



Memorial Student Union, Room 201 • 50 Lower College Road • Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

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**URI STUDENT SENATE-GENERAL
ASSEMBLY MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY, 2024**

Recording Secretary: Chair Peckham

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Buono, Cayer, China, Clyde, Collins, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, Della Selva, Ebrahimpour, Hlaskova, Hudson, McCloskey, Mehorter, Milner, Ndonye, Njende, Peckham, Reyes, Rinne, Rudolph, Wentworth

Excused: Confessore, Newman, DeLorenzo, Emami, Hook, Hoover, Hurwitz, Palmer, Scola, Sundell, Walding

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Peckham moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Ebrahampour

Motion passes unanimously.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Ebrahampour is meeting with health services next week to talk about student mental health, is seeking if anyone has any questions they would like asked

Chair Buono is asking to check the unofficial senate groupme.

E. PUBLIC FORUM

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee
 - 2 bills on floor tonight
 - Had to postpone presidents meeting to Feb. 26th 6:00PM via Zoom
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Fundraising booth March 5th 1-4PM
 - Fundraising booth March 27th 11:30-3:30PM
 - Will be sending out booth hours at the end of February, please sign up!
- External Affairs Committee
 - Working on the save RIPTA campaign
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - Valentine's booth earlier today, writing I love you/terms of endearment in their mother language

- Feb. 21 Wednesday @5:30 is first Narcan training event
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - Committee meeting with dining services 5PM February 23rd
 - Send out google doc to the committee, please fill it out by Monday Feb. 26th for the committee meeting!
- Executive Committee
 - Speaker
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Director of Treasury
 - Director of Communications

G. REPORT OF THE COURT

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

Will be voting on election confirmation dates later in this meeting.

I. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations for Speaker of Assembly

Chair Peckham nominates Chair/Acting Speaker Rudolph, seconded by Chair Clyde

Chair Meilin nominates Senator Newman, seconded by Chair Clyde

Senator Hudson nominates Senator Ebhrampour, seconded by Senator Cayer

J. UNFINISHED REPORT

SS-23/24-44 - BILL CALLING FOR THE ADDITION OF A “MILITARY AND VETERAN STUDENT LIAISON” TO THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

Whereas the University of Rhode Island Student Senate can help support its military and veteran students, and

Whereas military and veteran students are important members of the University of Rhode Island’s community, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that a “Military and Veteran Student Liaison” position will be added to the Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

Resolved, that this position will be added to in Article 2, Section 9, Part 3, Academic Affairs Committee of the University of Rhode Island Student Senate Bylaws, and be it further,

Resolved, that text shall be added below Section 9.21 in “Part 3: Academic Affairs Committee” that reads “A member of the Academic Affairs Committee shall be appointed by the respective chair to serve as the Military and Veteran Student Liaison. The Military and Veteran Student Liaison shall meet with the staff advisor of the Military and Veteran Education (MAVE) Center monthly, meet with the president of the Student Veterans Organization monthly, and maintain monthly contact with a member of the USS

Rhode Island (SSBN - 740).”

SPONSORS: Chairs Clyde, Hoover, Senators Emami, Cronan, Palmer
BILL HANDLER: Senator Ebrahimpour
DATE: 14 February, 2024
ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Buono asks if this person would receive training on what to do in the role from Senator Ebrahimpour. Senator Ebrahimpour confirms he would be able to do training and create a list of responsibilities/duties for the position.

The bill passes with unanimous consent.

K. NEW BUSINESS

SS-23/24-45 • BILL CALLING FOR THE DECLARATION OF THE 2024 SPRING STUDENT SENATE ELECTIONS

Whereas, it is incumbent upon the Senate to set, confirm, and declare official dates for candidate declaration, campaign, and election periods for all open and/or vacant seats on the Senate, and

Whereas, there shall be a total of 39 Student Senate representative seats up for election, of which 11 represent students at-large, 12 represent off-campus students, 8 represent on-campus students, and 1 each represent students of the 8 academic colleges, and

Whereas, the office of Student Senate President and Vice President shall also be up for election, and

Whereas, it is custom for the Senate to do so, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate declares the following dates in accordance with the 2024 spring semester elections:

- Declaration period - ends at 4 pm on Wednesday, February 28
- Eligibility confirmation - Thursday, February 29
- Campaign period - through Friday, March 8
- Election dates - Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 8

and be it further,

Resolved, that the Senate urges all students to participate in the upcoming electoral process by both running for open seats and voting in the election.

SPONSOR: Elections Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chair Rudolph
DATE: February 8, 2024
RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Election Certification

ACTION: Vote Tonight

The bill passes with unanimous consent.

SS-23/24-46 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Surfrider Foundation Club ” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Surfrider Foundation Club” mission statement is, “To engage students in activism with the goal of protecting Rhode Island’s ocean and coastline as well as connecting students to state-wide volunteers with similar goals”, and

Whereas, “Surfrider Foundation Club” meets the requirements to be a Senate-recognized student organization, and

Whereas, it is custom for the Senate to do so, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges Surfrider Foundation Club as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that “Surfrider Foundation Club” is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$75 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chair Clyde

DATE: 14 February, 2024

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition

ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Clyde moves to immediately consider, seconded by Chair Reyes

The bill passes with unanimous consent.

SS-23/24-47 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “Animal Veterinary Science Club” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “Animal Veterinary Science Club” mission statement is, “to create a fun, educational and safe place for students with similar interests to come together and to create opportunities for all students at URI to explore their passions”, and

Whereas, “Animal Veterinary Science Club” meets the requirements to be a Senate-recognized student organization, and

Whereas, it is custom for the Senate to do so, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges Animal Veterinary Science Club as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that “Animal Veterinary Science Club” is provided with the first-year financial benefits package of \$75 which is to be paid out over the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

SPONSOR: Student Organizations Committee

BILL HANDLER: Chair Clyde

DATE: 14 February, 2024

RECOMMENDATION: (5-0-0)
EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION: Vote Next Week

Chair Clyde moves to immediately consider, seconded by Chair Peckham

The bill passes with unanimous consent.

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM M.

ROLL CALL

N. ADJOURNMENT