



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 November 3, 2021

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

### **B. ROLL CALL**

- **Present** - Blake, Bose, Breene, Chadronet, Del Bonis, Gamache, Gibson, Johnson O, Johnson N, Kiernan, Kittle, Palmer, Peckham, Scotti, Shindler, Siegle, Summerson, Tyson, Williams
- **Absent** - Aidala (Excused), Alryati (Excused), Asante, Beazley, Eustis (Excused), Fielder (Excused), Goswami (Excused), Harnett, Theil (Excused), Turano
- **Guests** - Taiwo, Cox, Hoover, Urena, Diaz, Cardney

### **C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Senator Gibson motioned to approve the agenda, second by Chair Kiernan

*Motion Passes*

### **D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Kiernan motioned to approve minutes, second by Chair Siegle

*Motion Passes*

### **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Speaker Bove welcomed Dr. Stiles back to the Senate chamber.

### **F. PUBLIC FORUM**

Faculty Senate President Audrey Cardney

Dr. Cardney reported that Faculty Senate is looking for a Student Senate Representative to sit on the Faculty Senate Academic Calendar Committee

Chair Shindler requested to serve as the representative to the committee.

Dr. Cardney also stated that the Faculty Senate is going to take up an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Resolution and that they are looking for a Student Speaker to open the meeting.

### **G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Siegle reported that SOC has two bills on the floor tonight, and that the committee is continuing to meet with student organizations.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Shindler reported that the committee is looking to host a Student Senate Study Hour event.

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Kiernan reiterated the importance of getting the flu and COVID-19 vaccines to keep the student body safe. She also asked students to let her know if they are having issues with their landlords.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson reported that she is working with Rhody Outpost to start a food drive for students. She also stated the importance of outreach to international students.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Gamache reported that she and Senator Thiel are working on a proposal to recognize URI's Indigionis History.

- Executive Committee

- Director Cox reported upcoming events as follows: Nov. 4th 11-1 care kits will be given out by Health Services, Nov. 6th beach cleanup, Nov. 4th Women's Center hosting mental health event, Nov. 10 3-5pm leadership workshop (great for student leaders), abby philip will be speaking to us about political journalism from CNN will be on URI emails, wellness in campus recreations (if your interested in becoming a wellness coach)
- Director Hoover reported that a finance training is coming up and that all Senators are invited. He also asked Senators to direct students to him when they come to the Senate Office for financial questions.
- Director Diaz read the kudos of the week recognizing the Academic and Cultural Committees
- President Taiwo reminded Senators of the importance of attending General Assembly meetings. She also reported that she plans to host a Womens Leadership Summit next semester, and she also informed that Senate of an upcoming university book drive for children.

## **H. REPORT OF THE COURT**

### **I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Speaker Bove announced that the Senate will hold its elections internally this semester.

### **J. SPECIAL ORDERS**

### **K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **L. NEW BUSINESS**

### **SS-21/22-14 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “YOUNG DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF**

**AMERICA” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Young Democratic Socialists of America” mission statement is “to educate and organize students and young people and to play a helpful and principled role in the movement for social justice. Within and throughout this struggle, we will articulate and defend the idea that true human liberation is impossible under capitalism. We seek social change which extends democracy into all aspects of life -- social, political and economic. This is the struggle for democratic socialism. Our vision of socialism is profoundly democratic, feminist, and anti- racist.”, and

Whereas, Young Democratic Socialists of America 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 Young Democratic Socialists of America as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Young Democratic Socialists of America 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 27, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (4-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Siegle motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Schindler

*Motion Passes*

*Bill Passes*

**SS-21/22-15 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI SURF CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “URI Surf Club” mission statement is “to provide a common ground for ocean lovers alike with a special passion for surfing. Surfing is a welcoming community to all. This club will bring in both new comers to the activity with surf lessons, as well as experienced surfers looking for a place to fit in.”, and

Whereas, URI Surf Club 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 URI Surf Club as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that URI Surf Club 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: November 3, 2021  
RECOMMENDATION: (9-0-0)  
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition  
ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Siegle motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Kiernan

*Motion Passes*

*Bill Passes*

**SS-21/22-16 Resolution Requesting that the University of Rhode Island Department of Housing and Residential Life Install Public Printers in all Residence Halls**

Whereas, currently, most residence halls at the University of Rhode Island do not have public printers available for use by students, and

Whereas, using the printing services offered at the Memorial Union or the Robert L. Corathers Library can often be a major time-consuming inconvenience to students, and

Whereas, during late night hours or during periods of inclement weather, students may not feel comfortable walking to the Memorial Union or the Robert L. Corathers library in order to use printing services, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate requests that the Department of Housing and Residential Life to install at least one public printer in each residence hall for student use.

SPONSORS: Senators Gibson and Summerson, Chairs Tyson, Shindler, and Gamache  
BILL HANDLER: Senator Gibson  
DATE: November 3, 2021  
RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)  
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed  
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Kiernan expressed concerns about offering free printing to students from a budgetary standpoint, and suggested that students pay a small 5-10 cent fee similar to what is charged at other on campus printing locations.

Speaker Bove responded that the bill does not request free printing, and that he imagines that Housing and Residential Life would most likely charge a printing fee.

Director Hoover stated that Senate could possibly provide funding as printers are a one time, but that a permanent funding solution would need to be found.

President Taiwo asked if students would be able to print using their own devices.

Speaker Bove stated that there are ways for students to print using their own devices.

*Bill Passes*

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

Senator Peckham stated concerns that the University was not properly accommodating students with COVID by not offering quarantine spaces.

Speaker Bove was asked to extend Director Ellen Renoylds an invitation to speak to the General Assembly

#### **N. ADJOURNMENT**

Speaker Bove Adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm