



**URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA  
24 March 2021**

**A. CALL TO ORDER** – 6:32 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

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

**Guests** – Asante, Campbell, Cox, Margolin, Markward, Nasin, Perrone, Reynolds, Stiles

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

**D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**F. PUBLIC FORUM**

- Chair Bove motioned to extend Public Forum indefinitely by unanimous consent. The motion was seconded by Chair Bentley.
- Dr. Nasin, *Medical Director of URI Health Services*, and Ellen Reynolds, *Director of Health Services* were guests at the meeting. Dr. Nasin gave a presentation on COVID-19 and vaccine options. The presentation highlighted reminders to wear your mask, socially distance and wash your hands. There were questions posed to Dr. Nasin at the conclusion of this talk ranging from vaccine mandates to the efficacy of the various available vaccines. Dr. Nasin thanked the students and the URI community for doing an excellent job in trying to follow the rules to keep everyone safe.

**G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organization Committee – Chair Siegle reported that the re-recognition bill would be voted on tonight. URI Spirit week was planned for next week, beginning on Monday, with different events scheduled daily through Friday.
- Academic Affairs Committee – No report.
- External Affairs Committee – Chair Kiernan had no report except to be on the lookout for details of a beach clean up to be scheduled before the end of the semester.
- Cultural Affairs Committee – Chair Taiwo reminded everyone to donate to the ongoing menstrual products drive.
- Campus Affairs Committee – Chair Bentley gave an update on the three projects that his committee has been working on. The check has been mailed to the company that is going to provide the menstrual products for the pilot program in the Memorial Union. The next step for the SPIN project is a meeting between university leadership and representatives from the

SPIN company. Finally, the Blue Light walk was very successful. 92% of the lights were in working order.

- Instruments Committee – No report.
- Executive Committee – Director Margolin shared kudos received during the week. Director Asante reported that the budget had been sent out and it would be voted on next week.

**H. REPORT OF THE COURT** – No report.

**I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

- Elections Committee – Chair Bentley reported that the election was complete with a decent number of votes received. The unofficial results have been posted and sent out.

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

**K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**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
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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 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 This Week

This bill was voted on and was passed with 21 votes.

**SS20/21-27 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.

SPONSOR: Instruments Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chair Bove

DATE: March 17, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (4-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote This Week

This bill was voted on and passed with 22 votes.

## **L. NEW BUSINESS**

### **SS-20/21-28 - Resolution in Support of a Community Statement Between Student Senate, Faculty Senate, and Administration**

Whereas, in response to the Faculty Senate’s decision to cancel spring break for the Spring 2021 semester, and the lack of available alternatives, and

Whereas, in response to the continued danger of COVID-19, the increase in race-based acts of violence across the country, and the effects of “pandemic fatigue” on our everyday lives, and

Whereas, students are facing even more challenges as University and local policy on housing is updated and implemented, increasing chances of housing insecurity for the upcoming year, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate is committed to working in cooperation with Faculty Senate and senior administration to help address the challenges that our community faces, and be it further

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate supports the creation of a statement encouraging faculty to implement relief into their courses, for students to advocate for the inclusion of such forms of relief and seek out necessary resources, and be it further

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate supports the inclusion of the following language, either in essence or verbatim, in a statement for the community:

“The URI Student Senate, Faculty Senate, and administration recognize the enormous challenges that our community faces at this time. The ever-present danger of COVID-19, the challenges of distance learning, and the rise of violence across the country serve as roadblocks to our success in learning, teaching, and working.

We, as the representatives of the campus community, encourage faculty to be more cognizant of the academic stresses on students. Extending assignment deadlines, reducing homework, and even canceling classes are all possibilities and encouraged.

We further encourage students to advocate for the inclusion of these relief options in their classes as we finish out the semester. Students also have access to the various university resources, such as the ~~Counseling and Writing Center~~ Counseling and Writing Centers, Health Services, Case Managers, Disability Services, and others. More information can be found on the Division of Student Affairs home page.”

SPONSOR: Chairs McGrath, Kiernan, Siegle, Bove, and Senator Gibson

BILL HANDLER: Chair Bove

DATE: March 24, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Bove made a motion to amend the language of the bill, changing “Counseling and Writing Center” to “Counseling and Writing Centers” by unanimous consent. Chair Bentley seconded the motion.

This bill was voted on and passed with 23 votes.

## **M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

Chair Kiernan informed the group that a mock trial team was being put together. Anyone who was interested could email her for more information.

Chair Bentley advised everyone to be on the lookout for an email from the Elections Committee regarding the recent election.

## **N. ADJOURNMENT – 7:33 p.m.**