to keep up with what class work is where. I think that there should be a universal platform that classes should be on. I know there's bright space of course but I have multiple teachers who aren't even using bright space for work. I have one who literally only uses gmail and there is literally nothing at all on brightspace and that's especially hard to keep up with bc emails can get lost pretty easily with how many we have coming in each day. It's a weird time to be in school right now.

I have an issue with professors using multiple platforms other than bright space. One of my professors never activated their course on their end in Cengage (which I paid for myself out of pocket) and made us all go back and redo everything in less than 2 weeks (this was 6 weeks into the semester, 6 weeks of work to be completed in less than 2 on top of our regular work)

Anxiety has been at an all time high, teachers feel like they're the only important class on our schedules and overall have unreasonable expectations in terms of classwork and attendance. They need to understand that just because we are now "home" all the time doesn't mean we necessarily have more time for schoolwork on our hands.

This has been the worst year at URI. I have not learned a single thing and I paid 5 THOUSAND dollars for one semester. Professors aren't emailing back. They were not properly trained to switch over to online classes. I've really considered dropping out.

Professors put in ZERO effort and I had an obscene amount of more work. If things are going to be virtual they shouldn't add more work than in the past. Just because it's virtual doesn't mean we have a lot of extra time to do work. It's actually ridiculous and professors need to be held accountable.

You've probably heard 1000 times that online learning is not as good as in person, which it isn't. It is very difficult to retain information when I'm sitting at home at my desk. The corona virus is such a small problem these days and for the school to not reduce tuition is absurd. I'm not worried about the corona virus and a significant number of my peers feel the same way. It's insane how my senior year is in shambles for something not as bad as the seasonal flu. If we were half tuition I would be more tolerant to the change but now the school knows they're saving a ton of money by having us go online AND still charge us full. I'm honestly scared for my education. Even though I have secured a job after I graduate, I am not as well equipped as if we were in person. Being able to learn from a professor in person is well worth my time and money, on the contrary, online to a screen with everyone's camera blanked out IS NOT. This spring semester must be in person or I feel for my mental health as well as all of my other peers because this is not good for any of us. If I wasn't a senior engineering student preparing to graduate, I would transfer.

All of my classes are online and each class assigns work like it is the only class I'm taking. Not only that, but the work being assigned is nothing other than busy work. I have not learned a thing. I did not sign up for this nor am I satisfied paying for this.

There's just a lot of differences in how professors have chosen to implement their curriculum. some haven't changed it at all and simply moved it online, and some have adjusted it to the current climate.

It's been really hard to keep up with assignments at the same pace I would have prior to covid. I find it extremely hard to be productive at a pace necessary to complete my assignments. Additionally, some professors are incapable of teaching digitally and I have been struggling to complete assignments to the professors' standards when I am not taught the material, nor is it assigned for reading, AND the professor does not express what they are looking for.

There is little consistency from class to class, I literally just took an exam I was supposed to be on zoom for but I wasn't because none of my other classes required that and my professor did not specify that. The communication from the university has been quite poor as well, and it is confusing trying to figure out what is going on.

Increased workload. No consideration to home-life situations for students. No empathy. Blatant disregard for the student population. The university simply wanted money and could care less about their students.

I have blended classes so I only meet in person once a week. This one day a week is stuffed with way too many quizzes and tests. There should be more remote options for testing so things can be spaced out better.

I am a nursing student and the university has done a good job trying to let us do skills labs and clinicals. Obviously, nothing is the same as the last few years and the online part of our academics makes it slightly harder to attend tutoring and test review since there are time slots to sign up. All in all I am getting through it and I understand it is hard for everyone.

My academic experience has been terrible so far this year. It is nearly impossible to keep up with my work as remote communication is very difficult. I believe you should make it optional for in person learning or remote learning. I did not pay this much money to be barely learning anything from online school.

Teachers place classes and assignments at times that conflict with others. Because of this it's hard to navigate freely and comfortably.

I have not experienced this personally but attendance is often still mandatory in many classes. It sometimes feels like there are conflicting messages from the university and certain professors. I think putting pressure on students to attend class in this pandemic, in person or virtually, is a big stressor. A student may not be sick, but maybe they are going to be seeing a family member who is high risk and want to avoid going out in public. Professors need to be more lenient and I don't think many will unless they are mandated to do so.

I don't think teachers are talking into consideration that we are in the midst of a pandemic and the workload is too much for us to handle. In a regular in person school year, this workload would still be tough yet manageable but it's not a regular school year. I am constantly doing work from when I wake up to when I go to bed, along with working a job, being involved with many clubs and organizations (and all the zoom calls involved with them), and now sheltering in place because of the Greek Life shut down. Mentally it's a lot and some days I need an hour to just distress and take a moment but I don't even have time because there's always so much going on. Some days I barely have time to eat lunch. My mental and physical health are talking a toll and it's affecting not only my grades but the amount of knowledge I'm even taking away from these classes.

I feel like there's a lot of work being thrown at us and on top of that we have field experience, work, group projects, homework, and extracurricular activities. I feel like there's not enough time in the week to stay on top of everything.

It should have all been online

The biggest complaint about one of my classes, which was originally a discussion based format pre-pandemic, is now we just read a chapter of the textbook and have a test on it once a week. I could have, essentially, bought the text for 80 bucks and learned the same info as I am in the class. Just because we're online doesn't mean we should have to teach ourselves. But, my other 3 professors have all been great with the online format and have gone out of their way to make it as smooth an experience as possible, which is also important to recognize.

I find it unfair for professors to expect the same level of performance for online classes versus in person.

Terrible

It is difficult having to teach myself hard courses even when help is available. Not being able to attend a class in person really makes a difference and it is not a good one.

Exams have become much harder to take, not content-wise, but to administer and it makes everything more stressful for students.

There should be more in person class options.

Difficult to make friends and lack of communication between administration and students

It's just not safe.

Overall all professors in my online classes have been very helpful and definitely making the transition a lot easier for me. There should however be a rethink about asynchronous classes as they feel to not offer crucial knowledge to me and it's hard to learn all on your own in more difficult classes like math classes.

absolutely terrible, i'm disengaged and struggling out here.

All my classes are online so that makes it easier but professors assigning more work just because class is online does not make sense. Even though class is online you still receive the same course load so they should not assign more work. Also requiring attendance for an online class does not make sense.

I do not feel that I learned much of anything, I feel that this was more about meeting deadlines than learning. i also do not think that the material taught in class was a fair match to the material tested on.

Online classes in general just are not optimal for learning and with everything going on right now I think it would be the most fair for students to have a pass/fail option for school.

This semester felt more like getting tasks done instead of learning material. Too often I found myself trying to stay afloat instead of grasping the material that I was learning.

Horrible

Teachers need to do a better job communicating with students especially because we don't meet in person.

I have found that some of the material in my higher-level classes specifically is harder to understand in an asynchronous class. When talking about philosophical ideas or more abstract concepts, not being able to meet and have a face-to-face discussion (even one online) inhibits my learning experience.

I am frustrated that I am paying so much for tuition and gaining nothing academically. I have not learned anything valuable since the shift to online education last year and feel like as students, our professors and the university have given up on us.

Not a great year. Bad grades, bad gpa, and half of it is not my fault. I usually do very well in school. Professors assign us more work now than when we were in person. What sense does that make? I understand it's difficult to teach over zoom but something needs to change with the way professors are teaching. Nothing we hear over zoom is absorbed the way it is when we're in person. Overall this has been my worst experience at URI yet and I think a lot of things could've been done differently that still would've been effective in preventing a spread.

feeling unmotivated and overwhelmed, unable to handle work especially when all classes are asynchronous. Finding it easy to fall behind

This academic year was very stressful and overwhelming. I felt as if I couldn't get in contact with professors or advisors. And I was struggling academically and mentally this year.

I'm always stressed, always feel behind and I'm always catching up... even when I think I'm ahead. I'm submitting so much and learning so little

- **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM - President Ramsay thanked everyone for voting and she would be putting together a small mental health task force in an effort to start the spring semester fresh.**
- **ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.**