



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
September 24th, 2025 General Assembly Agenda

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:31

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Absent, Excused:

Absent, Unexcused:

Acharya, Sudishma	Ranieri, Caterina	Zelano, Keegan
Paulino, Victor	Yehle, Kaitlyn	

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by chair singh and seconded by senator Capraro

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting made by senator stove and seconded

by senator Abbott

E. PUBLIC FORUM

- Jason Colonies from the Narragansett town Council
 - By way of Chair Singh
 - Hi everybody I'm Jason Colonies I'm from the Narragansett town council
 - This particular council's objective is to have a good relationship with URI
 - Working hard to get the ordinance passed which is one person per bedroom up to 5
 - I wanted to talk a little bit about being good neighbors
 - It is really important to keep that relationship robust, i.e. being courteous to the neighbors at night
 - Just got an email about student having a bit of a pow wow outside on a deck at night
 - At night maybe taking it down a notch during the night
 - So happy we got to have the Greek life beach event, a few of the town council members got to go
 - Super happy that some new dorms are being built because that alleviates some of the problem
- Senator Sawyer: actually really curious about the sewage smell in Narragansett
 - Not particularly sure about it just yet started in June and hasn't gone away, councilman Durkin has suggested that we cap all the sewer and hope that will alleviate some of the problems. We have also hired some people to do some dewatering. We are looking into what started the problem. Rentals during the summer may be a little bit of a problem. However, we had a lighter year this year, so I didn't particularly buy it. This
- Senator Stover: I noticed that there has been some signage for no outside water, what's up with that
 - We had barely any rain over the summer, hopefully we'll get some soon
- Chair Milner: My name's Jacob I live in Bonnet Shores and I was wondering what sort of problems you're seeing
 - A lot of the residents contribute the problems to everyone when it is just a few bad eggs. I don't think it's the entire population of the town that thinks this way however, this isn't true for all of us. Residents, students, and tourists make this community thrive

- Chair Milner: What is the future of the relationship between the town council and the student body?
 - Our current town council's relationship is great. Hoping that beach cleanup and some of what you guys are doing needs to become more visible. Need to respect the residents and most of you do, however let's make sure we keep doing this. A lot of the neighbors don't come say hi to you, but it would be helpful to introduce yourself to the neighbors. Saying something like "Do you have any problems with us" and "Is there anything we can do to better this" would go a long way
- Senator Ebrahimpour: First of all, thank you for coming to see us. I know that there hasn't been a great relationship between the town council and the student body. Something that I would like to bring up is that some of the older members of the town council are calling for a recall, can you speak on this?
 - I'm not sure about this process honestly, and I do respect them and am trying to respect them. If you know people that live in town say good things about us. I would never go out of your way to attack these people. It is a democracy after all. If they do get these signatures that they need there will be an election 70 days after these signatures are gotten. If this passes then they actually recall us, but there would be another election. It is only a two year term so honestly if you don't like us get rid of us during the next election
- Chair Singh: The Uri student senate and student body are here to adhere to their regulations. The necessary actions to those breaking those rules should be taken. We as a senate will work with you in any way.
 - Come to the meeting! It is good to see you there and I know that the people that are there are not your friends. But we are your friends
- Cole Rinne: What is the benefit of repelling the ordinance if it is unenforceable
 - Just because it isn't enforceable does not mean that it not being fully repealed does not have some drawbacks because the next council could just reinforce it
- Mark Parlange and Ellen Reynolds
 - Homecoming this weekend, one of the really exciting things this morning was a pickleball game it was fun
 - One of the big things that some of the alumnus coming back for was the student senate
 - The studnet senate alumnus were really excited about coming back and seeing you all

- It has been a really awesome start of the school year and I am just happy to welcome us to the 2025 academic year.
- First of all you all remember that URI was voted the #1 public university in new england this year
- The wall street journal looks at the next steps of the graduates of the university, they look at a number of economic factors
- First earl smith cape verde student abroad program. A long time coming a lot of alumnus wanted to celebrate this
- Thank you all for the helping with moving, I must have heard from 100 parents that they had dropped someone off at another university and then came here and said that they were appreciative of this moving
- Awesome to win the football homecoming game and there was good energy. It is so important that we bring back our alumnus and that they feel really good. When they see all of you and the good energy we are bringing. It has been one of the highlights of the year
- Thank you all for coming to the state of the university address and the barbecue after!
- The funny thing was that some of the speakers that we highlighted didn't come
- You are always invited to these events! I know your very busy with senate and other clubs/ studying and work. All and all show up
- The honors colloquium at 7pm on tuesday are very interesting
- Recovery place was opened downstairs and we have a done a really groovy job
- There wa s band that played on friday night and i was really proud of them
- Upcoming events: Thursday night: Womens soccer team is playing La salle, this semester soccer team is having a good one
- Free farmers marker on thursdays through october. Will be inside tomorrow
- Quadfest: September 30th. Would be great if you could come
- Guitar and Mandolin festival: There is a few moments where I have had chills down my back. There is all kinds of music there.
- Amanpour lecture: november 3rd. I will be there, hope to see you all there
- I just want to talk a little bit about moving ahead but before that thank you all for your engagement
- This year there will be a lot of things going on, close collaboration with you me and VP. Reynolds is going to be very important.

- One thing that has been going on in the last year, senate commission: does the state of rhode island need a public medical school. Three hearings in the last year. There was many people that came to testify. One of the things is that if we do, do it it is like a startup. The fact that we have a college of health sciences which have a number of diciplines. This way we vcan rreally collaborate and work together. This is something that we are looking at and pursuing
- There is a group dedicated to looking at having a public medical school. If ever there was a state that needed a public medical school it is rhode island. We have an estimate 100 students that would be interested in this. There is a public health crisis in rhode island. There is so many challenges that we have with healthy living that we would like to address at URI and help combat
- How many of you have been out to the narragansett bay campus
- Nearing completion of the ocean robotics laboratory. We are investing about 300 million out on the bay campus. It is about 169 million ship that is going in. New ocean engineering building. Getting a new laboratory out there. The location is fantastic. There are huge opportunities for URI and rhode island to build a location for innovations and attracting companies.
- Did any of you go to the innovation pitch night on campus? 10 faculty, student, and alums.
- At the bay campus all that has to do with oceanography, marine bio, and ocean engineering. It is coming!
- Biomedical sciences: vote yes on two passed. On the north end of the science quad we are building a new biomedical science building. I won't spoil but there is a lot for big plans here

Senator Stover: Where is the biomedical thing going?

- Quad will be closed in on the biomedical science building will go there

Senator Stover: Noticed that there is construction on the other side of the plains road lot, what is going there?

- That is the track.
- Old track was condemned and turning into a nice grass field
- Want special olympics, local high school events, and other sports to be hosted there
- Comprehensive Campus plan wanting it to be more bike, commuter friendly along with working with neighboring towns
- Chair Hudson: will there be any new parking that comes with these renovations?

- Yes, there is potential for a parking garage on campus. We want to put these parking spaces in places that are convenient for our students in a way that maximizes our space. I would really like to see people using northwoods and other places
- Chair Hudson: The parking garages would they be home to commuters or residents?
- Ellen Reynolds: Parking is not mine, however I hear every day. Our transportation and parking friends do all we can. This is a plan but we don't have a lot of details. I think our leadership know that we have a lot of students and faculty that have struggled with this. I want to let you know that it has been prioritized in the plan and in the current version.
- We also want to facilitate other options for commuters like the bus lines and we know that public transportation aren't the best
- I just feel that there is a lot of incredible momentum from the university, I'll stop there. I don't know if there are any other questions
- Chair Singh: Thank you for coming here, if the board of trustees pass the medical school bill. When would we be able to see tangible stuff on campus for this
- First we have to see what the state of Rhode Island has to say about this, we have a whole committee that prioritizes this. At some point probably in the November board of trustees meeting I will have to see if the board of trustees will back this. Formally we have to present by December the full plan to the state and fundamentally they have to decide when to fund it.
- 2028 hopefully to see the building go up
- Chair Millner: thank you for coming today. It's super motivating for you to be here... last semester... something something sorry :)
- It's a difficult changing landscape, we have our values and freedoms we respect with professors and students it is not their faults there's a lot of outside pressure
- Active research with Bethany Janckins
- Lost 38 grants
- URI is in good shape at the moment

Ellen Reynolds:

- Tom Cooley, and Ellen are about a month away for dorms
- Facility will be getting machine (strength and conditioning) and new URI bikes, GPS located, accessible with Student IDs,
- Approve to renovate Butterfield and pizza place
- Wellness seeing a lot of A and B flu, flu shot drive free for students once or twice a week for the next month

- Covid shots not allocated but as soon as it is the Flu shots will turn into FLU and Covid shots
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F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee

Chair Milner:

- Hi everyone, happy fourth week of classes so excited to be here with you all. We had our second official meeting this week. Some excellent student organization presentations. Will see some bills from us in the upcoming weeks
- Capping the recognition period on October 17th this is done to make sure of budget efficacy and clubs having time to recruit. To make sure that this information going out will be done through a flyer campaign. We will be reinstating that in addition to running a few booths. This isn't done to punish anyone but to make it more efficient
- Student organizations have a lot of resources and processes that they have to go through. However this information is everywhere. We are trying to make this information more cohesive and make it easier to access. I will be working on a hub/information portal for where the information will all be present to make it more efficient. One place to go to for everything. There has been a lot of technological development over the last 10 years, this will make the process more streamlines
- I want to push forward the university student organization ambassador programs. The members of the committee will go to events and pass out flyers. Committee members will be required to go to one event for this semester. My committee will be hearing more about this in the next few weeks
- Like I said last week I just want to encourage us all to ask questions and make ourselves known with different speakers and guests that comes into our space

Senator Dickson: This October 17th deadline. Does this mean that they have to have all of the process complete by their deadline

- They need to have the model constitution and the recognition application submitted by this time which is the first thing that you have to submit when trying to get recognized by a club

Lucas: Quadfest is this coming thursday from 12:30 to 1:30

Senator Curri: I know that when we go to senate things they count as office hours.

- Will look into that
- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Hudson: housing concerns in the GC, TAP meeting got set for will be going to GC, lesion bill going on the floor next week

Speaker Rinne: talking about lesions :)

- External Affairs Committee

Senator Singh:

-Senator Niro Vice chairman

- I had a meeting with the town councilor, Senator Conte came with me. We had a very progressive meeting. We had a town councilmen come to

- had a meeting with IFC and Panhellenic presidents to see how we can communicate with them more

- meeting with conduct officer so that I can advertise the off campus code of conduct which is basically how we behave off campus

- meet with the south kingston chief of police discussed issues of the traffic concerns

- I know that the student senate has been hearing about a resolution against the transportation and parking on campus. They increased the price by 72% percent, this is in my eyes not good. There will be a resolution and referendum on the floor next week. I feel the support of this unit to be one. If we stand with the people we represent they know they have people they can trust to support. Thank you for being there for me and helping me feel supported in this. I am here to support and listen to the student body and so are you. I think we all deserve a huge round of applause for ourselves.

Chair Milner:

- This is what it is all about, Senator Dionne was handing out petitions. I really appreciate all that we are doing with this

Senator Dionne: I just wanted to extend my support with this, I have been personally involved with seeing what we can do with the situation on hand. If we all push for one thing I think we can really get this all done. I would love to bring whoever on board that would like to be on board with this

Senator Niro: currently drafting student input

Singh: will be presenting the recommendations to the senate first. If any one have any question will be sending it to the group chat

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Gonzaluz: not much to say into post coming next week, Colan has a new bill for next week

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Wentworth: Hi everyone met with Christina talked about the second grade option, haven't been updating in many years, trying to make it more equitable due to students coming from other backgrounds (first years and transfers), AI awareness, Jackson Trowell is Vice Chair

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly

Speaker Rinne:

- Next week will be a break from speakers
- Thank you for dressing so nice
- Draft a bill share your opinion

- Student Body President

- Everyone look amazing
- Meeting with the alumni was crazy got a lot of good stories and got to look at past minutes
- Shout out to everyone that went to the Prez

- Student Body Vice President

- Will be meeting with Malissa about URI 101 for international students (USC rn that is more academically) but want to have more stuff like visas, driving tests, ect
- Assistant director of DAI about physical disabilities on campus
 - Reach out if have any questions, suggestions meeting will be next week

- Director of the Treasury

- Name plates are in
- First finance train will be tomorrow at 6pm at Pastorel AUD
- Makeup Monday Oct 6 memorial union 5-6pm
- Making an announcement...

- Director of Communications

President on behalf of DOC

- Working on merch, crewneck, polo and stickers
- Working with company she will let us now in Groupme for us to order merch
- Quadfest!!! And sign up will be coming out soon
- Please don't take you namestage unless you are going to an even

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Constitutional Review Committee

Chair Niro: haven't had an official meeting but will happen in the beginning of Oct

- Elections Committee

Next couple of weeks asking for help to prompt elections, flyers in dorms, academic halls, etc

- Podcast Committee

Chair Neighbors:

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lucas: Governor cup, w/brown tickets are \$10 but bus is free next friday kick off at 7pm,

Family weekend Oct 26, pumpkin carving submission form by monday

Niro: for the game if you want to drive where would we park?

Website should have the info but will look up and report back

Parking ranges \$6-30

Ebrahimour: Army vs Air force soccer game oct 5th \$12 first game starts at 5pm

Reyes: forgot in report wants to send a member of the gov to sit in on our meeting and vice versa to share ideas and strength both of our governments

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Motioned by Chair Hudson seconded by Chair Gonzales to move in to exc session

Unanimous approval

Motion Chair Milner to exit exc session seconded by senator Dionne

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 8:21pm