



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 AGENDA October 6, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER - Speaker Bove called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

B. ROLL CALL

- **Present:** Asante, Blake, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Kiernan, Kittel, Shindler, Siegle, Tyson, Thiel, Williams
- **Absent:** Alryati, Aidala, Askar, Harnett, Henry, Longolucco, Salvo, Turano, Williams

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Speaker Bove informed the Assembly that President Parlange, Cheryl Hinkson, and Dean Libutti have been added to Public Forum, and that Public Forum would be extended indefinitely out of respect for the President and his team.

Chair Kiernan motioned to approved the agenda as assemnded, seconded by Chair Siegle.

Approved Unanimously

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

Chair Shindler motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Chair Kiernan.

Approved by Unanimously.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Bove extended congratulations to Chair Tyson on the birth of her niece, Mae.

Speaker Bove wished Senator Gibson a Happy 21st Birthday.

F. PUBLIC FORUM

President's Report

- President Parlange introduced himself to the Senate, and gave remarks about his warm welcome to URI
- Pandemic response and preparedness
 - Student vaccination rate
 - 93.5% fully or partially vaccinated
 - Staff needs to be vaccinated by Oct. 22nd
 - Current status is 0.55%
 - 45% of new cases are people who are unvaccinated
- Week 9: Early Activities and Insights
 - Diner at president's house
 - Academic excellence (deans retreat, tours of colleges, labs, institutes)
 - Programming: honors colloquium - sustaining our shores
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - University diversity council
- Memorable Event: Professor Bradely Wetherbee
- URI response to Afghan crisis
 - Partnering to respond - supporting displaced and endangered scholars
- Enrollment update
 - Poised for solid year despite challenges
 - 25,105 undergrad applications (+1000 highest ever)
 - 12% growth in graduate applications
 - More than 17,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled
 - Welcomed 3780 new first year and transfer students
 - 270 new talent development students
 - 24 countries
 - Top states after RI: MA CT NY NH NJ
- Campus life insights
 - More than 52000 new and returning living on campus this fall
 - 6500 students have enrolled in the meal plan
 - First 2 weeks dining served more than 1700 pizzas and over \$55,000 in sushi
 - Center celebrations many milestones made this year
- Welcomes 45 new faculty members
- New Deans
 - Brenton DeBoef (Graduate School)
 - Anthony Marchese (Dean of the college of engineering)
 - Danielle Dennis (college of education and professional studies)
- Research highlights
 - All time high of \$123 million in external grant awards
 - Blue Economy - partnering with institutions agencies companies and non profit organizations for the year
 - Goal: diversity revenue
 - Highly tuition dependent - want to remain affordable accessible, competitive excellent
 - State share of unrestricted budget = %17
 - These figures are up from \$165 million in total assets and \$12.2 million in total support and revenue for the year ending June 30, 2016
- Strategic Planning: Envisioning the future

- What do we want to look like in 5-10 years
- Becoming a stronger university (international view) (culture of belonging) (we want to be excellent)
- People and community
- Student success/student experience
- Faculty excellence/academic excellence
- Partnerships alliances and innovation
- Culture of service

Budget Presentation

- Unrestricted
 - Tuition and fees
 - State appropriation
 - General obligation debt service
- Restricted
 - Federal student grants & loans
 - Auxiliaries/enterprises
 - Sponsored research/overhead
 - Service centers, revenue generating units, external
 - RI capital fund (RICAP)
- Overall tuition and mandatory fee increases
 - Undergrad in-state 3.6%

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee
 - Chair Siegle reported that the student organizations fair and October President's Meeting were extremely successful.
 - Chair Siegle also reported that SOC has met with two organizations seeking recognition, and that there is a bill on the floor this week to recognize the Daily Ram.
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Chair Shindler reported that the mental health de-stress event will be held October 14th from 1-3pm and that she is looking for volunteers.
 - Flyers will be posted on instagram on October 12th
- External Affairs Committee
 - Chair Kiernan announced that she is working to form a new student organization for traditional commuter students, Road Warriors.
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - Chair Tyson reported that the breast cancer donation drive has started and that there are donation boxes across campus.

- Chair Tyson also reported that there are free pink ribbons scattered around campus.
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - Chair Gamache reminded the Senate that the Blue Light Walk will be held on October 14th and that she is still looking for more volunteers
 - Chair Gamache reported that campus committee will hold a Parking Both tomorrow to conduct a survey which will be provided to the Senate and Parking Services
 - Chair Gamache announced she will be meeting with Parking Service on Friday at 1pm
- Executive Committee
 - Director Hoover will be hosting a Finance Training with Student Organizations and Senate Leaders
 - Director Cox reported those seeking nominations for internal elections
 - No report from yasmin
 - No report from randy
 - Vice President Ramsay reported that elections will be held October 26th and 27th and that wellness week will be held at the end of the month.
 - President Tiawo reminded Senators to log their office hours, announced that the kudos wall will be starting up, and that masks are available in office. She also requested that Senators make more of an effort to attend Student Senate events.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (6)

- Chair Kiernan nominated William Beazley, seconded by Senator Thiel
 - Political science major, economics and chinese major Interested in textbook prices - lives in point judith of campus
- Chair Kiernan nominated Ethan Bose seconded by Senator Thiel
 - Economics and political science major - always been interested in student senate, lives in point judith
- Total Vote: Bose 11 Beazley 12

Nominations and Elections for On Campus Representative (6)

- Chair Tyson nominated Nick Johnson, seconded by Chair Kiernan
 - Sophomore in economics and environmental science loves to get involved and seems interesting wants to be involved
- Chair Schindler nominated James Scottie, seconded by Chair Kiernan
 - Junior political science wants to make uri a better place transfer from ccri

- Chair Tyson nominated Greta Del Bonis, seconded by Chair Kiernan
 - Junior here to give a voice to those who aren't comfortable with giving their voice wants to promote services at uri - student promotion with organizations on campus for mental health - making public transportation more acceptable for students - bring awareness to recycling program
- Chair Schindler nominated Zach Breene, seconded by Chair Tyson
 - Sophomore major in computer science, wants to help people and get involved wants students to be involved and let the campus feel welcoming with events
- Chair Kiernan nominated Lauren Peckham, seconded by Senator Thiel
- Total Vote: Johnson: 11 Scottie: 10 Breene: 9 Bonis: 11 Peckham: 7

Nominations and Elections for At Large Representative (4)

- Senator Gibson nominated Grace Summerson, seconded by Chair Tyson
 - Junior political science major - great addition for candidates & hard work and priorities are in order
- Chair Kiernan nominated Argha Gosnani, seconded by Chair Gamache
 - International student from india computer engineering major - very involved with political work - representative for international students
- Total Vote: 12 Summerson 12 Gosnani

Nominations and Elections for College of Business Representative (1)

- Chair Schindler nominated Lauren Palmer, seconded by Senator Blake
- Total Vote: 10 Palmer 2 abstentions

Nominations and Elections for College of Environmental and Life Sciences Representative (1)

- None

Nominations and Elections for College of Pharmacy Representative (1)

- Senator Thiel nominated Abbigayle Fielder, seconded by Chair Schindler
- Total Vote: 11 Fielder 1 abstain

Nominations and Elections for University College Representative (1)

- Chair Kiernan nominated Cameron Chadronet, seconded by Chair Tyson
- Total Vote: 12 Chadronet

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-21/22-09 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “THE DAILY RAM” AS A SENATE RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “The Daily Ram” mission statement is “to let URI’s community come together to share their stories with one another and create entertaining content. Students from different backgrounds and majors get to use the broadcast studio and create shorts clips to share with the entire university.”, and

Whereas, The Daily Ram meets the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization, and

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

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges The Daily Ram as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that The Daily Ram is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Siegle

DATE: October 6, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (4-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Senator Thiel moved to immediately consider. seconded by Chair Siegle

Motion Passes

Bill Passes

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

- Chair Shindler reported that the position for academic affair diversity task force has been filled
- Director Cox thanked the Senators Elect, and reminded them that once they are confirmed as eligible by Dr. Stiles they will be sworn in at next week's meeting.
- Director Hoover thanked the Senators Elect for coming and stated that they all have great ideas.
- Dr. Stiled reported that the President's meeting was very successful and that Cheryl has received over 35 emails from clubs hoping to learn about their finances.
- President Taiwo welcomed the Senators Elect and thanked the Cigar reporter for his time covering the meeting.
- Speaker Bove thanked the Senators Elect for their desire to serve the student body and stated that they will soon receive an email for committee preferences.

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove Adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm