



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 AGENDA March 2, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER - Speaker Bove called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

B. ROLL CALL -

Present: Aidala, Beazley, Blake, Bose, Bove, Breene, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Cushman, Del Bonis, Gamache, Gibbs, Gibson, James, Johnson N, Johnson O, Kiernan, Murray, Peckham, Rizk, Scotti, Shindler, Siegle, Summerson, Williams.

Absent: Asante (Excused), Eusits, Goswami, Kittel (Excused), Montoya, Palmer, Rider (Excused), Theil, Tyson.

Guests: Hoover, Njeru, Stiles.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA -

Senator Gibson motioned to move special orders following unfinished business. Seconded by Chair Siegle.

Motion Passes.

Senator Peckham motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Senator Summerson.

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Bove announced an amendment to the Senate's mask resolution, and thanked Senator Bose, Director Hoover, and all bill sponsors for their work on this important issue.

Director Hoover commended Speaker Bove and everyone who worked to combine the bills presented this week.

Speaker Bove gave a shout out to the Campus Committee for reaching out to so many students and for their highly successful survey.

F. PUBLIC FORUM

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Finishing up stipend reviews this week

Re-rec bill will be coming to the floor soon

Next presidents meeting next monday at 7pm - let chair siegle know if you would like to attend

- Academic Affairs Committee

Last week faculty senates meeting / read over mental health flyer / senator summerson has put a bill on the floor calling for all professors to place mental health resources within their syllabi

- External Affairs Committee

No report / meeting got canceled with steve simos

- Cultural Affairs Committee

No report

- Campus Affairs Committee

Still waiting on a meeting with Abby Rider - need to reach out to her again

Bluelight walk still set for March 24th @6:30pm

Will start reaching out to faculty & senate for members to join

- Executive Committee

DOT - budget going on / keeping up with student orgs

DOO - no new information / transition process go all the way through with DOT

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

No report

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee - finalizing elections soon / elections will be closing at 11:45pm

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Swearing in of Director Njeru

Confirmation of President Taiwo's Nominee for Vice President

Speaker Bove informed the Assembly that President Taiwo has nominated Senator Summerson to fill the vacancy left by Vice President Ramsay's resignation. He expressed his support and pride for Senator Summerson.

Speaker Bove informed the Senate that cabinet confirmation votes will now be conducted through roll call going forward.

Ayes: Aidala, Beazley, Blake, Bose, Bove, Breene, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Cushman, Del Bonis, Gamache, Gibbs, Gibson, James, Johnson N, Johnson O, Kiernan, Murray, Peckham, Rizk, Scotti, Shindler, Siegle, Williams

Nays: None

Abstentions: Summerson

President Taiwo's Nominee for Vice President of the Student Body is Confirmed.

Speaker Bove motioned to add swearing in of Vice President Summerson. Seconded by Chair Siegle.

Motion Passes.

Swearing in of Vice President Summerson.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SS-21/22-33 Resolution Declaring the Student Senate's Recommendation Pertaining to the University of Rhode Island's Universal Indoor Mask Mandate

Whereas, on February 11, 2022, Governor Daniel J. McKee allowed Executive Order 21-116 "Protecting Public Health by Wearing Masks or Face Coverings or Obtaining Proof of Vaccination in Indoor Public Spaces" to expire, effectively terminating Rhode Island's statewide indoor mask mandate, and

Whereas, Governor McKee will allow Executive Order 21-87 "Requiring Masks in Schools" to expire on March 4, 2022, effectively terminating Rhode Island's statewide universal indoor mask mandate for k-12 schools, and

Whereas, Rhode Island has seen a 95.5% decrease in COVID-19 cases since January's omicron driven infection peak, and

Whereas, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently changed its guidelines to no longer recommend universal mask mandates in over 70% of communities around the country, regardless of an individual's vaccination status, and

Whereas, a universal indoor mask mandate currently remains in effect at the University of Rhode Island, and

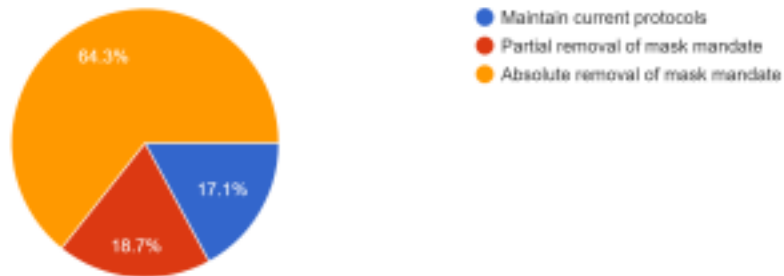
Whereas, the University of Rhode Island currently mandates its students and employees to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19, and

Whereas, approximately 94% of faculty, staff, and students at the University of Rhode Island are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and

Whereas, a survey was conducted by the Campus Affairs Committee which asked students to identify what future they would like to see for the university's mask mandate with the following results, and

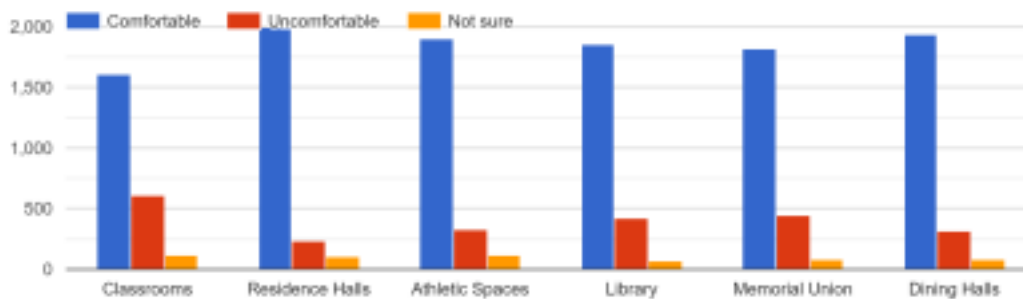
Would you prefer to continue indoor masking protocols or a partial/total removal of the mask mandate?

2,343 responses



Whereas, students were further asked to identify specific locations where they would feel comfortable in the absence of an indoor mask mandate with the following results, and

How do you feel about removing the mask mandate in these locations:



Whereas, the survey results clearly indicate that the vast majority of the student body favors the total removal or relaxation of the university's indoor mask mandate, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate recommends the termination of the university's universal indoor mask mandate for all students, faculty, and staff regardless of vaccination status, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate maintains its support of the university's current COVID-19 vaccination mandates, and be it further,

Resolved, that should the university completely eliminate its universal indoor mask mandate, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate recommends that the university shift to twice weekly surveillance testing for those who are unvaccinated.

SPONSORS: Senators Bose, Asante, Eustis, Thiel, Peckham, Summerson, Chairs
Tyson Shindler, Gamache, Kiernan, Speaker Bove
BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove

DATE: February 23, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: (11 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote Tonight
Chair Shindler motioned to call the question. Seconded by Chair Kiernan
Motion Passes
Bill Passes

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-21/22-34 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “PAPUAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Papuan Student Association” mission statement is “As international students from Papua, Indonesia, we would like to introduce our culture to others. We also want to learn about others culture because we believe that pluralism is a beautiful thing that should be respected and embraced. Our goal is to be a part of the diversity in University of Rhode Island and become representatives of Papuans.”, and

Whereas, Papuan Student Association 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 Papuan Student Association as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Papuan Student Association 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: March 2, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Senator Gibson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Siegle.

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

SS-21/22-35 Resolution Calling for Faculty Senate Action to Address Student Mental Health Issues at the University of Rhode Island

Whereas, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, there has been an unprecedented increase in reported mental health issues among students across the country, and

Whereas, over the last two years the URI Counseling Center has seen a major increase in

student caseloads, and

Whereas, while many students have taken advantage of the university's mental health resources, a significant amount of students remain unaware of the mental health services currently available to them, and

Whereas, it is imperative the the university ensures that every student has access to and is aware of the available mental health resources so that students can get the help that they need, and

Whereas, faculty members play a crucial role in ensuring that students are aware of university services, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate formally requests that the Faculty Senate implements a requirement that faculty members include information about URI's mental health resources on all course syllabi, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island requests that this action be taken immediately and remain in effect permanently regardless of any easing of pandemic restrictions and their effects.

SPONSOR:	Academic Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Senator Summerson
DATE:	March 2, 2022
RECOMMENDATION:	(8 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Senator Summerson explained the bill and expressed her support for its passage. Speaker Bove and Chair Shindler praised Senator Summerson for her work on this issue.
Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Chair Siegle reminded SOC committee members to stay after adjournment.

Dr. Stiles reminded senators to read the minutes and ensure that they are included in attendance. He also asked to speak with members of the Elections Committee after adjournment.

Vice President Summerson announced that women's summit committee will be meeting sometime this week

Speaker Bove wished everyone luck with elections.

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm.