



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 February 2, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER - Speaker Bove called meeting to order at 6:33pm

B. ROLL CALL -

Present: Aidala, Alryati, Asante, Beazley, Blake, Bose, Bove, Breene, Buono Chandronet, Cushman, Del Bonis, Eustis, Gamache, Gibbs, Gibson, James, Johnson N, Johnson O, Kiernan, Montoya, Murray, Palmer, Peckham, Rider, Scotti, Shindler, Siegle, Summerson, Theil, Tyson

Absent: Collins (Excused), Fielder, Goswami, Kittle (Excused), Njeru (Excused), Rizk, Williams (Excused)

Guests: Hoover, St. Germain

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA -

Chair Siegle motioned to move unfinished business to after announcements. Seconded by Chair Kiernan.

Motion Passes.

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Gibson motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Senator Peckham.

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Bove wished Chair Shindler a Happy 22nd Birthday and led the chamber in singing Happy Birthday.

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Pierre St. Germain - Director, URI Dining Services

Director St. Germain discussed the difficulties Dining Services has been facing with short staffing. He also reported that Dining Services was forced to temporarily close the Daily Grind at the request of the Library due to mask non compliance. He also discussed the complications caused by supply chain issues and their impact on operations in Dining Services.

Senator Chadronet asked when Dining Services plans to reopen the Daily Grind.

Director St. Germain said they planned to reopen it on February 9.

Senator Montoya asked how student employees at the Daily Grind were being compensated for lost working hours.

Director St. Germain stated they would be temporarily moved to other dining locations.

Senator Montoya spoke about Senator Chadronet's bill requesting takeout dining options for students and asked when and how that would be implemented.

Speaker Bove stated that Butterfield was offering takeout dining during the evening hours.

Senator Montoya asked what Dining Services is doing to compete with other employers off campus. Director St Germain said that for most positions compensation rates are determined by the State of Rhode Island; however, he has been looking into what he can legally do to make working for Dining Services more appealing.

Senator Alryatii stated that there wasn't enough food from different cultures on campus, and also said that students often were not made aware of the kosher and hallal food options served in the Dining Hall.

Director St. Germain answered that kohser is challenging because they would need a different kitchen, and that making more hallal foods available is on the top of the list. He said that he would like to see a designated location or some place for students to get hallal meats but that there are few vendors that provide an outline for a hallal layout and hallal meat has been very challenging to get. For the time being he recommends students to go to the nutritionist. He is trying to not make students feel excluded or as if their religion is a punishment. Any student who is orthodox can work with a program within dining to purchase kosher food or work with the Multicultural Center to access food at different times throughout the day.

Senator James asked if there is a way to represent diverse populations in the Dining Hall.

Director St. Germain said he wants to host chefs from other countries to serve authentic foods from other cultures.

Senator Rider asked how it is unsafe for students to be unmasked in the Library but safe to be unmasked in the Dining Halls.

Director St. Germain said that the Library has a right to make their own rules and that they may differ from that of Dining Services. Essentially, students need to eat and they can't do it while wearing a mask, but the issue in the library is that people don't put their masks back on afterwards.

Speaker Bove asked what next year's dining plans will look like.

Director St. Germain said that the University was getting rid of GrabNGos and implement a new dining dollars system.

Speaker Bove said he thought that was a bad idea.

Chair Tyson asked if Dining Services would make exemptions for Multicultural Student Organizations looking to use outside catering companies for events,

Director St. Germain stated that he would like to see that happen as he feels other vendors may serve more authentic multicultural foods, but that it is an issue of liability. He is looking into the matter.

Chair Shindler motioned to end public forum. Seconded by Chair Kiernan.

Senator Asante said he wanted to ask a question.

Chair Shindler withdrew her motion.

Senator Asante asked why students can't transfer swipes to one another and said that it would be a great way to combat food insecurity.

Director St Germain said that students can donate one GrabNGo a week which goes into a bank that can

be used by food insecure students. He also stated that the RhodyOutpost provides food to those who need it. He feels that this allows students to receive services confidentially.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Siegle said that SOC was currently working hard on stipd review and Re-Recognition of clubs.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Shindler announced that the Academic Affairs Committee will be meeting on Thursdays at 5:00pm in the Student Senate Office.

She also announced that there are two upcoming career workshops on salary negotiation one on February 9th from 3pm-4pm and one on February 23rd from 12pm-1pm on salary negotiation, both will be held in the Women's Center.

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Kiernan told senators to look out for graphics about rhody renters and rental agreement rights on instagram.

She also announced that she is working on a voter registration drive.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson stated that she was working on events to celebrate Black History Month.

She is also planning a retreat for all Multicultural Student Organizations.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Gamache reported that the Campus Affairs Committee is moving forward with its menstrual products program. Campus Affairs is working on a FYI video for the fall.

- Executive Committee

None

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Swearing in of New Senators

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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 if 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 Tonight

Director Hoover explained the purpose of the bill and expressed his support of it.

Bill Passes.

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-21/22-29 Resolution Honoring Healthcare Professionals at the University of Rhode Island

Whereas, since COVID-19 was detected in the State of Rhode Island in March of 2022, Health Services at the University of Rhode Island has taken on a tremendous amount of responsibility to keep students, staff, and faculty safe, and

Whereas, throughout the pandemic staff at both Health Services and the Counseling Center have taken on record breaking caseloads while also experiencing major staffing shortages, and

Whereas, since the Fall of 2020, URI Health Services has administered a massive and robust testing program which has allowed the university to safely operate in person throughout the pandemic, and

Whereas, despite major testing challenges within the State of Rhode Island, Health Services has maintained a less than 48 hour wait time for testing results, while simultaneously continuing to offer walk up one demand testing, and

Whereas, throughout the last two years the Counseling Center has experienced a nearly 30% increase in clients, and

Whereas, since the onset of the pandemic, URI Health Services has collected more than 215,253 COVID-19 tests, contact traced over 7,597 positive cases and close contacts, and verified the COVID-19 vaccination records or exemptions requests of over 19,000 members of the URI community, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, on behalf of the entire student body, commends the

hundreds of healthcare professionals, staff, and volunteers at URI Health Services and the URI Counseling Center and thanks them for their outstanding services to the University of Rhode Island, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate recognizes that the university's in person operations would not be possible without our hardworking healthcare professionals

Sponsors: Speaker Bove, Senators Gibson, Chadronet, Rider, Summerson, Scotti

Bill Handler: Speaker Bove

Date: February 2, 2022

Recommendation: (6 – 0 – 0)

Expiration: Valid Until Reviewed

Action: Vote Tonight

Speaker Bove expressed his support for the University's healthcare workers and burgers support for this bill.

Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Chair Kiernan announced the return of Senate Assassins.

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.