



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
September 11th, 2024 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:35

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Buono, Cayer, Estes, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hook, Hudson, McCloskey, Milner, Njende, Reyes, Reffelt, Rinne, Sawyer, Santos, Small, Sorto-Justiniano, Stadtman, Sundell, Walding, Williamson

Absent: Acharya (excused), Ahmad, Bahra, Boucher, Chamberlain, Collins (excused), Emami, Hinrichs (excused), Naidoo (excused), Parvaresh, Scola, Wentworth (excused)

Executive: Goswami, Feroz, Cronan, Peckham

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Buono moves to approve the Agenda, seconded by Chair Reyes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Buono moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair McCloskey.

E. PUBLIC FORUM

President Marc Parlange, President of the University of Rhode Island

- *Student Senate Welcome Back Presentation*
- *Number 1 Public University in New England*
- *Values: Were proud of our graduates and the careers they make for themselves, wishes to see us all succeed at the University*
- *Wishes to acknowledge the senate and the leadership at the school*
- *Really likes that we're finally celebrating Native American and Pacific Islander heritage at the school*
- *Come to next year's Juneteenth celebrations, wishes to have a bigger celebration next year*
- *Bethany Jenkins - Vice President of Research, Achievements in boosting the biotech sectors*

- *Good News: International programs!*
- *Sailing team: Number 11 in the United States. Anyones welcome to join!*
- *Intentions in the future to have a public medical school at URI!*
- *Intentions to build a thriving life science hub for the state and the university; state of the art biomedical science building. Would help bring the researchers the space and the labs that they need*
- *Invitation September 19th at 10am, signing ceremony, at the Fine Arts Center!*
- *Repairs undergoing on the swimming pools*
- *Bringing a track to URI*
- *Number of good projects that are coming*
- *In the Process of building up the Ocean Robotics*
- *Touched on Plans for AI in classroom and policies*
- *Senator Njende asks if there is going to be an effort to fund Computer Sciences and AI research*
- *Computer Sciences and AI: Computer Science touches all fields, it is used to do research at URI-not at the moment*

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee:
 - No report*
- Academic Affairs Committee:
 - Last day to add classes was this past Monday*
 - Deadline to choose pass/fail option is September 17th*
 - Past this date will result in a W on your transcript*
 - Molly Wentworth is new Vice Chair as academic affairs committee*
 - Any ideas/concerns/topics to reflect contact Molly or Chair Collins*
- External Affairs Committee:
 - Fill out when2meet for Committee meeting*
- Cultural Affairs Committee:
 - Fill out when2meet*
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - Working with HRL*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly:
 - Northwoods Challenge course Saturday 10/19th 11-1PM, fill out Carpool List that was sent in the Groupme*
 - To new senators, all legislative matters and questions should be directed to the Speaker-reach out to Speaker Peckham for any question/matters regarding this*
 - Student Submission for events has changed for the budgeting office. Any financial requests must be submitted within a three week period. If forms are not submitted within that three week period, your event could be canceled*
 - If anyone is interested in the elections committee, let Speaker Peckham know.*
 - MUST be neutral if you are on the elections committee*
- Student Body President
 - Flourish fest went great.*

- If anyone would like an ID card let President Goswami know*
- If anyone is interested in JAPROA Committee, let President Goswami know of your interest*
- Sign up for Clockify to track office hours*
- Student Body Vice President
 - Office hours are mandatory for everyone, Senators (2 hours per week) and ensure that you are using the timer feature so they can record it live while they are in the office.*
 - Exchange booth hours instead of office hours*
 - 9/11 Commemoration regarding the Islamophobia that occurred post-9/11, encourages all to think more deeply about the impact of the tragedy on everyone*
- Director of the Treasury:
 - 9/12 @7 PM Finance Training required for all Presidents and Treasurers for Student Organizations*
 - Updated Finance Handbook, includes new changes with the three week period, rules and protocol for students on student organizations*
 - Anyone who is interested in Vice President of Treasury (Time commitment is more so the Spring when budget season is happening)*
- Director of Communications
 - Check your student emails for URInvolved requests*

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

No report

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

A moment of silence to honor the 23rd anniversary of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001.

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

-Flourish fest booth was not great, we need more supplies to hand out to students and to improve our poster board

-We need more people to be present at booths

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:46 PM