



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 September 7, 2022

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

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Bailey, Bose, Bove, Breene, Broccoli, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Cronan, Del Bonis, Emison, Galliano, Gibson, James, Johnson N, Johnson V, Leggett, Montoya, Peckham, Perrone, Rudolph, Santos, Summerson, Sutton, Waryas.

Absent: Breese, Cushman, Goswami, Johnson O, Monzon, Myers, Newman, Palmer, Piacentini, Rizk, Scotti, Tyson (Excused).

Guests: Stiles, Kiernan, Gamache, Hoover, Theil, Eustis, Njeru.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Speaker Bove motioned to add prospective senate candidates wishing to speak to Public Forum.

Second by Senator N Johnson.

Motion Passes.

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

Senator Gibson – motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Senator Summerson.

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Peckham wished senators a happy first day of classes.

F. PUBLIC FORUM .

Students interested in running for Student Senate introduced themselves.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Gibson reported that Monday will be the first Presidents meeting of the year and she urged senators to attend. She also stated that she will be introducing legislation to change the i-Stand training requirements for clubs.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Summerson urged students to come to her if they have any academic concerns, and also asked committee members to respond to her emails.

- External Affairs Committee

Senator Montoya reported that the External Affairs Committee is planning a voter registration drive ahead of the November General Election. He also reported that the committee is planning a Narragansett neighborhood cleanup.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Senator Bailey reported that National Hispanic Heritage month is coming up, and that a block party will be held on Sep 16 to celebrate. She also asked committee members to respond to Chair Tyson's emails.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Chadonet urged senators to support Speaker Bove's bus pass legislation. He asked committee members to see him after adjournment.

- Executive Committee
- President Kiernan welcomed senators back to the chamber.
- Vice President Gamache reported that she is not enforcing office hours this week. She asked cabinet members and committee chairs to write their hours on the white board in the office, and stated she will have a new QR code for general senators to log their hours soon.
- Director Hoover reported that he is currently planning a finance training with Cheryl. He also recently met President Parlange, and stated that he wants senate to be more visible this year.
- Director Thiel reported that he is currently working on social media posts.
- Director Eustis stated that he wants senate to be more active this year and told senators to be on the look out for important announcements.
- Director Njeru reported that he wants to start initiatives for new senators such as bill writing tutorials.
- Speaker Bove asked senators to see him after adjournment if they have not yet been assigned to a committee.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee - Speaker Bove reported that the declaration period for fall elections is now open. He further reported that he will be looking for senators to work election information booths.

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Swearing in of new Senators

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-09 Bill Calling for the Allocation of \$5,000 from Student Senate Tax Accounts to Partially Fund a Pilot Program in Partnership with the Division of Student Affairs to Provide Free Access to Public Transportation for 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, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate will allocate funding from its Student Activities Tax Accounts in the amount of \$5,000 to establish a pilot program in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs to provide students free RIPTA bus passes, and be it further,

Resolved, that funding provided through this pilot program may only be used by students seeking to purchase up to 10 ride single ride fare products from the university, and be it further,

Resolved, that funding for this program is contingent on a matching of funds from the Division of Student Affairs, and be it further,

Resolved, that this bill terminates Student Senate Bill **SS-21/22-04**.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chairs Tyson, Chadronet, Senators Del Bonis, and Emison

BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove

DATE: September 7, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)

ACTION: Vote Next Week

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm.