



**URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
31 March 2021**

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:34 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent – Alryati, Bose, Campion, Degnan, Gleason, Olivos, Parker (Excused), Pitts, Roufail, Schreiner, Silva, St. Germain

Guests – Asante, Brush, Call-in User_3, Campbell, Margolin, Markward, Perrone, A. Ramsay

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Chair Bove made a motion to move the budget bill to the end of the new business. That motion was seconded by Chair Siegle and passed. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

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

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Speaker Hilyard announced that the meeting would be recorded and shared with a student who was doing a project for a class.

F. PUBLIC FORUM – No one spoke during the public forum.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee – Chair Siegle reported that Spirit Week was continuing and was very successful thus far. On Thursday there would be a trivia contest and on Friday there would be yard games on the quad.
- Academic Affairs Committee – No report.
- External Affairs Committee – No report.
- Cultural Affairs Committee – No report.
- Campus Affairs Committee – Chair Bentley reported that he was still trying to set up a meeting with SPIN. Also, the check had been received by the company which will be providing the menstrual products for the pilot program.
- Instruments Committee – Chair Bove remarked that this would be his last time to address the assembly as this committee had been dissolved. He also thanked his committee members.
- Executive Committee – Director Margolin read kudos received from the previous week. President Ramsay reminded everyone to submit their superlative for next week’s meeting. Director Asante commented on the budget and contingency grant bills on tonight’s agenda.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT – No report.

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

- Elections Committee – Chair Bentley noted that the bill was on the floor to certify the elections.

J. SPECIAL ORDERS – There were no special orders.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was no unfinished business.

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-20/21-30 CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR AN OUTDOOR WELLNESS CENTER

Whereas, URI Student Senate Admin is requesting a Contingency Grant for URI Campus Recreation and,

Whereas, In order to support the efforts to build an outdoor center on the URI Kingston Campus and for future generations of URI students,

Whereas, The URI Campus Recreation will receive requested amount of \$25,000 which will cover half the cost of building the center and,

Resolved, That the Student Senate assembly approves the total requested amount of \$25,000 for URI Campus Rec.

SPONSOR:	Treasury Committee
BILL HANDLER:	VDOT Urena
DATE:	March 31, 2021
RECOMMENDATION:	(4-0-0)
EXPIRATION DATE:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

President Ramsay commented on this bill. There was no discussion. Chair Bove reminded the group that there needed to be a 2/3 majority to pass this bill. The bill passed with 23 votes in favor and 1 against.

SS-20/21-31 A BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF SPRING 2021 STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND STUDENT SENATORS

Whereas, this is the list of those who have confirmed their elected positions,

Taiwo, Bolu (President), Ramsey, Madison (Vice President), Turano, Adrianna (Off Campus), North, Emma (At Large), Hoover, Chris (On Campus), Urena, Randy (Off Campus), Salvo, TJ (At Large), Henry, Mary (On Campus), Kittel, Isaiah (Off Campus), Theil, Peyton (At Large), Longolucco, Ethan (On Campus), Askar, Peter (Off Campus), Eustis, Jake (At Large), Tyson, Angelica (On Campus), Johnson, Olivia (A&S), Diaz, Yasmin (At Large), Harnett, Ryan (Off Campus), Gamache, Emily (Health Services), Bove, Chris (At Large), Siegle, Katie (Off Campus), Williams, Rebecca (Education), Gibson, Annabel (At Large), Shindler, Kyra (Off Campus), Blake, Katherine (Nursing), Alrayti, Lulu (At Large), Hilyard, Caleb (Off Campus), Aidala, Vincent (Engineering), Asante, Mitchell (At Large), Kiernan, Grace (Off Campus), Miranda Duarte, Andi (CELS),

And be it,

Resolved, that the open positions in the College of Business, College of Pharmacy, and At Large Representatives are conditional on the acceptance of the positions by those elected by the end of the day, and be it

Resolved, that the URI Student Senate certifies the results of the Spring 2021 Student Senate Elections as presented by the elections committee,

SPONSOR:	Elections Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Bentley
DATE:	March 31, 2021
RECOMMENDATION:	(3-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

There was no discussion on this bill. This bill passed with 23 votes.

SS20/21-32 Resolution Thanking President Austyn Ramsay For Her Outstanding Leadership As President of The University of Rhode Island Student Senate President

Whereas, on April 1, 2020, Austyn O. Ramsay was sworn in as President of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, and

Whereas, upon her swearing in President Ramsay became the first Afro-Latina President to lead the student body at the University of Rhode Island, and

Whereas, President Ramsay led the student body through what is likely the most turbulent period this university has ever faced, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of Mr. George Floyd, and the search for a new university president all unfolding during her term, and

Whereas, throughout her term President Ramsay has worked tirelessly to advocate for all students at a time where many found themselves at their most vulnerable, and

Whereas, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Ramsay constantly fought for additional support for students by urging the university to provide cash payments to students through the Transition Assistance Grant program, through working with the Faculty Senate to try and ease the academic pressures overwhelmingly felt by students throughout the past year, and most importantly, by ensuring the continued functioning and activism of the Student Senate, and

Whereas, while millions of protestors participated in demonstrations across the nation in pursuit of justice and equality for black Americans in the wake of Mr. George Floyd's murder, President Ramsay, along with the Senate's leadership, partnered with multicultural and Greek organizations at the university in order to raise funds in support of Black Lives Matter, and to address systemic racism in our community, and

Whereas, President Ramsay's term as President of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate is nearing its conclusion, and with a bright future ahead of her, she will soon depart our university to attend law school in a pursuit of a J.D. Degree, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate applauds President Austyn O. Ramsay for her many accomplishments during her term as President of the Student Senate, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate thanks President Ramsay for her outstanding leadership and for her exceptional service to the student body, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate congratulates President Ramsay for completing her degree requirements and wishes her all of the best in her future endeavors.

Sponsors:	Chairs Bove, Bentley, Kiernan, Siegle, Taiwo, and McGrath
Bill Handler:	Chair Bove
Date:	March 31, 2021
Recommendation:	(6 – 0 – 0)
Expiration:	Valid Until Reviewed
Action:	Vote Tonight

Chair Bove provided comments to substantiate the substance of this bill. Also, he remarked that President Ramsay did an outstanding job despite a myriad of challenges. Chair Siegle and Senator Shindler gave remarks as well. This bill passed with 24 votes.

SS-20-21-29 – BILL CALLING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Resolved, that the Student Senate allot fiscal amounts according to the final recommendations of the Treasury recognized student organizations eligible for funding, and that it be,

Resolved, that the Student Senate allot the Contingency lines as provided in the final recommendation of the Treasury, and therefore be it further,

Resolved, that the presented budget amounts are enacted for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

SPONSOR: Treasury Committee
BILL HANDLER: VDOT Urena
DATE: Wednesday, March 31, 2021
RECOMMENDATION: (4 – 0 – 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Budget
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Discussion regarding this bill was undertaken page by page.

Page 1 – Chair Bove questioned why ALIMA was given \$20 more on one line. With an answer provided, Chair Bove moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 1 and move to page 2. That motion was seconded by Chair Bentley.

Page 2 – There was no discussion on page 2. Chair Bove moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 2 and move to page 3. This was seconded by Chair Bentley.

Page 3 – There was no discussion on page 3. Chair Bove moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 3 and move to page 4. This was seconded by Chair Bentley.

Page 4 – Chair Bove questioned why the printing line for the Cigar had been reduced by \$2,000. The answer was that it had been moved to the subscription line. Chair Siegle recommended that since two staff reporter positions had been accidentally eliminated last year, they be replaced for the upcoming year. The motion was made and passed by 20 votes. Senator Hoover moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 4 and move to page 5. This was seconded by Chair Bentley.

Page 5 – There was no discussion on page 5. Chair Bove moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 5 and move to page 6. This was seconded by Chair Siegle.

Page 6 – There was no discussion on page 6. Chair Bove moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 6 and move to page 7. This was seconded by Chair Siegle.

Page 7 – There was no discussion on page 7. Chair Bove moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 7 and move to page 8. This was seconded by Chair Siegle.

Page 8 – President Ramsay inquired whether the stipend amount should be increased in Student Senate Admin as there was no more stipend required for the Instruments Committee. Chair Siegle motioned to change the amount. The motion passed with 21 votes. Chair Taiwo questioned whether the programming amount should be increased. Director Asante remarked that the amount allocated should be sufficient. Chair Bove moved to end the debate, by unanimous consent, on page 8 and move to page 9.

Page 9 – Senator Bove made a motion to move \$3,219 to the general contingency line. The motion was passed with 19 votes. Senator Kittel made a motion to amend the Student Senate Admin Stiepd line and the motion was seconded by Chair Bentley. The motion passed with 19 votes. With no further discussion, Chair Bove made a motion to vote on the budget by unanimous consent. The motion was seconded by Chair Bentley.

The assembly then voted on the bill as a whole and it passed with 21 votes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

President Ramsay thanked everyone and remarked that never have they reviewed a budget so quickly.

Chair Bove remarked that Speaker Hilyard did an excellent job overseeing the budget discussion. Senator Hoover also acknowledged the excellent job that Speaker Hilyard did and thanked the Treasury Committee for all of their hard work.

Director Asante thanked the Treasury Committee for all their hard work and the many long hours of meetings.

Chair Siegle thanked Director Asante and the Treasury Committee for all their hard work.

Chair Bentley thanked everyone and reminded the group to fill out the superlatives.

N. ADJOURNMENT – 7:53 p.m.