



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

University of Rhode Island Student Senate
April 2nd, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:31

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Buono, Boucher, Capraro, Cayer, Connolly, Curry, DeLorenzo, Dickson, Fleming, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hudson, Macrae, Milner, Neighbors, Njende Reyes, Rinne, Sawyer, Singh, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Wentworth, Williamson

Absent: Abbott, Acharya (excused), Desmond-Igbo, Hinrichs (excused), Paulino, Reffelt, Roach, Romano (excused), Walding

Executive: Cronan, Goswami, Peckham, Pokherel

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Gonzalez moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Senator Singh

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Troxell moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Capraro

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Catherine Calise and Danielle Madden ~ URI Counseling Center

- *URI counseling center located in Roosevelt Hall, room 217*
- *Services offered: individual therapy, group therapy, family counseling, short term treatment*
 - *Ways to get in touch with counseling center: walk in, call*
- *Confidentiality forms are completed and on call counselor meets with you for the first appointment*
 - *First session: pre screening; brief appointment about 30 minutes*
 - *Crisis intervention*

- One time appointments can be made for a stressful situation
- Telehealth is available as an option
- Highest demand for counseling center: first 6 weeks, and first semester up until thanksgiving break, biggest time for on call
- Midterms are a time for higher demand in the counseling center: workshops are available for midterms and finals. This is a time for groups to become more prevalent.
- A lot of collaboration with other departments and do their best to try and see students the same day
- Senato Hailu: how are we breaking the stigma for students in different cultures with buzz words like depression and anxiety.
 - Trying to do better at making the staff more diverse, more important to learn more meaning that while they are clinicians student opinions are important.
- Senato Hailu: Do you diagnose?
 - Absolutely could! Determining that person meets criteria, may be noted to keep track.
 - Release of information could be consented to if person is comfortable with that
- Chair Sorto-Justiniano: How many clinicians are there currently and what are the current caseloads?
 - About 16 staff members, range anywhere from 30 to 60 clients per semester
- Senator Singh: More of suggestion rather than a question, if you could act with the international student center and create a conversation with them so that we could start the conversation with each other
 - Great suggestion, if there is enough of an interest there could even be a support group as an idea
- Senator Gonzalez: What is the diversity on the staff?
 - 3 people of color and 4 LGBTQ+ members, but we could always do better

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- Working on projects
- Lecture series tomorrow night at 7pm for any student organization and you want to know more about recruitment, exec board, and presentation by SEA about how to book spaces. Tyler will be there if that motivation enough, collaborating with cultural to do a scavenger hunt and president meeting which will be mandatory for all clubs
- SOC newsletter, be on the lookout

Senator Neighbors:

- We need volunteers to help run the scavenger hunt, At least 10

Lucas DeWitt:

- Where is the presidents meeting happening

Chair Milner:

- Not sure yet but figuring it out this week

Senator Troxell:

- Is there a date for the scavenger hunt

Chair Milner:

- April 24th
- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth:

- Committees final booth on april 8th from 12-3, come by to get a exam rights sheet, and give suggestions in the drop box
- Need some more people at the booth, shout out to Senator Gonzalez for helping out from 12-1
- Basil the therapy dog will be in the office next week at 11AM next Wednesday April 9th
- External Affairs Committee

Chair Cayer:

- Tomorrow I have a meeting with the 2100 foundation
- Pulled the bill from last week, and needs to be pushed to the fall after a conversation happens about what liaisons do
- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- Emailed the multicultural organizations that will be receiving awards and will be coming in next week to accept them
- If anyone has the contact information for MASO please reach out
- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Buono:

- Two announcements: Dining services survey will be out till this Friday and they need 1100 more responses. They're doing a raffle for some cool prizes if you fill it out
- Pie a senator sign up form will go out in the GroupMe soon

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- Formal is Friday April 18th from 6-10pm, tickets are still \$83, please pay me. I need a final headcount by Friday
- Amy White is also coming to visit the Senate Office next week on Wednesday at noon!
- Any question or concerns please reach out
- Congrats on elections, and Chair Reyes and Senator Hailu their presidential win
- Student Body President

President Goswami:

- Would like to congratulate the elections Chair Sorto-Justianiano for a great election
- Want to congratulate the new president and vice president and look forward to see everything that you guys do
- Would like to invite the chairs to cabinet next week, so excited to see you guys there
- I only have 12 responses for the Senate tag please fill it out
- Rules for senator spoons:
 - Need to be caring spoons at all time, need to catch your target not carrying a spoon. Only safe zones are the Senate Office, General Assembly, work, and

- being in class*
- Student Body Vice President
- Director of the Treasury
- Director of Communications

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

Chair Sorto-Justiniano:

- *Current elections data has been sent out to all candidates*
- *Big thank you to everyone in the elections committee*

Chair Sorto-Justiniano moves to go into Executive Session, seconded by Chair Cayer

Senator Rinne moves to go exit Executive Session, seconded by Senator Singh

Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Cayer

- *Bill is tonight on the floor*

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Reyes:

- *Next Wednesday: Take Back The Night event and requested Senate presence*

Chair Cayer:

- *Please make it a priority to come to Welcome Day!*

Chair Wentworth:

- *Superlatives due next Wednesday before General, superlatives given out at formal and/or at annual*

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-45 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “RHODY ROUNDUP LINE DANCING” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Rhody Roundup Line Dancing” mission statement is, “To cultivate an environment where students can learn to line dance, make connections, and have fun”, and

Whereas, Rhody Roundup Line Dancing 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 Rhody Roundup Line Dancing as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that Rhody Roundup Line Dancing is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$50 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SPONSOR:	Student Organizations Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Milner
DATE:	Wednesday, April 2nd 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Senator Sawyer moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Macrae

Bill passes unanimously

SS-24/25-46 – Bill Amending Bylaws Outline Eight New Constituency Seats

Whereas, Many significant student perspectives are missing from the student senate this creates blindspots in decision making, these roles need to be added from the large student body and not appointed as liaisons internally

Whereas, The Student Senate of the University of Rhode Island benefits from diverse representation from underrepresented student groups, using these perspectives to make more informed decisions benefiting the student body

Whereas, Adding constituency specific roles selects for motivated and qualified senators to represent both the needs of their constituents, but also to serve in full capacity as voting members

Whereas, Adding constituency specific roles advertises need for underrepresented student groups in the senate, and makes their inclusion feel intentional and wanted

Whereas, Replacing existing liaison roles with elected positions will improve follow through for necessary roles, and provide written expectations for accountability, and provide the ability to remove non-participating members if they do not reach their expectations

Whereas, The student body is growing, and warrants an increase in size of student representative body

Resolved, Add the following sections to Section 1. Legislative Branch “1.6 The Sorority Representative shall be a full-time member of any social sorority recognized by the Panhellenic Association. They shall represent the interests of women in sorority life and act as a communication bridge between the Student Senate and the Panhellenic Association. They shall be responsible for attending a Panhellenic Association meeting or meeting with a Panhellenic Association member three times per semester and giving a formal report of

the meeting to the On-Campus and External Affairs Chairs.

- 1.7 The Fraternity Representative shall be a full-time member of any social fraternity recognized by the Interfraternity Council. They shall represent the interests of men in fraternities and act as a communication bridge between the Student Senate and the Interfraternity Council. They shall be responsible for attending an IFC meeting or meeting with an IFC member three times per semester and submitting a written report of the meeting to the On-Campus and External Affairs Chairs.
- 1.8 The Veteran Representative shall be a military veteran or a member of any ROTC program affiliated with URI – even one hosted at another college. They shall represent the interests of students in ROTC. This role shall adopt all responsibilities of the Military Liaison.
- 1.9 The Student Athlete Representative shall be an active member of any NCAA team, regardless of gender. They shall represent the interests of student-athletes.
- 1.10 The Club Sports Representative shall be a member of any of the 17 URI club sports, regardless of gender, and shall represent the interests of club sports organizations. They shall be responsible for attending Club Sports and Intramural Council (CSIC) meetings twice per semester and submitting a formal report of these meetings and club sports news to both the Director of Treasury and the SOC Chair.
- 1.11 The First-Generation Representative shall be the first in their family to pursue higher education. They shall represent the needs and voice the challenges of first-generation college students.
- 1.12 The Transfer Student Representative shall have begun their undergraduate career at another institution. They shall represent the interests of transfer students.
- 1.13 The International Student Representative shall be a student whose admission into the University was handled by the OISS and is considered an international student. They shall represent the needs of international students and meet with a representative from the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) twice per semester. Acceptable OISS contacts include the Director, Advisor, or Coordinator. A report shall be submitted to the Academic Affairs Committee Chair and the Cultural Affairs Committee Chair.”

SPONSOR:

Academic Affairs Committee

BILL HANDLER:

Cole Rinne

DATE:

Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

(5-0-0)

EXPIRATION:

Valid Until Review

ACTION:

Vote Next Week

Senator Rinne:

- *This has the potential to bring more diversity to the senate and give new responsibilities to the old liaisons role. Qualifications for these roles are pretty straight forward, sorority rep needs to be someone in a panhel sorority, represents the interest in sororities, three times a semester you have to report to the campus chair about a meeting with panhel that they attended personally. Fraternity rep: needs to be one of the 16 social fraternities that are represented by IFC, and needs to meet with IFC and report to an external chair. Veteran/ROTC member: Need to be a member of veteran or ROTC and would take all*

the responsibility of the military liaison.

Lucas:

- *This is only for the year round club sports to my knowledge, you have to first try out for club sports and then have to pay dues that are associated with the tryout process*

Senator Rinne:

- *Need to be a first generation college student to qualify for the team and would represent the interest of first generation college students. Transfer students: you have to start your undergraduate at another institution to protect the interest of another student. The intention is that first year representative are freshman so that this gives transfer students more of a voice. International student representative, shout out Senatr Singh, definition of international student is held by the office of international student and scholars. Meet with the international student center twice a semester and report to the academic committee chair and cultural committee chair. Bring senate up to 53 members rather than 45*

President Goswami:

- *Is there a thought process behind choosing these arbitrary set of sets*

Senator Rinne:

- *We currently have a lack of diverse perspectives in the senate and a lot of people come to us with a seat at the table and are trying to get a more diverse perspective.*

Chair Reyes:

- *I feel like this is a great plan but we could revisit this next semester, we currently have 45 seats and even just those 45 are hard to fill and it's hard to maintain, and can affect attendance. We've struggled the past few years to get people to be active. We should first focus on having these current senators do a good job, and focus on the senators that are here. Goals that are being met then we can revisit adding ideas to these senators.*

Senator Rinne:

- *I have previously talked to people and have them be present and participate in the senate and passion in the people that run. They also bring the benefit of their club and visibility to these issues that they represent. These roles will attract dedicated students to these roles and because these roles have responsibility, any non participation will be grounds for removal and this is the only seats on the senate that require removal.*

Senator Singh:

- *None of the international students sitting in the room, have them specific roles would*

ensure a voice that advocates for certain viewpoint on this senate and if we can not get 53 people on this senate that is a advertisement failure

President goswami:

- *I love this work that has been done and is commendable, we are talking about modifying the whole structure, having reserved seats undermines fair and open elections. We introduce a new problem that any group on campus can come to us and say “we don’t feel represented, give us a seat and a vote” representation is a good thing. I don’t think were equipped to decide which students get a voice*

Senator Rinne:

- *Not unfair to have certain seats that can’t be run for by everyone. The liaison point this is definitely something that I have been waging war, I don’t think that are liaison positions are all that effective. That person essentially doesn’t really modify their behavior throughout the year and if people come to us asking for more representation that is a great thing. Would be wonderful for students to come to us*

President Goswami:

- *Its not who we reserve the seats for but who we are reserving the seats for and picking and choosing who gets representative. If its supposed to be a democratic election then it is important to make sure that everyone is elected*

Senator Rinne:

- *We already reserve seats for constituencies and want to make sure that we can represent the students in a way that is good for them*

Chair Buono calls to question, seconded by Speaker Peckham

SS-24/25-47 – Bill Amending Constitution To Add Eight New Constituency Seats

Whereas, Many significant student perspectives are missing from the student senate this creates blindspots in decision making, these roles need to be added from the large student body and not appointed as liaisons internally

Whereas, The Student Senate of the University of Rhode Island benefits from diverse representation from underrepresented student groups, using these perspectives to make more informed decisions benefiting the student body

Whereas, Adding constituency specific roles selects for motivated and qualified senators to represent both the needs of their constituents, but also to serve in full capacity as voting members

Whereas, Adding constituency specific roles advertises need for underrepresented

student groups in the senate, and makes their inclusion feel intentional and wanted

Whereas, Replacing existing liaison roles with elected positions will improve follow through for necessary roles, and provide written expectations for accountability, and provide the ability to remove non-participating members if they do not reach their expectations

Whereas, The student body is growing, and warrants an increase in size of student representative body

Whereas, Article VIII Section B Part 2: Apportionment, and Article VI Section B: Membership respectively currently reads :

“Each college constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the First-Year constituency will be apportioned five (5) seats, and the At-Large constituency will be apportioned eleven (11) seats; the remaining seats will be split between the On-Campus and the Off-Campus constituencies in proportion to the number of students in each. Any First-Year seat that cannot be filled will be reapportioned to an At-Large seat up for internal election by the Assembly.”

And

“The Assembly is composed of **forty-five (45)** representatives, who advocate for their constituents and serve on at least one standing committee. Representatives are elected by and from the constituencies that they are to represent and serve a term expiring on the Annual Meeting of the Assembly.”

Resolved, Article VIII Section B Part 2: Apportionment, and Article VI Section B: Membership respectively be rewritten to:

“Each college constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the First-Year constituency will be apportioned five (5) seats, the club sports constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the student athlete constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the sorority constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the fraternity constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the veteran/ROTC constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the transfer student constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the first generation student constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, the international student constituency will be apportioned one (1) seat, and the At-Large constituency will be apportioned eleven (11) seats; the remaining seats will be split between the On-Campus and the Off-Campus constituencies in proportion to the number of students in each. Any First-Year seat that cannot be filled will be reapportioned to an At-Large seat up for internal election by the Assembly.”

And

“The Assembly is composed of **fifty-three (53)** representatives, who advocate for their constituents and serve on at least one standing committee. Representatives are elected by and from the constituencies that they are to represent and serve a term expiring on the Annual Meeting of the Assembly.”

SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

2025

RECOMMENDATION:

EXPIRATION:

ACTION:

Academic Affairs Committee

Cole Rinne

Wednesday, April 2nd,

(5-0-0)

Valid Until Review

Vote Next Week

No discussion.

SS-24/25-48 – BILL AMENDING THE STUDENT SENATE CONSTITUTION

Whereas, the Student Senate Constitution has required a large amount of updates for long time now, and

Whereas, all of the previous amendments made to the Constitution focused on specific articles and sections, and

Whereas, the Constitutional Revision Committee was put in place to revise the whole Constitution and present any changes that the committee deems necessary to the Assembly, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Constitutional Revision Committee offers up the following draft to amend the Constitution:

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be named the “University of Rhode Island Student Senate, Inc.,” hereafter referred to as the “Senate.”

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The Senate shall serve to improve and enhance the quality and scope of education and life at the University of Rhode Island. The Senate (collectively and holistically its Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches) will accomplish this by providing an official, representative government through which the undergraduate student voice may be expressed and ensuring the effective representation of its constituents in University affairs and administration.

ARTICLE III POWER AND SCOPE

The Senate derives its power and legitimacy from the consent of the governed and must discuss matters brought before it by a constituent that affect its constituents as students or as citizens.

The Senate may establish, recognize, and promote activities for the enhancement of student life, recognize student organizations, and otherwise govern and advocate for its constituents. Student organizations may claim association with the University of Rhode Island only if recognized by the Senate. No organization will be denied recognition on a basis of political, religious, or philosophical viewpoint.

The Senate maintains its 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation status with the Rhode Island Secretary of State for the explicit purpose of protecting its members from questions of liability and ensuring that the Senate remains a distinct and separate entity from the University of Rhode Island and underlying affiliates thereof.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Only undergraduate students of the University of Rhode Island who have paid the Student Activities Tax may serve as members. Members may express themselves as they wish so long

as their actions and utterances are in accordance with state and federal law. No person may hold positions simultaneously in multiple branches of the Senate, nor may they hold multiple ranking positions in a single branch.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students who are enrolled part time in at least six credits, who have paid a pro-rated Student Activities Tax, may serve as representatives from that at-large and college constituencies, or in any office of the cabinet or court provided that they meet all other eligibility requirements outlined in this document.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section A. Authority

The executive power of the Senate is granted to the President, who is assisted by the Vice President and advised by the Cabinet. The Cabinet carries out the instructions of the Senate in detail. Each executive officer has all power necessary and proper to fulfill their responsibilities pursuant to policies and guidelines established by the University of Rhode Island and the state of Rhode Island, including the power to establish and appoint such officials as may be necessary to ensure the completion of their duties. The appointing officer retains all the responsibility of their office. Executive officers serve a term expiring on the Annual Meeting of the Assembly (as defined in Article VI. Legislative Branch).

Section B. President

The President provides leadership to the Senate, represents its interests and decisions, and makes at least one (1) nomination to each office of the Cabinet, except the Speaker of the Assembly. All Presidential nominations to the Court and the Cabinet must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Assembly. The President may also dismiss officers of the Cabinet with the exception of the Vice President and the Speaker of the Assembly, with the requirement of a 2/3rds majority confirmation vote by the General Assembly. They may veto acts of the Assembly and refer matters to committees. The President is a signatory of all Student Activities Tax revenue and all monies that are either in the Senate Accounting System or are otherwise controlled by the Senate.

Section C. Vice President

The Vice President may speak and act on behalf of the President in that officer's temporary absence and succeeds to the Presidency in the event of a permanent vacancy. Should the Vice Presidency become vacant, the President shall appoint a member of the Assembly to fill the role until the Assembly can elect a replacement. Only the President can make nominations for a permanent replacement, but is subject to approval by the Assembly by simple majority.

Section D. Cabinet

Part 1. Director of Communications

The Director of Communications facilitates open communication and dialogue between the Senate and its constituents and ensures transparency of the Senate's instruments of organization and records.

Part 2. Director of Treasury

The Director of Treasury maintains and is a signatory of monies and assets controlled by the Senate, as well as its internal accounts, and ensures the enforcement of the Senate's financial policy. The Treasurer shall also work in collaboration with the Senate Accounting Office. ***Part 3. Speaker of the Assembly***

The Speaker of the Assembly chairs all meetings and may speak on behalf of the Assembly.

The Speaker also appoints and removes the members of the Assembly's standing committees; removals are subject to the approval of the committee's chair. The Speaker of the Assembly is nominated and elected by and from the Assembly. Any officials duly appointed by The Speaker will serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Assembly. The Speaker shall clearly communicate the instructions of the Assembly to the Cabinet. The Speaker shall appoint a Speaker Pro Tempore from any voting member of the Assembly to assist the Speaker with their duties and act in their place if they are temporarily unable to do so. In the event that the position of Speaker becomes vacant, the Speaker Pro Tempore shall fulfill the role until the Assembly internally elects a permanent replacement.

Part 4. Absences and Vacancies

In the event of the temporary absence of an officer of the Cabinet or the vacancy of such an office, with the exception of Speaker of the Assembly, the President will appoint a constituent of the Senate (as defined in Article VIII. Election, Section A Constituencies) to assume the duties of the office until the officer returns or until a successor is duly nominated and confirmed.

Part 5. Meetings

The Cabinet meets during each week that the Assembly holds a regular meeting. Such meetings are chaired by the President and attended by the Vice President. Chairs of Standing and Special Committees of the Legislative Branch may attend Cabinet upon request of the Speaker of the Assembly.

ARTICLE VI LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section A. Authority

The legislative power of the Senate is granted to the Assembly, which proposes, debates, and considers resolutions establishing and commanding action upon the Senate's policies. The Assembly may overturn a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Section B. Membership

The Assembly is composed of forty-five (45) representatives, who advocate for their constituents and serve on at least one standing committee. Representatives are elected by and from the constituencies that they are to represent and serve a term expiring on the Annual Meeting of the Assembly.

Section C. Meetings

The Assembly meets every week during which classes are held during the spring and fall academic terms, except when otherwise ordered by a majority of Chairs of standing committees. The second meeting of April shall be the Annual Meeting.

Section D. Committees

Part 1. Delegation

Committees deliberate on, propose, and, when necessary, ensure action upon resolutions relevant to their areas of concern. Standing committees have areas of concern that are permanent in nature, while special committees deal with temporary issues.

Part 2. Standing Committees

- Subpart a. Academic Affairs

The Academic Affairs Committee is concerned with matters of an academic nature and the rights of constituents as students.

- Subpart b. Campus Affairs

The Campus Affairs Committee is concerned with matters occurring on University property.

- Subpart c. Cultural Affairs

The Cultural Affairs Committee is concerned with matters of campus climate and the rights of constituents as citizens.

- Subpart d. External Affairs

The External Affairs Committee is concerned with matters occurring off of University property.

- Subpart e. Student Organizations

The Student Organizations Committee is concerned with the recognition and maintenance of student organizations and affiliates, and with the Student Activities Tax. *Part 3. Special Committees*

The Assembly may establish any committee the area of concern of which is both temporary and not in conflict with the charge of a standing committee.

Section E. Officers

The chair of a committee is its presiding officer and spokesperson, and calls its meetings, while the vice-chair assumes these responsibilities during the chair's absence. In the event of the vacancy of a chair, the vice-chair serves as the chair until the Assembly elects a replacement. The chair and vice-chair of each committee must also hold a representative seat. (

The Senate Officers shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate, Parliamentarian, and Committee Chairs. The Senate Officers shall be selected according to the procedure in the Student Senate By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section A. Formation

The jury shall be formed of five (5) nominated members of the Assembly on the occasion that there is an internal matter that needs attending to. These members are nominated and confirmed by a simple majority vote by the assembly. Nominations may be subject to Presidential veto, which may be overturned by the Assembly as outlined in Article VI, Section A.

Section B. Authority

In the event a jury is formed to handle an internal matter, they shall have the power to conduct an investigation with the parties involved. The jury shall then report their findings to the Assembly and present a recommended course of action on the matter, to which is then approved or rejected by a simple majority vote of the Assembly. Any and all matters involving the investigation must remain confidential until the investigation is concluded and the findings are reported to the Assembly.

Section C. Membership

The Court is composed of five (5) Jurists, one of whom is named the Head Jurist by the Assembly. The Head Jurist chairs Court meetings and represents the Court's decisions to the Senate. Jurists maintain a comprehensive understanding of the Senate's instruments of organization. The jury shall be disbanded once the matter is resolved.

ARTICLE VIII ELECTIONS

Section A. Constituencies

Only undergraduate students at the University of Rhode Island who pay the Student Activities Tax may be in a constituency; all such students will be members of the At-Large Constituency. The On-Campus Constituency consists of students living on property that is owned or managed

by the University of Rhode Island, while the Off-Campus Constituency consists of all other students. The First-year Constituency consists of students who were not enrolled at the University previous to the current academic year. The University College and each undergraduate, degree-granting college shall have a constituency consisting of all its enrolled students.

ARTICLE IX FUNDS

Section A. Taxation

Only the Senate administers and allocates the Student Activities Tax; changes must be approved by referendum and the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees.

Section B. Distribution

Revenues from the Student Activities Tax may only be allocated to a budget by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly and may only be spent to benefit the Senate's constituents in manners which do not discriminate based on viewpoint. Monies and assets may not be expended without the written order of two (2) of an account's signatories. The Assembly may allocate funds to any recognized student organization or affiliate.

Section C. Restrictions

No Student Activities Tax revenue may be spent in support of political parties, as distinct from student organizations with clear party affiliation, or candidates running for political office, nor may it be spent to convert persons to a religion.

ARTICLE X IMPEACHMENTS AND DISCIPLINE

Members may be impeached or penalized for failing to responsibly uphold the duties of their position or for criminal acts.

It is the purview of the Court to determine the validity and soundness of a charge, but the burden of the Assembly to determine and assign appropriate penalties. The rights, duties, or offices of a member may only be removed or abridged by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Assembly, and only after a fair trial.

ARTICLE XI INSTRUMENTS

This Constitution has authority over all other documents produced by the Senate, which may enact and maintain policy handbooks and by-laws, and over all recognized student organizations and affiliates.

The Senate's instruments of organization are equally binding all to whom they apply.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENT

Amendments to this Constitution may be approved only by three-fourths (3/4) of the Assembly and must have been distributed to the Assembly at least two (2) weeks before they are voted on. Amendments must be ratified by referendum put before the At-Large constituency to become permanent.

Amendments which solely correct spelling, punctuation, terminology, or numerical standard, or which must be made to bring this document into compliance with Federal, State, Local, or University policy, may be made at any time by order of the President. Such amendments need not be approved by the Assembly or ratified by referendum.

All amendments shall be outlined below the constitution.

SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION:

EXPIRATION:

ACTION:

Constitutional Revision Committee

Chair Cayer

April 2nd, 2025

(5-0-0)

Valid Until Review

Vote Next Week

Chair Cayer: Review of bill and outlining all the changes

Discussion pushed to next week.

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: