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**University of Rhode Island Student Senate**  
March 19th, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

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*Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer*

*Meeting Start Time: 6:31*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Senator Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Senator Macrae*

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

*Chair Cayer moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Walding*

**E. PUBLIC FORUM**

*Tom Cooley ~ Assistant Vice-President of Housing and Residential Life (HRL) and Student Development*

- *Welcome back from spring break*
- *Last semester almost 700 programs on campus, both wellness related and educational programs*
- *Initiatives:*
  - *Facility improvement: Safety; doors, alarms, railings*
  - *Custodial services: training and improving equipment*
  - *Updating lounge areas*
- *Brookside space enhancements*
- *Enhancement of outside spaces*
- *Intentional with carpets and colors in the spaces for students*
- *A lot of spaces to enhance*
- *Room Selection:*
  - *Started on the 18th*

- 2300 returning student beds available

*Gilban Development and Design Representatives:*

- 914 beds total being put in
- Color palettes, getting student input on design options for new buildings
- Common spaces
- Exterior Design

## **F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organizations Committee

*Chair Milner:*

- Working on a few project and happy that re-rec is almost over
- Academic Affairs Committee

*Chair Wentworth:*

- Hi everyone, I believe on Monday we made a information post about a course that is offered every semester for mental health and first aid on our instagram please give it a look
- More details to come soon about the senate study session
- **SPEAKER PECKHAMS BIRTHDAY!!!**
- External Affairs Committee

*Chair Cayer:*

- Tomorrow morning I'm attending the SK Narragansett university housing coalition: on the agenda the RIPTA transit project. Will report back next week
- Cultural Affairs Committee

*Chair Reyes:*

- Upsetting news the gala was canceled due to lack of resources. Hopefully it can still carrying out next semester
- One of the things that we were planning on doing was giving out the awards for awards, and now we're trying to give out those awards at some point
- Working with the women's center on a fundraiser or clothing drive for the women's refugee center
- Be on the lookout for a collab with SOC
- Campus Affairs Committee

*Chair Buono:*

- Hey guys, hope you had a good spring break
- Pie a senator as a fundraiser in April, poll will be sent out tonight after general assembly to get a sense of when we should have it
- **NO PRESSURE** but feel free to wear business attire
- Study action for sustainability working on "Rhody Repurpose" for the week of move out time. Divert usable items from large university dumpsters to provide them free of charge for students and the local communities. Our community is going to show a big presence and hopefully the general assembly can be too. Will be sending out their volunteer sheet this week

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

- Speaker of the Assembly :
- Formal is Friday April 18th tickets are currently 83 dollars. If not enough people go, the prices will increase. I worked really hard to do this for us so please sign up
- Sent out a new google form in the email and the groupme. Dinner options are on the

- google sheet*
- *Being kind is free, treat other people with kindness. We don't always know what's going on in other people's lives, be mindful and nice to everybody. As always if you have questions about committee assignment, attendance, or anything else please contact me*
  - Student Body President
  - Student Body Vice President
- *Presentation later today about the survey that I have been talking about*
- *Updates regarding TAP: Choose two people to win parking passes! Next phase will be implementing the bidirectional shuttles. They are going to map that out. Final meeting with them.*
  - Director of the Treasury
    - *Hi everybody! Hope your doing well*
    - *Tonight voting on the budget*
    - *Largely everyones happy with the proposed numbers, really happy with that! Vote yes*
  - Director of Communications
- *Today we got out the third episode of the podcast*
- *collab post with the academic affairs committee*
- *reel coming soon announcing the presidential debate on monday*

## **H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### *Elections Committee*

#### *Chair Cayer:*

- *Big thing: Presidential debate on Monday (3/24). With all three presidential tickets*
- *6:30 pm in CBL 10 monday night. PLEASE GO*
- *Voting period next week*
- *RSVP for the debate on URI involved: questions you want answered on the URI Involved*

#### *Lucas Dewitt:*

- *Tuesday through Thursday of next week starting at 8am and closing at 5pm*
- *Running for student senate election position or not please vote.*
- *Excited to see the engagement that we get with our elections*

### *Constitutional Review Committee*

#### *Chair Cayer:*

- *Mostly done, ready to be on the floor. Currently planned to be April 2nd. Give your feedback and make any amendments to the bill*

## **I. REPORT OF THE COURT**

## **J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *Lucas Dewitt:*

- *Event dates: Health service and Ariel Sherman-Laboski sent an email out, the suicide awareness walk is sunday April 13th at 11:30 am on the quad if you are interested*
- *University town hall is designed to get the feedback of the campus community to get input on what questions you have with all that has happened this year and questions that you want answered. March 27th in Edwards. Closes March 25th registration closes.*
- *Welcome days, right next to student involvement. One university fair on the ryan center floor. March 30th, and April 5th and 12th at noon try to sign up for at least one*
- *New position for assistant vice president of student involvement and the memorial union has opened up. There are going to be some changes that come to student affairs.*

### *Speaker Peckham:*

- *CCEE pairs with JCPenny once a year and has a sale for URI students and that is a really good opportunity to get business clothes. March 23rd*

## **K. SPECIAL ORDERS**

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **SS-24/25-40 – [DIRECTOR CRONAN] BILL CALLING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL/ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2025/2026**

**Whereas**, the Treasury Committee is presenting the Fiscal/Academic Year 2025/2026 Budget, now therefore be it,

**Resolved**, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate hereby approves of the following fiscal amounts according to the final recommendations of the Treasury for all entities eligible for (and granted) funding.

SPONSOR(S):	Treasury Committee
BILL HANDLER:	VDOT Njende (Director Cronan)
DATE:	Wednesday, March 5th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	[5 - 0 - 0]
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Annual Budget Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Chair Cayer moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Hinrichs*

*Bill passes unanimously*

## **M. NEW BUSINESS**

## **N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

*Vice-President Feroz Presenting on RhodyShuttle Survey Results*

- *Survey was aimed to look at how student and faculty felt about the shuttles*
- *Shuttles directly impact academic affairs, Are students able to get to their class and learn?*
- *Total number of respondents who took the survey 974*
- *53% lived off campus*
- *47% live on campus*
- *This affects campus affairs and external*
- *892 respondents were undergraduate students*
- *Bidirectional shuttles: going one way and anticlockwise, students do want to see this on campus*
- *Most of the respondents said that they were very satisfied with the shuttle experience and driver courtesy, as well as cleanliness.*

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting End Time: 7:58*