



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  
December 8, 2021**

**A. CALL TO ORDER - 6:35pm**

**B. ROLL CALL -**

Present: Alryati, Asante, Beazley, Blake, Breene, Chadronet, Collins, Cushman, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Goswami, Johnson O, Kiernan, Montoya, Murray, Njeru, Peckham, Rizk, Shindler, Summerson, Thiel, Tyson, Williams

Absent: Aidala (Excused), Bose, Del Bonis (Excused), Fielder, Goswami, Greenbaum, Johnson, N (Excused), Kittle (Excused), Palmer, Rider, Scotti, Siegle (Excused)

Guests: Taiwo, Ramsay, Stiles, Minor, Beauvais, Veegar, Nsabumuremyi, Chakouia

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Shindler motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Senator Breene.

*Motion Passes.*

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

Chair Kiernan motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Senator Theil.

*Motion Passes.*

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Shindler reminded students about their final exam rights and to bring up any complaints before it gets too close to final exams.

**F. PUBLIC FORUM**

Laura Beauvais - Interim Provost

*Provided information on her background and how she can serve us along with the university. Will only be interim provost for one year. New university plan will be happening in the spring - senate will be engaged in this along with updating cornerstone values. Helping the president learn about URI, and initiate the new ideas.*

Anne Veegar- Vice Provost

*Focused on the faculty side of projects. Works on training for faculty with online learning. Open to questions about challenges and concerns the senate may have.*

*Senator Beezley - Are there public stats on enrollment for each class for each year? (ex: uri 101, calc, environmental studies) / answer: oct. 15th a census is taken on enrollment for classes along with measurements taken if students are dropping or picking up different classes. Beezley will be receiving the data from Laura Beauvais.*

*Senator Chadronet - Could you describe the cornerstone values more? / answer: different students from all over campus are working together to put new ideas for cornerstone values. They will be putting a survey out to get an idea of what students want and how they feel.*

*Chair Tyson - How are we going to reach a lot of students? / answer: get feedback from j-term students, incentives for free items if we answer survey questions. Need a budget from the president.*

*Short surveys would be best, focus groups, and ask students in person to take surveys.*

*Chair Shindler - Thanked the Provost for coming to speak with the senate.*

Jean Nsabumuremyi - Director, Multicultural Student Services Center

*Gave personal background. I Want to be there for students. We don't always see other people as other people but we don't see individuals and their values. So appreciative of the students here. Wants to empower students here and any issues they have or want to work on for making URI a better place. Make everyone visible.*

Linda Welders - Faculty Senate

*Updating university manuals, next meeting is 3-5pm on zoom. They set the academic calendar if issues on dates and breaks come up we should reach out to the faculty senate.*

*Speaker Bove - Feels as though the faculty senate should not allow final exams on Saturdays.*

Paige Chakouia - Criminal Justice / Gender & Women's Studies

iStand Introduction

- Sexual assault information
- Myths
  - Power & combo
  - Way to be dressed
  - Men are not victims
- Supports
- Spoke about rape culture
- Alcohol as a weapon
  - What people do at college parties; red zone for many first year women (6 weeks)
- Provided stats on rapists & victims
- What to do to intervene

VP Ramsey - thank you!

Lauren Peckham - greek life perpetuate rape?

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

### **- Student Organization Committee**

Senator Blake announced that the re-rec process has begun, and that 10 news clubs have been recognized this semester. She also expressed her support for the SOC bill on tonight's agenda.

### **- Academic Affairs Committee**

No Report.

### **- External Affairs Committee**

Chair Kiernan wished students good luck on finals, and reminded students to get their flu and COVID vaccinations.

### **- Cultural Affairs Committee**

Chair Tyson announced that a textbook drive will be helped between December 20-24 and January 17-21 in the Student Senate Office. She thanked her committee members for their hard work this semester.

### **- Campus Affairs Committee**

Chair Gamache reported that she will be meeting with HRL leaders on Friday at 3pm via Zoom.

### **- Executive Committee**

Vice President Ramsay - no report

President Taiwo - no report

Speaker Bove - thank you to the committee members and chairs for all their work

Senator Gibson - thanks to moderator for work & support

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

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

## **J. SPECIAL ORDERS**

*Swearing in of New Senators*

*Nominations and Elections for the Elections Committee (5)*

Current Nominees

Nominee: Chair Siegle

Nominator: Senator Assante

Second: Senator Thiel

Nominee: Senator Blake

Nominator: Senator Asante

Second: Senator Thiel

Nominee: Vice President Ramsay

Nominator: Senator Asante

Second: Senator Thiel

Nominee: Senator Rider

Nominator: Senator Asante

Second: Senator Thiel

Nominee: Senator William

Nominator: Senator O. Johnson

Second: Senator Rider

Nominee: President Taiwo

Nominator: Chair Kiernan

Second: Senator Thiel

## Results

VP Ramsey rejected nomination

New Committee:

Siegle - 20

Blake - 20

Rider - 19

William - 19

Taiwo - 19

*Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (5)*

*Nominations and Elections for On Campus Representative (1)*

*Nominations and Elections for At Large Representative (1)*

*Nominations and Elections for First Year Representative (1)*

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

Chair Tyson nominated Denecia James, Seconded by Senator Gibson.

Total Votes: James 21: Abstentions: 0

#### **K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **SS-21/22-21 – Bill Calling for an Amendment to the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws**

Whereas, Article 6 Section 2 Line 2.01 of the URI Student Senate Bylaws currently reads that “No student organization may be recognized which does not have at least ten (10) members, of whom a majority are undergraduate students.”, and

Whereas, student organizations have had difficulty maintaining and/or increasing membership numbers due to COVID-19 and/or other issues that have arose in the past year, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that Article 6 Section 2 Line 2.01 reads that “No student organization may be recognized which does not have at least ten (10) members, of whom a majority are undergraduate students, unless an official appeal has been made to the Student Organizations Committee.”

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Siegle

DATE: December 1, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (7-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

*Bill Passes.*

##### **SS-2122-22 – Bill Calling for the following amendments to the Student Senate Finance Handbook to be added and enacted beginning in the fiscal year of 2022-2023**

Whereas, the Finance Handbook continues to give all newly recognized clubs \$100 regardless of how far into the year they are recognized, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that all first year (newly recognized clubs) that are recognized before First Night of every school year will continue to receive the full first year club budget of \$100 with \$25 going to First Night (123), \$25 to recruitment (321) and \$50 to advertising (222), and be it further,

Resolved, all clubs recognized after First Night of every school year will only receive \$75 for the year which will remove the \$25 from the First Night category (123), and be it further,

Resolved, all clubs recognized after the fall semester reading day (day before exams) will receive \$50 for the rest of the year, with \$25 going to recruitment (321) and \$25 going to advertising.

SPONSORS: Treasury Committee  
BILL HANDLER: VDOT Kittle  
DATE: December 1, 2021  
RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)  
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed  
ACTION: Vote Tonight

*Bill Passes.*

## **L. NEW BUSINESS**

### **SS-2122-23 – Bill calling for the creation of the Student Senate Librarian and a Senate sponsored textbook library**

Whereas, real textbook prices in America have increased by 90% in the past twenty years, and Whereas, textbooks for classes can often represent high and unexpected expenses for students, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the position of Librarian shall be created within the Academic Affairs Committee. The Librarian will have the power and responsibility of collecting textbook donations, storing, organizing, and cataloguing these donations, and lending them out for the duration of semesters. This Senate sponsored library shall be created with the intent to provide free textbooks for the general student body, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Librarian shall be appointed by the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee subject to committee approval, and be it further,

Resolved, that this legislation shall take effect on January 24, 2022.

SPONSORS: Senators Beazley, Montoya, Chairs Shindler, Kiernan, Tyson  
BILL HANDLER: Senator Beazley  
DATE: December 8, 2021  
RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)  
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed  
ACTION: Vote Next Week

Senator Beazley made a motion to immediately consider. Seconded by Senator Montoya.

*Motion Passes*

Senator Beazley explained the purpose of the bill and expressed that he hoped to be appointed to the position.

Chair Tyson expressed concern that the position would become vacant upon Senator Beazley's departure from the senate and that the work would fall to the Academic Affairs Chair.

Chair Shindler stated that she was concerned that there was nowhere to store textbooks in the Memorial Union and expressed that she felt the logistics of the proposal were not yet figured out.

Chair Kiernan echoed Chair Sindler's concerns.

Chair Shindler motioned to call the question. Seconded by Senator Gibson.

Senator Thiel motioned to amend the previous motion to a motion to add an additional resolved to the bill which reads "this legislation shall expire on April 6, 2022". Seconded by Chair Kiernon.

*Motion to Amend to Previous Motion Passes.*

*Motion Passes;*

Chair Shindler motioned to call the question. Seconded by Senator Theil.

*Motion Passes.*

Voting on Bill

9 - 10 - 1

*Bill Fails*

Senator Theil motioned to reconsider. Seconded by Chair Kiernan.

Senator Theil motioned to vote by roll call.

Ayes: Alryati, Beazley, Blake, Breene, Collins, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Montoya, Theil,

Nays: Chadronet, Kiernan, Murray, Peckham, Shindler, Summerson, Tyson

Abstentions: None.

*Bill Passes.*

**SS-21/22-24 Resolution Requesting the University of Rhode Island to Establish a Budget Item to Permanently Fund the Provision of Free Menstrual Products for All Students and Staff**

Whereas, With the failure of the University of Rhode Island to adopt [SS-19/20-52](#), the Student Senate appropriated \$3,081.50 from its reserve accounts to provide menstrual products for students, and

Whereas, the Student Senate lacks the resources to continue to fund this program without limiting funding to student organizations, and

Whereas, institutions of higher education throughout the country have adopted this policy as they

understand the need to provide students with sanitary products, in the same fashion that universities provide contraceptives, and

Whereas, through statistical data and research, the Student Senate has determined this program to be beneficial and essential for the health of students who menstruate at the University of Rhode Island, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the Student Senate requests the University of Rhode Island appropriate funds to permanently supply all female-identified and gender neutral bathrooms with sanitary menstrual products, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate requests this program be included in the University of Rhode Island's FY 23 budget.

SPONSOR: Campus Affairs Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chair Gamache

DATE: December 8, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (4-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

*Bill Passes.*

### **SS-21/22-25 Resolution Announcing the Student Senate's Recommendation for Housing Waitlist Priority**

Whereas, last year the University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership issued a directive to the Department of Housing and Residential Life ordering them to detriple all residence halls, causing a net loss of approximately 900 beds from the university's housing stock, and

Whereas, consequently, the Department of Housing and Residential Life has determined that, for the second year in a row, they will not have enough beds to accommodate the amount of students seeking an on campus housing assignment, and

Whereas, access to off campus housing has been further reduced due to a new housing ordinance in the Town of Narragansett which limits the amount of students living in a rental to three students per dwelling, and



Whereas, the Department of Housing and Residential Life has requested guidance from the University of Rhode Island Student Senate as to which group of students should be prioritized to receive on-campus housing assignments, and

Whereas, the Department of Housing and Residential Life has requested guidance from the University of Rhode Island Student Senate in order to define the term “rising sophomore” and,

Whereas, the decision has already been made by the Department of Housing and Residential Life to prioritize incoming first-year students as well as rising sophomores for the upcoming academic year, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the Student Senate defines a “rising sophomore” in regards to housing as “any student who has completed their first year at the University of Rhode Island who was enrolled for a minimum of 24 credits, not including students who were previously enrolled at the university, taken a leave of absence, and then re-enrolled, or students who have transferred more than 38 credits from other postsecondary institutions”, and be it further,

Resolved, the Student Senate recommends that the Department of Housing and Residential Life adopts a credit-based system with priority given to upperclassmen to determine eligibility for an on campus housing assignment, and be it further

Resolved, the Student Senate further recommends that additional consideration be given to international students, those who live across the country, and to those students who demonstrate a significant need for an on-campus housing assignment due to special circumstances including but not limited to, housing and/or food insecurity, inadequate access to transportation to and from campus, or other unique circumstances which would require an on campus housing assignment, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate requests the University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership reintroduce triple housing assignments, at least on a voluntary basis.

SPONSOR:                              Campus Affairs Committee

BILL HANDLER:                        Chair Gamache

DATE:                                      December 8, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:                  (4 - 0 - 0)

EXPIRATION:                          Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION:                                  Vote Tonight

Speaker Bove explained the bill.

*Bill Passes.*

**M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

**N. ADJOURNMENT** - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 8:57pm.