



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

**A. CALL TO ORDER** – 6:32 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present** – Bentley, Blake, Bose, Bove, Cajigas, Diaz, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Hilyard, Hoover, Johnson, Kiernan, Kittel, McGrath, North, Parker, Salvo, Shindler, Siegle, Silva, Taiwo, Thiel, Turano, Tyson, Urena, Williams

**Absent** – Alryati (Excused), Campion, Gleason, Henry, Pitts, Roufail, Schreiner, St. Germain,

**Guests** – Asante, Breneville, Campbell, Cox, Houtz, Perrone, Popovic, A. Ramsay, M. Ramsay, Stiles

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – The minutes from the meeting of March 10, 2021 were approved by unanimous consent.

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – There were no announcements.

**F. PUBLIC FORUM** – Madyson Ramsay, Bolu Taiwo, Christopher Bove and Angie Tyson all deferred their time during the public forum to speak during the Meet the Candidates forum scheduled to take place at the conclusion of the General Assembly meeting.

**G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organization Committee – Chair Siegle reported that there were two bills on the floor tonight. One bill was to recognize a new group and the other was finalized the re-recognition of all eligible student organizations. Also, a spirit week was scheduled for March 29, 2021 – April 2, 2021. There would be a schedule of events planned for the week. Volunteers were needed for the stuffed animal booth on March 29, 2021.
- Academic Affairs Committee – Chair McGrath had a meeting with the Provost regarding Graduation, the move to in person classes and how COVID testing will continue. In addition, he would be speaking at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.
- External Affairs Committee – Chair Kiernan reported that the food drive was ongoing.
- Cultural Affairs Committee – Chair Taiwo reported that the menstrual products drive was ongoing. There was also a campaign to write letters which would be delivered to elderly people. Also, if anyone was interested in the Cultural Chair position next year, please feel free to reach out for information.
- Campus Affairs Committee – Chair Bentley was planning a meeting with President Ramsay, University leadership and representatives from SPIN regarding the proposed scooter program. The products for the menstrual products project were being ordered. Finally, the Blue Light walk was scheduled for next week, March 23, 2021. Volunteers were still needed.

- Instruments Committee – Chair Bove reported that there was a bill on the floor which focused on how to handle impeachments, absences, and procedural rules regarding liaisons. This was to be the final act of the Instruments Committee.
- Executive Committee - Director Asante reported that budget meetings with organizations and the Treasury Committee were ongoing. There were two bills on the floor tonight. One was a category transfer and the other was a request for a contingency grant.
- Director Margolin read various kudos received throughout the week.
- President Ramsay advised that she would be working on stoles for graduating seniors and the outdoor meditation project.

**H. REPORT OF THE COURT** – There was no report of the court.

**I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

- Elections Committee – Chair Bentley reported that many declarations had been received. This meant that some open positions would be contested. There will be a meet the candidates’ forum after this meeting.

**J. SPECIAL ORDERS** – There were no special orders.

**K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – There was no unfinished business.

**L. NEW BUSINESS**

**SS-20/21-23 – BILL CALLING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF “PENSA-URI”**

**Whereas**, the “PENSA-URI” mission statement is, “to be committed to teaching sound Christian doctrine, discipleship, and peer-to-peer mentoring to strengthen the spiritual life of members.”, and

**Whereas**, PENSA-URI meets the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization, and

**Whereas**, it is custom for the senate to do so, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges PENSA-URI as a recognized organization.

<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Student Organizations Committee
<b>BILL HANDLER:</b>	Chairwoman Siegle
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, March 17, 2021
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	(6-0-0)
<b>EXPIRATION:</b>	Valid Until next re-recognition
<b>ACTION:</b>	Vote Tonight

This bill was voted on and was approved with 25 votes.

**SS-20/21-24 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ANNUAL RE-RECOGNITION OF URI STUDENT SENATE ORGANIZATIONS**

**Whereas**, the Student Organizations Committee must review all recognized organizations annually, and

**Whereas**, all Student Senate-recognized organizations must successfully complete the re-recognition process to be re-recognized, and

**Whereas**, the organizations within this whereas failed to complete the re-recognition process, and

American Sign Language Club	Club, Jiu Jitsu	Feminist @ URI	National Society for Collegiate Scholars	Slam Poetry Club
Black Women in Medicine	Club, Judo	Geology Club	Paranormal Society, URI	Society for Latinx in Computing
Club, Boxing	CVSA: Cape Verdean Student Association	Kpop	Pharmacognosy Club, URI	Society: Alpha Phi Omega (leadership)
Club, Dressage Team, URI	Debate Union, URI	LASA: Latin American Student Association	Pre-Dental Club	

**Whereas**, all the organizations listed in the first resolve have met the requirements for re-recognition, and

**Whereas**, it is the duty of the URI Student Senate to recognize these student groups annually, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the URI Student Senate acknowledges the following organizations as senate-recognized clubs until the next re-recognition process.

America's Recoverable Medical Supply (ARMS)	Club, Scuba	Fine Arts Club	Outing Club	SAWA: Student Alliance for the Welfare of Africa
ACLU: American Civil Liberties Union	Club, Soccer, Men's	Gaming Club	PINK Women	SEC: Student Entertainment Committee
Active Minds, URI	Club, Soccer, Women's	German Club	Pre-Physical Therapy Club	Shark Club
Alima International Dance Association	Club, Softball	Global Brigades	Pre-Physician Assistant Club, URI	Social Dance Club, URI

Amnesty International, URI Chapter	Club, Track and Field	Good Five Cent Cigar, The	PRSSA: Public Relations Student Society of America	Society for Women in Computing
Anime Club	Club, Triathlon	Greek: Interfraternity Council	Public Health Club, URI	Society: Kappa Psi, National Honorary Band Fraternity
Asian Students Association (ASA)	Club, Volleyball, Women's	Greek: Panhellenic Council	Puppy Raisers Club, URI	Society: Phi Sigma Pi, National Honor Fraternity
Black Student Union	College Democrats	Habitat for Humanity	URI Quidditch	Sojourn, URI
Brothers On a New Direction (BOND)	College Republicans	Her Campus URI	RamHacks	SOLC: Student Organization Leadership Consultants
Bridge USA	Colleges Against Cancer	InterVarsity Christian Fellowship	Renaissance Yearbook	Sustainable Fishing Club, URI
Chabad of URI	Comedy Club	Investment Club	Rhody Catholic Organization	SVO: Student Veterans Organization
Chess Club	Community Wellness Leaders	Kin (Kinesiology) Club	Rhody Christian Fellowship	Talent Development Student Advisory Board
Club Dance	Dance Company	Marine Science Society	Rhody Rhapsodies	Theme Park Engineering & Design (TPED)
CSIC	DRIVE: Diversifying Recruiting Inspiring Volunteering Educating	Middle Eastern Student Association	Rhody Ridiculousness	Thrive
Club, Alpine Race	Economic Student Association (ESA)	MUSIC: Multicultural Unity and Student Involvement	RhodyThon	Uhuru Sasa

Club, Baseball	Electronic Music Association	Musically Inclined	Rotaract Club, URI	Ukrainian Club
Club, Fencing	EMPWR (Formerly WOWW)	Musicians Guild	SAA: Student Alumni Association	URI Flow
Club, Powerlifting	Ether(bound) Magazine	Muslim Student Association (MSA)	SAGA: Sexuality and Gender Alliance	Wildlife Society
Club, Rhody Archery	Exercise is Medicine	NESA: Northeast Student Affiliate	Sankofa Christian Ministries	Women in STEM
Club, Running	eXposure	Neuroscience Club, URI	SAS: Student Action for Sustainability	WRIU
Club, Sailing	Fashion Merchandising Society	Orthodox Christian Fellowship	SAVES: Students Actively Volunteering and Engaging in Service, URI	

**SPONSOR:** Student Organizations Committee  
**BILL HANDLER:** Chairwoman Siegle  
**DATE:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021  
**RECOMMENDATION:** (7 – 0 – 0)  
**EXPIRATION:** Valid Until Next Re-Recognition  
**ACTION:** Vote Next Week

Chair Siegle commented on this bill and advised that it would be voted on next week.

**SS-21/22-25 – CATEGORY TRANSFER REQUEST FOR STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE (SEC)**

**Whereas:** The URI Student Entertainment Committee is requesting a budget category transfer of \$10,000 for from the Operational (Line 213) to Talent (Line 225),

**Whereas:** The SEC wants to continue to bring entertaining COVID-19 safe events to the URI community virtually,

**Whereas:** The category transfer will enable them to secure a bid for Actress Hunter Schafer

**Resolved:** That the Student Senate assembly approve the category transfer request amount of \$10,000 for the event.

**SPONSOR:** Treasury Committee  
**BILL HANDLER:** VDOT Urena  
**DATE:** March 16th, 2021  
**RECOMMENDATION:** (4-0-0)  
**EXPIRATION DATE:** Valid Until Reviewed

**ACTION:** Vote Tonight

This bill was voted on and was approved with 24 votes.

**SS-21/22-26 – CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR URI BLACK STUDENT UNION (BSU)**

**Whereas:** The URI Black Student Union is requesting a contingency grant of \$4,000 for programming,

**Whereas:** The event “A conversation on the Black Community & Politics” will be a virtual lecture open to the URI community led by the BSU that discusses the complexities Black culture and politics,

**Whereas:** The requested amount will pay for expenses of the guest speaker Dr. Frank Leon Roberts.

**Resolved:** That the Student Senate assembly approve the total requested amount of \$4,000 for the event.

<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Treasury Committee
<b>BILL HANDLER:</b>	VDOT Urena
<b>DATE:</b>	March 16th, 2021
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	(4-0-0)
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	Valid Until Reviewed
<b>ACTION:</b>	Vote Tonight

Lucchina Breneville, a guest participant at this meeting, commented on the bill and explained the need for the funds request.

This bill was voted on and was approved with 24 votes.

**SS-20/21-27 – Bill Calling for Changes to the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws**

**Whereas,** the Instruments Committee in its final act has found it necessary to amend the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws as follows in order to improve the Senate’s efficiency, now therefore be it,

**Resolved,** that the final sentence of Article 1, Section 3, Part 3 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows “These positions are for reporting and discussion purposes only, and do not come with any additional powers or privileges other than speaking privileges”,

and be it further,

**Resolved,** that a new line designated line 6.10 be added to Article 2, Section 4, Part 6 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, which states that “Any member of the Assembly who is not on an approved leave of absence and who accrues more than 5 unexcused absences, or who is absent for more than 50% of scheduled meetings in any given semester but has not accrued more than three unexcused absences, shall be automatically removed from office. A member may appeal their ejection from the General Assembly to the Speaker of the Assembly, who will place the appeal on the agenda of the next meeting of the Assembly. A member may only be reinstated after being removed from office due to absence by a 3/4th majority vote of the Assembly,

and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the word “elects” Article 3, Section 1, Part 1, line 1.04 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, be replaced with the word “confirms”, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the phrase, “unless objected upon by the Cabinet” be struck from Article 3, Section 1 Part 1, line 1.07 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that line 1.15 be struck from Article 1, Part 1, Section 2, of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that line 5.01 be struck from Article 4, Section 5 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that lines 1.04. and 1.05 be struck from Article 5, Section 1 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that line 1.03 of Article 5, Section 1 of the URI Student Senate bylaws be amended to read as follows “Designated Authority: Member of the Student Senate designated by the Head Jurist to represent the Court.”

and be it further,

**Resolved**, that lines 3.02, 3.03, and 3.04 be struck from Article 5, Section 3 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that Article 5, Section 4, line 4.01 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows “The hearing will be closed to all but the members of the Assembly, the Head Jurist, and the Respondent”, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the phrase “Designated Authority” be replaced with “Head Jurist” in lines 4.02 and 4.03 of Article 5, Section 4 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that line 4.04 of Article 5 Section 4 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows “The Designated Authority will read the report, to which the respondent or their designee will be allowed to respond.” and be it further

**Resolved**, that line 4.05 of Article 5 Section 4 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows, “The Designated Authority and the Respondent or their advocate, will both be allowed to introduce witnesses and evidence as they see fit, and cross-examination and rebuttal will be allowed for each at the discretion of the Head Jurist unless and objection is made by a member of the Assembly and sustained by a 2/3rd majority vote.” and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the phrases “Administrator and Advocate” be replaced with “Designated Authority and Respondent or their designee” in line 4.06 of 4.07 of Article 5 Section 4 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws. And be it further,

**Resolved**, the word “Administrator” be replaced with “Designated Authority” in line 4.08 of Article 5 Section 4 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, the terms “Designated Authority” and “Moderator” in lines 4.09 and 4.11 of Article 5 Section 4 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws be replaced with “Head Jurist” and “Speaker” respectively, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that line 4.10 of Article 5 Section 4 be struck from the URI Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that Article 5, Section 5, be struck from of the URI Student Senate Bylaws.

<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Instruments Committee
<b>BILL HANDLER:</b>	Chair Bove
<b>DATE:</b>	March 17, 2020
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	(4-0-0)
<b>EXPIRATION:</b>	Valid Until Reviewed
<b>ACTION:</b>	Vote Next Week

Chair Bove reiterated that this bill was a change to the by-laws and he had no further comments or discussion with regard to this bill. It will be voted on next week.

**M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM** – There was no general discussion or comment during the open forum.

**N. ADJOURNMENT** – 7:09 p.m.