



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
February 4th, 2026 General Assembly Agenda

Recording Secretary:

Meeting Start Time: 6:31pm

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present:

Bremer, Conlan	Hudson, Cameron	Ranieri, Caterina
Capraro, Melanie	Keomany, Annie	Rinne, Cole
Connolly, Olivia	Konte, Bineta	Roach, Clayton
Curry, Caitlin	Lin, Kyanna	Rosa, Sebastian
D'Aiello, Andrew	Macrae, Lyla	Singh, Arpan Utkarsh
Dickson, Tyler	Milner, Jacob	Torres, Alli
Dionne, Ryleigh	Neighbors, Isabella	Troxell, Jackson
Dontula, Sahasra	Niro, Ryan	Volek, Paige
Gonzalez, Kairy	Ramos, Aaron	

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Singh moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Senator Niro

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Troxell moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Roach

E. PUBLIC FORUM

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee
 - Chair Milner:
 - Short and Sweet, SOC first meeting RM 318 5pm 02/05
 - 17 clubs wanting recognition
 - Presidents Meeting 5:30pm Pastore Auditorium, 02/12, Thursday
 - Hazing, re-rec, etc.

- Re-rec will close march 6
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Chair Troxell:
 - One thing, Friday the 13th w/ Speaker Rinne
 - Flower Folding Event, Donations for _
- External Affairs Committee
 - Chair Singh:
 - Clothing Drive approved: Feb15th-27th
 - Will meet with South Kingston Town Council
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - Chair Gonzalez:
 - Meeting soon, tarot booth, Poetry Slam coming up,
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - Chair Hudson
 - Meeting with Tom Cooley
 - Concerns brought through Chair Milner's survey
 - Get the sidewalks on campus cleaned up more

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly
 - Speaker Rinne:
 - Thank you to those present and commitment, important for us to meet quorum,
- Student Body President
 - President Reyes:
 - SOLC retreat is mandatory! You are expected to attend, call out of work if you can
- Student Body Vice President
 - VP Hailu:
 - Meeting with Tom Cooley, Has initiatives coming up will update on those
- Director of the Treasury
 - DOT Njende:
 - Bill on the floor for voting
- Director of Communications
 - DOC Hinrichs:
 - Merch is in the works

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Constitutional Review Committee
 - Chair Niro:
 - Meeting this friday 2/6 2pm-4pm
 - Meet once a month, RM 313 MU
- Elections Committee
 - No Report
- Podcast Committee
 - Podcast will be undone due to scheduling issues

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Voting in of Jury Nominations

Nominee is approved: 25-1-0

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

DOT Njende: honor to have the first bill of the first semester on the floor

- Powerlifting is great team that has become more relevant recently, have qualified for recent championships
- Last year they received \$2,000 in contingency, for 2 qualifiers; however this year they have 6 qualifiers going, they have also quadrupled their student engagement
- They also don't receive the full budget they ask for, they fundraise around \$2,000
- Ask that the senate considers this request, money is there to be used

Chair Singh calls the question, second by Chair Milner

Speaker Rinne moves to voting via unanimous consent

Bill - SS-25/26-31 Passes

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

Chair Singh:

- Provides a message in favor of this bill
- This will ensure students are protected and trusting our institution

Chair Gonzalez:

- This matters because for many students on our campus coming to class is becoming a safety concern

- A legal retainer would allow for students to have legal representation and support

Advisor LaKeya Francis:

- Clarifying context:
 - Office of international education- they already have URI resources dedicated to this; have this person come and talk to Senate (what they can do and how to support this bill)
 - Senate already has a general lawyer, to get a specific immigration lawyer- will take 6 months to a year via a set process to be approved
 - A hotline exists if assistance is needed; it can be shared if wanted
 - Recommends the bill to be tabled; to have an opportunity to research about lawyers to find someone available in RI
- Response to Speaker Rinne:
 - To do research and find what exists to not double but to partner
- Response to Senator Bremer:
 - The resource for this will be provided in guidance to those who need it
- Response to Senator Roach:
 - There's always a risk to anything, but this would be an opportunity to get informed

Speaker Rinne:

- Reasons to table this?

Senator Bremer:

- Does URI have legal support to accompany students?

Senator Roach:

- Is there a risk to tabling this?

Speaker Rinne:

- This is a resolution to encourage the appointment of legal retainer not official

Chair Singh:

- If passing this resolution can pivot this to occur why wait
- Chair Kairy added that it is important

President Reyes:

- There is a chance that this may not be approved by President Parlange

Senator Bremer:

- Students need hope
- Chair Kairy added that the resources that exist won't walk with you
- Chair Singh added that other institutions have a legal retainer already

Chair Milner:

- Questions the language of "re-establishing a legal retainer"
- Chair Gonzalez answers that that was a language mistake
- Chair Singh adds that in years prior there was a legal aid under the External Affairs

Chair Gonzales moves to correct language; “re-establish” to “establish”, senator Roach seconds

Chair Singh calls the question, seconded by Chair Troxell

***Chair Hudson moves to vote by standing division, seconded by Chair Singh*

Speaker Rinne explains voting by standing division, voting proceeds-

Bill -SS-25/26 -32 passes unanimously - 26 counted

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:18pm