



Memorial Student Union, Room: 201 | 50 Lower College Road, Kingston, Rhode Island
02881 Telephone: (401) 874-2261
Email: Info@RhodySenate.org

University of Rhode Island Student Senate General Assembly Meeting Minutes - April 24, 2024

Recording Secretary: Chair Quiroa Reyes

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:43pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Acharya, Ahmad, Buono, Cayer, Collins, Cronan, Estes, Hlazkova, Hook, Hudson, McCloskey, Milner, Naido, Njende, Peckham, Reffelt, Reyes, Rine, Sorto-Justiniano, Sundell, Walding, Gonzales, Soyer, Chamberlain, Wentworth

Absent: Emami, Bahra, Santos, McCloskey, Scola

Executive: Feroz, Goswami, Cronan

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Peckham moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Chair Buono.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

No available minutes

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Guest Speaker(s) CSLD Staff Presentation: Melissa Camba-Kelsay & Alison Jackson Frasier, Melissa Boyd-Colvin

- *Start off with an activity: Small groups of senators (senators discuss, a lot)*
 - *What brings you joy? You can count on me to...? This is what I need from you...?*
 - *Share something you learned about yourself or the people around you*
 - *In conclusion: know yourself, know your people= more productivity and success*
 - *Strengths based leadership: what are your strengths and weaknesses to work together towards success.*

- *Academic Leadership Minor: one or two classes, no need to complete 18 credits*
- *SOLC: inside training, how to agree to disagree*
- *NWCC: challenge course, team building*
- *Partnership for the fall*

Guest Speaker Abie Olaye: Spoke on behalf of nominee Peckham for Speaker of Assembly

- *“Lauren is incredible leadership skills, reliable, and precise, making her the most qualified individual”- Abie Olaye*

Guest Speaker David Rudolph: Spoke on behalf of nominee Peckham for Speaker of Assembly

- *“Lauren is indeed the most qualified candidate for this position”- David Rudolph*

F. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- *Acting Speaker of Assembly- Vice President Sanah Feroz*
 - *Excited to be in this space and for the new experiences thus far*
 - *Words on encouragement for new senators- “take up space”*
- *President*
 - *Orientation Presentation Part II*
 - *Presentation will be shared with assembly*
 - *Nominee Timothy Small: Testimony*
 - *Senator Naido: Encourages everyone to speak up*
 - *Chair Buono: Reminds us that not everything is “OKAY”, reminds us the assembly of I-Stand as a resource*
 - *Senator Estes: Seconds President Argha on calling out your friends on inappropriate behavior*
 - *Senator Hinrichs: Had been a victim to abuse, there is a lack of education on the overall topic*
 - *Senator Walding: Lack of education on how to protect yourself*
 - *Culture Show, Friday 04/26/24 at 5:00pm*
 - *Spoke about the Speaker of the Assembly job description*
 - *Vice President Feroz: Spoke of the experience and process of the Speaker position*
 - *Spoke on the Judicial Branch and their roles*
 - *Spoke about the Presidential Agenda*
 - ***Senator** : What would the process of training look like?*
 - *Senator Gonzales: As the External President of Diversity Dialogues, there’s more experience that can be shared*
 - *Senator Peckham: Is this going to be a job specific? Student organizations?*
 - *President Goswami: “It will start in URI 101”*
 - *Senator Hlaskova: “What is the plan to implement this training job(s) specifically?”*
 - *Dr. Stiles: Memorial Union staff is a process he is already looking into.*
 - *Senator Acharya: Emphasis the root of inequality is ignorance*
- *Vice President*
 - *Vice President Agenda*
 - *“Whining about Dining”: spoke about her experience as a member of a community with special diets*

- “Shuttle Hustle”: Shuttle times and schedules
- “Leadership without Limits”: Goals of Conference for Undergraduate Women Leaders (of all different backgrounds)
- Senator Peckham: What is the plan for the 24/7 food space?
- Senator Sundell: Dining Services to launch a hot food vending machine.
- Senator Acharya: Expresses the need for education to use the RhodyConnect App - Senator Cayer seconded this statement.
- Senator Estes: Better signs for bus stop signs - Senator Acharya seconded this statement.
- Attended the MSA Banquet- it was an amazing experience
- Director of Treasury
 - Pie a Senator- tomorrow (04/24/24) 11am-1pm
 - Goal: more fun activities/fundraising for senate
- Director of Communications - Relayed by Vice President Feroz
 - Working on a branding Kit
 - Tag @rhodysenate on your IG bios

G. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH/CABINET

- Student Organizations Committee
 - One bill on the floor
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Final Exam Rights!!! - IG post will be up soon
 - Prioritize yourself, take care of yourself during exam season
- Campus Affairs Committee- Relayed by Senator Milner
 - Introduction of Committee purpose/goals
- External Affairs Committee
 - No report
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - Interested in joining, reach out
 -

H. SPECIAL ORDERS

Nominations and Elections for Off-Campus Representatives (3 vacant seats)

- Senator Peckham nominates Timothy Small, Seconded by Senator Cayer
- Senator Sawyer. nominates Jack Stadtman, seconded by Chair Hook
- Senator Hailu nominates Alexia Williams, seconded by Chair Collins
- Nominees introduce themselves and give a brief introduction to their goals in joining senate

Timothy Small is elected

Jack Studmen is elected

Alexia Williams is elected

Nominations for the Jury

President Goswami nominates Andrew Embrahimpour

President Goswami nominates Seema Alarchi

President Goswami nominates Sanidhya Dwivedi

President Goswami Nominates Sonia Reyes

President Goswami Nominates Cristian Valera

Nominees introduce themselves and give a brief introduction of their goals as a jurist

Andrew Emrahimpour is elected

Seema Alarchi is elected

Sanidya Dwivedi is elected

Sonia Reyes is Elected

Cristian Varela is Elected

Elections for Speaker of Assembly

Nominee: Lauren Peckham

Nominee gives a personal introduction and goals

Senator Peckham is elected as Speaker of the Assembly

Swearing-in of the new senators

I. NEW BUSINESS

SS-24/25-02 • BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF “BridgeUSA” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the “BridgeUSA” mission statement is, “Serve as a moderator for the discussion of current issues and controversies involving a diverse range of viewpoints and perspectives. This shall promote critical thinking and discussion and reduce political polarization and division on campus.”, and

Whereas, BridgeUSA meets the requirements to be a senate-recognized student organization, and

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

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate acknowledges BridgeUSA as a recognized organization, and be it,

Resolved, that BridgeUSA 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: Chair Buono, Chair Reyes, Chair Hook, Chair Collins and Senator Peckham

BILL HANDLER: Chair Hook

DATE: April 24, 2024

EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-recognition

ACTION: Vote Tonight

Chair Hook relayed message from Chair Buono (sponsor): Applauds Senator Cayer for his hard work

Senator Cayer thanks the senators for their support

Dr. Stiles reminds us that BridgeUSA was once recognized

Bill is passed

SS-24/25-03 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT THE NORTHWOODS CHALLENGE COURSE

Whereas, the Northwoods Challenge Course, located on URI property, provides free team building services and leadership trainings for dozens of student organizations, and

Whereas, deferred maintenance projects coupled with a series of strong storms has caused severe structural deficiencies at the Northwoods Challenge Course, and

Whereas, in order to safely reopen in the fall, the Northwoods Challenge Course is in urgent needs of a \$12,000 grant to fund much needed repairs, and

Therefore, these repairs are essential to continuing to offer free services to student organizations now therefore be it,

Resolved, that \$12,000 be immediately allocated to the Northwoods Challenge Course from the Student Senate’s Tax Apportion accounts.

SPONSORS:	Chairs Reyes, Buono, Collins, and Hook, and Senators Ahmad and Bahra
BILL HANDLER:	Chairwoman Reyes
DATE:	Wednesday April 22, 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until X
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Chair Reyes introduces bill and yields time to Guest Speaker Alison Jackson Frasier (CSLD)

Guest Speaker AJK gives a brief presentation that includes informations about previous relations with senate and damages to the location

Senator Estes asks how long these resources will last.

Senator Ahmad talks about the importance of this bill as this location aids the student life on campus.

Bill is passed

J. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Speaker Peckham mentions that there will be a Disability Advocacy Event, Wednesday May 1st, 1:00pm, she is also looking for a Speaker Pro Tempore and is sending out committee interests forms. Also asks Chairs to look for Vice Chair

Dr. Stiles to new senators send your contact information to Speaker Peckham

K. ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. ADJOURNMENT– 8:05pm