



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 16, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER - Speaker Bove called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

B. ROLL CALL -

Present: Aidala, Alryati, Asante, Blake, Bose, Bove, Breene, Chadronet, Collins, Cushman, Del Bonis, Eustis, Gamache, Gibbs, Gibson, Johnson N, Johnson O, Kiernan, Montoya, Murray, Njeru, Palmer, Rider, Rizk, Scotti, Shindler, Summerson, Thiel, Tyson, Williams.

Absent: Beazley, Buono (Excused), Fielder, Goswami, James (Excused), Kittel (Excused), Peckham (Excused), Siegle (Excused).

Guests: Taiwo, Hoover, Diaz, Cardany, Stiles, Collins.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA -

Speaker Bove motioned to move new business to after announcements. Seconded by Senator Gibson.

Motion Passes.

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

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

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Bove informed the Senate that Vice President Collins would be delivering her farewell address and stated that he would not entertain questions for the Vice President afterwards.

President Taiwo announced that the Multicultural Student Center is holding events along with the Women's Center in celebration of Black History Month.

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Speaker Bove

- Gave opening remarks and introduced Vice President Collins.

Vice President Kathy Collins Farewell Address

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Senator Gibson reported that re-recognition forms are due on March 7th, the same day as the March Presidents Meeting.

She also reported that SOC is continuing to meet with new clubs, and that they are still conducting stipend review.

She thanked senators who signed up to work the Student Senate Booth on the February 23rd student organizations fair, and she thanked members of SOC for their dedication and reliability.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Shindler reported that the Academic Affairs Committee is working to bring awareness to faculty senate about students' mental health struggles. She asks senators to deliver testimony to faculty senate about how COVID has impacted their mental health.

She announced that there will be an internship workshop in the Memorial Union from 8:00pm - 9:00pm on February 22nd.

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Kiernan reminded senators to get their COVID-19 boosters and also asked senators to let her know if they know of anyone having issues with their landlords.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson reported that the Cultural Affairs Committee will be having a "Love Your Roots" booth in the Memorial Union on February 22nd from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. Students will get to write on a poster why they love being black, and the Cultural Affairs Committee will be giving away bracelets, pins, and stickers. She asked senators to volunteer to help run the booth.

She also announced that the Cultural Affairs Committee would be hosting a Black History Movie night in the Memorial Union Ballroom on February 25th from 7:00 - 9:00pm.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Gamache reported that the Campus Affairs Committee is working on flyers and a tutorial to inform students on how to donate GrabNGo swipes.

She announced that issues relating to parking will now be handled by the External Affairs Committee.

She also announced that a survey about aunt flow will be sent to students soon, and that she will be reaching out to Vice President Rider to discuss making the free menstrual product program permanently funded by the university.

- Executive Committee

Director Hoover reported that the Treasury Committee is working on the FY23 budget and that the committee could use some additional members. He also informed the assembly that he has taken action to freeze the PINK club's accounts and that he intends to introduce legislation permanently freezing their accounts until their President and Treasurer are retrained on the Student Senate Finance Handbook.

President Taiwo asked senators to share their opinions on issues facing URI that should be addressed in the next few years. She also asked more senators to help plan the women's summit.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Confirmation of President Taiwo's Nomination for Director of Operations

27 affirmative votes 1 abstention vote

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-21/22-31 Resolution Recognizing Vice President Kathy Collins for her Outstanding Service and Contributions to the University of Rhode Island

Whereas, Vice President Kathy Collins joined the University of Rhode Island as the Vice President of Student Affairs in July of 2016, and

Whereas, as Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Collins is responsible for the oversight of the Division of Student Affairs which includes the Office of Student Life, the Dean of Students Office, Campus Recreation, as well as the university's many auxiliaries such as the Department of Housing and Residential Life, Health Services, Dining Services, and the Memorial Union. She also oversees the Counseling Center and as well as the Talent Development program and much more, and

Whereas, as the first person in her family to go to college, and as an openly LGBT woman, Vice President Collins has served as an inspiration to many students, and

Whereas, over the course of her tenure as Vice President, Dr. Collins has led the University of Rhode Island through an unprecedented period of both prosperous growth and difficult challenges. In addition to playing a vital role in the university's COVID-19 response, Dr. Collins has overseen the construction of Brookside Hall, initiated the construction of a new student health center, secured funding for an expansion of the Memorial Union, and made significant improvements to the university's student services, and

Whereas, as a result of the of the COVID-19 Pandemic Vice President Collins and the rest of the senior leadership team were forced to make difficult decisions and take decisive action in order to keep our community safe and to ensure the long-term stability of the University of Rhode Island, and

Whereas, the steps taken to limit the spread of COVID-19 were not always popular, and there were many times that leaders of the Student Senate disagreed with the university's actions; however, Vice President Collins always made herself available to discuss student concerns and has consistently done her best to incorporate student feedback when possible, and

Whereas, Vice President Collins has been a phenomenal working partner to the Student Senate and a tremendous asset to the University of Rhode Island, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate recognizes and thanks Vice President Kathy Collins for her outstanding service and contributions to the University of Rhode Island, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate offers its warmest regards to Vice President Collins

and its best wishes for her continued success in all of her future endeavors.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chair Gamache, Senators Rider, Summerson, Johnson N

BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove

DATE: February 16, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

Bill Passes

.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Chair Kiernan said she will be reducing the amount of safe zones if senate assassins doesn't move faster.

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm