



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 12, 2022

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

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Bailey, Bose, Bove, Breene, Breese, Buono, Chadronet, Cronan, Del Bonis, Emison, Galliano, Gibson, James, Johnson N, Johnson V, Montoya, Palmer, Peckham, Perrone, Piacentini, Rudolph, Scotti, Summerson, Tyson, Waryas.

Absent: Broccoli, Collins, Goswami (excused), Johnson O, Leggett, Myers, Sutton.

Guests: Ramsdell, Ranaldi, Stiles, Kiernan, Gamache, Hoover, Eustis, Njeru.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Chadronet motioned to amend the agenda to reflect that **SS-22/23-20** now has eight sponsors . Seconded by Chair Summerson.

Motion Passes.

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Bove announced that tomorrow is Chair Tyson's birthday.

President Kiernan announced that Fall Fest will be postponed indefinitely with more information to follow.

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Paige Ramsdell - Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Disability Access and Inclusion

Director Ramsdell introduced herself to the senate. She then gave a report on the work that the Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion has been doing in recent years to serve students with disabilities. She provided an update on trends that her office has observed and gave remarks about the unprecedented increase of students seeking accommodations in recent years. She reported that for the first time in her tenure the DAI office is fully staffed. She concluded her report by sharing DAI's mission statement and the office's guiding values.

Director Hoover stated that he realizes there is a difference between seeking DAI consultations and seeking access accommodations, and asked if there will be a way to clarify the differences for students.

Director Ramsdell said that they intentionally use the term "consultation" broadly so that student don't feel discouraged from reaching out for help regardless of the type of help they are looking for. She stated that there is a discussion to be had with students about better defining the types of work the office does.

Senator Piacentini shared that she had a very poor experience with the Disability Services Office at another institution and that she was nervous about seeking services at URI. She remarked that DAI has been very helpful and stated that she is very thankful for the work that the office is doing

Speaker Bove asked what the senate can do to advocate for DAI.

Ramsdell replied that she has never felt more supported administratively than this past month, and that Vice President Sean Rodgers has been a great supporter. She stated that DAI now has the best reporting system that they have ever had and that the best way the senate can support DAI is by encouraging students to hold the community accountable.

Senator Bailey: asked if what she should do if she has a professor who is not allowing students with DAI accommodations extended time on exams because they already have a significant amount of extra time allotted to all students to complete the test.

Director Ramsdell stated that while it is important that students receive enough time on the exam.

Senator Breene asked if students who have already been onboarded but go several months without seeking accommodations need to repeat the on boarding process in order to begin receiving accommodations again.

Director Ramsdell replied that students would not need to repeat the onboarding process.

Speaker Bove stated that in his role he frequently looks for issues at the university that need to be fixed, but throughout his four years here, he has never once had an issue with DAI. He thanked Director Ramsdell for her service to all students with disabilities, and commended the DAI staff for their outstanding performance.

Director Ramsdell replied that it is a pleasure to serve.

Keith Ranaldi - Interim Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Director Ranaldi introduced himself to the senate as an adjunct professor in the College of Business, and as the Interim Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at URI. He outlined a potential relationship between the the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the College of Business, and the Student Senate to collect data about issues facing students at URI. He spoke about an accelerated j-term class he will be teaching relating to data collection, and expressed that he is looking forward to working with the Senate.

Senator V Johnson urged students to get involved in the College of Business's XR lab.

Speaker Bove expressed his support for this proposed partnership, and he thanked Director Ranaldi for coming to address the Senate.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

- Chair Gibson reported that her committee has several bills on the floor and urged senators to support them. She also announced that she will be graduating in December and stated that anyone interested in running to be the next SOC chair should reach out to her so that she can train them. She also reported that she believes it has become too easy for groups to qualify for, and maintain Senate recognition, and that the committee is looking at ways to address this.

- Academic Affairs Committee

- Chair Summerson reminded senators of the importance of submitting academic complaints when professors need to be held accountable. She also asked senators to reach out to her if they are interested in helping to plan this year's Women's Summit. She stated that you do not need to be a woman to help plan the event.

- External Affairs Committee

- Chair Scotti reported that his committee is continuing to develop plans for a community clean up that is to

be held in Narragansett in November.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

- Chair Tyson reminded everyone that her diversity and inclusion town hall is tomorrow. She stated that if a senator cannot go, they should still submit a question, that would be helpful. Next week the committee will be holding a donation drive for a local refugee center in collaboration with PINK. She urged senators to donate any gently used clothing they can give.

- Campus Affairs Committee

- Chair Chadronet reminded everyone that the Blue Light Walk will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 6:00pm. He is also working with the Union Express to address the issues of long lines to pick up mail.

- Executive Committee

- President Kiernan told everyone to remind their friends of the importance of not getting in trouble with the local police, and stressed the importance of a good relationship with the Town of Narragansett in order to prevent the pagged of a two student housing ordinance.
- Vice President Gamache urged senators to sign up for the Women's Summit committee. She also said that senators who have not been logging tier office hours will be receiving an email from her.
- Director Hoover reported that the College of Business is doing Linkedin photos tomorrow, and stated that he is looking for senate to hold a similar type of event.
- 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

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-18 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URISLHA” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URISLHA (URI Student Speech Language Hearing Association)” mission statement is, “to promote the field of speech-language pathology and audiology, assist students with their academics, share important information with CMD faculty, and encourage networking and communication among other students in the major. Our goal is to create a space where CMD students can motivate each other to become successful in their field.”, and

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

Resolved, that URISLHA 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: October 12, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 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-22/23-19 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “South Asian Student Association” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “South Asian Student Association (SASA)” mission statement is, “Serve as a social network, cultural foundation, support system and to be an inclusive, communal, welcoming, and safe space for students of South Asian heritage, identify as South Asian, or have an interest in South Asian culture and history. Our goal is to build a community where members of all South Asian ethnicities, religions, regions, and languages are equitably represented and supported. This representation should materialize in the variety and quality of cultural events, religious ceremonies, humanitarian causes, and educational discussions that we organize, support, and promote”, and

Whereas, South Asian Student 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 South Asian Student Association as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that South Asian Student 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: October 12, 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.

SS-22/23-20 Resolution Calling for Housing and Residential Life to Add Vending Machines to Brookside Residence Hall

Whereas, approximately five hundred students reside in Brookside Hall, and

Whereas, Brookside hall is one of the farther residence halls from the Kingston Emporium, and

Whereas, food and beverages are not always accessible to students, and

Whereas, there is empty space next to the elevators on the first floor in either tower, and Whereas, various students living in Brookside Hall have voiced a need for both food and beverage vending machines, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the Student Senate calls on Housing and Residential Life to install at least one vending machine that dispenses snacks and at least one vending machine that dispenses beverages in Brookside Hall.

SPONSORS: Campus Affairs Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chair Chadronet

DATE: October 12, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (8 - 0 - 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove at 7:28pm..