



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 November 2, 2022

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

### **B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Bailey, Barbosa, Bose, Bove, Breene, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Confessore, Cronan, Emison, Galliano, Gibson, Hernandez, James, Johnson N, Johnson V, Mehorter, Mayers, Milner, Montoya, Oyedele, Palmer, Peckham, Perrone, Piacentini, Reyes, Rudolph, Scotti, Stahl, Summerson, Sutton, Tyson.

Absent: Breese, Broccoli (excused), Del Bonis (excused), Goswami (excused), Rathbun (excused), Waryas.

Guests: Kiernan, Gamache, Hoover, Njeru, Stiles.

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

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

*Motion Passes.*

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

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

*Motion Passes.*

### **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Speaker Bove announced that there will be no Senate meetings next week. All committee meetings are canceled, and office hours will not be required. He also announced that anyone looking to have their picture featured on the senate website should email [speaker@rhodysenate.org](mailto:speaker@rhodysenate.org).

### **F. PUBLIC FORUM**

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

- Student Organization Committee

- Chair Gibson stated that her committee has a bill on the floor to recognize the Pickleball Club, of which First Lady Mary Parlange is an advisor. She then explained the rules for Senate Assassins, which will be starting tomorrow at 12pm. Lastly she urged all senators to participate in a Planned Parenthood phonebank beginning at 5:30pm tomorrow in the Student Senate office.

- Academic Affairs Committee

- Chair Summerson stated that registration for J-term courses opened on Monday, and will remain open until January 1st. She also reported that the universal attendance resolution which was recently passed by the Senate will be discussed by Faculty Senate at their meeting on November 17th.

- External Affairs Committee

- Chair Scotti reminded everyone to sign up to volunteer for the committee's upcoming Narragansett neighborhood clean up. He reported that the sign up sheet has been sent out by Speaker Bove, and that it has also been sent in the General Assembly GroupMe chat.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

- Chair Tyson reported that she recently met with Dining Service Director Pierre St-Germain to discuss more culturally inclusive dining options as requested in the recent resolution the committee passed through the General Assembly. She reported that Dining Services is setting up a student advisory board to address the issue. Finally, she reported that members of her committee are working on the following events.

- Senator Bailey is looking for student judges for a multi cultural dance competition being held on November 29th.
- Senator Breene is looking for models for a Hallel fashion show being held on November 17th at 7pm.
- Senator Del Bonis is working in coordination with Chairs Tyson and Chadronet to organize a narcan training for any interested students.
- Finally, Chair Tyson reminded everyone that she is graduating in December, and that anyone interested in running to be the next Cultural Affairs chair should contact her for training.

- Campus Affairs Committee

- Chair Chadronet stated that his committee has two resolutions on the floor, and urged all senators to support them. He also reported that mail services is looking to install two new Amazon Lockers on campus, one in Hillside Hall and the other in Brookside Hall.

- Executive Committee

President Kiernan reminded everyone to take care of themselves, and to never hesitate to reach out to her for help. She also stated that she would like anyone who has ideas about issues the senate should be addressing to reach out to her.

Vice President Gamache reported that new senator orientation will be held on November 10th at 4pm.

Director Theil reported that he will be sending out the new senator spotlight form, and reminded senators that it is important that they fill it out.

DOC Thiel - resending senator spotlight form / only people who submit it will be posted

Director Njeru 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 (1)*

*Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (1)*

*Nominations and Elections for College of Nursing Representative (1)*

*Nominations and Elections for College of Health Sciences Representative (1)*

## K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### L. NEW BUSINESS

#### **SS-22/23-26 Bill Calling for the Allocation of \$3,660 to the Northwoods Challenge Course to Provide for the Completion of Deferred Maintenance Projects**

Whereas, on April 20, 2022, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate passed Senate Bill **SS-22/23-03** which provided for the allocation of \$20,000 from the Student Senate's Tax Apportionment Account to fund repairs and much needed maintenance at the Northwoods Challenge Course, and

Whereas, due to the rising cost of building material being seen across the country, the total cost for the maintenance projects is set to exceed the Senate's original allocation by \$3,660, and

Whereas, it is more cost effective to complete the needed repairs as part of one large project rather than continuing to defer maintenance to keep costs below \$20,000, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that an additional allocation shall be made from the Student Senate's Tax Apportionment Accounts to cover the remaining costs of the Northwoods Challenge Course's maintenance project in an amount not to exceed \$3,660.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chairs Summersonn, Gibson, Senators Peckham, and Palmer

BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove

DATE: November 2, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Speaker Bove expressed his support for the bill and stated that it will actually save the senate money in the long run.

President Kiernan urged all senators to vote in favor.

**SS-22/23-27 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI Pickleball Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “URI Pickleball Club” mission statement is, “to promote camaraderie amongst our student and associate members through the playing of the rapidly growing sport of pickleball”, and

Whereas, URI Pickleball 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 URI Pickleball Club as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that URI Pickleball 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: November 2, 2022  
RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)  
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition  
ACTION: Vote Next Week

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

*Motion Passes.*

*Bill Passes.*

**SS-22/23/28 Resolution Recommending the Installation Stall Doors in Residence Hall Bathrooms**

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island Department of Housing and Residential Life has asked the University of Rhode Island Student Senate for a recommendation on how to provide more bathroom security to address student safety concerns, and

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate’s Campus Affairs Committee was presented with two viable methods of securing bathrooms, and

Whereas, stall doors which are larger in size reduces the ability of others to reach over or under the door with a camera, and

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island Department of Housing and Residential Life has stated that installing new stall doors on showers and toilets in residence halls across campus would not affect the university's housing costs to students, and

Whereas, students across campus mainly agree that an improved physical barrier such as a large stall door on showers and toilets would make them feel safer, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate recommends installing tall stall doors in all residence hall showers and toilet stalls in publicly accessible bathrooms.

SPONSORS:                      Campus Affairs Committee  
BILL HANDLER:                Chair Chadronet  
DATE:                              November 2, 2022.  
RECOMMENDATION:        (8 - 0 - 0)  
EXPIRATION:                 Valid Until Reviewed  
ACTION:                         Vote Tonight

*Bill Passes.*

**SS-22/23-29 Resolution Calling for Dining Services to Revert to the 2021-2022 "Grab'N'Go" Dining System for the 2023-2024 Academic Year**

Whereas, the current dining dollars system is extremely unpopular and there have been numerous student and staff complaints about the unnecessary changes to the dining plan system affecting the 2022-2023 academic year, and

Whereas, Grab'N'Go Swipes offered convenient and cost efficient purchase options at various places across campus including Ram's Den and Pizza Express, and

Whereas, the act of phasing Ram Account out and supplementing it with Dining Dollars in the more affordable commuter plans locks student money into the Dining Services Auxiliary, and

Whereas, Ram Account provided off campus options for students who felt that their needs were not accommodated by Dining Services at no additional cost, and

Whereas, now students who have purchased any dining plan apart from the Campus Complete Plan have to pay extra out of pocket to eat off campus when not relying on dining services, and

Whereas, last year University of Rhode Island's Dining Services did not consult the Student Senate, the elected representatives of the student body designated to speak on all students' behalf, in the designing of the meal plans for the 2022-2023 academic year, and

Whereas, last year the University of Rhode Island Student Senate unanimously adopted Senate Resolution **SS-21/22-43**, which officially declared the Student Senate's opposition to the current Dining Plans, and denounced Dining Services for finalizing these plans without consulting the student body's elected representatives, and

Whereas, throughout the course of the current academic year, students have continued to express strong and consistent opposition to the Dining Dollars system, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate formally calls upon Dining Services to return to the 2021-2022 academic year meal plans, with price adjustments made to account for inflation and the rising costs of relevant goods needed for dining operations, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate reaffirms it's demand that the student body's elected representatives be consulted before the finalization of dining plans, as well as other important issues affecting students going forward.

SPONSORS:	Campus Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Chadronet
DATE:	November 2, 2022.
RECOMMENDATION:	(8 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Chair Chadronet expressed his support for the bill, and stated that it is important to pass it tonight because we are on a time crunch. He expressed that we must resolve this issue this year as next year's students will not be aware of the issue.

President Kiernan stated that she thinks this resolution is great and stressed its importance.

Vice President Gamache expressed her support for the resolution.

Chair Chadronet motioned to amend the resolution to change "2022-2023" in the first resolved to "2021-2022".  
Seconded by Chair Gibson.

Chair Tyson asked Chair Chadronet if he would be willing to work with her on a bill to create a new liaison to Dining Services.

Senator Peckham yielded the floor to Director Hoover/

Director Hoover expressed his support for potential legislation creating a dining liaison.

Speaker Bove stated that the position of Dining Services liaison already exists, and that Chair Chadronet merely needs to appoint someone.

Chair Chadronet motioned to call the question. Seconded by Senator Palmer

*Motion Passes.*

*Bill Passes.*

## **M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

Chair Gibson asked if there is anyone in the chamber who wants to participate in Senate Assassins that has not signed up.

Speaker Bove asked the two newly sworn in senators to see him after adjournment.

Senator Bono recognized Chair Chadronet's hard work in getting tonight's resolutions passed.

Senator Mayers stated that he would like to work with the Campus Affairs and External Affairs Committee to create a new Greek Life Liaison.

President Kiernan stated that the position already exists and that she is working with Chair Scotti to find someone to fill it.

Senator Montoya reported that he is moving forward with his life skills training and that he plans to make it a series. He asked anyone who has ideas about skills to cover to reach out to him.

Dr. Stiles listed the following, dining, disability service, gender and sexuality, parking, public safety, wellness, and financial aid, as liaison positions previously created by the Senate.

**N. ADJOURNMENT** - Speaker Bove adjourned at 7:27pm