



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road,
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University of Rhode Island Student Senate
September 25th, 2024 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary: Lynn Sawyer

Meeting Start Time: 6:35PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL:

- **Present: Acharya, Boucher, Buono, Cayer, Collins, Estes, Gonzalez, Hailu, Hinrichs, Hook, Hudson, McCloskey, Milner, Njende, Reffelt, Reyes, Rinne, Sawyer, Sorto-Justiniano, Stadtman, Small, Sundell, Wentworth, Williamson**
- **Absent: Ahmad, Bahra, Chamberlain, Emami, Naidoo (excused), Parvaresh, Santos, Scola, Walding (excused)**
- **Executive: Cronan, Peckham**

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motioned to approve the agenda Senator Gonzalez, Seconded by Senator Estes

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motioned to approve the minute Senator Cayer, Seconded by Senator Gonzalez

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Coordinator Kelley Ryan, presenting resources and services provided by Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services

- *Housed out of health services in the lower level*
- *Interpersonal Violence:*
 - *Power, control, and intimidation including: Sexual Assault, Domestic violence, Stalking*
 - *Can be committed by anyone*
 - *Can happen to anyone*
- *How do we go about getting resources when violence happens to us?*
- *1 in 5 cisgender women will be sexually assaulted in college*
- *1 in 16 cisgendered men will be sexually assaulted in college*
- *1 in 4 gender non-conforming person will be sexually assaulted in college*
- *How do we not be part of the statistics?*

- VPAS: Confidential, survivor-driven resources
- VPAS is to help navigate reporting options
- VPAS can help a survivor in reporting this violence
- Title 9 2024 regulations: everything will be title 9, whether it is on campus or happens off campus
- VPAS can assist with restraining order, housing/academic accommodations, safety planning
- VPAS is on call 24 hours a day
- VPAS offers medical care, free confidential medical care, through health services, does not go through insurance
- Training now provided in training in URI 101, LAR 101, BIO 101, Greek 101, CLUB SPORTS, ORIENTATION, HRL Staff - this training helps understand what resources are available to students
- Title 9 & Community Standards:
 - Sart team
 - Survivor driven
 - Support measures
 - Making sure that outreach is done every week for every incident that is reported
- Supportive measures can be done without a formal report, important for mental health of students and making sure access to education is possible for those students
- Mutual no contact orders can be provided when someone does not want to file a formal report against another person
- VPAS will not make a student file a report if that student does not want to, instead that leave it up to the student
- Dean of students report it page; reports on this page under the sexual misconduct form go to VPAS, way to anonymously report, allows the process to begin of formal measures
- Dean of the student report page can also be done for hazing, medical concerns, and overall concerns.
 - Senator Milner: What was the thought process on starting to present at orientation?
- Most high risk time for sexual assault of student is within the first few weeks of college, this way if anyone is in danger they have the resources, and make it known that interpersonal violence is a community issue
 - Senator Hinrichs: Is there a way for students that might be newer to find the VPAS in health services?
- Reporting can be done at the front desk of health services, who will contact VPAS, and the front desk can contact an advocate
- Kelly Ryan, Violence prevention and advocacy service; kelly_ryan@uri.edu, 401-874-9131

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organizations Committee
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Academic committee first meeting yesterday
 - If you are part of the committee and did not attend the meeting please contact chair collins
 - If you are looking to drop a course before september 27th you can drop it without a W
- External Affairs Committee
 - Dates for committee meeting as of right now are Tuesdays at 2

- *Friendly reminder that registration deadlines for voting is coming up*
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - *First meeting today*
 - *Will be meeting Wednesdays at 3:30*
 - *Planning some events for end of the semester*
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - *Committee meeting Thursday at 5pm*

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Speaker of the Assembly
Attendance is required in general assembly
3 unexcused absences before you get a court referral
When you are not here it impacts the whole senate - we want everyone here!
If you are not able to go to a committee meeting please contact your chair
Northwoods challenge course date is saturday october 19th at 11 am; counts as office hours
Looking for more mental health and community liaisons, also gender and sexuality liaison and military/veteran liaison position
Please contact Speaker Peckham if you have interest in liaison position
Carpool list for challenge course in the group me
- Student Body President
- Student Body Vice President
- Director of the Treasury
Our new Vice Director of the Treasury John Njende
Voting on treasury bill this week
- Director of Communications
Accept the URI involved invitation
Sign up for quad fest

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Elections Committee:
-The four of us who are here please see me after to confirm meeting time

I. REPORT OF THE COURT

Head Jurist, Andrew Ebrahimpour

- *Due to reaching 3 unexcused absences senators that have not attended any meeting are hereby removed from office*
- *Future business: Court will be handling issues differently this academic year, the way our proceedings will be carried out; anyone who is not meeting the requirement of their position, anyone who has broken national/state law will receive repercussions. There will be repercussions in the form of: Written reprimand, break of written order will result in dismissal of role in student government, or dismissal from student government. Should a*

written order be issued it will be written both to the person receiving repercussion and to the Speaker. All individual situations with the Court will be heard on a case to case basis. In closing, the court is planning on holding all members of the student government responsible for their actions. Do right by your positions!

- *As senators it is the bare minimum to show up to the general assembly and committees*
- *Chairs please fill your liaisons positions*
- *No appeal process to those that have been removed, but they are eligible to run again*

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Buono

- *Congratulations to Cameron Hudson; Housing and residential life liaison*

Senator Hudson:

- *Thank you to everyone who confirmed me and I will do my best*

K. SPECIAL ORDERS

L. UNFINISHED 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.

SPONSORS:

Chairs Buono, Collins, Hook, McCloskey, Reyes

BILL HANDLER:

Director of Treasury Cronan

DATE:

September 18th, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

(5-0-0)

EXPIRATION:

Vote Tonight

- *Director Cronan: This project can not go forward until the state knows the Student Senate has allocated the fund. Please vote as you wish.*
- *Maureen: No guarantee this money will be spent, but the second estimate was a little higher. We now have to allocate the funds in case this budget gets over it. If more funds are needed beyond this we have the right to not allocate more funds to them.*

Chair McCloskey moves to begin voting on the bill, seconded by Chair Reyes

Vote Passes (24-1-0)

M. NEW BUSINESS

N. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Chair Collins:

- *College representatives please come see me*
- *Getting stoles for graduates so if you are graduating please see me/contact me*

O. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting End Time: 7:28PM