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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
March 11th, 2026 General Assembly Agenda

Recording Secretary: Sen. Max McConville 28

Meeting Start Time: 6:31

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Rosa moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Singh

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Justin Watkins – GSA

- Cross departmental community: Establishing events, establishing social support. Expanding graduate students' voices. Raising voices on research, entrepreneurial pursuit, and support. Funded by student fees. Establishing partnerships with industry to increase research.
- Social Events: Pints & Perspectives, other events geared towards undergraduates. Trying to establish relationships. Supported by President Parlange. Working on communication with the Undergraduate Senate on ice cream pints and perspectives.
- Recently collaborated with Cultural Affairs on Coca Melts ICE collaboration, appreciates the support during trying times.
- Collaboration can enhance the GSA. Wants to work on department, clubs, and sponsors on events to have a cross funding model and integrate with the undergraduate Senate.
- Advocacy, Rights, & Graduate Student Support: Wants to have power to help provide housing support and resource expansion. Current tenets of Graduate Housing left without a place to stay because of renovations. Only ½ of students were able to get

on-campus housing. Wants to establish something for the future for housing support. Is curtal for graduate students. Wants to advocate at town council. Can be done together.

- Spread the Love: GSA Giving Boxes: Initiative to help support feeding support. Beginning at the Memorial Union and Ocean Campus.
- Starting a Rhody Donation Campaign...Hopes to help students in whatever possible way to send students to conferences. Logo in the works.
- New Focus: Industry inroads, interdisciplinary research, & Entrepreneurship: Wants to build up continuous efforts. 1) Conference Comitree: March 27th-28th all colleges across the university to have poster and speaking sessions, food provided, guest speakers. Accepting undergraduates too. 2) URI Deepbuild: The GSA Hackathon: Wants to have a followthrough events to win prizes. One day path, 2 sessions. Interested contact Watkins.
- Resume workshop & Skill Building: Coming soon.
- Building Sustainable Foundations for Lasting Impact: Technology Committee to obtain new equipment. Wants to have undergraduates continue into the graduate senate.
- Currently changing the constitution and elections.
- Contact: GSA-email.group@uri.edu
- <https://web.uri.edu/gsa/>
- Social Media's: Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- 2 SOC bills: Resolution for Rhody Club Connect written by Chair Singh
- 1 recognition bill. Ask questions.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Troxel:

- Wednesday March 25th Academics AI Awareness Both. Trivia questions with candy. Downstairs in the Union. 11-2.
- Favoriate Class intative filmed. If you want to be a part of it and do so as soon as possible. Thanks Senator D'Aiello.
- External Affairs Committee

Chair Singh:

- Off Campus Newsletter not out today because of confusion on who would receive the email.

- Naragansent residents association meeting.
- 1 table added to the Impact Fest. Invites the GSA to have a table at Impact Fest.
- Cultural Affairs Committee.

Chair Gonzalez:

- Coco and ICE Booth.
- Have a good spring break.
- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Hudson:

- Dining booth yesterday. Lots of people want ice cream and rice.
- After spring break do Pie a Senator using suits prior to April 1st. More to come following Spring break.
- Chair Singh: People want butter chicken. Can we get the boxing back in the gym?
- Senator Waddel: Butter chicken is for dinner tonight.
- Chair Singh: Senator Waddel is eligible to be my Vice-Chair.

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Rinnee:

- With our formal looming on the horizon we are continuing the tradition of senate superlatives. They are lighthearted. Let me know if you don't want to be included.
- Let me know before Monday 3/23 to have any business. The next 2 meetings are very important. Have a great spring break. The 2nd to last meeting is March 25th.
- April 1st is the last meeting.
- Student Body President

President Reyes:

- Echoes President Rinnee's remarks.
- Camaraman coming to take a photo on April 1st. Dress professionally.
- Fill out any links I've sent.
- DOC asks you to look over the senate clothing.
- Student Body Vice President
- Director of the Treasury

DOT Njende:

- Thankful for club treasurers and presidents for filling out forms.
- Bill on the floor tonight. \$5,000 continuity. Joined by the Asian Students Association. The president and treasurer are here tonight to defend the bill.

- The money is safe.
- Director of Communications

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Niro:

- No report. Met last week.
- Elections Committee

Chair Curry:

- Elections open at 9AM.
- Unofficial results coming out late Thursday or after break.

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-25/26-44 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “URI CHAMBER MUSIC CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “URI Chamber Music Club” mission statement is, “to establish a pool of URI musicians with interest in enrolling in chamber music ensemble courses within the URI Music Department; to provide an ongoing opportunity for enthusiastic chamber musicians among the URI community to explore and enjoy the vast repertoire of instrumental chamber music;”, and

Whereas, URI Chamber Music 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 URI Chamber Music Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that URI Chamber Music Club is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$50 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, March 11th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition

ACTION:

Vote Tonight

Voting proceeds

Bill SS-25/26-44 passes unanimously

Chair Milner: Is the brainchild of an adult learner who is passionate about chamber music (violens, chellos,etc...). Is a student in the college & Arts and Sciences. SOC passed it with a 7-0 vote.

SS-25/26-45 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF A \$5,000.00
PROGRAMMING CONTINGENCY GRANT TO THE ASIAN STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION

Whereas, the Asian Students Association submitted a budget request on time for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and is thereby eligible to apply for contingency grants, and

Whereas, on March 6th, 2026, the Asian Students Association submitted a Programming Contingency Grant Request Form to cover the cost of a headliner performer for their annual ASA Culture Show, and

Whereas, the Director of Treasury has met with the Executive Board of the Asian Students Association and has determined that their existing programming budget is insufficient to secure a headliner performer given the total costs associated with the event, including travel expenses, backline, lighting, technical equipment, sound, and additional band expenses, and

Whereas, the ASA Culture Show is a mission-aligned programming event open to the URI campus community that promotes cultural appreciation, diversity, and inclusion, and that the inclusion of a headliner performer is integral to the quality and purpose of the show, and

Whereas, in accordance with the Student Senate Finance Handbook, Programming Contingency Grants are available to fund student programming consistent with the mission of the student organization for the URI campus community, and grants exceeding \$800 require approval by the Student Senate General Assembly, and

Whereas, the Asian Students Association has demonstrated fiscal responsibility and has sufficient funds available in their Fundraising Line (900) to supplement remaining event costs, and

Resolved, that the Asian Students Association receive a \$5,000.00 Programming Contingency Grant from the General Programming Contingency Line (130) to cover the costs of a headliner performer and associated event production expenses for their annual ASA Culture Show, which will enhance the organization's ability to deliver meaningful cultural programming and strengthen URI's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

SPONSORS: Chairs Singh, Hudson, and Senators Niro, Ramos, Waddell

BILL HANDLER: VDOT Keomany (DOT Njende)

DATE: Wednesday March 11th,
2026

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

ACTION: VOTE TONIGHT

Voting proceeds

Bill SS-25/26-45 passes unanimously

DOT: We have a club asking for \$5,000 contingency. Ask the representative quesitons.

Frannie-Treasurer

- Money covers a performer; travel, background music, supporting crew, etc...the association has worked to spend less money.
- The cost of just booking fees has increased by \$1,000, which is disproportionate to the association's budget.
- Have tried to find someone cheaper but it wouldn't have the same community response and impact.
- Contacted over 10 artists. The lowest booking fee was \$7,000 dollars. Is very close to their entire budget.
- Believes this provides our community with a more cultural and diverse perspective that shows them other cultures besides American.

Kenzie-Vice President:

- Here to defend the contingency to pay for the culture show. Allows them to spread awareness of different cultures. Is open to all members of the community. Expects 400 members. Last year had a line dance group

Senator Dickson: What time?

Frannie: Edward auditorium April 17th, 6 o'clock at night.

DOC: We have 1500 over from the contingency.

Senator Lin: cost?

Frannie: Free to URI students.

Chair Singh: Call to queston.

President Reyes: 'Senate Advisor wants to ask a question.'

Senate Advisor:What type of performer is it?

Treasurer: Looking at different types of singers.

Senate Advisor: Have you looked at other...

Treasurer: No.

SS-25/26-46

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RHODY CLUB CONNECT, A
CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Whereas, student organizations form the foundation of campus involvement and leadership at the University of Rhode Island, and

Whereas, providing student leaders with efficient access to information, forms, and policies is crucial to supporting organizational success, and

Whereas, the Student Organizations Committee has identified the need for a centralized platform to streamline communication and reduce administrative confusion among student organizations, and

Whereas, Rhody Club Connect is being developed under the guidance of the Student Organizations Committee as a comprehensive website for all student organization needs, including access to Senate policies, recognition guidelines, budgeting procedures, and instructional materials, and will be affiliated with the Student Senate while operating independently from the official University of Rhode Island websites, and

Whereas, this platform will enhance transparency, efficiency, and accessibility, ensuring clubs have the resources necessary to operate successfully and in accordance with Senate regulations, and

Whereas, the active participation of the student organization community is key to ensuring *Rhody Club Connect* is a practical and user-friendly resource, and

Whereas, the Student Senate recognizes the efforts of the Student Organizations Committee in developing this initiative in service of long-term student engagement and organizational sustainability;

So Be It Resolved That, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate supports the continued development and promotion of *Rhody Club Connect* and recognizes its existence under the Student organization committee as a centralized digital hub for student organizations, and encourages all Senate-recognized clubs to participate in the feedback process to ensure the platform meets the needs of the campus community.

SPONSOR(S): Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chair Singh

RECOMMENDATION: 7-0-0

DATE: March 11, 2026

ACTION: Vote now

Voting proceeds

Bill SS-25/26-46 passes unanimously

Chair Singh: I've spoken enough today. I'd like to yield the floor to Senator Diallo.

Senator D’Aiello: We’ve heard a lot about complications with document retrieval. Is a free website run by WIX. Puts everything in one place; how to book rooms,etc...as the SOC committee were happy to help but, this streamlines the process of the SOC committee. If anyone has any questions I’ m happy to answer.

Speaker Rinne: Congrats SOC

(Claps erupt).

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:12