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**University of Rhode Island Student Senate**  
September 17th, 2025 General Assembly Agenda

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*Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer*

*Meeting Start Time: 6:30*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present**

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

**Excused Absences**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Wentworth, Molly | Niro, Ryan      |
| Roach, Clayton   | Conte, Isabella |

**Unexcused Absences**

|              |                 |                |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Macrae, Lyla | Paulino, Victor | Zelano, Keegan |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|

**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 approve the minutes made by Chair Sawyer and seconded by Senator Curry*

**E. PUBLIC FORUM**

- Keith Labelle from the iStand program (*content may be heavy, trigger warning sexual assault*)
  - *Most of you have probably heard me speak already*
  - *I'd like this to be a conversation about how we can help each other and spread these messages*
  - *I would like to thank your president for helping to spread these messages across campus*
  - *A few of my students from I-stand are here, including Jordan Jones the president of I-stand*
  - *I am going to go through a lot of information but please feel free to stop me with any questions*
  - *I would like you all to think about how you can spread this around campus, because sexual violence does not discriminate*
  - *Most people are good and don't condone sexual violence*
  - *How do we take care of students that have been impacted?*
  - *New in the legislation: makes sure that students who are parents get the help and childcare they need*
  - *Very first presentation that I gave I didn't think that anyone would want to talk to me or engage and after that four women came to me*
  - *More than 50% of sexual violence is committed over the red zone*
  - *Disproportionately affects women*
  - *We are going to call the crime what it is: rape*
  - *Legislation around rape varies across state lines*
  - *How can we help someone from going from a victim to survivor?*
  - *Program has been national and internationally recognized, because of the work that our students do*
  - *Sexual violence against women is not a women's issue it is a people issue, this is not going to be solved at the criminal level. This needs to be solved by people*
  - *It is important that we are educated about the nuances and how we can help people*
  - *Important to de-stigmatize sexual violence*
  - *This isn't a crime that happens Monday through Friday 8:30 to 4:30, my door is always open*
  - *In the process of hiring an investigator*

- *Part of what has been done in the last few years: offender education -> to get them the education that they need*
- *It's on us (partnered with),*
- *With a domestic if the police are called there is an automatic restraining order, the person would have to move out, the state of rhode island would take over the case (The state of rhode island V. offender)*
- *If you take a phone from someone that is trying to call for help that is considered*
- *Title 9: protects against everyone, women, men, student, staff, faculty*
- *We always leave it up to the student who was negatively impacted by the situation, and try to find a fit for them*
- *We have to provide supportive measures: no contact orders, housing relocation, being free from hostile environment*
- *I want people to see that URI cares, to know how it happens, and be able to take action*
- *People are a lot more likely to tell other students then they are going to tell a staff members*
- *The more people we educate the more people will say: "that happened to me too"*
- *Brianna: I'm a new intern this semester, i took the class this semester, this internship didn't seem optional to me, even just helping one or two people means more than anything. This means more than anything*
- *Vic: I originally took this class just for credit, but it gave me more than anything I could ask for. I think that we should keep going with this education because it affects everyone here*
- *Georgia : it is my second year with i-stand. I didn't know much about i-stand but talked to Keith and came out feeling like a better person. I thought that I knew a lot but after taking that class I realized I knew nothing. Nothing seems the same after, I learned and gained so much from this class. If you can help one person it is worth*
- *Bella: This is my first year in I-stand. I am actually taking the class and being an intern at the same time. 1-4 women you know have been affected by sexual assault that quote stuck with me*
- *Collin: I took the class on a whim last semester, and I walked in with zero expectation. I didn't see it at first and now I see it everywhere. I just wanted to be part of the solution*

- *Our student interns are the reason that we are so successful*
- *I would love to do an action project with the student senate.*
- *I am proud to say that I attend a university that would never sweep things under the rug*
- *We partner with the DVRC and the rhode island coalition against domestic violence*
- *I-stand featured in forbes magazine*
- *Men what do you do when you wake up every morning to prevent yourself from being raped? Don't really think about it right*
- *Women what do you do every day to prevent yourself from being raped? Carrying pepper spray, never walking alone, not wearing both headphones when walking at night*
- *87% of sexual assault are committed by someone that the women knows*
- *Blue lights on campus have never been used against a stranger trying to assault someone on campus*
- *Just-world phenomenon - theory that good things happen to good people, a feeling that someone gets that they "deserved" what happened to them*
- *What happened to you COUNTS?*
- *70% of women physically struggle at first and either pretend to be asleep or go to another place*
- *It is never the victim's fault*
- *The majority of undetected rapist continue to do it, averaging 6 rapes per offender*
- *Program currently in the TD house*
- *30% of women who were negatively impacted by sexual violence thought about suicide*
- *Be open to changing your mind!*
- *Look into this the numbers and the issues*
- *Desensitized due to hypersexualized medias*
- *95% of assaults go unreported*
- *1 in 5 women get raped in college*
- *73 sec american get sexually assaulted*
- *Women 25% of getting assaulted*
- *19 in 20 sexual assault don't get reported, mostly because they feel in some way*

*that they are to blame*

- *First 6 weeks of college mid to late august through thanksgiving are the time that people are most likely to be assaulted; mostly because criminal prey on vulnerable people*
- *Alcohol is the number one date rape drug because one person takes advantage of another persons incapacitation*
- *There is either sex or sexual assault no in between*
- *Consent may be withdrawn at any time*
- *People leave abusive relationships 7 to 11 times before they leave for good*
- *The most dangerous time for someone in an abusive relationship is when the person leaves and when the person who is being abused gets pregnant*
- *A victim may only reach out once. Be patient and believe them*
- *It is illegal for someone to blackmail another person with videos or photo of sexual naked*
- *If you videotape someone without their consent or send it without their consent it is Illegal*
- *Everyone heals in different ways*
- *Contact for Keith Labelle: [Klabelle@uri.edu](mailto:Klabelle@uri.edu), 401-874-5222*

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

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- Meetings on monday pastore 405, at 5:45 every single monday. We are going to be working with a number of clubs in these next few weeks. We have a bill on the floor tonight so ask questions, something new I want to add is having these clubs trying to get recognized come in and do an elevator pitch to get recognized. Please see me after the meeting tonight if you are in SOC, your feedback is really important
- Speaker Rinne: When you vote on a club to be recognized it is your money that you are giving
- Lucas Dewitt: be good stewards and ask questions
- Chair Milner: In the next coming weeks we are going to have club leaders come in and give one to the two minute presentations

- Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Troxell:

- Tonight we are going to be posting a meet the committee post on our instagram @rhodysenateacademics
- Wednesday october 1st booth 2 to 4 pm
- AI academics booths on friday from

Senator Diyelo:

- Today we went through some details about how AI affects our academics, providing students with more knowledge can help students in the way that they interact
- External Affairs Committee

Chair Singh:

- Recently made an speech to narragansett town council to introduce myself
  - Recently held a booth to get concerns and complaints that were mostly about parking which will be echoed to tap
  - In talks with potentially scheduling a meeting with the SK chief of police
  - Had a meeting with wendy in the accounts office to figure out the charged for vendors this is in regard to the small business fair
  - Might have a town councilor in the open forum with the permission of Mr.speaker towards the end of september
  - Purpose dinner is in talks with the advisors and VP Hailu
  - Thank you everyone for being my motivation. This is the first time in two semesters that external has addressed the town council. Any question or concerns please reach out im always here
- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair gonzalez:

- I.C.E. lemonade stand went very well and we will be posting about it soon
  - Like to announce my vice chair senator Ebrahimpour
- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair hudson:

- Not much to report on this week
- September 26th at one in hillside b tower in office
- Still trying to get a tap meeting set up because of conflicting schedules,
- Any tap concerns let me know

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

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Rinne:

- Next speaker Mark Parlange and VP Ellen Reynolds next week, please come business casual next week. If you want to bump elbows with the president of the college and look good doing it. They will be coming at 7 and we will be doing reports before

- Student Body President

President Reyes:

- Red zone is going really well so far this week, thank you to those who have helped
- Student senate reunion is this saturday so please RSVP
- Name tags are ready!

- Student Body Vice President

VP Hailu:

- Hi guys, you will be getting an email from me from the people that did not submit their clockify hours. Hope you have the best week! Please join in on the reunion and state of the address if you can! Thank you

- Director of the Treasury

DOT Unjende:

- Good evening everyone, name plates were order, all we are waiting on is the actual printing. We had a finance training that was planned for this previous monday, due to unforeseen circumstances this had to be postponed. Hopefully that will be done in the next week or two. If anyone is interested in V. DOT

- position please come talk after the meeting or send an email
- Director of Communications

President Reyes on behalf of DOC:

- Thank you to the people that submitted for senate summer and please repost and share

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

- Constitutional Review Committee

Senator Singh on behalf of Chair Niro:

- Please read the bylaws and the constitution before the first meeting

- Elections Committee

Chair Sawyer:

-Elections will be held October 14-17

- All material will need to be in by October 3rd
- Campaign period will be 6 through the 10
- Working on getting a declaration packet and form hopefully by tonight
- Flyers hopefully will go out before the end of the week
- Hoping to get them distributed throughout all the dorms, dining halls, and academic building on campus, as well as the memorial union
- 12 seats will be open including: college of education, college of nursing, 3 at large, 2 off campus representatives, and 5 first year students
- Anyone that is interested in these positions please reach out to me
- Big shout out to my committee members for working with me to get all this done, I know it's been a major time crunch
- If you have any questions please reach out to me via email

- Podcast Committee

Chair Neighbors:

- We had our first filming day, it went pretty well. There were a couple of hiccups but we worked through it. We had VP Hailu sitting in for the recording which was really cool and fun. Editing and clip art were done. My art team put something to put out on the TV so keep an eye out. The episode should be airing either tomorrow or Friday. Once that is uploaded please interact with the post and spread the word

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

## **J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **K. SPECIAL ORDERS**

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **M. NEW BUSINESS**

**SS-25/26-03 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “TRANSFER STUDENT ASSOCIATION” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Transfer Student Association” mission statement is, “to create a welcoming and inclusive community for transfer students by providing opportunities to meet peers, build connections, and learn about campus resources”, and

Whereas, the Transfer Student Association 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 the Transfer Student Association as a recognized organization, and be it

Resolved, that the Transfer Student Association is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$100 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| SPONSOR:        | Student Organizations Committee |
| BILL HANDLER:   | Chairman Milner                 |
| DATE:           | Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 |
| RECOMMENDATION: | (6-0-0)                         |
| EXPIRATION:     | Valid Until next re-recognition |
| ACTION:         | Vote Tonight                    |

Chair Milner:

- Meeting with the transfer student organization last week, they gave us an impressive pitch. They gave us a unique pitch and want to bridge gaps for transfer students. They want to help create that community for those transfer students coming in. They already have a strong foundation with 15 members and a full executive board. They do qualify for our first year package. In general I felt like me and my committee were impressed with this organization. Passed with a committee vote of 6 yays and zero nays and feel like they are on the right track
- They would be getting 100 dollars as a first year organizations

Lucas:

- Good idea to connect them with transfer services

Chair Milner:

- For those that don't know I am a tour guide and work with the transfer student services

Bill passes unanimously

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

**TJ:**

- **Hi I'm TJ I'm the new grad student advisor for the student senate. Please come stop by to my office with any questions or to just say wassup**

**Lucas:**

- **One more thing, the state of the university address is Friday from 4pm to 5pm,**



that is open to the campus community. They ask that you RSVP. Immediately following there will be a cookout on the president's lawn. Good to participate and get involved on campus. Have fun this weekend, it is homecoming, make smart decisions! My dad is flying in, if you see us stay hi and I will introduce you to my dad

**VP Hailu:**

- I really really recommend showing up for the people in the senate, showing up to their booths, their tabling, and their events. Like with cultural and external tables. The election team will also have a booth soon. Please engage!

**Senator Singh:**

- Renters fair on the 26th, the external affairs committee is doing a booth at that fair. If you guys are able to set it up that would be great. I will send out an email soon

**Chair Sawyer:**

- Forgot to mention during my report we will be having two booths next week one on Monday from 12-3 and Wednesday from 12-3. Please sign up and show up!

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting End Time: 8:08*