



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 27, 2022

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

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Bailey, Bose, Bove, Breene, Breese, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Cronan, Del Bonis, Emison, Gibson, James, Johnson N, Johnson O, Johnson V, Leggett, Montoya, Myers, Newman, Peckham, Piacentini, Rudolph, Scotti, Summerson, Sutton, Tyson, Waryas.

Absent: Goswami, Monzon, Palmer, Rizk.

Guests: President Marc Parlange, Dr. Audrey Cardany, Provost Laura Beauvais.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA -

Speaker Bove motioned to correct the spelling of Provost Beauvais last name. Seconded by Senator Montoya.

Motion Passes.

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

Senator Montoya motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Chair Gibson.

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Speaker Bove announced that he has made his committee appointments for the 2022-2023 Academic year. He also announced that a meeting of committee chairs will be held immediately following the adjournment of the General Assembly,

F. PUBLIC FORUM .

Dr. Marc Parlange - President, University of Rhode Island

- Land acknowledgement presentation

- Scholarships & other opportunities on campus
- Strategic Plan
 - Create a vibrant and valued work and learning environment
 - Scholarship prominence in the world
 - Developing students through exceptional teaching and experiences
 - Societal and economic impact
- Campaign Priorities
 - Student Access
 - Research
 - Global Reach
- Questions & Answers
 - President Kiernan: thanks Parlange for attending
 - Director Hoover: is there anything the university is doing to focus on the protect sector
 - Parlange: research alongside UCONN is fundamental and gains an important understanding on global security / working with Elizabeth Warren to work on physical acoustic studies
 - Speaker Bove: Of the belief that the budget is a statement of the universities of their values and beliefs we have asked for funding on programs (menstrual products, returning to subsidy of RIPTA passes) / every year we are told by VP Rider and other members regarding the budget / VP Reynolds, there has been no discussion on adding that funding into the budget
 - Parlange: 20 years ago we received 140 million from the state of RI, we now receive less than 80 million / we are always squeezing our budget / we have grown our student body by 20% /
 - Senator Montoya: what ways are we accessing global reach / could we require a second language to graduate
 - Parlange & Cardany: we are pulling together data from students, grads and faculty
 - Chair Tyson: diversity and multiculturalism town hall / similar to gender and sexualtiy / to answer climate action plans / when will the website show a new VP
 - Parlange: would love to attend the town hall event / looking for a VP along with having an interim VP currently / campus survey number of action items (ex: support for multicultural student orgs)
 - Chair Tyson: work on 5 goals before 2024 ends / which ones will be worked on / accountability and transparency we want to hold everyone accountable / don't want empty promises
 - Parlange: president should meet and have forms and discussions / no shortage of action items
 - Senator Rudolph: how successful has your interaction been with the state
 - Parlange: testified for the hope scholarship, arguing that the URI should be apart of that program / a big piece is the general obligations bonds / 157.5 million to renovate the ocean engineering, core lab and frontier building / submitted the america rescue plan 8.5 million / 5 year plan / hoping or waiting is not an option

Dr. Audrey Cardany - President, URI Faculty Senate

Dr. Laura Beauvais

- Talking about cornerstone values and updates with newer values / looking at the universities mission statement from the 90's
- Foundational Values
 - Freedom to learn, teach and conduct research

- Inclusivity, equitable and diverse
- Intellectual curiosity, lifelong learning, leadership and scholarship
- Sustainability and care of our environment
- Questions & Answers
 - Senator V Johnson - what insurance do we have that these will actually be implemented, mental health, abilities anything / add mental health
 - Answer: that's where we start with the plan to set goals and reach them
 - Chair Chadronet: highlight accountability / finalized plan when can that be expected
 - Answer: plan should be in September / we will be back to present
 - Director Hoover: many people on senate feels as though the senior leadership is not listening to the student senate based on the way we are talked to / ask to see us as an equal voice / seeing disrespect is unacceptable / if this continues to happen we will ensure to make this information public / how can we bring the relationship back and closer between student senate and leadership / we feel our voices are not heard
 - Answer: Cardnay appreciates this / the faculty senate is making sure an executive committee member attended the senate meetings to build that connection / asked about Saturday final exam alteration / find a way to communicate all information from senate to faculty senate
 - Answer: Beauva appreciates this and it is related to values for sure
 - Chair Chadronet: what has happened when people have violated the corner stone values
 - Answer: the honorary degree is an example, the values need to be honored, folks need to represent these values
 - Chair Summerson said she wants to be the liaison between faculty senate and student senate.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Gibson thanked senators for attending Welcome Day.

She also expressed her support for the SOC bills on the floor.

- Academic Affairs Committee

If you are placed on her committee please see her after general for contact information

Keep an eye out for student senate study session on May 4th: location & time TBD

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Scotti asked senators to follow the new External Affairs Committee Instagram account.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson thanked Senator James and former Senator Gibbs for working the earth day booth.

She thanked senators for donating to her clothing drive.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Chadonet reported that he recently received an email about lighting on campus.

He also reported that HRL is installing drinking fountains in all residence halls.

- Executive Committee

President Kiernan reported that the WRIU bill is going on the floor tonight and thanked senators for attending the informational meeting at 6pm to discuss the legislation. She reminded senators to sign up for the Pie a Senator fundraiser. She urged senators to attend the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony tomorrow at 12:30pm at the Multicultural Center.

Vice President Gamache reminded senators to submit their office hours.

Director Hoover urged senators to vote in favor of the WRIU bill.

Director Eustis asked senators to leave the senate office clean, and asked senators to dress up for Pie a Senator.

Director Thiel said he will be posting on the senate social media accounts urging students to attend Pie a Senator.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nomination and Confirmation of the Jurists of the Court

President Kiernan nominates - Siobhan O'Hagan, Rebecca Sama, Mary Kugler, Hannah Rhoades, and Julia Melendez

Results: Ayes: 28 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

The Nominations are Confirmed.

Nominations and Elections for At Large Representative (2)

Senator N Johnson nominated Fred Santoz. Seconded by Chair Tyson.

Results: Santos: 28 Abstentions: 0

Fred Santos is elected.

Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (3)

Chair Tyson nominated David Broccoli. Seconded by Chair Gibson

Chair Gibson nominated Brandon Perrone. Seconded by Chair Bove

Results: Broccoli: 28 Perrone: 28 Abstentions: 0

David Broccoli and Brandon Perrone are elected.

Nominations and Elections for College of Nursing Representative (1)

Nominations and Elections for the Elections Committee

Nominees: Vice President Gamache, Senator Montoya, Speaker Bove, Chair Tyson, Senator Peckham.

Results: Gamache: 28 Montoya: 28 Bove: 28 Tyson: 28 Peckham: 28

The nominees are elected.

Swearing in of New Senators

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-04 Resolution Calling for the University of Rhode Island to resume providing free RIPTA passes to students

Whereas, prior to 2020, the University of Rhode Island provided free access to public transportation for students without parking passes through the UPass Program in partnership with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), and

Whereas, simultaneously, the university offered a 50% subsidy on bus passes purchased in the Memorial Union for all members of the university community who were ineligible to receive a UPass, and

Whereas, beginning in the Fall 2020 semester the University of Rhode Island discontinued its participation in the UPass Program, leaving only the 50% subsidized fare products available to students, and

Whereas, a significant portion of the student body lacks access to a personal vehicle, relying on RIPTA for affordable transportation, and

Whereas, the Student Senate believes that every student at the University of Rhode Island should have free access to public transportation, and

Whereas, for these reason, in the fall of 2021 the Student Senate passed Senate Bill **SS-21/22-04** allocating \$5,000 in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs to restore free access to public transportation until the university could allocate resources to fund the program as part of the FY23 budget, and

Whereas, no action was taken from the University of Rhode Island to accept senate funds or to launch the program, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate denounces the university's lack of action in implementing Senate Bill **SS-21/22-04**, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate requests that the University of Rhode Island allocate funding in the FY23 budget to fully and permanently fund free access to public transportation for all students.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Senators Bose, Del Bonis, N. Johnson, Peckham, and Buono

BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove
 DATE: April 27, 2022
 RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)
 EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed
 ACTION: Vote Tonight

Bill Passes.

SS-22/23-05 Bill Allocating Funds for the Replacement of the WRIU Broadcast Tower

Whereas, prior to the start of the 2022 - 2023 academic year the WRIU broadcasting tower was heavily damaged by Tropical Storm Henri, and

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island has ruled the broadcast tower damaged beyond repair and a major safety threat to the Kingston Campus, and

Whereas, for this reason the tower will need to be demolished and replaced, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that a total not to exceed \$800,000 shall be allocated from the Student Senate's Tax Apportionment Account to fund the replacement of the WRIU Broadcasting Tower, and be it further,

Resolved, that this allocation shall be made up of a \$400,000 grant and a \$400,000 loan which shall be repaid in the amount of \$22,500 annually over a period of 18 years, with payment being due on June 29th each year, and be it further,

Resolved, that should WRIU fail to make their payments on time, they may face consequences including but not limited to, late fees, the freezing of their Student Senate accounts, and other consequences which may become necessary as deemed by the Student Senate. Any consequences shall come from the recommendation of the Student Senate President, and shall be subject to approval by the Assembly, and be it further, Resolved, that there will be a minimum payment required of \$22,500 due by June 1st each year, and be it further, Resolved, that failure to pay the minimum payment will result in a fine of up to 10% of the annual payment due, which is equivalent to the amount of \$2,250. Late fees will be applied through the following scale, and be it further,

Balance Paid (\$)	Late Fee Associated (%) Late Fee Amount (\$)
<\$13,500	10% \$2,250
\$13,500-\$15,749	8% \$1,800
\$15,749-\$17,999	6% \$1,350
\$18,000-\$20,249	4% \$900
\$20,250-\$22,499	2% \$450
>=\$22,500	0% \$0

Resolved, that all late fees if assessed are due on the third Wednesday of December every calendar year. Failure to pay the late fee by the due date will result in additional fees and potential disciplinary action from the Student Senate. All additional fines are to be of an amount determined by the Student Senate President, subject to approval by the Assembly. The Director of Treasury may also impose a freeze to WRIU's Student Senate monetary accounts if it is determined by the Treasury Committee that WRIU has not paid off the late fee associated with a late payment by the due date. Any action taken by the Director of Treasury or the Treasury Committee to freeze or unfreeze WRIU's accounts shall be subject to approval by the Assembly, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate reserves the right to impose fee penalties per the Student Senate Finance Handbook, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate will receive a report from the Director of Treasury relating to WRIU's financial due diligence which will be discussed and accepted at the last meeting of each spring semester, and be it further,

Resolved, that any contract signed between representatives of the Student Senate, including university employees and officials and WRIU in relation to this allocation will require assembly approval in order to take effect.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chair Gibson, Chadronet, Senators Buono and Del Bonis

BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove (Cabinet)

DATE: April 27th, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Speaker Bove motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Scotti.

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

SS-21/22-06 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “ENRESA” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “ENRESA” mission statement is, “to provide academic support for students within our major and similar majors. We aim to provide a space where students can form study groups with other students, meet students in similar classes, and learn from their peers and older students. We also want to form connections with faculty within the department, students pursuing higher degrees within the department, and with alumni through career panels and research presentations”, and

Whereas, ENRESA 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 ENRESA as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that ENRESA is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Gibson

DATE: April 27, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Gibson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Scotti.

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

SS-22/23-07 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “APES” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “APES” mission statement is, “The URI Animal Protection & Environmental Safety society is committed to providing students with accurate information relating to the food they consume and its impact on themselves, various species, and the environment. It will also be a safe space for people who have ethical/moral concerns revolving around human - animal interaction (especially in terms of animal agriculture) to come together and work towards creating a future that respects all forms of life and the environment we all inhabit. It should be noted that we don't believe in forcing ideas on other students and respect individual choice, but we do think consumers deserve to know the impacts their decisions can have on the world around us. Our mission is to positively impact people, both on campus and around the world, by supporting a cruelty-free system through consumer choice, education, and by providing transitional assistance!”, and

Whereas, APES 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 APES as a recognized

organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that APES is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Gibson

DATE: April 27, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Gibson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Scotti.

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

SS-22/23-08 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Arts and Crafts Club” mission statement is, “to provide students with a positive space to craft and meet new friends. Members are encouraged to work collaboratively to learn new crafts and skills”, and

Whereas, Arts and Crafts Club 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 Arts and Crafts Club as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Arts and Crafts Club is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Gibson

DATE: April 27, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

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

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Dr. Stiles: Thank you to everyone who has done a great job this April and for the work you've done / appreciate the support of WRIU / send updated photo for the web page / have an amazing couple of days / \$75 to work commencement day

VP: participate in my mile walk for domestic violence

Bove: we have achieved so much and congratulations on a great year!

N. ADJOURNMENT - 8:30pm