



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 February 8, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER - Speaker Bove called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Bailey, Barbosa, Bose, Bove, Breene, Buono, Chadronet, Collins, Cronan, DeLorenzo, Dumas, Galliano, Goswami, James, N. Johnson, Mehorter, Mayers, Milner, Montoya, Newman, Peckham, Piacentini, Rathbun, Reyes, Rudolph, Scotti, Small.

Absent: Confessore, V. Johnson, Palmer, Sama, Stahl, Summerson, Sutton.

Guests: Hoover, Stiles, Jagoda, Minor.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Chadronet motioned to amend the agenda to reduce the amount of At Large seats in special orders from two seats to one. Seconded by Senator Breene.

Motion Passes.

Senator Rudolph motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Senator Newman.

Motion Passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Motion Passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

URI Chief of Police Michael Jagoda

Speaker Bove Introduced chief of police Michael Jagoda.

Chief Jagoda introduced himself and Sean Minor, Director of Outreach and Education. Chief Jagoda expressed interest in getting URI Police more involved in the community. He announced that so far this year, URI Police has responded to over 16,000 calls. Chief Jagoda discussed the new expanded Rhody Safe Rides program that he and TAP Director Paradise introduced and he expressed his intent to expand it on weekends to service the Kingston

Amtrak Station. He also announced that URI Police has received a new grant to equip every officer with a body camera, and that he expects this will be fully implemented during this semester. He stressed how much training the URI Police has done this year. Finally, he concluded by asking everyone to follow URI Police on social media.

Chair Chadronet asked when Rhody Safe Rides run.

Chief Jagoda replied that weekday hours start at 6:00PM and go until midnight, and that on weekends it runs until 1:00AM. He also noted that on Sundays they start at around 5:00PM. He said that when Rhody Safe Riders are not running, police offer a 24/7 safe ride program, but that service may be slower as police are still responding to other calls.

Speaker Bove asked how frequently students use Rhody Safe Rides.

Chief Jagoda responded that Rhody Safe Rides has given over 2,100 rides this year.

Senator Peckham shared instances of security camera on campus being unreliable at night and asked Chief Jagoda if it is true that none of the on campus cameras work after dark.

Chief Jagoda replied that while he felt that the cameras on campus work during the night overall, some are very old and cannot capture details such as license plates in the dark. He reported that security cameras will eventually be upgraded.

Chair Chadronet asked for clarification on when the cameras being upgraded.

Chief Jagoda said that as better technology and new funding becomes available updates and upgrades will be conducted gradually.

Director Hoover asked with officers getting body cameras, if police cruisers will also be equipped with cameras.

Chief Jagoda replied no.

Speaker Bove asked if Campus Safety maintains publicly accessible active shooter procedures for each building on campus.

Chief Jagoda said that active shooter safety was extremely important to him, and stated that there are detailed videos about what to do during an active shooting on the URI Police website. He also stated that Sean Minor offers shooter safety trainings on the third Thursday of each month.

Senator Reyes asked if URI Police could work to install new lighting in poorly lit areas of campus.

Chief Jagoda said that is something URI Police is working on.

Speaker Bove asked if URI Police is working with HRL to combat incidences of theft in residence halls, such as laundry theft which Chair Chadronet has identified as an issue in the past.

Chief Jagoda said that URI Police will work with HRI for any incidences of theft in residence halls, but he also stressed the importance of individual students taking steps to keep their belongings safe.

Director Hoover thanked Chief Jagoda for all of his help and support.

Dr. Carl Stiles Update on Commencement

Dr Carl Stiles shared that the commencement speaker selection process involves student senate. Student Senate will still advertise and be a part of the selection process. The committee will select 5, Senate will select 3 of these. And the final committee selects the final speaker.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Johnson reported that the committee recently held its first Presidents Meeting of the semester, and that it

went well with over 70 clubs in attendance. He mentioned that while club attendance was strong, there are over 150 senate recognized clubs, and that more clubs need to be attending. He also reported that the URI Welcome Days will be held on March 26, April 1, and April 15 from 12:30pm - 3:45pm, and that there will be a table for the Senate there. He concluded by asking senators to support the committee's bill on the floor.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Peckham announced that members of the Academic Affairs committee will be attending meetings of the following clubs over the next few weeks. Uhuru Sasa, Women's Pre Law Society, Mock Trial, Nutrition Club, Industry Pharmacy Organization, SAWA, Equestrian club.

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Montoya reported that he has with George Nonis to discuss ways to hold the Narragansett Town Council accountable. He also announced that he will be meeting with the South Kingstown and Narragansett Police Departments, and that he is also working on a voter registration drive.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Bailey reported that the committee is working on several events. She also reported that the university is putting on a lot of events to celebrate Black History Month.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Chadronet announced new updates from HRL Director Frankie Minor. He announced that work to add new stall doors and other bathroom security measures is underway, and that all residence hall communal bathrooms will have them by the end of the semester. He further reported that 20 out of 24 residence halls now have laundry room cameras, with more expected to be installed in the near future. He also announced that the committee will be holding a litter cleanup on Friday.

- Executive Committee

Speaker Bove announced guests who will be attending the next five senate meetings, and asked senators to make attending General Assembly meetings on nights with guest speakers a priority. He also gave an update on plans for the Student Senate Formal.

Director Hoover -

Reported that clubs have five more days to complete their budget requests, and urged anyone who has questions to reach out to either himself or the accounts office.

Chair Johnson asked Director Hoover to send a reminder to clubs.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

Speaker Bove reported that the declaration period for spring elections is now open. He further stated that all declaration packets are due by 4:00pm on February 22, 2023. He explained that the term of every incumbent senator expires on April 5, 2023, and that anyone who would like to remain in the Senate past this point will need to run for reelection. He concluded his report by stating that declaration packets will be available both in the office and on the Student Senate's website, and that a social media campaign will launch soon to advertise elections.

Chair Johnson asked where candidates can submit their completed declaration packets.

Speaker Bove replied that they can be turned in to Dr. Stiles or candidates can email them to elections@rhodysenate.org.

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Swearing in of New Senator

Senator Timothy Small was sworn in by Speaker Bove.

Nominations and Elections for Off Campus Representative (6)

Nominations and Elections for On Campus Representative (1)

Nominations and Elections for At-Large Representative (1)

Nominations and Elections for College of Nursing Representative (1)

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

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Speaker Bove motioned to move consideration of Senate Bill **SS-22/23-37** to unfinished business. Seconded by Chair Chadronet.

Motion Passes.

SS-22/23-37 Bill Calling for the Fourth Amendment to the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution

Whereas, the Constitution of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate requires that students must pay the Student Activities Tax in order to serve as a member of any branch of the Student Senate, and

Whereas, because students who are enrolled part time pay a pro-rated Student Activities Tax based on the number of credits they are taking in a given semester, part time students have been deemed ineligible to serve in the Student Senate, and

Whereas, the University Registrars Office estimates that there are a total of 778 degree seeking part time undergraduate students enrolled in at least six credits for the Spring 2023 semester, and

Whereas, part time students are disproportionately Pell Grant recipients, first generation college students, students with children, etc., and

Whereas, the Student Senate recognizes that these groups are underrepresented and deserve a voice in student government, and

Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Speaker of the Assembly took on a much larger role in the functions of the Senate and the legislative process, and

Whereas, the constitution of the Student Senate currently allows for the Speaker of the Assembly to be a non member of the Assembly, and

Whereas, given the Speaker's expanded role in the legislative process, it would be beneficial to the Student Senate to ensure that the Speaker is elected from amongst the voting members of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, it is unlikely that anyone from outside of the Assembly would be elected to the Speakership in its current

form, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the following text be added to Article IV of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution, “Degree-seeking undergraduate students who are enrolled part time in at least six credits, who have paid a pro-rated Student Activities Tax, may serve as representatives from that at-large and college constituencies, or in any office of the cabinet or court provided that they meet all other eligibility requirements outlined in this document.”, and be it further,

Resolved, that the text within Article V, Section D, Part 5, of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution be amended to read as follows, “The Speaker of the Assembly chairs all meetings of the Assembly. The Speaker also appoints and removes the members of the Assembly’s standing committees; removals are subject to the approval of the committee’s chair. The Speaker of the Assembly is nominated and elected by and from the Assembly. Any officials duly appointed by The Speaker will serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Assembly. The Speaker shall clearly communicate the instructions of the Assembly to the Cabinet. The Speaker may speak on behalf of the Assembly.”, and be it further,

Resolved, that Article V, Section D, Part 3 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution be struck in its entirety, and that all remaining parts of Section D be renumbered accordingly, and be it further,

Resolved, that the text within Article V Section D, Part 4 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution be amended to read as follows, “The Director of Treasury maintains and is a signatory of monies and assets controlled by the Senate, as well as its internal accounts, and ensures the enforcement of the Senate’s financial policy.”, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Elections Committee is instructed to place a referendum question on the adoption of this amendment on the ballots as part of the Spring 2023 General Elections.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chairs Montoya and Chadronet, Senators Cronan and Barbosa.
BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove
DATE: February 1, 2023
RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION: Vote in Two Weeks

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-22/23-38 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI Persian Cultural Society” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URI Persian Cultural Society” mission statement is, “Provide information and resources for diversity that are beyond classroom level, as well as serving as a community for Persian students to connect with a side of the Persian culture while away from their home country.”, and

Whereas, URI Persian Cultural Society 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 Persian Cultural Society as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that URI Persian Cultural Society 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: Chair Johnson

DATE: February 8, 2023

RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Johnson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Senator Reyes

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

SS-22/23-39 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “The National Society of Leadership and Success” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “The National Society of Leadership and Success” mission statement is, “For the purpose of assisting college students in creating the lives they desire, by helping students discover their passion and purpose through giving them the support and tools to achieve their goals, in order to build leaders who make a better world –The National Society of Leadership and Success has been founded.”, and

Whereas, The National Society of Leadership and Success 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 National Society of Leadership and Success as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, the National Society of Leadership and Success 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: Chair Johnson
DATE: February 8, 2023
RECOMMENDATION: (4 - 0 - 1)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION: Vote Next Week

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

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

SS-22/23-40 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Student-Led Theatre Collective” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Student-Led Theatre Collective” mission statement is, “Produce student-run theater, support student works, and create community-building events for students interested in theater.”, and

Whereas, Student-Led Theatre Collective 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 Student-Led Theatre Collective as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Student-Led Theatre Collective 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: Chair Johnson
DATE: February 8, 2023
RECOMMENDATION: (5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Johnson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Chair Montoya.

Motion Passes.

Bill Passes.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Senator Peckham gave an update on the issues with SEA's website, and announce that the event registration form has been fixed.

Director Hoover encouraged senators seeking leadership positions to reach out to members of the executive board.

N. ADJOURNMENT - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting 7:31pm.