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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
September 18th, 2024 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Matthew Cayer

Meeting Start Time: 6:36 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Acharya, Buono, Cayer, Collins, Estes, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hook, McCloskey, Njende, Reffelt, Rinne, Santos, Scola, Sorto-Justiniano, Walding, Williamson

Absent: Ahmad, Bahra, Boucher (excused), Chamberlain, Emami, Milner (excused), Naidoo (excused), Parvaresh, Reyes (excused), Sawyer (excused), Small (excused), Stadtman, Sundell, Wentworth (excused)

Executive: Goswami, Feroz, Kolterjahn, Cronan, Peckham

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- *Chair Collins moves to strike Provost Wolfe from the public Forum and add Dr. Reynolds, Vice President of Student Affairs, seconded by Senator Njende*
- *Chair Collins moves to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Chair Buono*

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- *Chair Buono moves to amend last week's minutes to say "minutes" instead of "General Assembly Agenda" Seconded by Senator Walding.*
- *Chair Buono moves to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Chair McCloskey*

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Ellen Reynolds, Vice President of Student Affairs

Dr. Reynolds gives a presentation about academic affairs in place of Provost Wolfe.

- *Emphasizes how proud she is how successful move-in week was for new and returning students.*
- *Jobs are still open from the job fair, reach out to students still looking for*

on-campus jobs.

- *Record number of applications for URI. (Diverse population of students: graduate students, students from 47 states, ~60 countries)*
- *Reynold's states three main concerns from new students: Academic concerns, mental health and wellness, making friends/social concerns.*
- *Emphasizes recent ranking of URI as the #1 Public University in New England.*
- *Reminds Senate to "Vote Yes on 2" for the Rhode Island 2024 Election, giving funds to URI.*
- *Housing Goals: Decrease the amount of 3 student capacity rooms as it turns away prospective students; new apartment complex dorms predicted by Fall 2027.*
- *Student Affairs: Reminds the Student Senate of prohibited activities, the URI Report IT Page, and creates a good image of URI students as student leaders off campus.*
- *Prospective new 15 year campus plan: Asks senators to help identify what they like and don't like around campus for more effective improvements.*

Speaker Peckham opens the floor to questions for Dr. Reynolds.

- *Senator Gonzalez asks Dr. Reynolds if resources from Providence Campus will be moved to Kingston Campus.*

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Student Organizations Committee

- *No Report*

Academic Affairs Committee

- *No official report:*
- *Committee meeting date will be on Tuesdays at 5:00 PM.*
- *Emphasizes utilizing a promoting resources on campus.*
- *Asks committee members and campus representatives to stay after the general assembly.*

External Affairs Committee

- *Met Chief of Police of South Kingstown to discuss unifying local municipalities and URI.*
 - *Asks for volunteers for events with the police department after lack of attendance from URI students in last year's event.*
- Committee meetings and office hours are to be decided.*

Cultural Affairs Committee

- *President Goswami delivers a message from Chair Reyes about a meeting time for the committee and ongoing holiday bash that is being planned.*

Campus Affairs Committee

- *Committee meeting to be decided.*
- *Asks for overall ideas from senators for campus improvements.*

- *Chair Buono meeting with Transportation and Parking Services; asks for suggestions from senators.*
- *Will be working on more accessibility for menstrual products.*
- *Upcoming campus cleanup session will have bingo cards!*
- *Invites senators not on Campus Affairs to assist.*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

Speaker of the Assembly

- *Northwoods Challenge Course day will be Saturday, October 19, 11:00AM - 1:00PM.*
- *Looking for additional and multiple individuals to be the Mental Health Liaisons.*
- *New position open for multiple Community Service Liaisons.*
- *Reminds of rules for being on the Elections Committee.*
- *Reminder about the presentation that Speaker Peckham will be giving during open forum.*

Student Body President/Student Body Vice President

- *President and VP combine their reports with presentations.*
- *Kudos: Director Cronin, Senator Cayer.*
- *Goes over criteria for Senator of the Month (office hours, involvement, booth hours, ect.)*
- *Reminds/introduces senators to the duties and responsibilities of the Elections Committee as well as the upcoming Fall election.*
 - *Emphasizes the importance of neutrality while being on the Elections Committee to prevent unfair and/or harmful situations*

Director of the Treasury

- *Treasury bill on the floor tonight.*
- *Budgeting and financing meeting went well with great attendance; makeups are coming up.*

Director of Communications

- *Headshot redos will be after new senators are elected.*
- *Reminds senators about mandated tabling hours and Quadfest on Tuesday, October 1st.*
- *Not enough senators said they would be interested in Student Senate merch.*

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations for the Elections Committee

- *Senator Cayer, Senator Walding, Senator Njende, Senator Acharya, and Senator Hinrichs.*
- *Speaker Peckham asks nominees to stay after the General Assembly.*

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-04 BILL CALLING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WRIU BROADCAST TOWER

Whereas, at the start of the 2022-2023 Academic year, the WRIU FM broadcast tower was heavily damaged by Tropical Storm Henry, thus resulting in conditions beyond repair and posing a safety concern for the campus, and

Whereas, Student Senate, under Bill SS-22/23-05, allocated funds for the replacement of the WRIU Broadcast tower in the amount of \$1,117,000, and

Whereas, Student Senate, under Bill SS-24/25-03, granted an anticipated total cost of \$1,200,000 toward the replacement of the WRIU Broadcast tower due to the increased costs of production, delivery of materials, and construction, and be it further that

Whereas, due to the increased project estimate of \$1,550,000, which is reflected by new estimates related to the tower's design and construction, an additional amount of approximately \$350,000 is needed for the project's completion and eligibility to pursue the necessary bidding process, so therefore now be it,

Resolved, that the Student Senate further allocate \$350,000 from the Tax Apportionment fund, in the form of a grant, towards the replacement of the WRIU Broadcast tower, with any unused funds being returned to the Student Senate Tax fund.

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| SPONSORS: | Chairs Buono, Collins, Hook, McCloskey, Reyes |
| BILL HANDLER: | Director of Treasury Cronan |
| DATE: | September 18th, 2024 |
| RECOMMENDATION: | (5-0-0) |
| EXPIRATION: | Vote Next Week |

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Madame Speaker of the Assembly Lauren Peckham ~ General Assembly Decorum and Rules Presentation

- *Reminds senators of the duties and responsibilities of Speaker of the Assembly, Legislative Branch, General Assembly rules and decorum.*

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 8:05 PM