



URI STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

- 10 March 2021

- **CALL TO ORDER** - 6:32 p.m.
- **ROLL CALL**

Present - Bentley, Blake, Bove, Cajigas, Diaz, Gamache, Gibson, Gleason, Henry, Hilyard, Johnson, Kiernan, Kittel, McGrath, North, Olivos, Schindler, Siegle, Silva, Taiwo, Thiel, Turano, Tyson, Williams

Absent – Alryati, Bose, Braxton (Excused), Campion, Degnan, Eustas, Hoover (excused), Parker, Pitts, Roufail, Salvo, Schreiner, St. Germain, Urena

Guests - Campbell, Jedson, Lepore, Margolin, Perrone, Stiles
- **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- **READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** - The minutes from the meeting of March 3, 2021 were approved by unanimous consent.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – There were no announcements.
- **PUBLIC FORUM** – No one spoke during the public forum.
- **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
 - Student Organization Committee - Chair Siegle reported that the stipend review process was finished. Next week there would be a re-recognition bill on the floor. Finally, a spirit week was being planned with more information to follow.
 - Academic Affairs Committee - Chair McGrath reported that a statement was going to be made at the next Faculty Senate meeting about spring break and student struggles during the semester.
 - External Affairs Committee - Chair Kiernan was still working with the off-campus certification and possibly making it part of the URI 101 curriculum. Also, she reminded everyone to be mindful of local speed limits and noise when in the off-campus community.
 - Cultural Affairs Committee - Chair Taiwo reminded everyone that the menstrual products donation drive was underway. Also, she was part of the Women's Center search committee.
 - Campus Affairs Committee - Chair Bentley reported that there was a meeting planned with SPIN representatives that he and President Ramsay would be attending tomorrow. All the research for this project was mostly complete and now it was up to the university leadership as to whether this project would move forward. There was a contingency grant bill on the floor tonight to approve the money for the menstrual product pilot program of which the program was approved last week. Finally, the Blue Light walk was scheduled for Tuesday, March 23,

2021. Participation in this event would count for a senator's office hours for the week. All senators were encouraged to sign up and participate.

- Instruments Committee – Chair Bove reminded everyone that the amendment bill on the floor would be voted on tonight. He expected the bill to pass.
- Executive Committee – There were no executive committee reports.
- **REPORT OF THE COURT** - No report.
- **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**
 - Elections Committee – Chair Bentley reminded everyone that if they wanted to be on Senate next semester that declaration forms needed to be completed and turned in by Friday, to be eligible to run in the upcoming election. All terms end with the first meeting in April.
- **SPECIAL ORDERS** – There were no special orders.
- **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 this week.

Chair Bove stated that this bill has been on the floor for one month. It basically dissolves the Instruments Committee and changes the name of the Moderator to Speaker. If there were no questions, Chair Bove that a roll call vote take place.

Alryati - ---

Bentley – aye

Blake – aye

Bose - ---

Bove – aye

Cajigas – aye

Campion - ---

Degnan - ---

Diaz – aye

Eustas - ---

Gamache – aye

Gibson – aye

Gleason – aye

Henry – aye

Hilyard – does not have a vote

Hoover - ---

Johnson – aye

Kiernan – aye

Kittel – aye

McGrath – aye

North – aye

Parker - ---

Pitts - ---

Rufail - ---

Salvo - ---

Schreiner - ---

Shindler – aye

Siegle – aye

Silva – aye

St. Germain - ---

Taiwo – aye

Thiel – aye

Turano – aye

Urena- ---

Williams – aye

Tyson – aye

Olivos – aye

The bill was passed with 22 votes.

• **NEW BUSINESS –**

SS-21/22-22 CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR MENSTRUAL PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE SENATE CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Whereas, The Senate will allocate a Contingency Grant for the Menstrual Product Project from the General Contingency line into the Student Senate Admin account,

Whereas, The Student Senate will allocate \$3,081.50 from the General Contingency line to purchase bins, tampons, and pads from Aunt Flow.

Whereas, The total allocated funds will consist of \$320.00 for purchase of 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.

Resolved, That the Student Senate assembly approve the total requested amount of \$3,081.50 for the Menstrual Project.

SPONSOR:

Treasury Committee

BILL HANDLER:

DOT Urena

DATE:

March 9th, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

(4-0-0)

EXPIRATION DATE:

Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

Senator Kittel reviewed the specifics of the bill. The vote took place and was passed with 21 votes.

- **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM -**

Director Stiles reported that the search for the undergraduate speaker would begin campus wide tomorrow.

Chair Bove would be working with Senator Tyson to put together a bill for funds to reinstate a bus pass program since the original one has been dissolved.

Chair Bentley reminded everyone to submit their election declaration packets.

- **ADJOURNMENT – 7:05 p.m.**