



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 9th, 2025 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:33

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Abbott, Acharya, Boucher, Cayer, Conolly, Curry, DeLorenzo, Desmond-Igbo, Dickson, Fleming, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hudson, Macrae, Martin, Milner, Neighbors, Njende, Paulino, Reffelt, Reyes, Rinne, Roach, Romano, Sawyer, Singh, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Troxell, Wentworth, Williamson

Absent: Buono (excused), Walding

Executive: Peckham, Feroz, Goswami

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Hinrichs moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Senator Hudson

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to amend the minutes made by Senator Rinne moves to amend the minutes to alter a date in Chair Wentworth's report (8th to 20th), seconded by Senator Troxell

Chair Wentworth moves to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Senator Capraro

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Barbara Wolfe ~ Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost

Jeanne Hruska ~ Senior Advisor/Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost

- *Look forward to seeing all the seniors walk!*
- *Provost - chief academic officer of the university, each of the deans report to this person.*
In order to help adhesion between the different colleges
- *Collaborate with many people across the university to ensure academic success*

- *Change in federal administration: executive orders have come about, leaders of the federal action team and address the new legislative actions that affect higher ed and our community in higher ed. Looking at new and ongoing things.*
- *Monitoring what is happening with student aid and loans, such as pell grants and other things. As well as looking at immigration and international issues.*
- *Look at what's happening with research and funding for researchers, as well as how to deal with it.*
- *DEI - looking at what the impacts from the executive orders are doing.*

Questions from students:

Senator Hailu: "How often does change and current federal administration affect the policy on what kind of research can be done?"

- *Right now our investigators have academic freedom that is relative to their research trajectory, with respect to approval by ethics. Researchers on human subjects have to go through a review board.*

Senator Hailu: "Does the current federal administration affect grants here?"

- *Yes, the current administration has made it clear what is and isn't a priority for research. They have sent termination notices to places across the country.*

Senator Hailu: "is there any research that has affected the university?"

- *USIB has been terminated*

Vice-President Feroz: "Thank you for coming here, what resources is your committee offering for next steps, especially for international students and students traveling to travel ban."

- *The office for international initiatives there is a website that has the resources posted online. The 24/7 number is available in and out of the country. If you have questions or concerns please contact the international office. They have been very very quick to get in touch with people.*

V.P. Feroz: "Does the international office offer resources for lawyers and advocates, because a lot of people that are from out of the country do not have this access."

- *If you call the international office you they can connect you with those resources*

V.P. Feroz: "For the students that have been here for 5 or six years and their funding is cut, and the university has to let them go is URI providing any credentials for the students."

- *We right now have 110 dollars, this account has been frozen to access during the 90 day period for the government to assess these grants. Our priority is to ensure that students are the least impacted.*

V.P. Feroz: "With the Tariffs that are currently happening, how can students be sure that their

dining plans won't increase."

- *Our commitment is to our students, we've been looking at the food pantry. These are hard times for everyone in general. Often here from other places and on your own.*

Senator Hinrichs: "I applied for the A.N.S. research opportunity, and wanted to ensure that these won't get cut. I want to make sure that I can get that experience."

- *When we are talking about students getting impacted by grants, right now relative to our regular portfolio it is a small section of grants that have been impacted. It's not all grants so we have to remember that*

Senator Roach: "Is the University of Rhode Island working with the state at all to connect the funding that has been cut off"

- *We do provide the governor with updates on how we have been impacted by things, they are currently in the process of how they can budget for next year.*

V.P. Feroz: "How does the university protect students from deportation, for the protestors that are being targeted?"

- *That's a great question but also a scary question. One of the things is that we are a large and open campus. In the event that anybody would encounter what looks like that event happening would be to call 911. That is what we certainly would want people to do. We are working with our team to plan for every possible scenario, and looking to get the contact information for if anything like that happens. People coming on and off campus all the time would like to think that they are members of the community.*

V.P. Feroz: "Can the university provide information to I.C.E., I would think that the university should maintain privacy?"

- *We do have information forthcoming in certain areas, we do not actively publicize information about our students. We are very committed to our international students and the diversity of our university. Look at the website there is more information on there*

President Goswami: "One of the precautions that the international center gave to us is to not go back home for the summer, as there is a provision that would let the international students stay without having to take summer classes?"

- *That is a situation where one would need to work with the international center, and would be addressed on a case by case basis.*

Chair Cayer moves to immediately begin with new business, seconded by Senator Singh

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- *Student Organizations Committee*

Chair Milner:

- *Hope your week is going well and your ready to finish this semester*
- *Event on the 24th; scavenger hunt and presidents meeting. At 5pm*
 - Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth:

- *So sorry that Basil couldn't make it this morning*
- *Will be coming in next wednesday at the same*
- *Please fill our superlatives by tonight!*
 - External Affairs Committee

Chair Cayer:

- *We are hoping to do an off campus cleanup with the 2100 foundation, during earth week, hoping to collaborate with groups on campus to clean up some neighborhoods.*
 - Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Reyes:

- *No report thank you all for voting for the resolutions to pass!*
 - Campus Affairs Committee

Vice-Chair Hudson:

- *No report*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Peckham:

- *Formal friday, april 18th you guys are free to drive yourself but there will be a bus. Stop and Shop on Judith Road at 4:30 and then stop at the Memorial Union circle at 5:15.*
- *Next week is the last meeting for the 2024/2025 senate meeting, consisting of two senate meetings, first one with the 2024/2025 group and then a second meeting with the 2025/2026 senate.*
 - *Nominations will be made in the second meeting and until a new speaker is elected the vice president will be running the meeting.*
 - *During the pass the gavel decorum will be enforced still at annual.*
- Student Body President

President Goswami:

- *We're almost done, we will be doing our final group photo next week so be prepared to be at 6:00. We're all making transition material for the next executive branch.*
- *Senate Spoons will still be done and email was sent out*
 - Student Body Vice President
 - Director of the Treasury
 - Director of Communications

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

- *No report*

Lucas: Is there going to be an email sent out for new senator to come next week

- *Email was already sent out*

Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Cayer:

- *Amendment on the floor!*

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cayer:

- *President of the BRIDGE US president, next week we are having a meeting where we discuss Trump's second term. With middle schoolers coming in to show them that we can discuss politics without hating each other its at tuesday night at 7pm*

Lucas:

- *Next saturday is the last welcome day so please come if you can. Arpan, Cayer, and Kairy, Speaker Peckham and Chair Milner have all gone, shout out to them. It is 12:15 to 3:15. Please come if you can, even just for a little while!*

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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:	Senator Rinne
DATE:	Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Senator Rinne: Hi! This week we are going to be voting on the two bills, bylaws and constitution amendments. We've made some amendments after listening to the feedback. Promise we'll try and get through this quickly! I felt as though last meeting there was a lack of understanding about what this bill was, hard to keep in mind the full picture of the bill. Even when the bill is even with it in front of you. There are 8 seats that we are trying to add, 4 we are currently not changing and 4 we are changing based on the feedback from last week. We are going to

change 4 seats with no requirements for who runs from them. For ROTC, first generation, international students and transfer students will be advocated and no longer have a requirement to be a part of it. I motion to amend the bill SS-24/25-46 and SS-24/25-47 to rename all "Representative" positions to "Advocate", in addition to amending the specific requirements for the previously mentioned seats.

Sensor Rinne: I think that's a good move to make so that we would have responsibility that would get them kicked off the senate if they did not fulfill their duties.

Senator Rinne moves to add the previously mentioned amendments to the SS-24/25-46 and SS-24/25-47, seconded by Chair Milner.

Senator Njende: I'm a mechanical engineering major and a member of the rowing team. Over 5,000 members on the intramurals. As the university stands there is little cohesion between these teams, there is little communication between these groups. SEA sickness exists under the student senate. It's my hope to integrate club sports to campus wide events. Having this seat on the student senate, when the URI board of trustees came out to severely limit the club sports because we were not able to hand out pamphlets, put up posters in the residential hall. We believe that having a student senate behind us in our initiatives would help us further these initiatives.

Cole Rinne: Does anyone have any questions on the amendment or the bill?

President Goswami: Thank you so much for speaking with us, as an athlete how aware were you of student senate elections, and were you motivated to run for seats that were open to all?

John (Student Representative): elections are seen as something that you get to when you can and I have made an effort to help people.

Cole Rinne: one of the main arguments that I was hearing was that we couldn't fill the seats. Other than John I know at least 3 people that would run for the club sports position. 2 people were interested in running for athletes. I don't think that there is any need to prove that Greek people run for senate. If we implement these roles there will be more visibility for the elections. Out of 14,000 undergraduates a lack of members is not a passion issue, it is an awareness

issue. It is an initiative that we can give groups to vote for these groups. Still you might say that we might not be able to fill these roles, if the roles go unfilled it doesn't mean that it changes the number of participation for quorum. Adding these only means that our engagement would go up. It is pretty likely that our engagement will only go up by adding these roles. Does anyone have any questions.

Senator Njende: So I was actually going to go ahead with the reason for the change in the bill. I have this story four years ago in South Africa in a study abroad program. I heard about Tom's shoes: one shoe is bought and one shoe is donated. As good an intention as that was, unfortunately as good as that was the local tailors went out of business. They were also made for American roads and not African ones. Which made some jobs to repair them. A lot of collaboration needs to be done to create good bills. One of the main parts of the bills that I was not in favor of last week was that these seats were for things that one would not be able to change about themselves. A university is first and foremost for the advancement of learning, so I personally did not have an issue with the bill but did with the characteristics requirements for certain bills. Assumption of intent for any point of discourse should be taken out of the conversation. Our biggest strength is about unity, everyone in this room has one unifying identity that is being a student at URI.

President Goswami: I would like to appreciate you for taking on our feedback and incorporating them into the bill. However if representation is the goal, if I look at the University of Iowa they also have seats that are reserved for minority seats. There doesn't seem to be one single goal, you have talked to people about filling in seats. I just want to know if any of you were able to encourage and go to different parts of campus to get them to run for seats. I can say this confidently when I was running for president we were able to reach out to every nook and cranny of the campus and that is why we have such a culture on senate this year. It's the lack of accountability within the senate, if we can work on fixing that it's not a bandaid fix.

Senator Rinne: I just want to go through and touch on all of the accountability within the bill. In getting a formal report from each representative similar to fraternity and panhellenic which would provide reports student athletes would be meeting once a semester and provide accountability to the general assembly. I think these seats address lack of involvement

Speaker Peckham: If we are not able to reach these different perspectives that is an advertising

problem on our end. At the end of the day we are a student organization, it is on the executive board and DOC to reach out that way we can really get these different perspectives on campus

Senator Singh: Representation is not enough, and in these current moments as an international student we do need some advocacy.

John: Just as far as getting a temp check on the room, it seems that there are a lot of people being like this is the way that we have always been this way. I remember two years ago when Jonah ran for VP he put his stuff all over campus. I have reached out to everyone for our fundraisers and campus advocacy for club sports. I partially came here today because I have been asking Milner and Rinne about the senate for a long time.

Chair Cayer: My main issue with the bill is that it is putting a bandaid on a scar, you do not have to be on the Senate and be a voting member to be here. Like John today has the opportunity to come speak but they don't. That is on us to make sure that people feel they can come in. All of these seats could be representative under a chair and committee if the chair is doing outreach to those committees.

Senator Rinne: Yeah Matt, definitely a great point, I think that we are all arguing the same things. That we don't do enough outreach. We are saying "hey look at this seat we created for you and don't you want to apply so you can represent your community" It is a great idea to give our fellow students more of a voice on the senate. These eight rules are not confined to just their responsibilities that are outlined. So this is a great way to get people into our senate.

VP Feroz: I am just receiving the later end of the discussion, hypothetical rhetorical question for everyone. "Why don't we have 15,000 seats and 15,000 representatives in the same room?" We may share the same identity as someone else in the room with the same culture. It would be impossible to have 15,000 people in the room, to represent around 100 to 150 students. I ask the question to everyone: why are there not 15,000 people sitting at the table? Where do you decide as student leaders which perspectives matter more? I want you to sit with that question tonight. I have to echo that sentiment because I personally think that we can't value people more than one. When we talk about diversity it is about where we can fill the gaps that are short. This room has students who are in Greek life, by creating a seat for them. But where is my voice?

Chair Reyes moves to begin voting by secret ballot, seconded by Senator Singh

Bill SS-24/25-46 does not pass. $\frac{3}{4}$ majority required, only $\frac{2}{5}$ majority met. Voting results are: 22 (Yes) - 3 (Abstain) -10 (No)

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:	Academic Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Senator Rinne
DATE:	Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Senator Rinne withdraws Bill SS-24/25-47 from the floor.

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 prorated 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.

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:	Constitutional Revision Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Cayer
DATE:	Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Chair Cayer: We did the presentation last week, most of you were here for it. This is your opportunity to discuss and ask questions as you may

Motion to begin voting made by Senator Sawyer moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Hudson

Bill passes unanimously

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-49 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE DOMINICAN ALLIANCE OF URI TO BE AWARDED THE MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR THE

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024

Whereas, the Dominican Alliance of URI has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity, and diversity within the university community and,

Whereas, the Dominican Alliance has actively engaged in educational programming, cultural events, and community service initiatives that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Dominican culture and heritage and,

Whereas, the organization has shown exemplary leadership in creating a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration and,

Whereas, the Dominican Alliance has significantly contributed to the enrichment of URI's multicultural environment through advocacy, mentorship, and student engagement efforts and,

Whereas, the efforts and impact of the Dominican Alliance align with the mission of the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee and the University of Rhode Island in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus;

Therefore, the Dominican Alliance of URI is recognized and awarded the Multicultural Organization of the Month Award for the Month of September 2024 in acknowledgment of its exceptional contributions to the university community and,

Resolved, that this resolution be recorded and shared with the university administration, student body, and broader community as a testament to the Dominican Alliance's invaluable work in fostering cultural understanding and unity at URI.

SPONSOR:
BILL HANDLER:
DATE:
EXPIRATION:
ACTION:

Cultural Affairs Committee
Chair Reyes
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
Valid Until Review
Vote Tonight

Floor Yielded to Chair Reyes to present the certificates to the representatives of the recognized student organizations

SS-24/25-50 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (SHPE) TO BE AWARDED THE MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024

Whereas, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity, and diversity within the university community and,

Whereas, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers has actively engaged in educational programming, cultural events, and community service initiatives that foster a

greater understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture and heritage and,

Whereas, the organization has shown exemplary leadership in creating a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration and,

Whereas, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers has significantly contributed to the enrichment of URI's multicultural environment through advocacy, mentorship, and student engagement efforts and career readiness and,

Whereas, the efforts and impact of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers align with the mission of the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee and the University of Rhode Island in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus;

Therefore, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers is recognized and awarded the Multicultural Organization of the Month Award for the Month of October 2024 in acknowledgment of its exceptional contributions to the university community and,

Resolved, that this resolution be recorded and shared with the university administration, student body, and broader community as a testament to the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineer's invaluable work in fostering cultural understanding and unity at URI.

SPONSOR:	Cultural Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Reyes
DATE:	Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-24/25-51 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION TO BE AWARDED THE MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

Whereas, the Native American Student Organization has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity, and diversity within the university community and,

Whereas, the Native American Student Organization has actively engaged in educational programming, cultural events, and community service initiatives that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Native American culture and heritage and,

Whereas, the organization has shown exemplary leadership in creating a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration and,

Whereas, the Native American Student Organization has significantly contributed to the enrichment of URI's multicultural environment through advocacy, mentorship, and student engagement efforts and,

Whereas, the efforts and impact of the Native American Student Organization align with the mission of the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee and the University of Rhode Island in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus;

Therefore, the Native American Student Organization is recognized and awarded the Multicultural Organization of the Month Award for the Month of November 2024 in acknowledgment of its exceptional contributions to the university community and,

Resolved, that this resolution be recorded and shared with the university administration, student body, and broader community as a testament to the Native American Student Organization's invaluable work in fostering cultural understanding and unity at URI.

SPONSOR:
BILL HANDLER:
DATE:
EXPIRATION:
ACTION:

Cultural Affairs Committee
Chair Reyes
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
Valid Until Review
Vote Tonight

SS-24/25-52 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, THETA EPSILON CHAPTER TO BE AWARDED THE MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER '24/JANUARY '25

Whereas, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Theta Epsilon Chapter has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity, and diversity within the university community and,

Whereas, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Theta Epsilon Chapter has actively engaged in educational programming, cultural events, and community service initiatives that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of culture and heritage and,

Whereas, the organization has shown exemplary leadership in creating a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration and,

Whereas, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Theta Epsilon Chapter has significantly contributed to the enrichment of URI's multicultural environment through advocacy, mentorship, and student engagement efforts and,

Whereas, the efforts and impact of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Theta Epsilon Chapter align with the mission of the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee and the University of Rhode Island in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus;

Therefore, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Theta Epsilon Chapter is recognized and awarded the Multicultural Organization of the Month Award for the Month of December '24/January '25 in acknowledgment of its exceptional contributions to the university community and,

Resolved, that this resolution be recorded and shared with the university administration, student body, and broader community as a testament to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Theta Epsilon Chapter's invaluable work in fostering cultural understanding and unity at URI.

SPONSOR:
BILL HANDLER:
DATE:
EXPIRATION:
ACTION:

Cultural Affairs Committee
Chair Reyes
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
Valid Until Review
Vote Tonight

SS-24/25-53 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AFRICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION TO BE AWARDED THE MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025

Whereas, the African Student Organization has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity, and diversity within the university community and,

Whereas, the African Student Organization has actively engaged in educational programming, cultural events, and community service initiatives that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of African culture and heritage and,

Whereas, the organization has shown exemplary leadership in creating a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration and,

Whereas, the African Student Organization has significantly contributed to the enrichment of URI's multicultural environment through advocacy, mentorship, and student engagement efforts and,

Whereas, the efforts and impact of the African Student Organization align with the mission of the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee and the University of Rhode Island in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus;

Therefore, the African Student Organization is recognized and awarded the Multicultural Organization of the Month Award for the Month of February 2025 in acknowledgment of its exceptional contributions to the university community and,

Resolved, that this resolution be recorded and shared with the university administration, student body, and broader community as a testament to the African Student Organization's invaluable work in fostering cultural understanding and unity at URI.

SPONSOR:
BILL HANDLER:
DATE:
EXPIRATION:
ACTION:

Cultural Affairs Committee
Chair Reyes
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
Valid Until Review
Vote Tonight

SS-24/25-54 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR LATINX STUDENT ASSOCIATION TO BE AWARDED THE MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025

Whereas, the Latinx Student Association has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity, and diversity within the university community and,

Whereas, the Latinx Student Association has actively engaged in educational programming, cultural events, and community service initiatives that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Latin/Hispanic culture and heritage and,

Whereas, the organization has shown exemplary leadership in creating a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration and,

Whereas, the Latinx Student Association has significantly contributed to the enrichment of URI's multicultural environment through advocacy, mentorship, and student engagement efforts and,

Whereas, the efforts and impact of the Latinx Student Association align with the mission of the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee and the University of Rhode Island in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus;

Therefore, the Latinx Student Association is recognized and awarded the Multicultural Organization of the Month Award for the Month of March 2025 in acknowledgment of its exceptional contributions to the university community and,

Resolved, that this resolution be recorded and shared with the university administration, student body, and broader community as a testament to the Latinx Student Association's invaluable work in fostering cultural understanding and unity at URI.

SPONSOR:	Cultural Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Reyes
DATE:	Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-24/25-55 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MULTICULTURAL UNITY STUDENT INVOLVEMENT COUNCIL (MUSIC) TO BE AWARDED THE MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025

Whereas, the Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council (MUSIC) has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity, and diversity within the university community and,

Whereas, the Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council (MUSIC) has actively engaged in educational programming, cultural events, and community service initiatives that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of culture and heritage and,

Whereas, the organization has shown exemplary leadership in creating a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration and,

Whereas, the Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council (MUSIC) has significantly

contributed to the enrichment of URI's multicultural environment through advocacy, mentorship, and student engagement efforts and,

Whereas, the efforts and impact of the Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council (MUSIC) align with the mission of the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee and the University of Rhode Island in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus;

Therefore, the Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council (MUSIC) is recognized and awarded the Multicultural Organization of the Month Award for the Month of April 2025 in acknowledgment of its exceptional contributions to the university community and,

Resolved that this resolution be recorded and shared with the university administration, student body, and broader community as a testament to the Multicultural Unity Student Involvement Council (MUSIC)'s invaluable work in fostering cultural understanding and unity at URI.

SPONSOR:
BILL HANDLER:
DATE:
EXPIRATION:
ACTION:

Cultural Affairs Committee
Chair Reyes
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
Valid Until Review
Vote Tonight

Motion to begin voting on SS-24/25-49, SS-24/25-50, SS-24/25-51, SS-24/25-52, SS-24/25-53, SS-24/25-54, SS-24/25-55 made by Senator Singh, seconded by Senator Rinne

All Resolutions Pass Unanimously

SS-24/25-56 – BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2025-2026 STUDENT SENATE SPRING ELECTIONS

Whereas, the Senate certifies the election results as presented by the Elections Committee for the election for representative seats for the 2025-2026 term.

Resolved, that the passage of this bill shall open the internal election process for any remaining seats in the Fall of 2025.

Student Body President & Vice President (2)

(President-Elect) Meilin Quiroa Reyes

(Vice President-Elect) Bitanya Hailu

At-Large Representatives (11)

(Senator-Elect) Alli Torres

(Senator-Elect) Paige Volek

(Senator-Elect) Lynn Sawyer

(Senator-Elect) Junior John Njende

(Senator-Elect) Alexa Williamson

(Senator-Elect) Aaron Ramos

(Senator-Elect) Caterina Ranieri

(Senator-Elect) Victor Paulino

(Senator-Elect) Sudishma Acharya

(Senator-Elect) Madeliene Stover

(Senator-Elect) Ryleigh Dionne

Off-Campus Representatives (12)

(Senator-Elect) Jacob Milner

(Senator-Elect) Tyler Dickson

(Senator-Elect) Clayton Roach

(Senator-Elect) Madeline McTernan

(Senator-Elect) Arpan Utkarsh Singh

(Senator-Elect) Caitlin Curry

(Senator-Elect) Keegan Zelano

(Senator-Elect) Kairy Gonzalez

(Senator-Elect) Olivia Connolly

(Senator-Elect) Cameron Hudson

(Senator-Elect) Andrew D'Aiello

(Senator-Elect) Isabella Neighbors

On-Campus Representatives (8)

(Senator-Elect) Beyonce Martin

(Senator-Elect) Isabella Conte

(Senator-Elect) Max McConville

(Senator-Elect) Tailah Abbott

(Senator-Elect) Dylan Waddell

(Senator-Elect) Jackson Troxell

(Senator-Elect) Conlan Bremer

(Senator-Elect) Annie Keomany

College of Arts & Sciences Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Ryan Niro

College of Business Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Andrew Ebrahimpour

College of Education Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Kaitlyn Yehle

College of Engineering Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Cole Rinne

College of Environmental Life Sciences Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Lyla Macrae

College of Health Sciences Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Melanie Capraro

College of Nursing Representative (1)

Vacant

College of Pharmacy Representative (1)

(Senator-Elect) Molly Wentworth

Sponsor:

Bill Handler:

Date:

Expiration:

Action:

Chair Cayer moves to begin voting, seconded by Senator Acharya

Bill Passes Unanimously

Elections Committee

Chairwoman Sorto-Justiniano

Wednesday, April 9th, 2025

Valid Until Reviewed

Vote Tonight

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Lucas:

- *I sent it via email, sorry for the shorter notice, I was trying to get this from the policy office. This is a federal statute. All federally funded higher institutes are required by law to implement this Anti-Hazing policy. University of Virginia was a case in which this was implemented, any hazing policies that goes through student conduct will be sent to the government. They want to seek student feedback on this policy.*

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 8:53