



**URI STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
24 February 2021**

- **CALL TO ORDER** - 6:32 p.m.
- **ROLL CALL**
 - Present** - Bentley, Blake, Bove, Cajigas, Diaz, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Henry, Hilyard, Johnson, Kiernan, Kittel, McGrath, North, Olivos, Parker, Salvo, Schindler, Siegle, Silva, Taiwo, Thiel, Turano, Tyson, Urena, Williams
 - Absent** - Alryati (excused), Bose, Campion, Degnan, Gleason, Hoover, Pitts, Roufail, Schreiner, St. Germain
 - Guests** - Asante, Cuomo, Jedson, Margolin, Markward, Minor, A. Ramsay, M. Ramsey, Stiles
- **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- **READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** - The minutes from the meeting of February 17, 2021 were approved by unanimous consent.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - There were no announcements.
- **SPECIAL ORDERS**
 - -Swearing in of new senators - New senators were sworn in by President Ramsay
 - Nominations for the Elections Committee - There were no nominations for the Elections Committee.
- **PUBLIC FORUM –**
 - Chair Bove made a motion to extend the public forum. The motion was seconded by Chair Siegle and approved by unanimous consent.
 - Frankie Minor, Director of Housing and Residential Life at URI, spoke to the group during the public forum. Mr. Minor thanked the senate for inviting him to speak. He began by discussing the many adjustments and changes to housing that had been implemented due to COVID restrictions. On a positive note, he reported that there would be an increase to housing availability this year as opposed to the restrictions that were set in place for the Fall of 2020. However, there still would remain shortfalls for the Fall of 2021 for housing. One contributing factor to this was the fact that the triple assignments would not be coming back as an option for room assignments. As a consequence of this, about 900 spaces were lost. Going forward for September, first priority for housing was going to be assigned to incoming freshmen. Furthermore, Mr. Minor requested input from the senate as to how best to assign the balance of the openings. This was going to be addressed at a future senate meeting. Many senators had comments and questions. A very thoughtful and informative question and answer period ensued. Mr. Minor concluded his remarks by asking the senators for input on the upcoming

change of laundry vendors and he announced that employment opportunities existed for delivery runners which were needed to deliver items to students in quarantine.

- **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organization Committee - Chair Siegle announced that the re-recognition process was coming to a close and within two weeks everything should be finalized.
- Academic Affairs Committee - Chair McGrath reported that he had a meeting with a University of Connecticut representative to discuss the transition to online learning.
- External Affairs Committee - Chair Kiernan reported that an off campus food drive was being planned with donation sites around Narragansett. Also, a beach clean up was being planned for the end of the semester.
- Cultural Affairs Committee - Chair Taiwo advised that there was an event planned for Thursday and another event planned for Monday. Details were posted to Instagram.
- Campus Affairs Committee - Chair Bentley reported that results from the survey regarding the Spin proposal were being collected. A representative would be speaking at next week's meeting. With regard to the menstrual products bill, logistics were still being confirmed but it looks like a supplier has been determined. Finally, the spring blue light walk was being planned. Chair Bentley was requesting volunteers for this event.
- Instruments Committee - Chair Bove reported that the bill on the floor would be voted on in two weeks.
- Executive Committee
 - Director of Information - Director Margolin read kudos received during the previous week.
 - Director of Communications - No report.
 - Director of Treasury - Director Asante reported that budget meetings were ongoing and budgets were due by March 1, 2021.
 - Director of Operations - No report.
 - Vice President - Vice President Ramsay reported that she was involved with the presidential search committee and the interview stage would be taking place shortly. Also, she would be conducting check in meetings to assess the status of committee work, etc.
 - President - President Ramsay reminded everyone to fill out their office hour sheets.

- **REPORT OF THE COURT** - No report.

- **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

- Liaisons - No report.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS -**

SS 20/21-19 Bill Calling for the revision of the Third Amendment of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution

Whereas, the Instruments Committee has fulfilled its charge in completing the University of Rhode Island Student Senate's Instruments of Organization, and therefore has found it necessary to amend the University of Rhode Island Constitution as follows, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the Moderator of the Assembly shall henceforth be known and referred to as the Speaker of the Assembly and all references to the Moderator of the Assembly in both the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution and the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws shall be amended accordingly, and be it further,

Resolved, that the word “elected” in Article V, Section D, Part 6, be struck from the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution and replaced with the word “confirmed”, and be it further,

Resolved, that Article VI, Section D, Part 2, Subpart f, be struck from the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution, and that Article 2, Section 2, Part 2, as well as Article 2, Section 9, Part 6, be struck from the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

Resolved, that Article V, Section D, Part 2, be amended to read as follows,

“Part 2. Director of Information

The Director of Information maintains the Senate’s instruments of organization, records, and reports, and responds to requests for information regarding the proceedings and history of the Senate.”

and be it further,

Resolved, that the following lines be added to Article 3, Section 6, of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws,

“6.07 Oversees and maintains the updating of the Senate’s governing documents and articles online and in the office, and promotes and expands literacy regarding them.

6.08 Keep up to date with changes to the Student Handbook and University Manual”

and be it further,

Resolved, all other references to the Instruments Committee or its Chairperson in any of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate’s Instruments of Organization not specified above shall be struck, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Instruments Committee is hereby dissolved as a standing committee of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, and be it further,

Resolved, that this legislation shall take effect upon ratification of the 3rd Amendment of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution

Sponsor: Instruments Committee

Bill Handler: Chair Bove

Date: February 17, 2021

Recommendation: 4 – 0 – 0

Action: Vote in Two Weeks

- **NEW BUSINESS** - There was no new business.
- **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM** –

- Director Stiles thanked the senate for the questions posed to Mr. Minor and commented that a survey would be forthcoming regarding input for priority for housing.
- Chair Bentley seconded the previous comments by Director Stiles.
- Chair Kiernan advised that next week there would be a bill regarding off campus housing certification.
- Chair Bove commented that he was disappointed with decisions made by senior leadership at the university with regard to housing and the bus pass system.
- **ADJOURNMENT - 8:00 p.m.**