



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 26, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER - Speaker Bove called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Bailey, Barbosa, Bose, Bove, Breene, Breese, Buono, Chadronet, Cronan, Del Bonis, Emison, Galliano, Gibson, Goswami, James, Johnson N, Johnson V, Mehorter, Mayers, Milner, Montoya, Palmer, Peckham, Piacentini, Rathbun, Reyes, Rudolph, Scotti, Stahl, Summerson, Tyson.

Absent: Broccoli (excused), Collins, Oydele, Perrone (excused), Sutton, Waryas.

Guests: Kiernan, Gamache, Njeru, Stiles.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Montoya motioned to move special orders to follow public forum. Seconded by Senator Bose.

Motion Passes.

Chair Gibson motioned to strike Bill **SS-22/23-24** from the agenda. Seconded by Senator Montoya.

Motion Passes.

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

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Gibson announced that senate assassins will be starting next week. She reminded senators to fill out the google form sign up sheet before November 2nd at 12:00pm if they want to participate. She urged everyone to support the committee's bill on the floor.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Summerson reported that a COVID booster and flu shot clinic will be held on Halloween, and also reminded senators that registration for J-term classes will open on the same day.

- External Affairs Committee

Senator Montoya reported that there is a google form sign up form now available for anyone who wants to volunteer for the committee's neighborhood cleanup in Narragansett. He also reported that both he and Chair Scotti are graduating in May, and urged anyone thinking about running to be the next External Chair should reach out for training.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Tyson reported that there is a donation box in the Student Senate office for senators wishing to donate gently used clothing. The donation drive is being held by the committee to benefit a local refugee shelter. Additionally Chair Tyson reminded senators of the importance of choosing appropriate costumes for Halloween and to make sure they are not appropriating anyone's culture. Finally, she stated that anyone who is interested in running to be the next Cultural Affairs Chair should make it a priority to attend the committee's events.

Dr. Stiles asked Chair Tyson how individual's should respond if they see someone wearing a costume that is appropriating someone's culture.

Chair Tyson recommended talking to the person in question in a calm manner and tell them how their costume might be harmful to others and urge them to change into something else.

Dr. Stiles remarked that Chair Tyson gave a perfect answer and thanked her for her response.

Senator Reyes asked if it is possible for newly sworn in senators to run in committee chair elections.

Chair Tyson replied that while new senators are technically eligible, she would urge them to take more time to learn more about how the senate works before taking on leadership.

President Kiernan stated that new senators may also consider becoming a committee vice chair.

Chair Tyson yielded time to Senator Breene.

Senator Breene reported that Hillal is holding a history of fashion show on November 17th and stated that they are looking for students who are interested in modeling.

- Campus Affairs

Chair Chadronet reported that he is working with Chair Tyson to hold a narcan training for all interested students. He reported that he intends to introduce resolutions relating to shower stall doors and dining issues next week.

- Executive Committee

President Kiernan stated that she would be looking to launch some new senate programs and that she would love to hear from any senators who have ideas about things the senate should be doing. She also reported that there will be leadership training in Brookside Hall for sophomores next weekend, and told any interested students to reach out to her. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of senators choosing culturally appropriate costumes for Halloween, and remarked that as the representatives of the student body we have to be extra mindful of our conduct.

Vice President Gamache reported that she is working with Director Njeru and Speaker Bove to hold a new senator orientation and that more details will be coming soon. She reported that there will be a vigil for victims of domestic violence tomorrow. Finally she told the senate about RhodyServes, a new volunteering program that University is doing to help people in need, and expressed that she would like to see the senate get involved with the program.

Director Njeru reported that his bill writing workshop was successful and read out this week's senate kudos.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Swearing in of New Senators

Nominations and Elections for At Large Representative (2)

Senator Palmer nominated Mia Confessore. Seconded by Chair Summerson.

Senator Montoya nominated Leslie Pineda Hernandez. Seconded by Senator Bailey.

Total Votes: Confessore: 22 Hernandez: 22 Abstentions: 2

Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (1)

Nominations and Elections for College of Nursing Representatives (1)

Nominations and Elections for College of Health Studies Representative (1)

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-23 Resolution Calling for Faculty Senate Action to Address Student Attendance Policy at the University of Rhode Island

Whereas, the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions have loosened, attendance policy at the university has varied among a majority of classes offered, and

Whereas, since the heightened precautions of spreading infectious diseases is still prevalent, there is a discomfort among students in regards to attending class when sick, and

Whereas, if a student has symptoms and is feeling unwell, going into a classroom setting puts other students at risk of contracting potential infectious diseases or illnesses, and

Whereas, due to the variety of attendance policies it is difficult for students to acquire excused absences for several classes in order to prevent the potential infection of other students, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate formally requests that the Faculty Senate implements a universal attendance policy among the majority of classes offered, and that faculty members utilize confirmation of an appointment and then followed by a written excuse of absence provided by Health Services or the Counseling Center,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate requests that this action be taken immediately and remain in effect permanently.

SPONSOR: Academic Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER: Senator Peckham
DATE: October 17, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: (6 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Senator Peckham remarked that this his her first bill and urged all senators to support it.

Bill Passes,

SS-22/23-25 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI Climbing Team” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URI Climbing Team” mission statement is, “To create a community within the University of Rhode Island where individuals with a passion for rock climbing are able to express themselves through weekly practices, training sessions, competitions as well as outdoor excursions. We will also provide training, teaching, and instruction to those new to the sport”, and

Whereas, URI Climbing Team 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 URI Climbing Team as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that URI Climbing Team 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 26, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: (6 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION: Vote Next Week

Speaker Bove asked why senate is recognizing a club sports team instead of CSIC.

Chair Gibson replied that clubs can only be recognized by CSIC after three years of being senate recognized.

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

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Speaker Bove stated that Director Njeru did a great job with the bill writing workshop and that it far exceeded his expectations.

Senator Bailey said that her club is looking for 3-4 students to volunteer to be judges for their upcoming dance event.

Senator Mayers asked if the senate will have a say in the attendance policy that was requested in Senate Resolution **SS-22/23-23**.

Chair Summerson said that she will be discussing the resolution with Faculty Senate.

Senator Montoya reported that he is working on a life skills workshop for students.

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.