



Memorial Student Union, Room 201 • 50 Lower College Road • Kingston, Rhode Island 02881 • T: 401.874.2261 • E: info@rhodysenate.org

URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES 15 September 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Alryati, Asante, Blake, Bove, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Harnett, Johnson, Kiernan, Kittel, Shindler, Siegle, Thiel, Turano, Tyson, Williams

Absent: Aidala, Askar, Henry, Longolucco, North, Salvo,

Others: Condon, Cox, Diaz, Hoover, McCloskey, Murray, Stiles, Taiwo, Urena, Robledo-Ramsay, Scheremeta, Waksen

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Bove moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Senator Gibson: Approved by Unanimous Consent

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Bove moved to approve the minutes of April 21, 2021. Second by Chair Kiernan: Approved by Unanimous Consent

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

President Taiwo

- Spoke addressing student concerns with parking and traffic; advocated for more access to parking
- Vice President Ramsay stated a visible increase in traffic; if freshman have cars on campus this could be the issue
- Director Hoover stated the return to in-person classes has an impact on the amount of traffic
- Vice President Ramsay suggested more student parking near Fine Arts
- Chair Kiernan suggested using Wickford Junction for parking for freshman
- Senator Johnson shared that the greek village was also challenged with parking

Senator Bove

- Provided information on the forthcoming bill to support free public transportation to URI students
- Addressed the cost of \$10k with \$5k coming from Student Senate and \$5k coming from Student Affairs in addition to money already coming from Transportation and Parking Services

- Director Hoover stated this money will come from Reserve, not operational budget

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee
 - Met last Tuesday; have three (3) clubs coming for recognition next week
 - Org Fair is on October 6
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - No report
- External Affairs Committee
 - Continuing to meet with the Narragansett 2100 in opposition to the three (3) student limit on rentals
 - If people have issues with their landlords, External is a resource to assist
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - No report
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - Planning the Blue Light Walk and provided an explanation of the walk's purpose
 - Aunt Flow distribution is going well; please encourage people to scan the QR code and take the survey
 - Will look into hosting a "parking concerns" table in the Memorial Union to solicit student feedback
- Executive Committee
 - DOC
 - Social media update
 - Pics of committees needed
 - Working on a newsletter (monthly)
 - Looking to work on the website – updates and needs a committee
 - VP
 - Please schedule your 1:1 meetings
 - Working on a QR code to scan for office hours
 - Will develop and hold an orientation
 - Explained committee work for VP
 - President
 - Welcomed new and returning members as well as guests in the audience learning more about Student Senate
 - Working on more transparency with both URI and the Student Senate
 - President Parlange will be coming to a future meeting

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

- No report

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- *Report of the Elections Committee*
 - Senator Bove elected chair; committee needs two (2) more senators
 - Will be updating forms
- Treasury
 - Looking for three (3) members from Student Senate to serve

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

- *Nominations for the Elections Committee*
 - Senator Bove nominated Chair Kiernan. Seconded by Senator Gibson
 - Senator Bove nominated Senator Gibson, Seconded by Chair Kiernan
- *Nominations for the Speaker of the Assembly*
 - Senator Gibson nominated Senator Bove. Second by Senator Thiel
 - Discussion ensued regarding “Vote Tonight” versus “Vote Next Week”
 - Chair Kiernan moved to Vote Next Week. Second by Senator Gamache. For: 11; Against: 3:
Abstain: 0

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-2122-04 – Bill Calling for the Allocation of \$5,000 from Student Senate Tax Accounts to Partially Fund a Pilot Program in Partnership with the Division of Student Affairs to Provide Free Access to Public Transportation for Students

Whereas, prior to 2020, the University of Rhode Island provided free access to public transportation for students without parking passes through the UPass Program in partnership with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), and

Whereas, simultaneously, the university offered a 50% subsidy on bus passes purchased in the Memorial Union for all members of the university community who were ineligible to receive a UPass, and

Whereas, beginning in the Fall 2020 semester the University of Rhode Island discontinued its participation in the UPass Program, leaving only the 50% subsidized fare products available to students, and

Whereas, a significant portion of the student body lacks access to a personal vehicle, relying on RIPTA for affordable transportation, and Whereas, the Student Senate believes that every student at the University of Rhode Island should have free access to public transportation, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate will allocate funding from Student Activities Tax Accounts in the amount of \$5,000 to establish a pilot program in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs to provide students free RIPTA bus passes, and be it further,

Resolved, that funding provided through this pilot program may only be students seeking to purchase 10 ride fare products from the university, and be it further,

Resolved, that funding for this program is contingent on the matching of funds from the Division of Student

Affairs.

SPONSOR: Senators Bove, Gibson, North, Chairs Tyson, Gamache

BILL HANDLER: Senator Bove

DATE: September 15th, 2021

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Senator Bove moved to immediately consider. Second by Senator Theil. For: 14; Against: 0; Abstain: 2

Bill Passes. For: 16; Against: 0; Abstain: 0

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

- Dr. Stiles encouraged all members to stand and introduce themselves as well as guests in attendance; a round-the-room intros were done.

N. ADJOURNMENT at 7:45 pm