



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 21, 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, Johnson N, Johnson V, Leggett, Montoya, Newman, Peckham, Perrone, Rudolph, Summerson, Tyson.

Absent: Breese, Cushman, Goswami, James, Johnson O, Myers, Newman, Palmer, Piacentini, Santos, Scotti, Sutton, Waryas

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

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Gibson motioned to accept the agenda. Seconded by Senator Montoya.

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

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

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Bove welcomed Vice President Ellen Reynolds to the chamber and informed the senate that she has recently earned her doctorate in higher education.

F. PUBLIC FORUM .

Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs

Vice President Reynolds reintroduced herself for newer members of the Senate. She then gave an update relating

to the Counseling Center's efforts to expand access to mental health services through a third party virtual operator. She then spoke about the ongoing search the university is conducting with Issacs and Miller to find a new permanent Vice President for Student Affairs. She then reported that the university has made housing its top priority for the upcoming year, and that they are evaluating plans for constructing a new residence hall. Finally she spoke about her plans to form a new student advisory group to personally advise her on issues relating to student affairs and explained that she intends to appoint students from different organizations across campus including senate.

Chair Chadronet expressed concerns that a new student advisory committee may subvert the Campus Affairs Committee in helping to set policy on campus.

Vice President Reynolds replied that the committee will serve an informal role and that the senate will still be consulted before official decisions are made.

Vice President Gamache asked if the Division of Student Affairs will be doing anything to address the current issues with the Dining Services budget

Vice President Reynolds replied that Dining Services has seen a larger increase in expenses than any other department at URI. She further stated that it is likely that Dining Services will need to raise fees again in the upcoming fiscal year.

Speaker Bove asked Vice President Reynolds if she would commit to attending a senate meeting with Director St-Germaine to discuss dining plans before they are finalized.

Vice President Reynolds replied that she absolutely would.

Senator Bailey asked if the new virtual counseling services are administered by URI.

Vice President Reynolds said no, but that the service is run by licensed mental health counselors employed by a third party company.

President Kiernan thanked Vice President Reynolds for her time and expressed that she is looking forward to their next meeting.

Vice President Reynolds reminded senators to watch President Parlange's inauguration tomorrow.

Dr. Stiles stated that the ceremony will be livestreamed for anyone not attending in person.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Gibson reminded senators to sign up for the Student Organizations fair on October 6th.

- Academic Affairs Committee
Chair Summerson reminded senators who represent a college that they must meet with their College Dean at least once a month.
- External Affairs Committee
Chair Scotti reported that a judge has suspended Naragansett's three student housing ordinance.
- Cultural Affairs Committee
Chair Tyson thanked the senators who attended last week's Cultural Committee event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. She then reminded senators to attend her upcoming Diversity and Inclusion Town Hall with President Parlange and other university officials on October 13 at 6:30pm in the Swan Hall Auditorium.

Chair Summerson remarked that It would be great if senators could make it a priority to attend events put on by committees they do not serve on.
- Campus Affairs Committee
Chair Chadronet said that the Blue Light Walk will be held on either October 18th or 25th. He also reported that he will be meeting with Frankie Minor to discuss the safety of communal showers in the residence halls.
- Executive Committee
- President Kiernan gave an update on Fall Fest.
- Vice President Gamache reminded senators to log their office hours, and stated that she will excuse any senator who attends Fall Fest from office hours for a week.
- Director Thiel reminded senators to fill out the senator spotlight form.
- Director Eustis stated that Halloween has been voted as the best holiday, and also that he will be working with a committee of senators to plan fall fest.
- Director Njeru reported that the bill writing workshop will be postponed until after elections.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

K. UNFINISHED 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 of 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 Tonight

Bill Passes.

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-12 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Best Buddies” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Best Buddies” mission statement is, “Best Buddies gives you the opportunity to change a life and have a positive effect within the local community. The URI chapter of best buddies strives to make a difference in the college community as well as the surrounding towns by aligning themselves with local people with intellectual and physical disabilities to help them create one on one friendships, that teach both people patience, confidence and understanding”, and

Whereas, Best Buddies 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 Best Buddies as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Best Buddies is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$75 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Gibson

DATE: Wednesday, September 21, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: (7-0-0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION: Vote Next Week

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

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

SS-22/23-13 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “MSAC” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “MSAC” mission statement is, “to build a community of empowerment of every minority student athlete and to let their voice be heard”, and

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

Resolved, that MSAC is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$75 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Gibson

DATE: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (7-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

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

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm.