



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 March 29, 2023

**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, Cronan, DeLorenzo, Dumas, Galliano, James, Johnson N, Johnson V, Mehorter, Mayers, Milner, Montoya, Palmer, Peckham, Reyes, Rudolph, Scotti, Small, Summerson.

Absent: Confessore (excused), Goswami (excused), Newman (excused), Piacentini (excused), Rathbun, Sama (excused), Stahl (excused).

Guests: Kiernan, Hoover, Njeru, Thiel, Stiles, Reynolds.

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

Speaker Bove motioned to consider Senate Resolution **SS-22/23-47** to take place at the conclusion of announcements. Seconded by Chair Johnson

*Motion Passes.*

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

*Motion Passes.*

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

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

*Motion Passes.*

### **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Summerson, Emily and I met with the Women's leadership council; more information about the women's summit will be coming out shortly. More information soon!

Senator Small, the mission is accomplished, most of the asbestos has been removed from the Will Theatre, and there will be renovation work done Summer 2024.

Amy White, I have actually met a lot of you already, I am the new administrative assistant. I am going to ramp up really quick to help the senate whether its paperwork or processes or whatnot. I grew up in Narragansett, went to Narragansett public school. I went to URI. I've worked in medical and art administration.

President Kiernan welcomed Amy.

## **F. PUBLIC FORUM**

*Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President of Student Affairs*

Thank you all for this time. I want to thank speaker Bove for inviting me. I want to extend my appreciation to President Kiernan and Vice-President Gamache as well as the entire executive and the senate. I consider this an absolute dream job. I am beyond excited about the future of URI. I want to recognize the members of the student leadership team. I want to express my gratitude to my family. Keeney blue runs deep in my family. My mother, my sister and I are alums. And I also learned how to swim here at URI. To now serve in this position is beyond unbelievable. I want to begin by acknowledging that this University sits on the traditional land of the Narragansett and Niantic people. I will work to make sure that URI education is always in reach for students. The health and wellbeing, and safety of students is critical. Coming out of the pandemic, we will continue to put wellness and health at the forefront. We all need to transform our commitment into action to make a stronger and more vibrant University community.

On a personal note, I want to thank you all for your partnership and support. I am thankful and proud of all the seniors, and I look forward to working with all of you.

"If there is one administrator I will miss next year, it will be Ellen Reynolds."

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

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Johnson, please support the SOC bills on the floor.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Summerson, Academics had two really successful events last week.

- External Affairs Committee

No report

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Bailey, Last week I went to the MSA fundraiser which raised more than \$2000. If you want to donate, I can send out the links. We are having an event on Thursday in Hillel. On Saturday April 8th there is a Sawa hair show that I think we should show up.

Speaker Bove, Chair Johnson and I sat down and wrote a bylaws bill last night, and I want to recognize chair Bailey because the changes she wants to make to the bylaws of her position are some of the most ambitious.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Chadronet, Blue light walk is next Tuesday at 7:00PM. Back in October 12th asking HRL to implement vending machines in Brookside, which they now have done. Shout out to senator Johnson, who made incredible contributions to the Aunt Flo report

- Executive Committee

President Kiernan, I will go more in depth, I am so proud of the work we have accomplished so far. Nothing really from me. Next week I would love it if we could all dress in professional attire. Have a great week.

Director Hoover, I hope your week has been exquisite. We have a budget amendment with about 16 clubs on there. I will explain them more in depth when we get there, I also have a stipend amendment, which is the conclusion of what was discussed at cabinet.

Director Njeru, Hi everyone, nothing special to share today. Please send kudos!

Director Thiel, I sent the voting link for senate superlatives. Please check your e-mails for that. I ideally want all the responses in by Sunday night.

Chair Summerson (how's the whole senior surprise thing going?)

Director Thiel, It is in the works

Speaker Bove, this will be my final report as the speaker of this body. It feels really odd as someone that's been here for 4 years. I want to recognize that this is Lucas Massielo's last meeting. Give him a round of applause. Tickets for formal are now on sale. They will close on April 10th. If you want to buy one, please call or text me. I feel as though I have done everything I had to do.

## H. REPORT OF THE COURT

## I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Elections Committee

Chair Summerson, We're good y'all.

## J. SPECIAL ORDERS

## K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### **SS-22/23-45 BILL CALLING FOR THE ANNUAL RE-RECOGNITION OF URI STUDENT SENATE'S RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Whereas, the Student Organizations Committee must review all recognized organizations at least annually, and Whereas, all Student Senate recognized organizations must successfully complete re-recognition to be re-recognized, and

Whereas, the following organizations did not meet the requirements for re-recognition, and

<b>Amnesty International, URI Chapter</b>
<b>Chabad of URI</b>
<b>Colleges Against Cancer</b>

**DRIVE: Diversifying Recruiting Inspiring Volunteering  
Educating**

**EMPWR (Formerly WOWW)**

**ENRESA (recognized 4/27/2022)**

**Global Brigades**

**Health Humanities**

**Her Campus URI**

**InterVarsity Christian Fellowship**

**Korean Student Association**

**MSAC: Minority Student Athlete Crew (9/21/22)**

**Music Boosters**

**Musically Inclined**

**Neuroscience Club, URI**

**Papuan Student Association**

**Skateboard Club**

**Society: Phi Sigma Pi, National Honor Fraternity**

**Sojourn, URI**

<b>Spirituality &amp; Manifesting Club</b>
<b>Ukrainian Club</b>
<b>URI APES (4/27/22)</b>
<b>URI Surf Club</b>
<b>Bridge USA</b>

Whereas, it is the duty of the student senate to only recognize student groups annually who meet the requirement to be a student senate recognized organization, now therefore be it,  
Resolved, that the URI Student Senate acknowledge the following groups as recognized clubs until the next re-recognition process.

<b>Club</b>	<b>SOC Recommendation</b>
<b>Active Minds, URI</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Alima</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Anime Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Arts and Crafts Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Asian Student Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Best Buddies</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Bike Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>

<b>Black Student Union</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Brother on a New Direction</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Cape Verdean Student Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Chinese Student Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Club Baseball</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Club, Soccer, Men's</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Club, Soccer, Women's</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Club Dance</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Club Softball</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Club Softball</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Club Track and Field</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>College Democrats</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Community Wellness Leaders</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Dress History Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Economics Student Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Engineers Without Borders</b>	<b>5-0</b>

<b>Exposure</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Fashion Merchandising Society</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Fine Arts Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Gaming Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Italian Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Kinesiology Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>LSA (Latinx Student Association)</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Marine Science Society</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Middle Eastern Student Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Mock Trial</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>MSAC (Minority Student Athlete Crew)</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Musician's Guild</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Muslim Student Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>National Association for Music Education (NAfME)</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>National Society for Leadership and</b>	<b>5-0</b>

<b>Success</b>	
<b>NESA</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Orthodox Christian Fellowship</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Outing Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>PENSA URI</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Persian Cultural Student Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Pharmacognosy Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>PINK Women</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Powerlifting</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Pre - Dental Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Pre PT Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Pre-PA club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Public Relations Student Society of America</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Ram Hacks</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Renaissance Yearbook</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Rhody Archery</b>	<b>5-0</b>



<b>Rhody Catholic Organization</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Rhody Christian Fellowship</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Rhody Ridiculousness</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>RhodyThon</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Rotaract</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Sailing Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Science Fiction and Supernatural Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Scuba Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Self Defense Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA)</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Shark Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Society for Women in Computing</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>SOLC</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>South Asian Students' Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Student Action For Sustainability</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Student Advocacy for Disability Awareness/Action</b>	<b>5-0</b>

<b>Student Alliance for the Welfare of Africa (SAWA)</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Student Alumni Association</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Student Entertainment Committee</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Student Led Theatre Collective</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>The Daily Ram</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>The Good Five Cent Cigar</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>The Puppy Raisers Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>The Rhody Rhapsodies</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>The Women's Network</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Theme Park Engineering and Design</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Timmy Global Health</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Uhuru Sasa</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Young Democratic Socialists of America</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Alpine Race Team</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Chess Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Climbing Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>

<b>URI Club Pickleball</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI College Republicans</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Dance Company</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Fencing Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Uri Flow</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Geology Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Hillel</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Music Therapy Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Quidditch</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Roller Hockey</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI S.A.V.E.S</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URISLHA</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Social Dance</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Triathlon Club</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>URI Women in STEM</b>	<b>5-0</b>

<b>WRIU</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Student Veterans Organization</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Sankofa Christian Ministries</b>	<b>5-0</b>

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee  
 BILL HANDLER: Chair Johnson  
 DATE: March 22, 2023  
 RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)  
 EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition  
 ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Johnson, a few amendments from last week. There was a club that filled out the form yesterday. Clubs that did not fill out re-rec will become de-recognized. Their accounts and budgets will be frozen for 2 years and then put back into the general account. Any club can appeal or get re-recognized through the whole process all over again. SOC will then give a recommendation on their status and budget. And I will discuss it at the next president’s meeting.

*Bill Passes.*

**SS-22/23-46 – BILL CALLING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024**

Whereas, The Treasury Committee is presenting the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, now therefore be it, Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate allots the following fiscal amounts according to the final recommendations of the Treasury for all recognized student organizations eligible for funding, and be it further, Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate allots the final contingency lines as provided in the final recommendation of the Treasury, and be it further, Resolved, that the presented budget amounts are enacted for Fiscal Year 2024, which is to begin July 1st, 2023.

SPONSOR: Treasury Committee  
 BILL HANDLER: VDOT Bose (Director Hoover)  
 DATE: March 22, 2023  
 RECOMMENDATION: (3 – 0 – 0)  
 EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Fiscal Year Budget

ACTION:

Vote Tonight

VDOT Bose motions to add the following amendments to the budget. Seconded by Senator Barbosa.

URI Hilel from \$0 to \$100

URI Saves \$0 to \$100

Self-defense club \$0 to \$100

Dominican alliance of URI \$0 to \$100

Judo & JiuJitsu \$0 to \$100

LSA \$0 to \$250

Sci-Fi and Supernatural Club \$0 to 1\$00

Beta Gamma RATatouille \$0 to \$100

Entomology Club \$0 to \$100

Climbing Team \$0 to \$100

Student Led Theatre \$0 to \$100

Psychology Club \$0 to \$100

Commuter Club \$0 to \$100

Engineering Without Borders \$0 to \$100

Anime Club \$0 to \$1000

Gaming Club \$0 to \$950

Student Senate President Stipend from \$300 to \$350

Student Senate Vice-President Stipend from \$275 to \$325

Speaker of the Assembly Stipend from \$300 \$325

Student Organizations Committee Chair Stipend from \$325 to \$300

External Affairs Chair Stipend from \$225 to \$250

*Motion Passes.*

Speaker Bove motioned to strike the budget of Beta Gamma RATatouille. Seconded by Chair Johnson.

*Motion Passes.*

Senator Mayers asked how Beta Gamma RATatouille will receive their budget after the copyright issue is resolved.

Director Hoover explained.

Chair Bailey asked about Her Campus, Director Hoover said he never received a budget form

Chair Johnson explained the situation involving gaming club.

Chair Bailey asked about Hillel having their own money. Director Hoover said to his knowledge they do not have any external money.

Speaker Bove motioned to give The National Society for Leadership and Success a \$100 budget. Seconded by Senator Rudolph.

*Motion Passes.*

Chair Bailey asked about Papuan Student Association, Director Hoover said that any club that has not sent a budget request is red. To please assume the same for all of them.

Senator Johnson pointed out a typo in Pre Physicians assistant club

Chair Bailey asked if a club that doesn't have a budget can still apply for contingency grants. Director Hoover said yes.

Chair Johnson asked about Sankofa receiving so much. It seemed a bit much for a religious organization.

Senator Peckham asked if SEC has given any potential guests they might want to bring in. Director Hoover explained the discussion he had with them.

Chair Johnson wanted to know if there was a way, we could evaluate how much money SEC brings in with ticketing to try and make it a profitable institution.

Chair Montoya explained that SEC will never be profitable because we very rarely sell to a lot of outsiders because of our location.

Chair Johnson, "the only reason I ask is because we are contributing \$500,000.00"

Chair Summerson, on behalf of President Kiernan, Vice-President Gamache and her. Communicated that previous concerns were cleared up.

Senator Peckham asked why SOC was \$300. Director Hoover explained that SOC does so much administrative work that it required more commitment. He also broke down the entire stipend process for these results.

Chair Montoya justified SOC's \$300 by speaking of the additional office hours SOC has to do.

Senator Mayers argued that the Speaker of the Assembly should be paid the same as the president.

Chair Summerson argued that other committees also have to do specified events.

Chair Johnson explained that it is important to consider that it isn't based on production value.

*Bill Passes.*

## **L. NEW BUSINESS**

### **SS-22/23-47 Resolution Honoring Dr. Ellen Reynolds Upon Her Selection to Serve as the Next Vice President of Student Affairs for the University of Rhode Island**

Whereas, Dr. Ellen Reynolds has been an active member of the University of Rhode Island community since her graduation from URI with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1991, and

Whereas, In 2003 Dr. Reynolds joined the University of Rhode Island staff after being hired as the Associate Director of Health Services, and

Whereas, in 2013 Dr. Reynolds was promoted to serve as the Director of Health Services, and

Whereas, in 2019 Dr. Reynolds was selected to serve as the Associate Vice President of Student Health and Wellness, and

Whereas, during her tenure as the Director of Health Services, Dr. Reynolds played a critical role in leading the University of Rhode Island through the COVID-19 Pandemic, and

Whereas, without Dr. Reynolds outstanding efforts to keep all members of the URI community safe during the pandemic, it is likely that many more students would have fallen ill or suffered severe health issues from contracting COVID-19, and

Whereas, in 2022, amidst the University's recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic, Dr. Reynolds was selected to serve as the interim Vice President of Student Affairs upon the departure of Vice President Kathy Collins, and

Whereas, as interim Vice President. Dr. Reynolds faced unprecedented challenges from a major labor shortage, as well as a severe shortage of student housing both on and off of campus, and

Whereas, on March 7, 2023 President Marc Parlange announced that Dr. Reynolds would be selected as to serve as the next Vice President of Student Affairs for the University of Rhode Island, and

Whereas, Dr. Reynolds has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and strength of character through her determination to support the University community throughout some of URI's darkest and most challenging periods, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate extends its most sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success to Dr. Ellen Reynolds on her selection to serve as the next Vice President of Student Affairs, and be it further,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate greatly looks forward to working with Dr. Reynolds on important student issues for many years to come.

SPONSORS: Speaker Bove, Chairs Johnson, Summerson, Chadronet, and Montoya

BILL HANDLER: Speaker Bove

DATE: March 29, 2023

RECOMMENDATION: (5 – 0 – 0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Reviewed

ACTION: Vote Tonight

*Bill Passes.*

### **SS-22/23-48 BILL CALLING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS**

Whereas, in the Spring 2023 Student Senate General Election, the Student Body voted to approve the Fourth Amendment to the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Constitution, and

Whereas, upon the certification of the Spring 2023 Student Senate General Election, the positions of Director of Operations and the Director of Information will be eliminated, and

Whereas, due to changes in the constitution, an update to the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws is now needed, and

Whereas, additional changes to the Student Senate's Bylaws have been deemed necessary in order to improve the Senate's functioning and long term stability, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the text within Article 1, Section 1, Part 1. Line 1.2, University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows "Non-matriculating students who pay the Student Activities Tax are considered members of University College for all purposes. College Representatives shall serve ex officio as the formal liaison to the college which they are elected to represent, and to this end shall work directly with the Dean of the corresponding college and with the Dean's subordinates. They shall meet with the Dean of their college at least once a month and report to Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee in regards to these meetings.", and be it further,

Resolved, that the text within Article 2, Section 2, Parts 1 and 2, of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be struck in their entirety, and that Part 3 "Vice Chairs" be redesignated accordingly, and be it further,

Resolved, that the text within Article 2, Section 9, Part 1 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows.

"9.3 The Student Organization Committee provides the Assembly recommendations on legislation concerning the recognition of student organizations and assists them in carrying out their missions.

9.4 The office of Chairperson of the Student Organization Committee may not be held concurrently with any other executive office in any other Senate recognized student organization.

9.5 The Chairperson of the Student Organization Committee must have at least five (5) office hours a week.

9.6 The Committee will meet with and evaluate all applications of student organizations seeking Senate recognition. They will determine whether the organization in question meets all of the Senate's established requirements for recognition. The committee may meet with all relevant faculty or Senate advisors they deem necessary if there are any issues during or after the application process. If the committee through a majority vote determines that an organization has met all of the requirements for Senate recognition, the Chairperson will submit legislation to the Assembly calling for that organization to be recognized by the Senate.

9.7 The Chairperson facilitates communication between student organizations with the senate and faculty

9.8 The Chairperson shall coordinate and communicate with the Student Event Advising (SEA) Office for events and programming associated with student organizations.

9.9 The Chairperson and committee members shall organize and attend monthly meetings of all recognized student organization presidents and or their designees in order to promote communication, community involvement, and training as deemed necessary.



9.10 The Committee shall evaluate violations of the Student Senate's Rules for Recognized Student Organizations listed in the Senate's Bylaws and Finance Handbook and propose derecognition or account freezes to the Assembly and Director of Treasury respectively if deemed necessary and proper by a majority vote of committee members.

9.11 In the case where there is a dispute between student organizations, the Student Organizations Committee has all powers necessary and proper to mediate and settle these problems. Upon receiving a complaint, the Chair must reach out to both student organizations and schedule a meeting between them and the Committee if deemed necessary to fix the issue. If a final decision needs to be made between the organizations, the Committee will vote by majority as to the course of action that needs to be taken. If the issue in question involves finances the Director of Treasury must attend the meeting between the Committee and the student organizations engaged in dispute.

9.12 The Chairperson will assist Student Organizations on a case by case basis, answering any questions they may have about senate rules and procedures, and referring organizations to other officers of the Senate and university staff as may be deemed necessary.", and be it further,

Resolved, that the text within Article 2, Section 9, Part 2 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

"9.13 The Chairperson of the Campus Affairs Committee acts as the liaison to the Division of Student Affairs and related departments on non-academic matters

9.14 The Chairperson will meet monthly with the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss student issues and Senate or University projects.

9.15 The Chairperson shall organize a fall and a spring event to test the Campus Blue Light System, testing half of the Blue Lights as part of each event.", and be it further,

Resolved, Article 2, Section 9, Part 3 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

"9.15 The Academic Affairs Committee shall be concerned with student life of an academic nature, including but not limited to; educational standards and requirements, academic rights, course availability, registration procedures, library services, grading, examinations, tuition, and faculty evaluation.

9.16 The Chairperson shall recommend students for faculty and university wide committees related to academic issues to the President in accordance with a majority vote of the Committee.

9.17 The Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee serves as the Student Senate's Liaison to the Faculty Senate. In the event that the Chairperson cannot attend Faculty Senate meetings, they must appoint another member of the Assembly to attend in their stead.

9.18 Communicate any grievances if a complaint or problem arises in an Academic College or academic services and will recommend a course of action with the Office of the Ombuds, college's liaison, university committee and/or the relevant staff to maintain communication and distribution pertinent to the complaint.

9.19 The Chairperson review submitted College Representative reports and notify the College Representative if further inquiries relating to issues mentioned in the report are required. The Chairperson will coordinate with the Vice President to help foster this communication by offering College Representative meeting templates, suggestions/questions for discussion, contact information, etc.

9.20 Appoints a Mental Health Liaison to coordinate and work with the Counseling Center and all relevant University offices and departments to promote mental health awareness and address issues related to mental health.”, and be it

Resolved, that the text within Article 2, Section 9, Part 4 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

“9.21 The Committee shall advocate for students living off campus in regards to issues including but not limited to, off campus housing, commuter affairs, and student security.

9.22 The Committee will maintain communication with the Towns of Narragansett, South Kingston, North Kingston and other municipalities with a significant population of URI students in order to promote student interests.

9.23 The Chairperson shall coordinate with the Director of Communications to promote a better image for students in the communities surrounding campus. They shall also work to advise students to be better neighbors and community members.

9.24 The Chairperson and Committee shall advocate for students in legislative matters at the state and local levels of government.

9.25 The Committee shall maintain positive communication and relationships with local police departments in order to stay informed about issues relating to students that might affect policy.

9.26 The Committee shall maintain a working relationship with Transportation and Parking Services in order to advocate for commuter students.”, and be it further

Resolved, that the text within Article 2, Section 9, Part 5 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

“9.27 The Cultural Affairs Committee shall be concerned with cultural issues, including but not limited to building and maintaining a unified and inclusive campus community, creating university traditions, promoting multiculturalism, and ensuring equal opportunity.

9.28 The Chairperson shall be in communication with the University's diversity and inclusion leaders, including but not limited to the Director of the Multicultural Student Services Center, the Vice President of Community Equity and Diversity, and the Vice President of Student Affairs.

9.29 The Chairperson shall appoint a Multicultural Organizations Liaison to facilitate communication between all active multicultural organizations and the chairpersons of both the Cultural Affairs Committee and the Student Organization Committee.

9.30 Members of the Committee shall assist the Chairperson and the Senate by attending various meetings and events held by multicultural student organizations as designated by the Chairperson in order to strengthen the Senate's outreach and communication with these groups.", and be it further,

Resolved, that Article 2, Section 9, Part 6 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be struck in its entirety, and be it further,

Resolved, that text within Article 3, Section 1, Part 1 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

"1.1 The President acts as the official representative of the Senate in executing its acts and instructions. They are expected to work with University officials, faculty, staff, and any relevant parties as needed to execute legislation enacted by the Assembly.

1.2 Facilitates an open line of communication between the Senate and the administration of the University. They will moderate and lead discussions as they may deem necessary to promote open discussion and change.

1.3 Serves ex officio as the chairperson of Cabinet meetings.

1.4 Appoint interim officers to any vacant position of the Cabinet until the Assembly elects a person to fill the role.

1.5 Make nominations for vacant Cabinet and Court positions as necessary.

1.6 Create and appoint Cabinet Liaisons.

1.7 Appoint students to University boards, committees, and agencies, with the exception of the Board of Trustees, unless objected upon by the Cabinet.

1.8 Temporarily withhold the stipends of Committee Chairs and the Speaker, through a formal complaint to the Court, until the Court can make a ruling on such a decision.

1.9 The President shall serve as a signatory of all Student Activities Revenue and all monies that are either in the Senate Accounting System or are otherwise controlled by the Senate.

1.10 Organize social and outreach events meant to increase the Student Body's engagement with the Senate, improve student's understanding of the Senate's role and its work both on and off campus, and overall contribute to social programming.

1.11 Work with the Student Senate Coordinator, Student Senate Advisor, and the Director of Communications to enforce and promote the Senate's work and policies online, including on the Senate's social media accounts and on the Student Senate website.

1.12 Call for a Special Meeting of any body within the Senate. Business of these meetings must be stated in the call, which must happen five (5) business days before the meeting is scheduled to happen.

1.13 Calls for special meetings may be rejected with a unanimous vote of the called upon body.

1.14 Should both the President and Vice President positions become simultaneously vacant, the first office of the Cabinet appearing in the Constitution that is not vacant will assume the Presidency.", and be it further

Resolved, that the text within Article 3, Section 1, Part 2 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

"1.15 Approves legislation passed by the Assembly, unless vetoed. Upon passage of a piece of legislation, the President has two (2) business days to approve or veto it. This period starts at the adjournment of the meeting that the legislation was passed. If no action is taken before the two (2) business days are complete, the legislation goes into effect as if it was approved.

1.16 Legislation that was vetoed by the President is referred back to the sponsor(s). Such legislation requires a 2/3 vote to pass, cannot be amended, and cannot be vetoed again.

1.17 The President may not veto legislation that is internal in nature, such as congratulatory or ceremonial resolutions, or resolutions which seek to reprimand or censure members of the Assembly.", and be it further

Resolved, that the text within Article 3, Section 2 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

"2.1 Act and speak on behalf of the President in that officer's temporary absence.

2.2 Work with the Speaker of the Assembly to promote instrument literacy.

2.3 Advise the Senate on when elections are to be held.

2.4 Develop and conduct Senate orientation before the Annual Meeting.

2.6 Maintain internal group dynamics and mediate disputes. Should the Vice President or President be involved in any disputes, they are to be taken to the Senate's Advisor.

- 2.7 Collect and organize notes and documents from committees and general meetings working with the Student Senate Coordinator, the Student Senate Advisor and the Director of communications to have any written documentation available on the student senate website.
- 2.8 Track member absences from Committee and General Assembly meetings, and meet with members who are at risk of expulsion due to excessive absence. The Vice President is required to refer members to the court in accordance with the attendance policy stated in Article 2 Section 6 of this document.
- 2.9 Serve as the organizer of the committee for selection of the Commencement speaker.
- 2.8 Review posted office hours and report missed hours to the Court.
- 2.9 Assume the position of President should the office be left permanently vacant.
- 2.10 Hold at least one (1) senate event per semester that specifically pertains to fundraising.
- 2.11 Collect all transitional materials from all members of the Senate and distribute them to appropriate students joining the Senate.
- 2.12 Maintain and distribute the Senate Contact sheet to all members of the Cabinet, Assembly, and Court.”, and be it further

Resolved, that the text within Article 3, Section 3 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

- “3.1 Maintain control of all assets of the Senate.
- 3.2 Serve as a signatory of all Student Activities Revenue and all monies that are either in the Senate Accounting System or are otherwise controlled by the Senate along with the President.
- 3.3 Attend the President's meetings held by the Student Organizations Committee.
- 3.4 Work in conjunction with the Senate Accounts Office and the Chairperson of the Student Organizations Committee to amend, maintain and promote the literacy of the Finance Handbook.
- 3.5 Maintain the inventory records and oversee the contracts between student organization presidents and the Senate to ensure proper purchasing and disposal of inventory.
- 3.6 Meet with the Senate Accounts Clerk to discuss the accounts of the Student Body and propose changes.
- 3.7 Approve contingency grant requests and category transfers.

3.8 May freeze loans and budgets as well as Impose fines on student organizations for violations of the Finance Handbook in accordance with recommendations of the Student Organizations Committee depending on the circumstances and severity of the violation.

3.9 This position may not be held concurrently with any position in the Senate Accounts Office, or with an officership in any Senate recognized organization.

3.10 Have responsibility for, administer, and record the internal accounts of the Senate.

3.11 Annually prepare and present during each spring semester, the internal budget of the Senate, as well as the budget for the Senate's recognized student organizations.", and be it further

Resolved, that Article 3, Section 3, Part 1, Line 3.19 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be struck in its entirety and that all lines below be redesignated accordingly, and be it further,

Resolved, that Article 3, Section 3, Part 2, Line 3.25 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows,

"Once budgeting begins, the Treasury will gain three additional members from within the Assembly, appointed by the Speaker. No member of the Student Organizations Committee may also serve on the Treasury.", and be it further,

Resolved, that Article 3, Section 4 and Section 6 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be struck in their entirety, and that all sections of Article 3 be redesignated accordingly, and be it further,

Resolved, that the text within Article 3, Section 5 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

"5.1 Oversee the dissemination of information regarding the functions and activities of the Senate to the campus community and all relevant external parties, with the goal of informing the university community about recently completed, current, and future projects of the Senate.

5.2 Promote and communicate activities, events, and programs put on by the Senate and its recognized organizations with a focus on distributing through social media.

5.3 Maintain the Senate's advertising space.

5.4 Report to the President on the Senate's status in the media.

5.5 Create promotional materials for the Student Senate for Welcome Days and Student Organization Fairs.

5.6 Create promotional materials with the intent of receiving student concerns for the legislation to address.

5.7 Collect minutes from Vice Chairs and Recording Secretaries from all parts of the Senate.

5.8 Publish and maintain meeting minutes online for public use.

5.9 Have responsibility for, administer, and record the Senate's institutional knowledge, as well as act upon requests for institutional knowledge from any member of the URI community.

5.10 Ensure the integrity of the Senate's records.”, and be it further

Resolved, that the text within Article 3, Section 7 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

“7.1 The Speaker of the Assembly will appoint a Recording Secretary of the Assembly, who will record minutes at meetings of the Assembly. In the event that the Recording Secretary will be unable to attend a meeting of the General Assembly, the Speaker shall select a temporary Recording Secretary from amongst the Senate’s stipended officers.

7.2 The Speaker of the Assembly will compile and distribute the agenda and meeting minutes for the Assembly's meetings no later than two (2) business days before the start of the meeting.

7.3 The Speaker of the Assembly may reject any legislation brought to the floor that was not on the night's agenda.

7.4 The Speaker of the Assembly may refer matters to committees on the floor.

7.5 The Speaker of the Assembly may yield time to members of the Court or Executive without a representative giving them the floor in order to read reports.

7.6 The Speaker of the Assembly may yield time to anyone attending an Assembly meeting in order to speak during General Discussion and Open Forum without a representative giving them the floor.

7.7 Decisions of the Speaker of the Assembly may be overturned by a majority vote of the Assembly.

7.8 The Speaker of the Assembly takes attendance at the beginning and end of Assembly meetings.

7.9 The Speaker of the Assembly will chair a meeting directly after the Assembly meeting. This meeting will be for Chairpersons to deliver progress reports to the Speaker of the Assembly, as well as to vote in vice chairs. This meeting is not weekly, but instead is called for, when necessary, by the Speaker of the Assembly.

7.10 The Speaker of the Assembly is responsible for inviting University officials, faculty, staff, students, and all other guests to meetings of the General Assembly as they may deem necessary and appropriate.”,

7.11 The Speaker of the Assembly shall serve as a resource for the Senate’s Standing Committee’s and provide assistance to them as may be needed to the best of their abilities.” and be it further

Resolved, that the text within Article 3, Section 8, Line 8.02 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows.

“8.2 The Vice President shall record all meeting minutes for meetings of the Cabinet and transmit them to the Director of Communications within one week. In the Vice President’s absence, the President may designate any other member of the Cabinet to record the meeting minutes under the same transmission requirements.”, and be it further

Resolved, that the following text be added to Article 3, Section 9 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws

“9.4 Should the President dismiss a member of the Cabinet, they will be paid their monthly stipend in full for the last month in which they served, unless the President requests an exception to this policy from the General Assembly, which is approved by a 2/3 majority vote.”, and be it further

Resolved, that the text within Article 3, Section 10 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows

“10.1 All stipend positions, apart from Student Senate stipends, must go through a yearly review process.

10.2 The position will go through a review process by the Student Organizations Committee, who will determine if the position becomes approved to continue or become a stipended position.

10.3 If the Student Organizations Committee decides the position is worthy of a stipend, then the position in question will then go to the Treasury who will determine the amount of money the stipend will be worth.

10.4 In the case where a recognized student organization is looking to create a new stipend position, the Committee, upon a majority vote, will submit legislation to the General Assembly calling for the creation of a newly stipend position. A newly stipend position will be created upon a 2/3 majority of the Assembly.

10.5 Beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, all Student Senate stipends will be set at their current amount. Changes to stipend amounts will be prohibited unless five senators place legislation on the floor which must secure a 2/3 majority vote for passage. Should the Assembly vote to amend the stipend amount for an officer of the Senate, a referendum must be placed before the Student Body as a part of the spring elections. Changes may only take effect after ratification by the Student Body.

10.6 The Assembly may temporarily freeze the stipends of any members of the Cabinet through the passage of legislation with a 2/3 majority vote for a period not to exceed sixty days. Such legislation may not be vetoed by the President. A stipend for members of the Cabinet may not be withheld for more than sixty days without the permission of the Court.”, and be it further,

Resolved, that the text within Article 2, Section 6, Line 6.5 of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws be amended to read as follows,



“6.5 Validity of the absence is to be determined by the Vice President or Chairperson, respectively. If a member has reached their absences limit, all future absences are to be reported to the Court.”, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate Advisor and the Student Senate Coordinator are authorized to make any grammatical changes or changes to the Table of Contents of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws when updating the document in accordance with this legislation.

SPONSORS:	Chairs Johnson, Montoya, Chadronet, Speaker Bove, Senator Bose
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Johnson
DATE:	March 29, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

Chair Johnson, Chris, all of cabinet and I worked really hard on this. I am debating as to how we should discuss this. There's changes to each position. But we could also talk more generally. I am going to run down the list. I appreciate the concerns I heard last week. We mostly focused on committee job descriptions. And we wanted to better reflect the stipend review process through our bylaws which we have to do to remain unbiased. For College reps they have to meet with their respective Deans. Logistics things about standing committee members being sworn in. In the old bylaws the only committee that had to have an event was cultural. Now each committee has 4 events per term. We also added to specify what each Chairperson is supposed to do. The treasury will have to communicate with SOC when passing down discipline. Bylaw amendments need to be approved by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority.

Speaker Bove motioned to add another resolved that reads: Article 2 section 8 line 9.1 be amended to read as follows “members will gain voting privileges within their committee upon receiving an appointment from the Speaker of the Assembly”. Seconded by Chair Johnson  
*Motion Passes.*

Chair Chadronet, my bylaws were to appoint an HRL liaison, which I didn't do because I thought it was foolish. He then read out the section of the bill that involved him.

Chair Summerson, Read out her respective section of the bill. College reps will now be held accountable to their required expectations. The Academic Affairs committee will also have a mental health liaison.

Chair Montoya, we did a full rebuild of the External Chair. He explained his section of the bill.

Chair Bailey, read out her section of the bill. She explained how cultural will also work with DAI and the MSSC. The chairperson needs to have a MUSIC liaison at all times. If we continue to have a full-time liaison it will help stabilize communications with multicultural orgs.

Speaker Bove explained why some liaison positions are established in the bylaws rather than the regular process.

President Kiernan explained her section of the bill.

Speaker Bove, whoever gets to be the student representative to the board of trustees is in state law by presidential appointment by President Parlange, we had to change that section. He also explained the changes in the Vice-President position.

Director Hoover, explained his section of the bill

Chair Johnson broke down the changes to the DOC bylaws.

Speaker Bove explained the changes to his position in the bill.

Chair Johnson justified the changes and explained in detail the relationship he envisions between the President and Speaker. He also explained the changes to the meeting bylaws as well as the changes to the relief section. Finally he broke down the stipend and attendance bylaw changes.

Chair Montoya rose in support of the bill.

Chair Bailey rose in support of the bill.

**SS-22/23-49 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Psychology Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Psychology Club” mission statement is, “Engage in discussions of psychology and provide helpful panels and discussions to the undergraduate students. Additionally the organization will fundraise and donate to non profit organizations in the community”, and

Whereas, Psychology 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 Psychology Club as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that Psychology 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:	Chair Johnson
DATE:	March 29, 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.*

**SS-22/23-50 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Beta Gamma RATatouille” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Beta Gamma RATatouille” mission statement is, “View and screen video creations by members of the club and other creators. At times, we will be screening portions of the cult classic 2007 film Ratatouille, as well as many other films. Working to encourage members to enjoy and create films”, and

Whereas, Beta Gamma RATatouille 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 Beta Gamma RATatouille as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Beta Gamma RATatouille 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:	March 29, 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.*

Senator Peckham, I feel like you should discuss changing the name of the club, I don't know how I feel about a confusing name.

Chair Johnson, explained that per the bylaws we cannot make them change their name. But there has been a recommendation.

Dr, Stiles asked for the bill to be tabled to make sure they can show sections of the 2007 Cult classic Ratatouille without paying for a viewing license.

Chair Johnson motioned to table to next week. Seconded by Chair Montoya.  
*Motion Passes.*

**SS-22/23-51 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Dominican Alliance of URI” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Dominican Alliance of URI” mission statement is, “The purpose of the organization is to create a space in which students of, not just Dominican heritage, but all different cultures and backgrounds can collaborate and bond in an organized social setting. It will also offer the necessary representation to the Dominican students who attend URI while allowing them to socialize with those who are interested in the Dominican culture, thus allowing them to also have the opportunity to educate intrigued newcomers.”, and

Whereas, Dominican Alliance of URI 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 Dominican Alliance of URI as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that Dominican Alliance of URI 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:	March 29, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

Chair Johnson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Senator Scotti.

*Motion Passes.*

*Bill Passes.*

**SS-22/23-52 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Commuter Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Commuter Club” mission statement is, “better connect commuter students to the university improving campus life.”, and

Whereas, Commuter 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 Commuter Club as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that Commuter 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:	Chair Johnson
DATE:	March 29, 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.*

**SS-22/23-53 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Entomology Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Entomology Club” mission statement is, “Our club aims to promote interest in entomology and to foster a sense of community among our members. We strive to learn about insects and maintain awareness of current issues and research being done in the field of entomology. Our club will also serve the University through the creation of the Entomology Club Collection that will comprise of insect specimens obtained by students, which can then become a resource for the entomology department as needed.”, and

Whereas, Entomology 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 Entomology Club as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Entomology 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:	Chair Johnson
DATE:	March 29, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

Chair Johnson motioned to immediately consider. Seconded by Senator Rudolph.

*Motion Passes.*

*Bill Passes.*

### **SS-22/23-54 BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THE SPRING 2023 STUDENT SENATE ELECTIONS AND BALLOT REFERENDUM**

Be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate certifies the results of the Spring 2023 Student Senate Elections and Ballot Referendum as presented by the Elections Committee.

SPONSOR:	Elections Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Summerson
DATE:	March 29, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(5 - 0 - 0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

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

**N. ADJOURNMENT** - Speaker Bove adjourned the meeting at 8:58pm.