

**URI STUDENT SENATE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
3 March 2021**

- **CALL TO ORDER** - 6:33 p.m.
- **ROLL CALL**
  - Present** - Alryati, Bentley, Blake, Bose, Bove, Cajigas, Campion, Daiz, Gamache, Gibson, Gleason, Henry, Hilyard, Hoover, Johnson, Kiernan, Kittel, McGrath, North, Olivos, Salvo, Schindler, Siegle, Silva, Taiwo, Thiel, Turano, Tyson, Urena, Williams
  - Absent** – Braxton (Excused), Degnan, Parker, Pitts, Roufail, Schreiner, St. Germain
  - Guests** - A. Ramsay, Campbell, Jedson, M. Ramsay, Markward, Minor, Paparo, Perrone, Stiles, Taylor, Timm
- **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- **READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** - The minutes from the meeting of February 24, 2021 were approved by unanimous consent.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - HRL assistance in reviewing laundry proposals (email: [frankie@uri.edu](mailto:frankie@uri.edu))
  - HRL quarantine housing delivery runners - paid work!  
(email: [debbergner@uri.edu](mailto:debbergner@uri.edu))
- **PUBLIC FORUM –**

Sophie Timm commented during the public forum on housing for upperclassmen and factors that should be considered when room assignments are being made.

Nick Paparo, a representative from SPIN, provided a presentation regarding the proposed scooter rental program for students on campus. Questions were asked relating to costs for the university and safety issues.

Senator Tyson gave an update regarding the ongoing work of the mural committee and provided a questionnaire to gather input from the senators.
- **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
  - Student Organization Committee - Chair Siegle announced that re-recognition was closed and the stipend review process was almost complete.
  - Academic Affairs Committee - Chair McGrath reported about a meeting between the faculty senate and the student senate to discuss such matters as spring break. Also, a last meeting with the provost was to be scheduled.
  - External Affairs Committee - Chair Kiernan reported that the appeal to the ordinance in Narragansett regarding the number of students allowed to rent a house was taken down. The

off-campus living certification was available to complete. Finally, a food drive was being planned.

- Cultural Affairs Committee - Chair Taiwo announced that March was Women's History Month. A menstrual products donation drive was underway. Collection boxes were in the Memorial Union, the library and Mackal.
- Campus Affairs Committee - Chair Bentley reported that the results from the SPIN survey were being compiled. Also, there was going to be a report in the Cigar about the proposed SPIN program.
- Instruments Committee – No report.
- Executive Committee
  - Director of Information - Director Margolin read kudos received during the previous week.
  - Director of Treasury – Senator Kittel reported that meetings with clubs requesting budgets over \$1000 were ongoing. If anyone was interested, there were still seats available on the Treasury committee.
  - Vice President - Vice President Ramsay reported that sign up for check ins would be distributed shortly. A final list of candidates from the Presidential search committee would be forthcoming.
  - President - President Ramsay thanked everyone for the pictures that had been submitted and for fulfilling their office hours.
- **REPORT OF THE COURT** - No report.
- **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**
  - Liaisons - No report.
- **SPECIAL ORDERS**
  - Nominations for the Elections Committee – There were no nominations for the elections committee.
- **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 One Week

• **NEW BUSINESS -**

**SS-20/21- 20 BILL CALLING TO FUND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS PILOT PROGRAM**

Whereas, With the failure of the University of Rhode Island to adopt SS-19/20-52, the Campus Committee is requesting funds from Student Senate to supply all female-identified and gender-neutral bathrooms in the Memorial Union with sanitary menstrual products. These funds would provide enough menstrual products for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year. And,

Whereas, Various universities throughout the country have adopted this policy as they understand the need to provide students with sanitary products, in the same fashion that universities provide contraceptives. And,

Whereas, The Campus Committee's goal of this pilot program is to demonstrate to the URI Faculty Senate and University Leadership that funding should be continued for future academic years. And,

Whereas, Through statistical data and research, the Campus Committee concludes this program to be beneficial and essential for the health of students who menstruate at URI. Therefore be it,

Resolved, The Campus Committee is requesting \$3,081.50 to purchase bins, tampons, and pads from Aunt Flow. \$320.00 will be allocated to purchase 16 bins that will hold both the pads and tampons. \$1,250.00 will be allocated for 5,000 tampons and \$1,250.00 will be allocated for 5,000 pads. And be it further,

Resolved, Student Senate will partner with the Memorial Union to place two baskets filled with the products on the countertops in each of the specified bathrooms. And be it further,

Resolved, There are eight bathrooms where this will take place: the two female identified bathrooms and one gender inclusive bathroom on the third floor of the Memorial Union, the two female identified bathrooms on the second floor, and the two female identified bathrooms and one female identified locker room on the first floor. And be it further,

Resolved, We request that the janitorial faculty be tasked with refilling the products at their discretion. And be it further,

Resolved, We will include QR Codes on the bins for surveys to collect data on student opinions of the pilot program.

Sponsor: Campus Affairs Committee

Bill Handler: Chairman Bentley

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Recommendation: (4-0-0)

Expiration: Valid Until Reviewed

Action: Vote Next Week

Chair Bentley made a motion to correct the wording in the bill on four different lines to The Student Senate. This motion was seconded. Chair Bove asked that since there was no debate on this bill, that it be considered tonight. Vice President Ramsay requested that more money be allocated for this project. Chair Bentley said that at this time, the amount requested should be sufficient for this pilot program, with the hope that the university will take over the funding of this program going forward. Chair Bove

made a motion to vote tonight and it was seconded by Chair Bentley. The motion passed with 20 votes.

**Bill SS-20/21-21 Resolution Announcing the Student Senate's Recommendation for Housing Waitlist Priority**

Whereas, the Department of Housing and residential life has made the decision to not offer triple room accommodations, and as a result, the University will experience a net loss of approximately 900 beds for the upcoming and subsequent academic years, and

Whereas, the Department of Housing and Residential Life has requested guidance from the University of Rhode Island Student Senate as to which group of students should be prioritized to receive on-campus housing assignments, and

Whereas, the Student Senate has conducted a survey of the URI student body and received 109 responses from students, and

Whereas, the decision has already been made by the Department of HRL to prioritize incoming first-year students as well as rising sophomores for the upcoming academic year, now therefore be it

Resolved, upon consideration of the Senate's survey results, the Student Senate recommends that HRL adopts a credit-based system with priority given to upperclassmen to determine eligibility for an on-campus housing assignment, and be it further

Resolved, the Student Senate further recommends that additional consideration be given to international students, those who live across the country, and to those students who demonstrate a significant need for an on-campus housing assignment due to special circumstances including but not limited to, housing and/or food insecurity, inadequate access to transportation to and from campus, or other unique circumstances which would require an on-campus housing assignment.

SPONSORS: Chair Bove, Senators Gibson, Tyson, North, Hoover

BILL HANDLER: Chair Bove

DATE: March 3, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid until reviewed

ACTION: Vote tonight

This bill was voted on and was approved with 19 votes.

- **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM -**

Chair Bentley reminded everyone to submit their election declaration packets.

Chair Kiernan would be sending out a link to the certification form.

- **ADJOURNMENT – 8:12 p.m.**