



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 April 26, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Chadronet called the meeting to order at 6:30

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Barbosa, Breene, Buono, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Confessore, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, Dumas, Emami, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, Hurowitz, N Johnson, V Johnson, Keller, Kelling, Mayers, Mehorter, Milner, Neighbors, Newman, Palmer, Peckham, Reyes, Rinne, Rudolph, Sama, Scola, Small, Sundell, Ndongye, Walding.

ABSENT: DeLorenzo, Mccloskey, Shahzad.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Hoover motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Chair Peckham

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Hoover motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Peckham

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Daniel Graney, Dean of Students presented plans to change the Student Handbook to fit the new policies approved by the Board of Trustees.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Unrecognized clubs will now receive emails regarding updates from the SEA office and Student Organizations Committee.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Inaugural Women's Summit will happen on the upcoming Sunday in the Memorial Union Ballroom.

Final exam rights have been posted to social media.

Explanation of how academic complaints work.

- **External Affairs Committee**

No news of nuisance reports.

First meeting will be on the upcoming Friday at noon.

Planning to meet with South Kingstown Police in the upcoming weeks.

- **Cultural Affairs Committee**

Student Alliance for the Welfare of Africa is holding a Gala on the upcoming Friday at 6PM

Interested in creating an LGBTQ Liaison

- **Campus Affairs Committee**

Chair Buono informed the general assembly that Senator Milner has been nominated as the vice chair and congratulated him

Interested in creating a Sustainability Liaison

- **Executive Committee**

- Speaker

Reminded the Senate how to correctly use the "Point of Information" motion

Explained when it is appropriate to make an abstention

Stated that senators wishing to debate a bill should refrain from repeating points that have already been made

Reminded the Senate that texting during voting periods is prohibited

Encouraged the Senate to engage in a healthy, thorough, and professional debate when the bill recognizing the Rhody Rifle Club becomes open for discussion

- President

Spoke about working with Argha about the Senate website

Planning to meet with dining services tomorrow to discuss changing the music in the dining hall

Will be assigning a student to URI appeal board

Planning to attend orientation events next semester (inviting them to run for positions and elections) URI101 attendance so students know about the student body president

- Vice President

Reminded the Senate of the upcoming Celebration for the Malcolm X misquote removal

- Director of Treasury

- Director of Communications

Director Feroz introduced herself as the new Director of Communications.

Summary of social media progress (reached 2,000 followers).

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

No report

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No reports

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations for Jurists of the Court (1)

President Rizk nominated Maeve Murphy

AYES: Barbosa, Breene, Buono, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Confessore, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, Dumas, Emami, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, Hurowitz, N Johnson, V Johnson, Keller, Kelling, Mayers, Mehorter, Milner, Neighbors, Newman, Palmer, Peckham, Reyes, Rinne, Rudolph, Sama, Scola, Small, Sundell, Walding.

NAYS: none

ABSTENTIONS: none

30-0-0

Maeve Murphy is elected

Nominations for On Campus Representative (1)

Chair Hoover nominates Evelyn Clement, seconded by Chair Johnson

Chair Johnson nominates Danny Sikorski, seconded by Senator Newman

Senator Milner nominates Zoie Ndonye, seconded by Senator Barbosa

Senator Meyers nominates Noah Blake, seconded by Senator Milner

Results:

Evelyn Clement: 8

Danny Sikorski: 4

Zoie Ndonye: 21

Noah Blake: 2

Zoie Ndonye is elected to the position of On Campus Representative

All new senators are sworn in.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SS-23/24-08 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Rhody Rifle Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Rhody Rifle Club” mission statement is, “Rhody Rifle club is focused on educating students about the sport of Olympic Rifle Shooting practicing proper firearm safety and promoting safe practice of the Olympic sport”, and

Whereas, Rhody Rifle Club meets the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization, and

Whereas, it is custom for the senate to do so, therefore be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges Rhody Rifle Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Rhody Rifle Club is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Under the conditions of a Rhody Rifle Club constitution, promoting in writing the plans and rules to adhere to the university safety standards to be reviewed and discussed with the SOC committee to be reported back to the general assembly.

SPONSOR:	Chair Johnson, Senators Barbosa, Palmer, Milner, Rudolph
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Johnson
DATE:	April 19, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

Senator Johnson Introduces the Executive Board of the organization. All standards and requirements have been met. The indoor range they use is called Elite and it allows the rifles to be used under supervision with proper training.

Senator Cronan yields his time to guest Christopher Bove, who expresses opposition.

Speaker Chadronet announces that the online poll posted to the Student Senate Instagram account is misleading and instructs all voting members to disregard it.

Senator Mayers asks if ammunition will be purchased using Student Senate funds and is informed that they will not and cannot not be used.

President Rizk speaks in support of the bill.

Chair Hoover compliments Chair Johnson’s efforts and speaks in favor of the bill.

Chair Peckham says that the club may cause discomfort within the student body but that it is comforting to know the extent of safety precautions being taken.

Senator Dumas speaks in support of the bill.

Chair Reyes speaks in favor.

Senator Milner yields time to guest Jose Montoya. Montoya speaks in favor.

Senator Gamache calls the question, seconded by Chair Peckham

The vote is divided enough that a roll call vote is necessary.

AYES: Breene, Confessore, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, Hurowitz, Kelling, Mehorter, Milner, Newman, Palmer, Peckham, Rinne, Rudolph, Sama, Scola, Sundell, Walding.

ABSTENTIONS: N Johnson.

NAYS: Barbosa, Buono, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Corsi, Cronin, Cruz, Dumas, V Johnson, Keller, Mayers, Ndonge, Neighbors, Reyes, Small.

18-1-16

Motion passes.

Vote on Bill SS-23/24-08 held by roll call

AYES: Barbosa, Breene, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Corsi, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, Hurwitz, N Johnson, V Johnson, Keller, Kelling, Mayers, Mehorter, Milner, Ndonge, Neighbors, Newman, Palmer, Reyes, Rinne, Rudolph, Sama, Scola, Small, Sundell, Walding.

ABSTENTIONS: Buono, Confessore, Cronan, Cruz.

NAYS: Dumas, Ndonge, Peckham, Sundell

27-4-4

Bill passes.

L. NEW BUSINESS

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Timothy Small informs the Student Senate that he has questioned counseling staff at URI Health Services.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:05