



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

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**URI STUDENT SENATE-GENERAL
ASSEMBLY 28 FEBRUARY, 2024 MEETING
MINUTES**

Recording Secretary: Chair Peckham

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Buono, Cayer, China, Clyde, Collins, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, DeLorenzo, Ebrahimpour, Hlaskova, Hook, Hoover, Hudson, McCloskey, Mehorter, Milner, Njende, Palmer, Peckham, Rudolph, Scola, Sundell, Wentworth, Walding

Absent: Confessore, Della Selva (excused), Emami (excused), Hurowitz, Ndonye (excused), Newman (excused), Reyes (excused)

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Peckham moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Chair Clyde

Agenda passes

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Clyde moves to approve last weeks minutes, seconded by Chair Hoover

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Assistant Vice President (Housing & Residential Life and Student Development) Thomas Cooley

- housing is all paid for by student tuition
- conducted a housing master study to collect data on current facilities and review programming components of HRL
- will be updating recreation rooms to include games, updated furniture, wellness/meditation rooms, etc.
- HRL has created 4 goals
 - look at infrastructure (buildings)
 - enhance and invest in staff development (people)
 - cultivate transformative learning environment (residential life experience)
 - fiscally responsible

VP Steinweh-Adler asked questions about the sustainability issues mentioned

Senator Sundell recommended implementing more recycling bins throughout the residential halls to improve sustainability efforts

Speaker Rudolph announces that anyone running for an office on the senate regarding candidacy

must do it during public forum

Senator Ebrahimpour announces that health services is doing a safe spring break beach party Wednesday March 6th 5-8PM. He also announces MAVE center, URI Women's center, and Sigma Kappa Sorority are doing a basic needs drive for the All Female Veteran Transition Home run by RI Operation Stand Down, so please donate if you can (feminine hygiene products, hand soap, detergent, etc.) and spread the word!

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee
 - had presidents meeting monday, went well
 - if you're on the e-board of a student senate recognized org please turn your re-recognition form in by march 8th
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - bracelet making fundraiser booth March 5th 1-4PM!
 - cash only, please buy a bracelet or sign up for a booth hour!
 - Kindness Cards! GET IT, DO IT, PASS IT ON!
- External Affairs Committee
 - fill out the interest form if you're interested in becoming external chair!
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - no report
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - successful meeting with dining services, getting more info out to the student body
 - implementing a spice shelf in the dining halls (hope and butterfield) to see what spices we want to see in the dining halls
 - new initiative to plan "campus gem of the week" collaborating to grow instagram accounts and to provide resources (ex. XR lab, makerspace, inclusive offices on campus, etc.)
 - platform for campus affairs committee, allows easy and accessible place to type up concerns
- Executive Committee
 - Speaker
 - reached out to Dr. Russell to come in and give us Safe Zone Training
 - trying to get Marc Parlange or Dr. Reynolds to come in and give us a presentation before the end of the term on April 3rd
 - Lucas Dewitt presenting about URInvolved in upcoming meeting (March 20th)
 - President
 - no report
 - Vice President
 - Charity run this weekend, the entire weekend, starts at 6PM in Butterfield, 4 miles every 4 hours, raising money for Doctors Without Borders
 - working to get a director position for sustainability efforts
 - Director of Treasury

- working on budget sheet (1.3million)
- Director of Communications
 - no report

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

declaration period officially ended at 4PM today

will be attempting to have meet the candidates event but will not be hosting it if not all individuals on the ticket can go

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

Formation of and nominations to the *Special Committee on the 2024 Women's Summit*
Speaker Rudolph moves to nominate the committee, approved by unanimous consent

Chair Hoover nominates Chair Buono, seconded by chair clyde
chair hoover nominated chair peckham, seconded by chair clyde
chair buono nominates senator china, seconded by chair clyde
senator Ebrahimpour nominates senator Hlalkova, seconded by chair clyde
chair peckham nominates senator McCloskey, seconded by senator walding
chair peckham nominates senator collins, seconded by chair clyde
chair buono nominates senator sundell, seconded by chair clyde
chair buono nominates senator wentworth, seconded by chair clyde
chair peckham nominates senator walding, seconded by chair clyde
chair buono nominates senator palmer, seconded by chair clyde
speaker rudolph nominates senator Corsi, seconded by chair buono
speaker rudolph nominates senator DeLorenzo, seconded by chair buono
speaker rudolph nominates chair clyde, seconded by chair peckham
speaker rudolph nominates senator cruz, seconded by chair clyde

All nominees are approved by unanimous consent

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

SS-23/24-50 - RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING FOR INCREASED FUNDING OF THE MILITARY AND VETERAN EDUCATION CENTER

Whereas, the University of Rhode Island is raising the price of tuition by 3.6% for in-state students and by 3.9% for out-of-state students for the 2024-2025 academic year, and

Whereas, the Military and Veteran Education Center relies on funding from the University of Rhode Island, and

Whereas, The Military and Veteran Education Center would benefit from additional funding in order to better help students using VA benefits to attend the University of Rhode Island, now therefore be it

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate respectfully requests that funding for the Military and Veteran Education Center be increased in accordance with the planned tuition increase for the 2024-2025 academic year.

SPONSORS: Speaker Rudolph, Chairs Hoover and Reyes,
Senators Cayer and Hlaskova

BILL HANDLER: Senator Ebrahimpour

DATE: 28 February, 2024

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Review

ACTION: Vote Tonight

The bill passes with unanimous consent.

SS-23/24-51 - BILL CALLING FOR THE ADDITION OF A “SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE” TO THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

Whereas, whomever is discharged with the duties of Speaker of the Assembly may be unable to execute their duties during General Assembly meetings due to illness, emergency, and/or various other unexpected disturbances, and

Whereas, the office of Speaker of the Assembly itself can become suddenly vacant due to unforeseen circumstances without an official, streamlined process of succession for said office, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate shall add an appointed position of “Speaker Pro Tempore” to its bylaws, and be it further

Resolved, that the description of such within the bylaws shall be placed within “Section 5: Speaker of the Assembly” as an additional subsection that reads as follows:

“5.12: The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint a voting member of the General Assembly as an official designee to execute the duties of said office in the event of illness, emergency, and/or any other unexpected disturbance. This designee shall be known as the “Speaker Pro Tempore.” The Speaker Pro Tempore shall execute all duties of the Speaker of the Assembly so long as the incumbent is unable to do so. In the event the office of Speaker of the Assembly becomes vacant, the Speaker Pro Tempore may also execute the duties of said office until an interim/acting and/or official Speaker of the Assembly is formally elected.”

SPONSORS: Chairs Clyde, Hoover, and Reyes,

Senators Ebrahimpour and Newman

BILL HANDLER:

Speaker Rudolph

DATE:

28 February, 2024

EXPIRATION:

Valid Until Annual Bylaw Revisions

ACTION:

Vote Tonight

The bill passes with unanimous consent.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Chair Peckham and Chair Buono announce their campaign for President and Vice-President, endorsed by Chair Hoover, Speaker Rudolph, Chair Clyde, and Senator Ebrahimpour

Chair Peckham announces that a group chat for all the women's summit nominees will be made via groupme

N. ROLL CALL

O. ADJOURNMENT