



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 14, 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,, Cronan, Del Bonis, Emison, Galliano, Gibson, Goswami, James, Johnson N, Johnson V, Montoya, Palmer, Peckham, Perrone, Piacentini, Rudolph, Scotti, Summerson, Sutton, Tyson, Waryas..

Absent: Johnson O, Leggett, Myers, Newman, Santos.

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

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

Chair Gibson motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Chair Summerson.

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM .

Joe Paradise - Director of Transportation and Parking Services

Michael Jagoda - Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

Chief Jagoda introduced himself to senate, and outlined his role as URI's Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety,

Senator Goswami asked if the public safety department is working on improving the safety of URI parking lots and in the Memorial Union.

Chief Jagoda responded that public safety is working on improving the blue lights across campus, and installing new surveillance systems.

Speaker Bove remarked that a sitting Chief of Police has not visited the senate in several years, and thanked the chief for his time.

Senator Peckham agreed and thanked the chief for coming.

Director Paradise gave an update on changes made to the parking services over the summer, including the construction of a new parking lot, changing the rules of the Brookside Hall parking lot, and changes to the shuttle routes.

Speaker Bove asked if residents of Brookside Hall can still have their visitors park in the guest lot next to the Brookside lot.

Director Paradise answered yes.

President Kiernan asked if Keaney is for both commuter and resident parking.

Director Paradise answered yes.

Senator Bailey asked about the possibility of shifting ore parking spaces in the Fine Arts Lot from faculty parking to students parking.

Director Paradise responded that it is an issue for the faculty unions.

Senator Montoya asked who he should speak to about this issue.

Director Paradise suggested that he should speak to union leaders.

Director Paradise then shared the details of an incident in which a student with a disability was denied access to a shuttle due to a driver refusing to accommodate her wheelchair. He stated that the student was accommodated on the next shuttle, the drivers have been retrained on the use of wheelchair lifts, and that the student had been given a formal apology.

Speaker Bove responded that he was aware of the issue and thanked the director for his fast and appropriate response to the situation and commended his willingness to intervene on behalf of students with disabilities.

Senator James asked Chief Jagoda if he was aware of incidents of individuals coming on RIPTA busses from Providence and doing drugs in the Memorial Union restrooms.

The chief responded that he is aware and that the department is working to address the issues.

Chief Jagoda also informed the senate that the state is threatening to tow vehicles left unattended by students at the Kingston Train Station, and said that he would be releasing a URI communications about the issue.

Speaker Bove thanked Chief Jagoda and Director Paradise for their time.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Gibson reported that a student organizations fair will be held on October 6, 2022 from 11:30am - 1:30pm, and asked senators to sign up in the email Speaker Bove sent out on her behalf. She also asked senators to support her bill on the floor.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Summerson stated that she hopes everyone is doing well in classes, and reported that her committee will soon begin planning this year's Women's Summit. She asked senators to let her know if they are interested in helping. She also asked college representatives to see her after adjournment..

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Scotti reported that his committee will be meeting Wednesdays at 3pm, and also that his committee is planning a voter registration drive.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson reported that Hispanic Heritage Month starts tomorrow. She reported that she is having an event in the Union on Friday from 10am - 12pm, and also stated that she is planning a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Town Hall on October 13th at 6pm.

Senator Montoya asked if he needs to pre register for the town hall event.

Chair Tyson said yes for fire safety reasons.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Chadonet reported that his committee is starting preparations for the Blue Light Walk. He also said he will be speaking to Memorial Union staff to keep the building's restrooms stocked with Aunt Flow feminine hygiene products.

- Executive Committee
- President Kiernan said that the Dean of Students is looking to have students on several board and commissions throughout the university. She spoke with Carl and they agreed that it would be nice to have some students outside of senate serve in those roles. She asked senators to share with their friends and let her know if anyone is interested.
- Vice President Gamache reported that the QR code for logging office hours has been posted.
- Director Hoover reminded senators that if they are planning events, they should be submitting purchase requisitions ahead of time, and that check reimbursement should only be used in the event of emergencies.
- Director Thiel reported that he will be sending out the google form for senator spotlights, and asked senators to send him semi professional photos for Instagram.
- Director Eustis reported that he will be working on Fall Fest and sked senators to come to him with recommendations.
- Director Njeru reported that he is working on setting up a Bill Writing Workshop for new senators.
- Speaker Bove told senators to stop ignoring emails from their committee chairs, and also told everyone to check their emails to see the most up to date committee assignments. He held a moment of silence for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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

K. UNFINISHED 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 it's 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

Chair Chadronet motioned to correct the spelling of the word "on" in the second whereas. Seconded by Chair Summerson.

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-10 BILL CALLING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

Whereas, Article 6, Section 2, Line 2.6 of the Student Senate Bylaws states that "No student organization shall be recognized unless three (3) members of the executive board have received Bystander Awareness Training through the i-Stand Program", and

Whereas, Article 6, Section 2, Line 2.7 states that "Training sessions will be offered at the first and last Student Organizations Meeting of the year", and

Whereas these training sessions have not been provided at Student Organizations Meetings during recent terms and the existence of over 100 student organizations makes it logistically difficult to provide this training to at least three (3) members of each organization, and

Whereas, reducing the quantity of executive board members required to complete this training will enable the senate to more easily provide this training and enforce Article VI Section 2.6 of the Student Senate Bylaws, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that Article 6, Section 2, Line 2.6 of the Student Senate Bylaws be amended to require read as follows, “No student organization shall be recognized unless at least one (1) member of the executive board has received Bystander Awareness Training through the i-Stand Program”, and be it further,

Resolved, that the term “Student Organizations Meeting” in Article 6. Section 2, Line 2.7 pf the Student Senate Bylaws shall be replaced with “Presidents Meeting”, and be it further,

Resolved, that any and all instances in which the presiding officer of a special committee is referred to as the “Speaker” within the Student Senate Bylaws, shall be replaced with the term “Leader”.

SPONSORS:	Chairs Gibson, Tyson, Senators N. Johnson, Buono, Speaker Bove
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Gibson
DATE:	September 14, 2022
RECOMMENDATION:	(5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

SS-22/23-11 – RESOLUTION DENOUNCING THE TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT’S NEW AND PREVIOUS STUDENT RENTAL POLICIES

Whereas, the town board of Narragansett has continued to make controversial decisions regarding college students and Narragansett, in which decisions have resulted in having a large negative impact on University of Rhode Island Students (URI), who live off campus in the beachside town. URI estimates that over 8,000 Students’ live off campus in Narragansett each year. Therefore, Students’ are not only just living in Narragansett, they are an economic resource to the town when the beach season rush burns out. However, Narragansett does not see this from their perspective, and continues to create policies that make Students’ feel more unwelcome each year they return. The three Student housing ordinance is a great example of the town's campaign to get college Students’ out. What this ordinance does is limit the number of Students’ that can rent a house to three. Therefore, it squashes any opportunity for rent to be cheaper for Students’ as they are not able to rent a house with more than three students.

Not to mention, Narragansett does not care about this. When this ordinance went into effect, it was said that it was because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Students' now see the true reason the ordinance was passed, which is hiding in plain sight. That is what the Student Senate defines as the Get College Students Out of Narragansett initiative, and

Whereas, Narragansett has made it a mission to find ways to make the town a sanctuary for individuals who are not college Students'. This has made the town more and more difficult for Students' to live in. Another great example of this is the closed meeting that occurred on August 15th, in which the town is now demanding that all realtors give the names and the addresses of Students' who are renting out properties. The town is also sending building inspectors to homes without warrants, and attempting to gain entry by taking advantage of individuals who are not aware of the current situation. While undoubtedly a privacy breach, this decision was made quietly, with no Student or parent input. A decision, which is a product of individuals who do not care about URI Students, and

Whereas, the URI Student Senate understands the undertaking of having 8,000 plus seasonal individuals influx the town from September to May, and is in no way downplaying said undertaking, and

Whereas, the Student Senate continues to be appalled by the decisions happening at 25 5th Avenue, and sees no other way to address the issues other than publicly recognizing, informing Students', and promoting positive change and results, now therefore it be,

Resolved, that the URI Student Senate officially denounces the town of Narragansett's three person ordinance, student information and inspection policies. These decisions were made without merit, input from Students and parents, or any regard for URI Students', and be it further

Resolved, that the URI Student Senate will increase its presence, dialogue and will encourage Students to get involved in its external affairs with the town of Narragansett to create additional resources for Students' who may believe their, what is supposed to be, positive off campus experience is being affected by the town, and it be it further,

Resolved, that the URI Student Senate recommends Students' shift their focus from Narragansett and explore what the surrounding towns like South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Newport, etc. have to offer. If the town fails to realize what good Students can bring to the community, it is time to say enough, and take your business to towns that would embrace it. Narragansett has chosen to not listen to Students', hear Students' out, and worst of all they have chosen to blatantly disregard Student opinions. Therefore, you as a Student should act and take your business elsewhere. To show Narragansett that during the off season, Students' fuel the town, and that without URI Students', the town would not be what it is today.

SPONSORS: VDOT Bose, Chair Scotti, Senators Palmer, Peckham, and Emison
BILL HANDLER: VDOT Bose (Director Hoover)
DATE: Wednesday, September 7th, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: (6 – 0 – 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Summerson motioned to table. Seconded by Chair Gibson.
Motion Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Speaker Bove offered time to prospective senate candidates to speak.
Senator Sutton stated that the suicide hotline phone number on the back of URI ID's is wrong.
Dr. Stiles offered Speaker Bove a foam gavel as a gift..

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.