



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 April 20, 2022

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

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Bailey, Bose, Bove, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Cronan, Del Bonis, Emison, Johnson N, Johnson V, Leggett, Montoya, Monzon, Newman, Palmer, Peckham, Scotti, Summerson, Tyson.

Absent: Breese (Excused), Galliano, Gibson (Excused), Goswami, James, Johnson O, Myers, Piacentini, Rizk, Sutton, Waryas.

Guests: Mcdermott, Pipicelli, Nassersharif, Rudolph, Santos, Thiel, Eustis, Njeru, Hoover, Gamache, Kiernan.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Speaker Bove motioned to commence with swearing in of new senators after the conclusion of announcements. Seconded by Chair Summerson.

Motion Passes.

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM .

Maureen Mcdermott and Will Pipicelli, from WRIU

Delivered presentation about WRIU tower replacement. Explained that the 400 ft broadcast tower was damaged from a hurricane in September of 2021. This tower is important since it provides programs for entertainment such as unique music genres, mens and womens sports teams, and sport talk shows. The bulk of the funding comes from the Student Senate. They are ultimately requesting financial support given the danger it poses to the area. WRIU has collaborated with Capital Project to craft a budget breakdown. They are wishing the Senate to approve a \$500,000 grant from Tax Apportionment by the end of 2022 academic year, as well as the guarantee of the balance of project cost to replace tower, a \$300k,000 loan, thus a total commitment of \$800,000.

Director Hoover: Does this plan include mitigating risk, like for example taking down trees?

Mcdermott: Yes. We got a recommendation that tower we do a solid steel leg tower that provides more stability

Senator Montoya: What took so long to request for financial support?

Pipicelli: Capital projects got new leadership and thus had to review the entire project. It took time to figure out how to go about the issue, and there were more logistical hurdles since URI is a state university.

Senator Bailey: Is there any possibility that you get approved by the Senate but SCC sees that money isn't enough?

Mcdermott: No, if they see progress, they will support us

Senator Breene: Is money you're asking for static? What will happen if the senate approves a lesser amount?

Mcdermott: The money requested is based on what Capital Projects provided minus other expenditures.

Speaker Bove: Regardless of the structure of how the Senate provides money, for example in loans and grants, is the \$800,000 request an all or nothing?

Mcdermott: Yes, they want to know in writing there is approval and support.

President Kiernan: Is Capital Projects the only company you will work with?

Mcdermott: This is their expertise, so yes.

President Kiernan: Is there a possibility that Capital Projects could find contractors that don't cost as much?

Mcdermott: Absolutely.

Senator Newman: On top of funding, will there be a written contractual contingency plan?

Mcdermott: Sure, if it is something that they can accomplish.

Senator Montoya: Has there been vested interest by alums to support this?

Mcdermott: No.

Pipicelli: On the topic of alums, people who listen to the broadcast donate. To answer the question, we are asking donors and the listener base, and we are trying to make sure alums are more aware of our need.

Dr. Bahram Nassersharif: Why build a tower for the future, if the future is the internet, and if times have passed in terms of technology?

Pipicelli: We are fully aware of what is going on. We have listeners all across the country in full support of us. Part of the ability to stream is to broadcast live.

Mcdermott: Towers and live radio are not dying. It still very much exists.

Speaker Bove: If this fails to pass in time, what is the comeback process?

Pipicelli: We won't start the time on that clock until we know the tower is going down.

Mcdermott: Capital Projects needs that tower down for safety reasons. The station would lose its license.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Speaker Bove read a report from Chair Gibson who stated that a few clubs are reaching out about being recognized. She gave a shout out to Chair Summerson and Vice President Gamache for their support with Welcome Day.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Summerson gave an announcement about Senate study day during finals week, with a raffle for goody bags as a reward for attendance.

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Scotti announced that a voter registration drive is coming up soon. He also plans to resume Senate assassins starting tomorrow. He also encouraged Senators to sign up to join the External Affairs Committee on the committee interest form.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson announced a new instagram page for the Cultural Affairs Committee. She also announced a donation drive she's leading for used clothes, which will go to Day One, a resource in Rhode Island to help victims of sexual assault.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Chadronet encouraged Senators to choose Campus Affairs on the committee interest form.

- Executive Committee

- VP

Vice President Gamache urged Senators to do office hours, since she is keeping record.

- DOT

Director Hoover expressed disapproval for the 800k request from WRIU. He also announced a new project, in that clubs will be required to be on the messaging platform slack to reach clubs better. Director Hoover also touches on the point that If money is not funded to the WRIU, that it will be derecognized, which will not look good for the Senate as a whole.

- DOI

Director Njeru announced a plan to kickstart committee recognition and kudos.

- DOO

Director Eustis announced his initiative in cleaning up the Senate office. He also hopes to decorate the office. Director Eustis also announces his new "Weekly Senate Question" activity to boost Senate engagement.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nomination and Confirmation of the Jurists of the Court

Nominations and Elections for At Large Representative (1)

Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (4)

Chair Scotti nominated David Rudolph, seconded by Chair Sumemrson

Results: Rudolph: 20 Abstentions: 0 Invalid: 1

David Rudolph is elected.

Nominations and Elections for College of Nursing Representative (1)

Nominations for the Elections Committee

Chair Tyson nominated Senator Peckham. Seconded by Chair Summerson.
Chair Tyson nominated Senator Montoya. Seconded by Senator Bailey.
Chair Tyson nominated Speaker Bove. Seconded by Chair Summerson.
Chair Summerson nominated Vice President Gamache. Seconded by Chair Tyson.
Chair Tyson nominated by Senator N. Johnson. Seconded by Senator Bailey.
Chair Chadronet nominated Chair Scott.i nominated by. Seconded by Senator N. Johnson.
Chair Summerson nominated by Senator Bose. Seconded by Senator N. Johnson.
Chair Summerson nominated President Kiernan. Seconded by Chair Tyson.
Chair Summerson nominated Director Hoover. Seconded by Senator Bose..

Swearing in of Members of the Cabinet, Committee Chairs, and New Senators

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-02 Resolution Calling for Improvements to the University of Rhode Island's Shuttle Service

Whereas, the URI shuttles are supposed to be a safe, timely, convenient way to travel between commuter parking lots and residence halls to the university's academic core, and

Whereas, despite this, URI's current shuttle service is extremely slow, with many shuttles often sitting in commuter lots for over ten minutes at a single stop, and

Whereas, for this reason, using the URI shuttles is often more time consuming than simply walking to classes, and

Whereas, these flaws in the shuttle service add to the existing issues of limited parking availability on campus, and discourages students from parking in both Keaney and Plains Road lots, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate requests a formal review of the university's current shuttle service, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate requests that changes be made to the shuttle service to improve its timeliness and to heavily reduce the amount of time spent idling in commuter parking lots.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chairs Gibson, Summerson, Senators Bose, and Peckham
BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove
DATE: April 20, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Bill Passes.

SS-22/23-03 Bill Allocating \$20,000 for Maintenance Projects at the Northwoods Challenge Course

Whereas, the Northwoods Challenge Course, located on URI property, provides free team building services and leadership trainings for dozens of student organizations, and

Whereas, deferred maintenance projects coupled with a series of strong storms has caused severe structural deficiencies at the Northwoods Challenge Course, and

Whereas, in order to safely reopen in the fall, the Northwoods Challenge Course is in urgent needs of a \$20,000 grant to fund much needed repairs, and

Whereas, these repairs are essential to continuing to offer free services to student organizations now therefore be it,

Resolved, that \$20,000 be immediately allocated to the Northwoods Challenge Course from the Student Senate's Tax Apportionment accounts.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chairs Tyson, Gibson, Chadronet, Senator Del Bonis

BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove

DATE: April 20, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Next Week

President Kiernan expressed her support for the bill. She stated that the Northwoods Challenge Course does a lot for the student body, and that they gave a good justification for their request in last week's presentation.

Chair Tyson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Summerson.

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.