



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 January 26, 2022

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

### **B. ROLL CALL** -

Present: Asante, Beazley, Blake, Bose, Bove, Breene, Chadronet, Cushman, Del Bonis, Eustis, Gamache, Gibson, Goswami, James, Johnson N, Johnson O, Montoya, Murray, Njeru, Palmer, Peckham, Rider, Rizk, Scotti, Schindler, Siegle, Summerson, Theil, Tyson

Absent: Aidala, Alyati (Excused), Collins, Fielder, Greenbaum, Kiernan (Excused), Kittle, Williams (Excused)

Guests: Cox, Hoover, Stiles, Rider

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

Senator Gibson motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Senator Breene.

*Motion Passes.*

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

Chair Shindler motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Senator Chadronet.

*Motion Passes.*

### **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Speaker Bove welcomed everyone back to the chamber and expressed his hope for a successful semester. He then read the text of a letter from VP Ramsay announcing that elections were to be held on March 1st and 2nd, 2022.

### **F. PUBLIC FORUM**

Vice President Rider

TAP Update:

- Parking availability (commuters 1.7, residents 1.0, faculty/staff 1.5)
- First three weeks of parking are the worst
- Have people on location to direct students and faculty when lots are full
- \$30,000/space for parking garage
- Looking into building more student housing
- Plains road south will be covered with solar panels
- RIPTA update

## Questions for VP Rider

- Have you surveyed students on the parking price increase?
- Monitor fine arts?
  - Ada spots / negotiate with the
- Chair Gamache - students not being ticketed the first day of classes will that be implemented next year?
  - Yes
- Senator Johnson - parking in frat circle is very challenging and still nowhere to park for those who have a parking permit
  - TAPA will work on ticketing students who park there without frat circle permits
- Director Hoover - more convenient parking in the future years?
  - Not enough room around us to build
- Senator Montoya - why does the transportation system run the way it does
  - The real problem is that it is difficult to run it on a schedule
- Senator Breene - line of communication between drivers and TAPA should improve
  - She will bring that up to TAPA
- Senator James - paying with cash on bus entry / students receive no change?
  - New app will only charge students for a ride
- Senator Peckham - are the paper passes previously bought still acceptable
  - No you can trade them in for a digital credit
- Senator Rider - students don't park in plains with transportation not running on a schedule and students could plan on a time to get picked up
  - Conditions may not be good enough for drivers to deliver the timing schedule
  - Obstructions may come into play
- Senator Rider - we are not in a position to build structured parking / will it ever be possible to have structured parking
  - We don't know if students would be willing to pay
  - We can build the garage if that's what students want / grant could be granted to help pay but otherwise it must come from TAPA
- Senator Murry - rhody safe rides were not running from train station to campus and she needed to wait over an hour and couldn't be picked up by any URI services
  - Running the services are almost shut down during the holidays and not many students may be affected
- Senator Montoya - alumni funding? for the parking garage
  - Most donors don't like to give for building they would rather give funds for advancements within the university
- Speaker Bove - how many parking passes did the university issue this year? / the university has the obligation to provide free transportation to students
  - 12,000 spaces

## G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Siegle welcomed everyone back for the new semester. She informed the Senate that SOC has begun meeting with new clubs seeking recognition, and she also stated that re-recognition will begin soon. She also reminded Senate Leadership that stipend review will begin on Tuesday February 1, 2022.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Shindler welcomed everyone back to the chamber, and asked her committee members to respond to her message in their group chat. She announced that the Academic Affairs Committee will be meeting on Thursdays at 5pm in the Student Senate Office.

- External Affairs Committee

No Report.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson wished everyone a good first week of classes and asked her committee members to reply to her email.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Gamache announced that she is working with the Memorial Union to hold a student job fair. She also stated that she would continue her monthly meeting with Vice President Kathy Collins. Chair Gamache reported that the Department of Housing and Residential Life sprayed residence halls to disinfect and clear mold. She announced that the Campus Affairs Committee was moving forward with Aunt Flow, and that they would be putting together some information on Transportation and Parking.

- Executive Committee

- Director Cox - goals for last semester

Director Cox spoke about her goals for her last semester in the Cabinet. She stated her hopes that the Student Senate will establish a LinkedIn page, get active on TikTok and Instagram Reels, host regular town halls, coordinate with the career center so all students have access to headshot services, and holding Student Senate workshops to try and recruit more students.

Speaker Bove thanked Director Cox for her outstanding leadership and services to the Student Senate and the University of Rhode Island.

- Director Hoover

Director Hoover stated that this semester will be the Treasury Committee's busy season, and encouraged Senators to join his committee. He also said that all Senators are welcome to attend budget presentations.

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

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

### **J. SPECIAL ORDERS**

*Swearing in of New Senators*

- *Swearing in of Senator James*

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

Senator Gibson nominated Shawn Gibbs seconded by Senator Thiel

Total Votes: Gibbs: 21                      Abstentions: 0                      Invalid: 1

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

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

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

Senator Gibson nominated Sophia Buono seconded by Chair Gamache

Sophia introduced herself after hearing about senate through Chair Kiernan

Total Votes: Buono: 22

Abstentions: 0

## **K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **L. NEW BUSINESS**

### **SS-21/22-26 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI BIKE CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “URI Bike Club” mission statement is “Provide a community for cyclists of all kinds. To have fun group rides. To support cyclists in becoming more fit, skilled, or competitive.”, and

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

Resolved, that URI Bike 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: January 26, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Siegle motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Senator Gibson

*Motion Passes.*

*Bill Passes.*

### **SS-21/22-27 – Bill Calling for the following amendment to the Student Senate Finance Handbook to be added and enacted beginning in the fiscal year of 2022-2023**

Whereas, the Finance Handbook does not specify that the Treasury Committee may discuss and vote to provide an exception to clubs who have had a previous financial standing with the Student Senate, and

Whereas, clubs that may have had a previous financial standing with the Student Senate defined by the Finance Handbook have no opportunity to regain said status due to an unforeseen circumstance leading to derecognition, now, therefore be it,

Resolved, that a section under Article 3 of the Finance Handbook designated section 3.10 will be added to cover a general outline of a Treasury Committee appeals process for clubs seeking to regain a previous financial standing outlined by the Finance Handbook, and be it further,

Resolved, the new section designated section 3.10 will state, "If a club is seeking to regain a previous financial status due to an unforeseen circumstance leading to derecognition, then the DOT must be notified via email. The Treasury Committee will then convene within a week of the appeals request to determine if the request meets the requirements pre-determined by the Treasury Committee. The appeal process will then continue with a formal meeting between the club appealing, the Treasury committee and at least one member from the Student Accounts Office." Definitions, Financial Status: The designation in which a club receives a budget for a pre-allocated amount based on the number of years a club has been recognized/

SPONSORS: Treasury Committee

BILL HANDLER: VDOT Kittle

DATE: January 24th, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Director Hoover explained the bill's purpose, and highlighted that it would be useful to a lot of clubs that were derecognized last year due to COVID.

Director Cox expressed her support for this legislation.

### **SS-21/22-28 Resolution Calling on the Rhode Island General Assembly to Establish Juneteenth as State Recognized Holiday**

Whereas, in 2021, the United States Congress voted to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, and

Whereas, on June 17, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, officially codifying Juneteenth as a federal holiday in the United States of America, and

Whereas, despite this, Juneteenth has not yet been recognized as a state holiday in the State of Rhode Island, and

Whereas, in 2021, the URI Faculty Senate adopted a resolution calling for the Rhode Island General Assembly to establish Juneteenth as a state recognized holiday, and

Whereas, Juneteenth is a historically and culturally significant holiday and should be observed and celebrated by Americans everywhere including in the State of Rhode Island, now, therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate in concurrence with the URI Faculty Senate call upon the Rhode Island General Assembly to establish Juneteenth as a state recognized holiday in the State of Rhode Island.

SPONSORS: Chairs Tyson, Shindler, Kiernan, Gamache, Senator Chadronet BILL HANDLER:

Chair Tyson

DATE: January 26, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

*BILL PASSES*

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

*Director Cox - President is speaking about new university montra everyone is welcome to join and listen*

**N. ADJOURNMENT** - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.