



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
February 26th, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Matthew Cayer

Meeting Start Time: 6:34

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Acharya, Capraro, Cayer, Connolly, Curry, Desmond-Igbo, Dickson, Fleming, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hudson, Macrae, Milner, Neighbors, Paulino, Reyes, Roach, Sawyer, Singh, Small, Sorto-Justiniano, Troxell, Walding, Wentworth, Williamson

Absent: Abbott, Alemany, Buono (excused), Boucher, DeLorenzo, Lagasse, Martin (excused), Njende (excused), Reffelt (excused), Rinne (excused), Romano, Sundell (excused)

Executive: Peckham, Goswami, Feroz

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Milner motioned to amend the agenda to amend bill SS-24/25-38 to change funds allotted to the the organization, seconded by Chair Reyes

Senator Acharya moves to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Senator Hailu

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motioned by Senator Reyes, seconded by Senator Neighbors.

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Vice-President Markeisha Miner and Assistant Vice-President Michelle Fontes ~ Office Community, Equity, and Diversity (CED)

Bob Flynn (Military and Veteran Education Center), Jean Nsabumuremyi (Multicultural Student Services Center), and Manuela Vadis (Gender and Sexuality Center) ~ CED Center Directors

- *VP Miner explains her position and what the CED office does.*

- *Introduces Vice President and Directors of CED centers.*
Assistant Vice President Michelle Fontes
- *Programs available on URInvolved*
- *Inclusive excellence awards, april 15th*
- *Nominate your people that are doing the work for the awards*
- *Spread the word*
- *Senator Kairy Gonzalez; diversity dialogues; facilitate the kinds of conversations that promote diversity.*
- *March 12th deadline for nominations for inclusive excellence awards*

Manuel Vadis:

- *Safe Zone;*
- *Intersectionality; when identities overlap to create challenging and systemic barriers*
- *Tomorrow: black history month gala*
- *Friday and saturday; vagina monologues*

Jean Nsabumuremyi:

- *Find a home away for home in a space that works for you*
- *Multicultural center are all there to support students and welcoming for anyone that wants a space*
- *Number one goal to support students that want to find a space and share experiences*

Bob Flynn:

- *Military and veteran education center*
- *We have about 500 military people that have benefits that help people get to go to school here*
- *Have a lot of marines and navy that served and are going to school here*

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner

- *If you are part of a student organization please fill out the re-recognition form, need to fill it out by tomorrow. If you do not fill it out you are not eligible for funding.*
- *Lecture series tomorrow night: Welcome to SOC for new and existing student organizations. MU 318 @ 6:00*
- *Senator Dickson filmed a URI involved walkthrough of how to register and navigate URI involved and will be sent out every time someone registers a club*

Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth

- *College reps new groupme! It would just be for updates*
- *Fun items and prizes using some of the money that we made at the booth. For now I'm*

thinking stress balls or fidget toys to incentivize interactions with the booths for senate
External Affairs Committee

Chair Cayer

- *We had everybody attend committee on Sunday*
- *Friday I am meeting with the panhellenic council*
- *Looking into commuter lounges and advertising the options commuters have*
- *Want to make it more streamlined for people to know what their rights are with their landlord*

Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes

- *Good News we have a brand new date for the gala: Monday April 14th! Ballroom time to be determined in the future, but either 5:30 or 6:00*
- *Planning some fundraisers for March, some for charity and some for senate*

Campus Affairs Committee

Vice Chair Hudson:

- *Friday at 4pm student senate is meeting with SAS, meet in the senate office at 4pm, mandatory for committee to come*
- *Start making posts on instagram and trying to grow the platform*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- *Formal is going to be Friday, April 18th at the country club*
- *Bus pickups will be at 5 or 5:30*
- *Trying to get ticket prices out by March and spring break*

- Student Body President

President Goswami

- *Midterms are coming up; take care of yourself. Drink a lot of water*
- *Meeting with all of the committee chairs this week, main objective is to collaborate with the committees on project and on instagram*
- *If you guys have last minute things that you want posted, she's going to be design cohesive things for the committees*

- Student Body Vice President

VP Feroz:

- *Survey concluded on Friday; 950 responses for the survey*
- *Thank you to everyone that did take the time to fill out this survey*
- *Ramadan; religious month for Muslims that observes a fast. Try to be mindful.*
- *Dining services has packets for breaking and starting your fast*

- Director of the Treasury

- Director of Communications

- *Going to be coming up with a lot of elections stuff*

- *Hope you guys can repost and share it.*

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

Chair Sorto-Justiniano

- *Declaration period closes Thursday at 5pm*
- *2 part process partially online, the election rules and goal and signatures are in person*

at the senate office

- *Booth advertising 11am-4pm: Tuesday and Thursday.*

Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Cayer:

- *Talked extensively about revision suggestions and starting to work on a draft that we will present eventually*
- *Anything that you want to suggest please do so*

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *PINK Women is having a leadership workshop tomorrow 7-9. Leading with Love! How characteristics like empathy compassion and other characteristics can help with leadership and create community*
- *Next Wednesday 3-6pm health services hosting the safe spring break event. The Office of Student Involvement is providing a free tote bag. Wednesday March 5th from 3-6pm.*

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-38 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “RHODY DRAG AND MAKEUP CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Rhody Drag and Makeup Club” mission statement is, “Express yourself artistically and personally with makeup. Have a great time playing with makeup and learning new skills to look however you'd like, to share tips, have a good time together, and show community through art”, and

Whereas, Rhody Drag and Makeup 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 Drag and Makeup Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Rhody Drag and Makeup Club is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$75 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:
BILL HANDLER:
DATE:

Student Organizations Committee
Chairman Milner
Wednesday February 26th, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:
EXPIRATION:
ACTION:

(7-0-1)
Valid Until next Re-Recognition
Vote Tonight

Senator Singh moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Roach

Vote passes with one abstention.

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

President Goswami:

- *I encourage you all to run for president and vice president for next year*

Lucas:

- *Phenomenal presentation tonight!*

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 8:06