



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 10, 2021

### A. CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Bove called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

### B. ROLL CALL

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

### C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Gibson motioned to approve the agenda, second by Senator Blake  
*Motion Passes*

### D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Gibson motioned to approve the minutes, second by Senator Thiel  
*Motion Passes*

### E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Bove welcomed back Vice President Ramsay.

Director Hoover reported that he and Chair Siegle are hosting an orientation for new senate members next week. The orientations will be held on Tuesday 11/16 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday 11/18 at 7:30 p.m.

### F. PUBLIC FORUM

### G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

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

- Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Blake reported that the Academic Affairs Committee is planning a Senate Study Session for the evening of Tuesday 12/14, the Reading Day before Final Exams begin. All senators are welcome, and Insomnia Cookies may be provided. People who are planning on attending should tell either Senator Blake or Chair Shindler.

- External Affairs Committee

Senator Bose reminded the senate to contact Chair Kiernan if anyone has any issues with their landlords. He also reminded the senate to get their flu shots.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

No report.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Senator Chadronet reported that the committee is continuing to work on their ongoing projects, including parking initiatives, Aunt Flow and the Blue Light Walk. They also have discussed concerns pertaining to Health Services and how students are having complaints about staffing. A survey may be created. Vice Chair Chadronet reported that the committee is talking about to-go boxes at the dining hall, as well as a student-operated textbook library.

Speaker Bove said Ellen Reynolds will be at the December 1, 2021 meeting of the General Assembly.

- Executive Committee

- Director Hoover reported that the finance training is coming up soon. The training may occur after Christmas break. He also reported that any senators who are asked questions pertaining to finances or accounts should direct the student to either he or Cheryl Campbell in Student Senate Accounts. He added that the treasury committee is going to be formed soon, and he is looking for at least four to five senators.

Chair Siegle asked who qualifies to be on the treasury committee.

Director Hoover said you can be on the treasury committee while being on different committees. They will likely meet once a week, and then once budget season comes they will meet more often.

- Vice President Ramsay reported that the Wellness Week will either be held on the first or the second week of December. An SOLC retreat will be held soon as well.
- President Taiwo reported that the Women's Summit and the book drive are still happening. If anyone would like to be part of either project they should contact her. She also reported that a project with the refugee center in Providence is happening soon. If anyone is interested in taking the senate's place on the Board of Trustees, they should contact Speaker Bove.

Speaker Bove highly recommends that the senate gives thought to being on the Board of Trustees.

## H. REPORT OF THE COURT

## I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Speaker Bove announced that the Elections Committee will dissolve after tonight's meeting.

## J. SPECIAL ORDERS

*Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (4)*

*Nominations and Elections for On Campus Representative (2)*

*Nominations and Elections for At Large Representative (3)*

Senator O. Johnson nominated Maggie Cushman, seconded by Senator Gibson.

Total Votes: Cushman: 14      Abstentions: 1

*Nominations and Elections for First Year Representative (5)*

Senator Gibson nominated Willy Njeru, seconded by Senator Thiel.

Senator Thiel nominated Hannah Collins, seconded by Chair Siegle.

Senator Thiel nominated Olivia Murray, seconded by Chair Siegle.

Total Votes: Njeru 15      Collins: 14      Murray: 14

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

## K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## L. NEW BUSINESS

### **SS-21/22-17 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “STUDENT ADVOCACY FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS/ACTION” AS A SENATE- RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Student Advocacy for Disability Awareness/Action” mission statement is “to provide an opportunity for individuals from the University of Rhode Island (URI) community who self-identify as having one or more disabilities to connect, learn, advise and advocate for the purpose of decreasing stigma, and increasing awareness, visibility, inclusion, and equity at URI. SADA will serve as an organization open to the inclusivity of all students at URI who self-identify as having a disability as well as create a community with those who do not as well.”, and

Whereas, Student Advocacy for Disability Awareness/Action 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 Student Advocacy for Disability Awareness/Action as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that Student Advocacy for Disability Awareness/Action 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 10, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Senator Gibson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Siegle.

*Motion Passes*

*Bill Passes*

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

Chair Siegle encouraged the new senators to join the Student Organizations Committee.

President Taiwo encouraged the new senators to reach out to her if they want to get involved in the projects she is working on. She also reminded the senate that attendance is important for quorum so everyone needs to be present when they are able to be.

Speaker Bove thanked the senate for their continued participation.

Vice President Ramsay said that if anyone has any troubles or wants to talk about anything she is always available.

Director Hoover asked the senate if clubs should receive \$75 instead of \$100 if they are recognized after Rhodyfest/First Night.

Vice President Ramsay asked what the benefit would be to make this change.

Director Hoover answered by replying that \$25 of the initial budget package is not used because it is after Rhodyfest/First Night. That money comes back to the senate anyway.

Dr. Stiles broke down what the \$100 basic financial package includes. He clarified that the change would only be for newly recognized clubs after Rhodyfest/First Night.

Speaker Bove said he supports the change because the clubs are not able to use the extra \$25 anyway.

Senator Blake asked the senate who would generally be able to attend the Senate Study Session.

Vice President Ramsay said she is going to send an email out that contains the schedule for the Wellness Week. She encouraged the senate to reach out to her if anyone has any ideas for the week.

#### **N. ADJOURNMENT**

Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.