



---

Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,  
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881  
Telephone: (401) 874-2261  
Email: [info@rhodysenate.org](mailto:info@rhodysenate.org)

---

**University of Rhode Island Student Senate**  
March 5th, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

---

*Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer*

*Meeting Start Time: 6:34*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Abbott, Acharya, Boucher, Buono, Cayer, DeLorenzo, Dickson, Fleming, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hudson, Macrae, Martin, Milner, Njende, Paulino, Reyes, Reffelt, Rinne, Sawyer, Singh, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Troxell, Wentworth, Williamson

**Absent:** Alemany, Capraro (excused), Connolly (excused), Curry (excused), Desmond-Igbo (excused), Hinrichs (excused), Romano, Small, Walding

**Executive:** Peckham, Cronan, Goswami, Feroz, Pokherel

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Chair Milner moves to approve this week's agenda as amended (re-recognition and budget bills re-formatted), seconded by Chair Buono*

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

*Senator Troxell moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Martin*

**E. PUBLIC FORUM**

**F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- 4 days till spring break!
- Recognition bill on the floor tonight, look through it and ask questions
- Vice Chair Dickson is looking at doing a club leadership retreat
- Working on club flyer campaign

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth:

- My committee and I are interested in doing a senate study session this semester, group bonding type thing!

- *Stay tuned for more details*
  - External Affairs Committee
- Chair Cayer:
- *Looking at RIPTA and the current contract that we have to see if we can get a better deal for commuter students, so hopefully there's so wiggle room*
  - *Met with the panhel president the other night!*

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Vice Chair Sorto Justiniano:

- *Multicultural gala on april 14th at 5pm to 5:30 till 8:00*
- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Buono:

- *Spreading the word on the dining services survey, sending that out tonight! Only a couple of questions so he can get that in motion*
- *Going to have a booth once it went out to the student body*
- *Will be planning pie a senator for the end of the semester*

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

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- *Want to let you guys know that we are waiting on a final price and do all the math for the number of people that we think are going to get a price!*
- *I oversee all the committee assignments you need to get approval from both the chair and myself, please behave respectfully and responsibly in the meetings.*

- Student Body President

President Goswami:

- *Going to the faculty senate meeting tomorrow to talk about elections and access code issues*
- *Shout out to everyone involved with treasury committee*
- *Shout out to the SOC chair and committee, the re-rec season was intense*
- *Shout out to our elections chair*
- *Want to do senate spoons: look forward to seeing everyone participate*

- Student Body Vice President

Vice President Feroz:

- *Survey has been wrapped up with 950 responses*
- *Meeting with the transportation and parking team over spring break! Going in over the statistics I found through the survey. I hope everyone is having a wonderful religious fast*
- *Ramadan resources are out there so that we can spread the word as student leaders*

- Director of the Treasury

DOT Cronan:

- *We're going to be going through 13 stages of budget tonight*

- Director of Communications

DOC Pokharel:

- *Make sure your reposting the elections post*
- *Podcast will be coming out every Wednesday, working with Molly to set up something for the academic committee!*

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

*Elections Committee*

*Chair Sorto Justiniano:*

- Remember to reapply if you are re-running!
- Debate: the week after spring break, TBD on location. Date is Thursday after spring break. President, Vice president debate.
- Elections: Three day period Tuesday march 25th through thursday march 27th at 5pm
- Reapply for every role that you qualify for

Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Cayer:

- Today we discussed adding more representative seats that was an idea that was brought up by vice chair rinne, drafting how that will look in the constitution

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

- There is minimal procedure to receive a complaint
- If you guys have any complaints please write it down so that we can tangibly act upon it

Speaker Peckham moves to enter executive session, seconded by Senator Sawyer

Senator Sawyer moves to suspend the rules, seconded by senator gonzalez

Motion made to exit executive session made by Senator Gonzalez moves to exit executive session, seconded by Chair Cayer

## **J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lucas:

- Elections coming if you were included in the form for the bus to the state capital
  - If your driving yourself I will send you an email soon

Senator Troxell:

- Hosting a bingo night for education major on tuesday march 25th from 5-6:30 in the rams den

## **K. SPECIAL ORDERS**

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **M. NEW BUSINESS**

### **SS-24/25-39 – 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:

Active Minds

Chabad

Chess Club

Chinese Student Association

Climbing Club

Community Wellness Leaders

Entomology  
Persian Cultural Student Association  
Pickleball Club  
Planned Parenthood Advocacy  
Public Health Club  
Science Fiction and Supernatural Club  
Student-Led Theatre Collective  
US Theatre Tech  
Women in Pre-Med  
Women's Network

**Whereas**, the following organizations did not fill out the re-recognition form, but did complete the budget request process. The following organizations will be recognized, but their current 2024-2025 budget will be frozen until the re-recognition form is complete. If the re-recognition form is not completed by April 1, these organizations will be ineligible to receive a budget for 2025-2026:

Alumni of Color Student Leadership Group (ACSL)  
Aspiring Educators of RI  
Bike Club (Rhody Bikes)  
Dungeons and Rams  
Medical Laboratory Science Club  
Medical Minds Matter  
OCD Mind Warriors  
Rhody Sports Media Club  
Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA)

**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 until the next re-recognition process.

African Student Organization (ASO)  
Alima International Dance Association  
Alpine Racing Team  
American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA)  
Animal and Veterinary Science Club  
Anime Club  
Asian Student Association (ASA)  
Badminton Club  
Best Buddies  
Billiards Club  
Birdwatching Club  
Black Student Union (BSU)  
Bridge USA  
Brothers On a New Direction (BOND)  
Cape Verdean Student Association (CVSA)  
Chinese Games Club

Club Baseball  
Club Dance  
Club Softball  
Club Sports & Intramurals Council (CSIC)  
Club Track and Field  
College Democrats  
College Republicans  
Colleges Against Cancer  
Confidence Club  
Cricket Club  
Dance Company  
Dominican Alliance of URI  
Dress History Association  
Eating Concerns Advisory (ECA)  
Economics Student Association  
Electronic Music Association (EMA)  
Engineers Without Borders  
Exercise is Medicine  
Exposure  
Fashion Merchandising Society  
Fencing  
Filipino Student Association  
Flow  
Gaming Club  
Geology Club  
Golf Club  
Good Five Cent Cigar  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hack@URI  
Hillel  
Interfraternity Council (IFC)  
Italian Club  
Judo and Jiu Jitsu Club  
Kinesiology Club  
Latinx Student Association (LSA)  
Lego Club  
Marine Science Society  
Middle Eastern Student Association (MESA)  
Mock Trial  
Multicultural Student Athlete Committee (MSAC)  
Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council (MUSIC)  
Music Therapy Club  
Musicians Guild  
Muslim Student Association (MSA)  
National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)  
National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)  
Neuroscience Club  
NORD Rare  
Northeast Student Affiliate (NESA)  
North Woods Conservation Club  
Outing Club

Panhellenic Council  
Pentecost Student and Associates (PENSA)  
Pharmacognosy Club  
Photography Club  
Powerful Independent Notoriously Knowledgeable (PINK) Women  
Powerlifting Team  
Pre-Dental Club  
Pre-Physician Assistant Club  
Pre-Physical Therapy Club  
Psychology Club  
Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)  
Puppy Raisers Club  
Ram Hacks  
Red Cross Club  
Renaissance Yearbook  
RhodyThon  
Rhody Archery  
Rhody Catholic Organization  
Rhody Christian Fellowship  
Rhody Drag and Makeup Club  
Rhody Flicks  
Rhody Rhapsodies  
Rhody Ridiculousness  
Rhody Rifle  
Rotaract Club  
Sailing Club  
Sankofa Christian Ministry  
Science Fiction and Supernatural Club  
Scuba Club  
Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA)  
Social Dance  
Society for Women in Computing  
Sojourn Collegiate  
South Asian Student Association (SASA)  
Sports Fanatics  
Student Action for Sustainability (SAS)  
Student Alumni Association (SAA)  
Student Entertainment Committee (SEC)  
Student Nurses Association (SNA)  
Student Organ Donor Advocates (SODA)  
Student Organization Leadership Consultants (SOLC)  
Student Speech Language Hearing Association (URISLHA)  
Student Veterans Organization (SVO)  
Students Actively Volunteering and Engaging in Service (SAVES) URI  
Surf Club  
Surfrider Foundation Club  
Talent Development Student Board (TDSB)  
Timmy Global Health  
Triathlon Club  
Uhuru Sasa  
Water Polo Club

Women in Data Science  
Women in Sports  
Women in STEM  
Women's Club Soccer  
WRIU Radio

**\*\*\*The following orgs will be re-recognized, but they MUST still complete the re-rec form\*\***

Club Sports & Intramurals Council (CSIC)  
Hack@URI  
IFC (Interfraternity Council)  
Northeast Student Affiliate (NESA)  
Panhel  
Rhody Catholic Organization  
Rhodython  
SAGA  
Student Alumni Association  
Student Nurses Association  
Talent Development Student Board (TDSB)  
YDSA

SPONSOR(S):	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, March 5th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	[7 - 0 - 0]
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

*Chair Cayer moves to begin voting, seconded by Chair Sorto-Justiniano  
Bill passes unanimously.*

**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:  
ACTION:

Valid Until Next Annual Budget Review  
Vote Next Week

*DOT Cronan:*

- *No decreases unless they requested so*
- *Not going through every single club*
- *Took into account what they are doing for the URI community*
- *A big part of the budget this year is the amounts that they were allocated this year and the year before*
- *VDOT John, helped look at how much money we are giving them and how much they have requested in the past*

*VP Feroz:*

- *Every club that requested a certain amount of money, I'm trying to see why certain clubs got these amount*

*President Goswami:*

- *Has anyone objected to the budget?*

*DOT:*

- *Everyone was welcome to be here tonight, people are generally happy! Quite a lot of time and effort has gone into this*

*Page 2:*

- *Bridge USA and other clubs that have waived their budget are still being re-recognized but not getting budgets*

*Page 3:*

- *Gave a ton of time for year 4 clubs to get re-recognize and submit their budget*

*Senator Sundell:*

- *Does the budget roll over?*

*DOT Cronan:*

- *No unfortunately not*

*Senator Martin:*

- *What happens if budget is unused?*

*DOT Cronan:*

- *Gets reallocated*

*Page 4:*

- *College Dems and Republicans waived their budgets*



Page 5:

- *Printing costs should be going down with the new subscription services in the next few years*

Page 6:

- *Year 3 orgs got allocated more money*
- *Year 1 and year 2 don't fill out the budget request forms*

Page 7:

- *President Goswami:*
  - *Where would funding from clubs that are re-recognized after the budget get their funding from*
  - *Contingency*

Page 8:

- *Renaissance yearbook: historically got funding in the past, isn't technically a student organization at this point. Still doing senior photos!*

Page 9:

- *Any club that is not outlined as getting funding right now but has till april 1st to get the funding would get money from the contingency fund*
- *Idea next year: clubs that are recognized in the spring will be year 1 in the following year*
- *Difficult when people are recognized this late in this year, want to do recognitions at the start of the semester so that it's not a running thing, raw and in the works*

Stipends:

Chair Milner:

- *How and when do we move stipends around?*

DOT Cronan:

- *If there was an overall sentiment that the stipends weren't good anymore than we could change it but unfortunately because the bylaws say not to change the stipends*

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

Speaker Peckham:

- *Want you all to know that there should have been discretion in jurist report and that several procedures were violated in the report tonight*
- *Please respect the privacy of the names that were said tonight and respect your peers after this violation of privacy*

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting End Time: 7:45