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**University of Rhode Island Student Senate**  
February 4th, 2026 General Assembly Agenda

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*Recording Secretary:*

*Meeting Start Time:*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Senator/Chair \_\_\_\_ moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Senator/Chair \_\_\_\_*

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

*Senator/Chair \_\_\_\_ moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator/Chair \_\_\_\_*

**E. PUBLIC FORUM**

**F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organizations Committee
- Academic Affairs Committee
- External Affairs Committee
- Cultural Affairs Committee
- Campus Affairs Committee

**G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET**

- Speaker of the Assembly
- Student Body President
- Student Body Vice President
- Director of the Treasury
- Director of Communications

**H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- Constitutional Review Committee
- Elections Committee
- Podcast Committee

**I. REPORT OF THE COURT**

**J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**K. SPECIAL ORDERS**

Voting in of Jury Nominations

**L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**M. NEW BUSINESS**

**SS-25/26-31 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF A \$3,000.00 GRANT OUT OF THE TRAVEL AND LODGING CONTINGENCY LINE TO THE URI POWERLIFTING CLUB**

**Whereas**, the URI Powerlifting Club submitted a budget request on time for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and is thereby eligible to apply for contingency grants, and

**Whereas**, on January 28th, 2026, the URI Powerlifting Club submitted a contingency grant request for \$4,490 to Director Njende to cover travel and lodging expenses for the USAPL 2026 Collegiate Nationals in New Orleans, LA, and

**Whereas**, Director Njende has met with the E-Board of URI Powerlifting and has determined the club's participation in the tournament will enhance greater participation, represent the University of Rhode Island's dedication to athletic growth and solidify URI as a serious name in the powerlifting community, and

**Whereas**, in accordance with the Student Senate Finance Handbook, contingency grants for travel and lodging expenses are awarded on a 50% cost-sharing basis, requiring students organisations to supplement the remaining costs through fundraising efforts, and

**Whereas**, the URI Powerlifting Club has demonstrated their commitment to this requirement by securing the necessary funds in their Fundraising (900) line, and has experienced extreme growth in the last few semesters, quadrupling their member count since 2023-24, and

**Resolved**, that the URI Powerlifting Club receive a \$3,000.00 contingency grant from the Travel and Lodging Contingency Line to cover the costs for the USAPL Collegiate Nationals in New Orleans, LA from April 9th to 12th, 2026, which will enhance the club's ability to represent URI at a national level, build school spirit, and demonstrate URI's commitment to supporting student athletes who represent us with excellence.

SPONSORS:	Chairs Singh, Hudson, and Senators Niro, Ramos, Waddell
BILL HANDLER:	VDOT Keomany (DOT Njende)
DATE:	Wednesday February 4th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
ACTION:	VOTE TONIGHT

**SS-25/26 -32 - RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE INSTITUTION OF A LEGAL**

## **RETAINER FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**

**Whereas**, the University of Rhode Island is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environment for all students, regardless of immigration status; and

**Whereas**, incidents of violence on college campuses nationwide have demonstrated the need for preventative security infrastructure to better monitor and manage access to shared academic spaces; and

**Whereas**, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity on or near college campuses creates fear, stress, and barriers to educational access for undergraduate students and their families; and

**Whereas**, institutions of higher education have a moral and ethical responsibility to publicly affirm their support for students and to oppose actions that threaten their safety and welfare; and

**Whereas**, numerous peer institutions: Portland State University, Boston University, Harvard University, and the University of California system have publicly affirmed protections for students, and student governments at institutions such as Cal Poly Pomona and Cornell University have passed resolutions condemning unjust federal law enforcement activity and called for sanctuary-style protections; and

**Whereas**, a legal retainer is a formal agreement in which an institution secures ongoing access to qualified immigration legal counsel in advance, ensuring immediate legal guidance, representation, and response in the event of immigration-related emergencies and incarcerations affecting students; and

**Whereas**, the absence of a legal retainer can result in critical delays in legal support during time-sensitive situations, increasing the risk of detention, family separation, or loss of educational access for students; and

**Whereas**, the immediate onboarding of a legal retainer that represents a proactive, preventative measure that strengthens institutional preparedness, minimizes harm, and demonstrates a tangible commitment to student protection; and

**Whereas**, the University of Rhode Island has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and accountability by clearly articulating its stance on ICE activity and by investing in concrete legal protections for immigrant students; and

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the Student Senate calls upon the University administration to reestablish and fund a legal retainer with a concentration in human rights or a nonprofit legal firm to provide immediate legal consultation, representation, and emergency response for students with a variety of inquiries; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Student Senate encourages the expansion and promotion of campus resources, including legal referrals, counseling services, emergency support, and sustained engagement with student organizations, advocacy groups, and community partners, and affirms its continued solidarity and advocacy to ensure URI remains a campus where all students can learn and thrive without fear; and

**Be it further resolved**, that adoption of this resolution shall serve as a proactive step toward strengthening campus safety infrastructure, ensuring rapid legal response in moments of crisis, and reinforcing the University of Rhode Island's commitment to the welfare of the student body.

SPONSORS: Chairs Niro and Senators Konte, Bremer, Conte, Faye Dontula  
BILL HANDLER: Chair Gonzalez  
DATE: Wednesday February 4th, 2025  
RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-0)  
ACTION: VOTE TONIGHT

**N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting End Time:*