



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
March 11th, 2026 General Assembly Agenda

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

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-25/26- 47 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND TO PROMOTE THE USE OF FREE EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS AND DECREASE MANDATORY PAID THIRD-PARTY PLATFORMS AND ACCESS CODES FOR URI COURSES

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island (URI) is committed to equitable access to education for all students, and

Whereas, many students are required to purchase costly third-party platforms or access codes for course content, assessments, and homework, often ranging from \$50 to \$300 per course, and

Whereas, these additional costs place a burden on members of the student body, and

Whereas, the university already provides access to Brightspace and supports Open Educational Resources (OER) and other zero-cost alternatives that can house course content and assessments, and

Whereas, studies¹ show that paid platforms and access code costs can negatively impact academic performance from barriers to accessing essential materials, and

Whereas, institutions across the country, such as University of Connecticut, Louisiana State University, and Princeton University, have begun adopting no-cost and low-cost textbook and platform policies to reduce student expenses and increase accessibility, and

Therefore, The URI Student Senate formally supports the decrease of mandatory third-party platforms and access code requirements in URI courses where viable alternatives exist, and

Therefore, The URI Student Senate urges faculty to utilize Brightspace, OER, and other free university-supported platforms in place of paid platforms or codes when feasible, and

Therefore, The URI Student Senate requests that URI's administration and Faculty Senate create a task force or advisory committee to evaluate scalable, no-cost courseware solutions and propose a pathway for broader institutional adoption, and so be it

Resolved that, The URI Student Senate encourages The University of Rhode Island to move towards no-cost and low-cost student access platforms.

1. Colvard, N. B., Watson, C. E., & Park, H. (2018). The impact of open educational resources on various student success metrics. IJTLHE, 30(2), 262–276

SPONSORS:

Academic Affairs Committee

BILL HANDLER:

Chair Troxell (President Reyes)

DATE:

Wednesday March 25th, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

(5-0-0)

ACTION:

VOTE TONIGHT

SS-25/26-48 – BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2025-2026 STUDENT SENATE SPRING ELECTIONS

Whereas, the Student Senate Spring election results as presented by the Elections Committee for the election for President, Vice President, and Representative seats for the 2026-2027 term.

Resolved, that the passage of this bill officially accepts the election of the following students for the respective positions, to be inaugurated at the 2025-2026 annual meeting, 4/1/26.

Student Body President (1)

(President-Elect) Madison Hinrichs (63.34%)

Student Body Vice President (1)

(Vice President-Elect) Kyanna Lin (63.34%)

At-Large Representatives (XX)

(Senator-Elect) Ryan Niro (5.78%)

(Senator-Elect) Annie Keomany (5.69%)

(Senator-Elect) Jackson Troxell (5.02%)

(Senator-Elect) Cassia Bennett (4.495%)

(Senator-Elect) Sahasra Dontula (3.73%)

(Senator-Elect) Jack Curt (3.11%)

(Senator-Elect) Bineta Konte (3.38%)

Off-Campus Representatives (XX)

(Senator-Elect) Aaron Ramos (8.26%)

(Senator-Elect) Cameron Hudson (7.46%)

(Senator-Elect) Bella Conte (7.46%)

(Senator-Elect) Arpan Utkarsh Singh (6.88%)

(Senator-Elect) Max McConville (6.31%)

On-Campus Representatives (XX)

(Senator-Elect) Sokhana Faye (21.06%)

(Senator-Elect) Caroline MacKenzie (20.83%)

(Senator-Elect) Conlan Bremer (16.43)

College of Arts and Sciences Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Sebastian Rosa (14.54%)

College of Education Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Alexa Danis (83.33%)

College of Engineering Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Dylan Waddell (62.5%)

College of Environmental Life Sciences Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Lyla Macrae (65.9%)

College of Nursing Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Cierra Penny (100%)

College of Pharmacy Representative (1)

Resolved, that the passage of this bill shall open the internal election process for these remaining seats immediately.

College of Pharmacy Representative (1)

At-Large Representatives (1)

College of Business Representative (1)

College of Health Science Representative (1)

Sponsors:

Bill Handler:

Recommendation

Date:

Action:

Elections Committee

Chairwoman Curry

6-0-0

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

Vote Tonight

SS-25/26-49 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEALTH SERVICES TO WRITE SICK NOTES FOR UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENTS

Whereas, The University of Rhode Island Health Services is the primary on-campus medical provider for students and is uniquely positioned to offer timely, accessible, and credible documentation of illness; and

Whereas, the URI Health Services has not provided “sick notes” according to the director of health services since at least 2024, and

Whereas, this practice places an unfair burden on students who are ill, forcing them to seek off-campus medical appointments to acquire a sick note, incur unnecessary costs, miss class and not get excused absences, or attend class while sick in order to avoid academic penalties; and

Whereas, public health best practices emphasize reducing barriers to staying home when sick, especially in communal living and learning environments such as residence halls, classrooms, and dining facilities; and

Whereas, peer institutions across the region and country routinely provide illness documentation through their campus health centers, showing that such a policy is both feasible and beneficial to student well-being; and

Whereas, providing sick notes would strengthen communication between students, faculty, and health services, reduce academic stress during illness due to excused absences being given out by professors, and promote a healthier campus environment overall; and

Therefore it be resolved, that the Student Senate calls upon the University of Rhode Island Health Services to give students sick notes for students who show symptoms of a sickness/sicknesses, and

Be it further resolved, that adoption of this should assist students in getting necessary excused absences from classes, and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Director of Health Services, the Dean of Students, the Faculty Senate, and other relevant administrative bodies for review and implementation.

SPONSOR(S): Chair Singh, Senator Torres, Senator Ramos, Senator Abott, Senator Dionne, Senator Martin, Senator McConville

BILL HANDLER:

Chair Hudson

DATE:

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

(7-0-0)

EXPIRATION:

Valid Until Review

ACTION:

Vote Tonight

SS-25/26-50 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “COOKING WITH RAMS” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Cooking with Rams” mission statement is, “to promote cultural diversity, community engagement, and creativity through food,” and

Whereas, Cooking with Rams 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 Cooking with Rams as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Cooking with Rams 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 25th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-25/26-51 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “LET’S TALK ABOUT IT” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Let’s Talk About It” mission statement is, “to produce a student-run podcast that entertains, connects, and informs the student body by creating a fun, comedic space where students can laugh, relate, and stay informed both on-campus and off-campus life,” and

Whereas, Let's Talk About It 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 Let's Talk About It as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Let's Talk About It 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 25th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-25/26-52 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “CREATIVE WRITERS COALITION” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Creative Writers Coalition” mission statement is, “to create an environment where writers can share their work and exercise their creativity,” and

Whereas, Creative Writers Coalition 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 Creative Writers Coalition as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Creative Writers Coalition 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 25th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-25/26-53 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SCIENCE CLUB” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Human Development and Family Science Club” mission statement is, “To foster a supportive community for Human Development and Family Science students to connect with peers and faculty, explore academic and career pathways within HDF, and engage in meaningful, enjoyable experiences that promote personal growth and well-being,” and

Whereas, Human Development and Family Science 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 Human Development and Family Science Club as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Human Development and Family Science 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 25th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION: (6-0-1)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION: Vote Tonight

**SS-25/26-54 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
“ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS STUDENT
ASSOCIATION” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Student Association” mission statement is, “to bring together the members of our unique major to build a community outside of the classroom that is dedicated to furthering their experience through connection, collaboration, and learning through events, discussions, and opportunities that unify like-minded peers passionate about environmental and economic issues.” and

Whereas, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Student Association 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 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Student Association as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Student Association 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 25th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION: (8-0-0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until next re-recognition
ACTION: Vote Tonight

SS-25/26-55 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ANNUAL RE-RECOGNITION OF UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE APPROVED ORGANIZATIONS

Whereas, the Student Organizations Committee (SOC) must review all Student Senate-recognized organizations annually, and

Whereas, all Student Senate-recognized organizations must successfully complete the re-recognition process to be re-recognized for the next fiscal year, and

Whereas, the following organizations failed to complete the re-recognition and budget process on time, or did not meet the minimum requirements to continue being a student senate-recognized organization:

American Society of Pharmacognosy
Birdwatching Club
BridgeUSA
Climbing Club
College Democrats
College Republicans
Confidence Club
Dress History Club
Eating Concerns Advisory (ECA)
Engineers Without Borders
Exercise is Medicine on Campus
eXposure
Fashion Merchandising Society
Flow
Haitian Student Association (HSA)
Lego Club
Med Life
Multicultural Student Athlete Committee (MSAC)
Papuan Student Association (PSA)
Planned Parenthood Advocacy (PPA)
Pre-Physician Assistant Club
Psychology Club
Ram Hacks
Red Cross Club
Rhody Culture Collective (RCC)
Rhody Flicks
Sports Fanatics Club
Student Organ Donor Advocates (SODA)
Transfer Student Association (TSA)
Women's Club Soccer

Whereas, all the organizations listed below have met the requirements for re-recognition, and

Whereas, it is the duty of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate to recognize these student groups annually, now therefore be it,

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges the following organizations as Student Senate-recognized clubs valid until the next re-recognition process.

African Student Association (ASO)
American Heart Association Heart Club (AHA)
American Society of Landscape Architecture URI (ASLA)
Animal & Veterinary Science Club (AVS)
Art Helps Hearts
Asian Student Association (ASA)
Billiards Club
Black Student Union (BSU)
Brothers On a New Direction (BOND)
Cape Verdean Student Association
Chamber Music
Chinese Games Club
Club Dance
Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP)
Colleges Against Cancer (CAC)
Cooking with Rams
Creative Writers Coalition
Crochet Club
Club Sports and Intramural Council (CSIC)
Dominican Alliance
Economic Student Association
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Student Association (ENRESA)
Filipino Student Association
Gaming Club
Geology Club
Hillel
Human Development and Family Science Club
Influence Campus Ministries
Italian Club
Judo & Jiu-jitsu Club
Kinesiology Club
Latinx Student Association (LSA)
Let's Talk About It
Marine Science Society
Middle Eastern Student Association (MESA)
Mock Trial Club
Multicultural Unity and Student Involvement Council (MUSIC)
Music Therapy Club
Musicians Guild
Muslim Student Association (MSA)
National Marrow Donor Program URI (NMDP)
National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
National Organization for Rare Diseases URI - NORD Students for Rare
Neuroscience Club

Northwoods Hiking & Conversation Club
Outing Club
Pentecost Student and Associates (PENSA)
PENSA
Photography Club
Powerful Independent Notoriously Knowledgeable Women (PINK)
Pre-Dental Club
Public Relations Student Society of American (PRSSA)
Puppy Raisers Club
Rhody Bikes
Rhody Catholic Organization
Rhody Christian Fellowship
Rhody Drag & Makeup Club
Rhody First
Rhody Rhapsodies
Rhody Ridiculousness
Rhody Round-Up Linedancing
Rhody Stronger Together
Rotaract Club
Sailing Club
Sankofa Campus Ministry
Scuba Club
Science Fiction & Supernatural Club
Social Dance Club
Society for Women in Computing
Sojourn Collegiate Ministry
South Asian Student Association (SASA)
Student Action for Sustainability (SAS)
Student Alumni Association (SAA)
Student Entertainment Committee (S.E.C)
Student Organization Leadership Consultants (SOLC)
Student Veterans Organization (SVO)
Students Actively Volunteering and Engaging in Service (SAVES)
Surf Club
Surfrider Foundation
The Garden
The Good Five Cent Cigar
The Rhody Exchange
Timmy Global Health
Uhuru Sasa
URI Dance Company
URI Habitat for Humanity
URI Student Speech Language Hearing Association (URISLHA)
Women in STEM

WRIU

Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA)

Whereas, the following organizations shall retain their recognition status but have the ability to opt into a reduced financial allocation of \$100 per year due to failure to complete the required initial forms unless the budget requirement is waived. These organizations will remain eligible to apply for contingency funding to support operational costs during FY 2026–2027, subject to approval by the DOT, in coordination with the Accounts Office and the Student Senate General Assembly.

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges the following organizations as Student Senate-recognized clubs under the previously stated provisions, valid until the next re-recognition process.

Alima International Dance Association
Anime Club
Chabad
Best Buddies
Electronic Music Association (EMA)
RhodyTHON

Whereas, the recent passage of SS-25/26-42 reorganized fourteen student organizations under the oversight of the Club Sport & Intramural Council (CSIC), the organizations listed below will be acknowledged as senate-affiliated organizations while not retaining their official recognition statuses for FY 26-27

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges the following organizations as Student Senate affiliated organizations under the previously stated provisions, valid until the next re-recognition process.

Alpine Ski Club
Badminton Club
Club Baseball
Club Softball
Club Track & Field
Cricket Club
Golf Club
Fencing Club
Powerlifting Club
Rhody Archery
Rhody Rifle
Trailathon Club
Roller Hockey
Water Polo

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairman Milner
DATE: Wednesday, March 25th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION: (8-0-0)
ACTION: Vote Tonight

SS-25/26-56 – [DIRECTOR NJENDE] BILL CALLING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL/ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2026/2027

Whereas, the Treasury Committee is presenting the Fiscal/Academic Year 2026/2027 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 Keomany (Director Njende)
DATE: Wednesday, March 25th, 2026
RECOMMENDATION: [5 - 0 - 0]
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Annual Budget
Review ACTION: Vote Next Week

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: