



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 9, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER - Speaker Bove called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Asante, Beazley, Blake, Bose, Bove, Breene, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Del Bonis, Gamache, Gibbs, Gibson, Goswami, James, Johnson N, Kiernan, Montoya, Murray, Njeru, Palmer, Peckham, Rider, Rizk, Scotti, Schindler, Siegle, Summerson, Theil, Tyson, Williams

Absent: Aidala, Alyati (Excused), Cushman, Eustis, Fielder, Johnson O, Kittle (Excused)

Guests: Almandrez, Hoover, Cox

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Senator Theil motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Senator Peckham.

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Senator Theil motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Chair Keirnan.

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Speaker Bove addressed recent behavioral issues in the chamber. He stated that senators talking over guests and holding discussions during votes or special orders would no longer be tolerated and that should it continue, senators will be asked to leave the chamber and given an unexcused absence. He further stated that by talking over guests, and shouting back when decorum calls are made is not only disrespectful to the Speaker or the Senate's guests, but disrespectful to the chamber and the time of its members.
- Chair Shindler commented that many student organizations have long meetings and that members should be pleased that senate proceedings are usually relatively short.
- Speaker Bove announced that plans for Student Senate formal are quickly moving forward.
- Speaker Bove announced that Director Urena has graduated and that those looking to be the next Director of Operations should contact President Taiwo.

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Mary Grace Almandrez, Associate Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer

Updates on Climate Survey

- Dr. Almandrez read a draft land acknowledgement statement.
- She highlighted several themes from the campus climate survey which included the need to put a focus on community building, a greater desire for mentorship especially amongst students of color, desire for faculty and staff to participate in social justice training, and a desire to see more people honored for their social justice work both on campus and in the surrounding community.
- She also reported that the university would be holding two public forums to discuss the survey results, one on February 18th from 1:00pm - 2:30pm, and another on April 11th from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Siegle reported that SOC is still working on stipend review and re-recognition.

She also announced an upcoming student organization recruitment fair. It will be held on February 23 from 11:00am - 1:00pm.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Shindler reported that the Academic Affairs Committee has been working on communicating mental health issues to the faculty senate and encouraged senators to come and speak if they can.

She reminded the senate that the Women's Center will hold a career readiness event on February 23 from 12:00pm - 1:00pm.

She also announced that PINK Women is hosting an internship workshop on February 22 from 8:00pm - 9:00pm.

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Kiernan reminded senators to contact her if they know of anyone having an issue with their landlord. She reported that the External Affairs Committee is working on a "Know Your Rights" flyer.

She encouraged students living off campus to register to vote at vote.ri.gov.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson reported that the Cultural Affairs Committee is working on events to celebrate Black History Month. She asked senators to send her book recommendations for Women's History Month which will be provided to the URI Bookstore.

Chair Tyson announced that she will be holding a first responder certification training for any interested students.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Gamache announced that the Spring Bluelight Walk will be held on March 24th.

She reported that the Campus Affairs Committee is working to address dining issues and working on parking flyers.

- Executive Committee

DOC - Director Cox announced that she is working to have professional photographers come to a senate meeting to take headshots for senators. She also reminded people to start campaigning for Spring Elections.

DOT - Director Hoover expressed his support for Senator Kittle's Expulsion Appeal.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Election Committee - Chair Siegle asked members of the Elections Committee to stick around for a brief meeting after the General Assembly Adjourns.

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Kittle Expulsion Appeal

- Speaker Bove read a letter from Senator Kittle detailing his reasoning for preemptively appealing his expulsion due to absence.
- Senator Thiel expressed his support for Senator Kittle's appeal
- Chair Kiernan stated that Senator Kittle is a reliable VDOT who does good work for the Student Senate and that he deserves to keep his seat.
- Speaker Bove said that Senator Kittle was going out of his way to appeal now rather than in the middle of budget and re-recognition debate out of respect for the assembly's time and expressed his support for the appeal.

Results: Ayes: 30 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Senator Kittle's Appeal is Granted.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-21/22-30 Resolution Requesting that Dining Services Terminate Restrictions on GrabNGo Meal Donations

Whereas, students at the University of Rhode Island currently have the option of purchasing GrabNGo meal swipes as part of their Resident or Commuter Dining Plans, and

Whereas, in the 2020/2021 academic year, students could choose to donate as many of their GrabNGo swipes as they wished to students facing food insecurity, and

Whereas, recently, the university reimplemented restrictions on GrabNGo donations, and limited students to one swipe donation per week, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate requests that Dining Services terminate the restrictions on GrabNGo donations and allow students to donate any number of their purchased swipes to students facing food insecurity.

SPONSORS: Senators Chadronet, Gibson, Summerson, Chair Tyson, Speaker Bove

BILL HANDLER: Senator Chadronet

DATE: February 9, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

Senator Chadronet stated his support for the bill.

Speaker Bove said that as students who pay thousands of dollars for their meal plans we should be able to decide how we use them.

Chair Tyson stated her support for the bill.

Senator Asante said he would like to amend the bill to request that all unused meal swipes automatically be donated to food

insecure students rather than allowing them to expire.

Speaker Bove suggested that Senator Asante draft a separate resolution to address the matter.

Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:31pm.