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**University of Rhode Island Student Senate**  
September & 10th, 2025 General Assembly Agenda

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*Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer*

*Meeting Start Time: 6: 36*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**Present**

Abbot, Tailah	Hudson, Cameron	Sawyer, Lynn
Bremer, Conlan	Keomany, Annie	Singh, Arpan Utkarsh
Capraro, Melanie	Martin, Beyonce	Stover, Madeliene
Connolly, Olivia	Milner, Jacob	Torres, Alli
Conte, Isabella	Neighbors, Isabella	Troxell, Jackson
Curry, Caitlin	Niro, Ryan	Volek, Paige
D'Aiello, Andrew	Ranieri, Caterina	Waddell, Dylan
Dickson, Tyler	Ramos, Aaron	Wentworth, Molly
Dionne, Ryleigh	Rinne, Cole	Williamson, Alexa
Gonzalez, Kairy	Roach, Clayton	

**Excused absent**

Ebrahimpour, Andrew	McConville, Max	Yehle, Kaitlyn
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**Unexcused absent**

Macrae, Lyla	Paulino, Victor	Zelano, Keegan
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**B. ROLL CALL**

### **C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion to approve the agenda made by Chair Gonzalez and seconded by Chair Hudson**

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

*Motion to amend previous meeting minutes to include role call made by senator sawyer and seconded by Chair Milner*

*Motion to approve amend minutes passes*

### **E. PUBLIC FORUM**

- Catherine Ahern from the CFR program (*content may be heavy, section will end around 7:20*)
  - *Narcan Kits are available after the meeting if you so please*
  - *Based out of College of pharmacy*
  - *Statewide program, funded by department of public health*
  - *Comes from Opioid settlement fund and rhode island is given 50,000 narcan kits every year*
  - *Program Purpose: Born out of the idea that anyone can be a first responder when it comes to an overdose emergency. Most bystanders are the ones that respond to the crisis when it happens. It is usually not the first responders that come on scene*
  - *Partner with over 60 organization throughout rhode island to dispense the narcan*
  - *Narcan can be mailed to people throughout the state of Rhode Island as well As fentanyl testing stripes*
  - *Provide training for overdose response*
  - *We take volunteers throughout the school to work with us*
  - *There is always work to be done!*
  - *Recently we were able to work with some students to tailor to college students*
  - *Fentanyl testing strip demonstration*
  - *Harm Reduction: Substance use is not inherently evil, but is a risky behavior. Trying to minimize negative health and social impacts associated with drug use.*
  - *Drug testing facilities: allowed to go to get drugs tested to make sure they are safe to use*

*Speaker Rinne: Is it no secret that people on campus use THC cartridges? Is there any risk for fentanyl in these?*

- *No, because the boiling point for Fentanyl in the cartridges would not get hot enough in these cartridges, therefore there is no possibility of a risk from these.*
- *You can only provide help to people that want help*

*Lucas: You mentioned students not feeling comfortable to come forward, if there is an overdose however what is the procedure for calling in an overdose*

- *Rhode Island has the good samaritan law that a person can not get in trouble for calling in an overdose. Whether it is on campus or off campus. There is no intent to punish people and instead provide them with help*
- *People here can be affected differently by overdose*
- *Overdose risk factors: Loss of tolerance after a period of abstinence, using unregulated substances or RX opioids alone, mixing substances, compromised health conditions,*
- *Checking in behavior - make sure your leaving with who you came with, someone might not just be asleep (don't be afraid to be a creep make sure their chest is rising and falling),*
- *Responding to an Opioid overdose:*
  - *How to tell if someone is overdosing: 1. Can't be woken up, 2. Slow or no breathing 3. pale /ashen skin*
  - *Sternum rub: enough of a pain stimuli that if someone would wake up if they could*
  - *Call 911 every single time*
  - *2 minutes for narcan to go from the nose to the brain*
  - *CPR till they are consequence*
  - *Narcan restores breathing but not consequences, this is okay because they are able to stay alive*
  - *If someone is not responsive after administering narcan: Recovery position is recommended, cross the knee over the body and make sure they are on the side*
  - *If someone is not responsive after 2 minutes give them a second dose*
  - *Best practice for second dose of narcan is to put it in the opposite nostril*
  - *Post overdose support: make sure someone stay with them for the next two hours to make sure that the overdose is over and the body has had time to process the opioids*
  - *It is okay to administer expired narcan but it will lose its potency*
  - *Vending machine on campus for narcan*

*Speaker Rinne: is there anything that we can do as student leaders to get the word out about*

*these programs*

- *Take care of people, don't shame others, that will make it harder for addicted people to connect. Being so involved on campus is already a great way. If we hear of cool fun things that we can table at please let us know*

*Chair Wentworth: Is there a certain time of year that we should look out for, for when overdoses are more common*

- *Peak summer and Peak winter*

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

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- Hi everyone I hope your second week of classes have been going well, things in SOC are starting to move, meeting tomorrow at 5 pm. This is subject to change. Tomorrow's meeting is going to go like this, I will be asking some clubs some requests for recognition. Please come prepared with one question to ask these clubs. We will be tabling next week and trying to get people interested in starting clubs. We are starting a shared drive for clubs to help with establishment of clubs and information about running a club. We are going to be continuing our social media, as well as scheduling our presidents meeting soon. We have also been talking about doing a leadership retreat with the presidents of our clubs. We are also trying to start a senator ambassador program to send student senate representatives to on campus events to get us out there a little bit more. I will be sending out more information and sign ups soon. There is a senate 50th anniversary meet and greet during alumni weekend. This is a really great way to show the people that we represent that we are here and we are willing to listen

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth:

- Stay tuned for posts coming from our rhody academics page. We are soon going to do a recap of all the information that katey has provided us tonight. We are also going to be doing a meet the committee posts. We are also going to be doing a few booths this semester. We are also going to be having something in October. We are also going to do a booth for the first day of educators week to give out cards that you can give to our educators so that they know that they are appreciated. We are also thinking about doing an workshop with CCDB to help with professional profilers specifically but not limited to for freshman to try to build their profiles early on

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Singh:

- Had our first meeting, senator Dionne has also filled the communications role, and Senator
- Greek Liaison position has gone to Senator Conte
- Meeting with Melissa this week to discuss about the paperwork for small businesses outreaching
- Purpose dinner collabo with VP Hailu if you know of any professors or individuals with any interesting journey please let me know.
- Renters booth is on friday the 12th from 11 to 9pm please come and show us

some support.

- I will be posting a lot of reels on instagram
- Senator niro and I will be attending the Gansett town council meeting on the 15th
- I just want to give some appreciation to our current director of communications DOC Heinrichs has been doing an amazing job
- The external committee is not my committee, it is our committee even if you're not in it! Come over to talk to me and I am always happy to accommodate suggestions with you all. I don't exist. I alone do not make up the student senate. We all are together.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Gonzalez:

- Hey yall, so like arpan said, I will be having a booth on friday that is titled lemonade and ice. I will be handing out red cards. We are not charging people but will be accepting donations. So please come! We had our first meeting today, please join. Doing another booth soon that is in regard to tarot reading

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair hudson:

- Meeting with Tom Colley, the director of dining service and housing soon.  
Depending on how that meeting goes to propose ideas, including availability of kitchens in every dorm, student feedback boxes in dorms, as well as other things.  
Trying to make a new liaison position: campus development liaison, this will be a broader liaison that encompasses a lot around campus. Trying to share our suggestions with parking as well soon. Trying to do a booth soon for suggestion boxes on campus. I want to get suggestion boxes mainstreamed on campus.  
That is the plan for now.

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

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker rinne:

- Next wednesday 9/17 we will be visited by keith label at I-stand he will be discussing sexual assault. This presentation can be triggering so not intending will not count as an absence, just come after. Please make sure that you can attend your committee meeting, if not you need to join another committee. Chairs should be picking their vice chairs soon.

- Student Body President

President Reyez:

- State of the University address Friday September 19th 2025 at 4pm in edwards hall. Followed by a cookout! Please RSVP by the 16th.
- Monday October 27th from 4:30 to 6:30 pm Pumpkin carving, more information to come.
- Student senate 50th reunion! They have requested that some current senators attend. This gathering will be at 2pm in Fascietelli room 45. Please RSVP by September 18th
- The Senate team will be getting a name tag that will include your name and the position that you hold! We will be getting those hopefully by next week. If you go

- to any events this way people will know who you are!
- Next week we will be holding some educational booths to get the word out more about red zone weeks! We will be working with I-stand to do this. If you have opportunities to be at these booths I will be sending out a sign up sheets
- Student Body Vice President
- VP: Bitanya Hailu:
  - There will be a purpose dinner soon, in which faculty will share their experiences with students. The goal is to encourage students and faculty to connect and share career opportunities. I will update you when it happens soon. Have a nice week!
- Director of the Treasury
- DOT Njende:
  - Name plates have been ordered for the cabinet members
  - Holding finance training from 6pm to 7pm on the 15th
  - If you are interested in doing anything in the finance committee including shadowing me please reach out
  - Please reach out Dot@rhodysenate.org
- Director of Communications

DOC Heinrichs:

- Not much for me just a few things, please have your senate summer pics in by tonight with a tiny little caption
- In regards to merch, I was originally going to do a sweat set and sticker combinations. However we are possibly going to do a polo and or a crewneck to make things more cohesive at events

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

- Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Niro:

- We could definitely use a few more members, I am currently trying to get a meeting any month or any other week. Firstly we are going to be reviewing the bylaws and doing a close reading and annotating these
  - Elections Committee

Elections committee did decide on a chair: Senator Sawyer

- Podcast Committee report:
- Chair Neighbors: We did have our first meeting. I split us into two teams, one on the technical side and one on the creative side. Our first guest is going to be Chair Hudson. The episodes will be coming out biweekly with the next one coming out next week. I would love it if everyone in the senate could interact with it. Besides that I don't have any other announcements. The podcast will be posted on the URI senate instagram for now.

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

## **J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Cheryl:**

- Finance training from 6 to 7pm on the 15th,**
- senate is considered an org and do have your own budget,**
- even if you do take donations please follow the rules in accordance to the finance handbook because we are a non-profit**
- please make sure we follow the rules because we expect everyone else to.**

## **K. SPECIAL ORDERS**

- Motion to Expand Eligibility for Engineering Representative Appointment made by Senator Waddell moves to consider the position of College of Engineering representative for internal election, so that current senators who are eligible to be College of Engineering reps can be considered to serve as interim college of engineering representative until the fall senate elections and seconded by Senator Singh.
- Motion passed unanimously
- Nominations will happen next week on 9/17/25

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **M. NEW BUSINESS**

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

- Joined by former senator Matther Cayer

**Lucas:**

- My name is Lucas and I am the student senate coordinator and advisor! Today the position of student senate coordinator was approved by HR, so we will (hopefully soon) be getting a new hire. We are also in the process of hiring an associate of student involvement and engagement, if you see any of the potential hires around campus please say hi.

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting End Time: 8:05*