



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 17, 2021

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

B. ROLL CALL

Present - Asante, Beazely, Blake, Bose, Breene, Chadronet, Collins, Del Bonis, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Goswami, Johnson. N, Kiernan, Kittle, Murray, Njeru, Palmer, Shindler, Siegle, Summerson, Thiel, Tyson

Absent - Aidala (Excused), Alryati, Cushman, Fielder (Excused), Johnson. O, Peckham (Excused), Scotti (Excused), Williams (Excused)

Guests - Diaz, Hoover, Stiles, Maier-Speredelozzi

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Shindler motioned to remove Senator Harnett's Expulsion Appeal from Special Orders, add Swearing in of New Senators to Special Order, add Speaker Bove to Public Forum, and approve the agenda as amended.
Seconded By Chair Siegle

Motion Passes

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Motion Passes

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Speaker Bove explained Roberts Rules to the Senate and explained the following motions and procedures.

Motion to Immediately Consider

Motion to Call the Question

Motion to Table

Points of Order, Privilege, and Information

Objections

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Siegle reported that SOC is continuing to meet with organizations;and that the next president's meeting

will be held on December 6th, at 7pm on zoom

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Shindler reported that study hours will be December 14th from 5-7pm in the Senate Chambers, and that there will be insomnia cookies.

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Kiernan reminded everyone to get a flu shot and stay safe, and that the holiday drive is coming up for this winter. It is a toy drive for kids around Christmas time. Chair Kiernan asks students to continue to let her know about landlords if any issues occur. She reported that only two stickers were given this week which is very low.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson announced that the Cultural Committee will be holding a holiday letter writing event for senior citizens tomorrow from 11-1pm in the Memorial Union.

- Campus Affairs Committee

No Report

- Executive Committee

Director of Information

Director Diaz read out the Senate Kudos great job Senator Thiel, Chair Siegle, Senator Chadronet, and Chair Gamache!

Director of the Treasury

Director Hoover reported that the Treasury Committee is filling up, and that senators should contact him soon if they wish to join. He also stated that if a new senator did not attend orientation there will be a second session on November 18th at 6:30pm

Director of Communications

No Report

Director of Operations

No Report

Vice President

No Report

President

No Report

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Swearing in of New Senators

Due to President Taiwo's absence, Swearing in of New Senators is delayed until December 1.

Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (6)

Senator Gibson nominated Jose Montoya. Seconded by Senator Thiel.

Total Votes: Montoya: 23 Abstentions: 0

Nominations and Elections for On Campus Representative (2)

Nominations and Elections for At Large Representative (2)

Chair Kiernan nominated William Rider. Seconded by Chair Tyson.

Total Votes: Rider: 23 Abstentions: 0

Nominations and Elections for First Year Representative (2)

Chair Shindler nominated Ramez Rizk. Seconded by Chair Kiernan.

Total Votes: Rizk: 23 Abstentions: 0

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

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-21/22-18 Resolution Requesting the Department of Housing and Residential Life to Place Drinking Fountains in All Residence Halls

Whereas: the majority of residence halls at the University of Rhode Island do not have drinking fountains available for use by students, and

Whereas, using the drinking fountains available at the Memorial Union can often be inconvenient to students, and

Whereas, during late-night hours or periods where the weather makes it dangerous to be outside, students may not feel comfortable walking to the Memorial Union in order to use the drinking fountains, 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 drinking fountain in every residence hall for student use.

SPONSORS: Campus Affairs Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chair Gamache

DATE: November 17, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Gamache yields time to Director Diaz.

Director Diaz stated that she is the author of the bill, and she wrote it due to the lack of useable drinking fountains in her residence hall. She stated that students deserve access to drinking fountains, and that they would decrease plastic waste on campus.

Senator Chadronet expressed his support for the bill.

Senator Gibson spoke of how she and Speaker had to constantly refill their Brita water filter in the bathroom sink because there were no drinking fountains in Adams Hall their freshman year.

Senator Summerson yields time to Speaker Bove.

Speaker Bove agreed with Senator Gibson, and added that with students paying thousands of dollars per semester to live on campus, access to drinking fountains shouldn't be an unrealistic expectation.

Bill Passes.

SS-21/22-19 Resolution Calling for the University of Rhode Island Dining Services to Provide To-Go Boxes in all Dining Halls

Whereas, During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic students were allowed to take their food from the Butterfield and Mainfare Dining Halls back to safely eat in their residence halls, and

Whereas, COVID-19 transmission on campus and around the State of Rhode Island continues to be a safety concern, and

Whereas, Many students feel more comfortable eating outside of the crowded dining halls but are unable to eat their food outside due to the cooling weather, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the URI Student Senate requests dining services to provide to-go boxes in the dining halls.

SPONSOR: Campus Affairs Committee

BILL HANDLER: Senator Chadronet

DATE: November 17, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

Senator Chadronet stated that he introduced this bill because many of his constituents felt safer being able to eat their food in their own residence hall, especially as COVID cases are beginning to rise on campus, and around the State of Rhode Island. He reported that Dining Services expressed a concern over students bringing home takeout and potentially consuming spoiled food.

Chair Gamache reported that she and Speaker Bove met with Kathy Collins and Pierre St. Germaine to discuss this proposal, and that Dining Services is looking into how it could be implemented, especially during late night hours.

Senator Summerson yielded time to Speaker Bove.

Speaker Bove expressed that the concerns surrounding the consumption of spoiled food were baseless, and that as adults, he felt that it is on us to make sure we are safely consuming food, as we would after taking home leftovers from any other restaurant.

Chair Siegle motioned to call the question. Seconded by Chair Kiernan.

Motion Passes

Bill Passes

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Faculty Senator Dr. Valerie Maier-Speredelozzi visited and discussed the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting on November 18th from 3-5pm.

Chair Siegle reminded new senators about the second session meeting for orientation at 6:30pm on November 18th

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove Adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm