



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 October 5, 2022**

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

### **B. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Bose, Myers, Palmer, Scotti (excused).

Guests: Kiernan, Gamache, Eustis, Njeru, Stiles, Parlange, Reynolds.

### **C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Summerson motioned to accept the agenda. Seconded by Chair Chadronet.

*Motion Passes.*

### **D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -**

Chair Summerson motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Senator Peckham.

*Motion Passes.*

### **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice President Gamache asked senators to fill in their birthday on the senate birthday form.

Chair Tyson announced that Chair Gibson's birthday was yesterday.

Chair Gibson announced that Chair Chadronet's birthday was Saturday.

Speaker Bove welcomed President Parlange to the chamber.

## **F. PUBLIC FORUM**

President Parlange gave a report on the state of the university. The President discussed URI's growing enrollment, the work the university is doing to help the State of Rhode Island grow into the Blue Economy, URI's finances and priorities, new senior leadership hires, and other important issues the university is facing.

Senator Montoya stated that the university currently does not offer financial aid to international undergraduate students, and asked if the President has any plans to address this issue.

President Parlange said that he would look into the issue.

Chair Summerson pointed out that in the President's remarks he stated that inclusivity is a top priority for the university, and then asked if the President plans to address the accessibility issues in many academic buildings that prevent their use by students with disabilities.

President Parlange replied that the university is working hard to address this issue and that it is merely a matter of financial resources with deferred maintenance at URI totalling more than \$220 Million.

Senator O Johnson expressed concern about the Board of Trustees' recent decision to increase tuition and fees for the upcoming fiscal year, and asked if there will also be an increase in Financial Aid to keep URI accessible to low income students.

President Parlange replied that the rise in tuition is a result of unprecedented inflation, and also insufficient funding from the State of Rhode Island. He stated that the university does plan to increase financial aid, and that they are working to mitigate the cost burden on students to the best of their ability.

President Kiernan thanked President Parlange for coming and stated that it was an honor to speak at his inauguration.

Speaker Bove stated that he would vote yes on URI's Narragansett Bay Campus bond if President Parlange agrees to restore free RIPTA programs at the university. He thanked the President for his time and offered a round of applause from the chamber.

## **G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **- Student Organizations Committee**

Chair Gibson asked senators to sign up to work the Senate table at tomorrow's Student Organizations Fair from 11:30am - 1:30pm, and stressed the importance of the Senate having a presence at the event. She also urged senators to support the SOC bills on the floor tonight.

### **- Academic Affairs Committee**

Chair Summerson stated that college representatives have one more week to meet with their respective dean's and that she will be emailing anyone who hasn't done so next week. She also reported that midterms are coming up and reminded everyone to submit their academic complaints on the Senate website. She also asked everyone to follow Senator Buono's new Instagram account, @uriartsandsciences..

### **- External Affairs Committee**

Senator Montoya reported that voting information for each of the fifty states has been posted on the External Affairs Committee's Instagram page, and asked senators to share it. He also reported that the committee has observed an increase in the amount of stickers placed on party houses by local police departments. He also

reported that the committee is currently organizing surveys on parking and Narragansett housing ordinances.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson reported that the Cultural and Academic Affairs Committee will be jointly holding a lunch and learn tomorrow between 2-3pm. She also reported that a Diversity and Inclusion Town hall will be held next Thursday. Guests will include President Parlange, Vice President Reynolds, and MSSC Director Jean Nsabumuremyi. Chair Summerson urged everyone to go to tomorrow's lunch and learn, and stated there would be free Caliente.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Chadronet reported that plans are progressing for the Blue Light Walk which will take place on October 18th at 6pm. He also reported that the committee is working to address the issue of long lines at the Union Express and stated that he is working with HRL to install more Amazon lockers around campus.

Chair Gibson urged everyone to volunteer for the Blue Light Walk and remarked that it was super fun last year.

Speaker Bove asked Chair Chadronet how the Amazon lockers work.

Chair Chadronet said the committee is working on an information video showing how to use them.

- Executive Committee

President Kiernan gave an update on Fall Fest and reported that she talked with Gloria Gemma, a breast cancer charity, which we will be supporting as part of the fundraiser. She asked everyone to promote Fall Fest as much as possible.

Vice President Gamache reported that SEC will be providing caramel apples at Fall Fest.

Director Thiel reminded everyone to fill out the Senator Spotlight Google Form. He also reported that he will be working hard to promote Fall Fest.

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-22/23-14 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Dress History Association” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Dress History Association” mission statement is, “to explore and experience history in the form of dress. The organization intends to present itself as a way students can relax and learn in a safe and fun environment”, and

Whereas, Dress History Association 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 Dress History Association as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Dress History Association 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, October 5, 2022  
RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)  
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-22/23-15 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Science Fiction and Supernatural Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Science Fiction and Supernatural Club” mission statement is, “to unite students via a shared interest in science fiction and/or the supernatural in media, in theory, and as a subject”, and

Whereas, Science Fiction and Supernatural 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 Science Fiction and Supernatural Club as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Science Fiction and Supernatural Club 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, October 5, 2022  
RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)  
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-22/23-16 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “The Women’s Network” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “The Women’s Network” mission statement is, “to connect collegiate women to industry leaders and professionals, develop professional and leadership skills, and to celebrate ambition”, and

Whereas, The Women’s Network 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 The Women’s Network as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that The Women’s Network 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, October 5, 2022  
RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)  
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-22/23-17 – BILL CALLING FOR THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2023 BUDGET IN REGARDS TO THE GOOD FIVE CENT CIGAR’S STIPENDS**

Whereas, during the FY 2023 budget process, there was an overlooked stipend inaccuracy within the following positions of The Good Five Cent Cigar

1 Web Editor:  
Current Stipend: \$75  
Agreed To Stipend: \$100

1 News Editor:  
Current Stipend: \$100  
Agreed To Stipend: \$125

Whereas, in consultation with the Editor and Chief of the Good Five Cent Cigar, the Director and Vice Director of the Treasury wish to honor their original agreement, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the FY 2023 budget be amended to reflect these stipend increases for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective immediately, with the raises being reflected in the October 25th stipend payments.

SPONSORS: Treasury Committee  
BILL HANDLER: VDOT Bose (Director Hoover)  
DATE: October 5th, 2022  
RECOMMENDATION: (3-0-0)  
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Budget

ACTION:

Vote Next Week

Speaker Bove gave a report on the bill in the absence of the DOT and VDOT.  
Speaker Bove motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Gibson.  
*Motion Passes.*  
*Bill Passes.*

**L. NEW BUSINESS**

**M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

**N. ADJOURNMENT** - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm.