



Memorial Student Union, Room 201 • 50 Lower College Road • Kingston, Rhode Island 02881 • T: 401.874.2261

## **URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

### **October 18, 2023**

Recording Secretary: Chair Peckham

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **B. ROLL CALL**

*Present: Barbosa, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, DeLorenzo, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, Hurwitz, N Johnson, R Johnson, Kelling, Mayers, McCloskey, Mehorter, Ndonye, Newman, Palmer, Peckham, Reyes, Rudolph, Scola, Sundell, Walding.*

*Excused: (None)*

*Absent: Buono, Confessore, Dumas, Emami, Milner, Rinne, Sama.*

#### **C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Speaker Chadronet moves to relocate the Student Organizations Committee's bills to the beginning of new business, seconded by Chair Johnson.*

*The motion passes.*

*Speaker Chadronet moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Chair Johnson.*

*The motion passes.*

#### **D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Speaker Chadronet reminds everyone to RSVP to President Parlange's invitation for members of the Senate to carve pumpkins by President Parlange's house by October 20th.*

*Speaker Chadronet rules a Senator out of order for having a disruptive side conversation during the proceedings of the meeting. He informs the Senate that in the future, anyone who is disruptive in this way will have their name and disruption recorded side by side in the minutes.*

#### **E. PUBLIC FORUM**

*President Parlange*

*Announces changes to commencement ceremonies, focusing on the fall commencement ceremony*

*Updates the Senate on University budgeting.*

*Senator Johnson asks several questions clarifying the scope of changes being made to commencement.*

## **F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- *Student Organization Committee*
  - *Chair Johnson reminds senators that there are recognition bills on the floor tonight.*
  - *He informs the Senate that there will be a Presidents' meeting on the first Monday of November, which will include aniStand training .*
- *Academic Affairs Committee*
  - *Chair Peckham reminds the Senate to follow the committee's Instagram account (@rhodysenateacademics)*
  - *The first generation college student celebration will take place on the Quad on November 8th 2-4PM.*
- *External Affairs Committee*
  - *Chair Hoover informs the Senate that the committee is developing an off campus complaint/concern form, which may be included in the upcoming off campus newsletter*
- *Cultural Affairs Committee*
  - *Chair Reyes informs the Senate that the committee is planning a naloxone training for students to attend, hosted by faculty member Dr. Anita Jacobson.*
- *Campus Affairs Committee*
  - *No report*
- *Executive Committee*
  - *Speaker*
  - *President*
  - *Vice President*
    - *Student action for sustainability is continuing to work with Director Germain on food composting*
  - *Director of Treasury*
    - *Director Bose informs the Senate that the accounts office has ordered a new conference table for the Senate office.*  
*The Senate applauds.*
  - *Director of Communications*
    - *Director Feroz informs the Senate that she is setting up the Student Senate office's two hallway display cases.*
      - *One case will represent the Cabinet's work while the other will represent the General Assembly's work*

## **G. REPORT OF THE COURT**

*No report*

## **H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- *Elections Committee*
  - *Chair Rudolph informs the Senate that the deadline to submit an election declaration packet passed a few hours before the meeting was called and that the campaigning period may begin.*

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

*Before the bill is considered, Dr. Stiles expresses concern over the bills, recognizing the General Assembly's good intentions but also citing the potential to cause more harm than good to the student body.*

*Speaker Chadronet expresses agreement with Dr. Stiles' statement. He reminds the Senate that he is a sponsor on each of the resolutions and has been a vocal advocate for passing them. Then he informs the Senate that he has heard from more community members, and no longer believes that it is in anyone's best interest to consider the resolutions because members of the Senate do not have the life experiences or educational backgrounds to effectively make official statements on the matters. He expresses the concern that in their current forms, the resolutions can unintentionally cause undue harm or accidentally further marginalize students.*

*Speaker Chadronet opens up the floor for a motion to table both resolutions indefinitely.*

*Senator Newman moves to table Resolution SS-23/24-18 and Resolution SS-23/24-19 indefinitely, seconded by Chair Reyes.*

*Senator Newman explains that if the Senate is to take any action regarding violence or tragedy abroad, it will be more effective to do it in the form of a social media release.*

*Chair Rudolph speaks in opposition to the motion to table the resolutions, comparing it to choosing not to condemn antisemitic attacks for fear of controversy.*

*Chair Peckham speaks in support of the motion to table, citing that if the Senate passes the resolutions, it can very easily be interpreted as choosing sides or students, and may therefore cause students to feel more marginalized. She also mentions that there has not been equal representation or input from students of different viewpoints and backgrounds on the matters.*

*Senator Mayers speaks in opposition to the motion, arguing that the reason why they are being tabled is due to fear of controversy.*

*Senator Newman yields time to a constituent who introduces himself as Daniel. Daniel speaks in opposition to the motion to table the resolutions, citing that the actions by Hamas terrorists are terrorism.*

*Chair Hoover motions to call to question, seconded by Chair Peckham.*

*Speaker Chadronet puts the General Assembly into a recess not to exceed five minutes in order for him to count the votes.*

*Speaker Chadronet calls the General Assembly back to order.*

*On the motion to call the question:*

*Speaker Chadronet announces that the vote will be done by roll call.*

*Yes: Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Cronan, Cruz, Delorenzo, Gamache, Hoover, Hurwitz, Kelling, Mayers, McCloskey, Mehorter, Ndonye, Palmer, Peckham, Rudolph, Scola, Sundell, Walding.*

*Abstain: (none)*

*No: Barbosa, Corsi, Hook, N Johnson, R Johnson, Newman, Reyes.*

*20-0-7*

*The motion to call the question passes.*

*Speaker Chadronet puts the General Assembly into a recess not to exceed five minutes in order for him to count the votes.*

*Speaker Chadronet calls the General Assembly back to order.*

*On the motion to table Resolution SS-23/24-18 and Resolution SS-23/24-19 indefinitely:*

*Yes: Chadronet, Collins, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, Delorenzo, Kelling, Ndonge, Newman, Peckham, Reyes, Scola.*

*Abstain: N Johnson, McCloskey.*

*No: Barbosa, Clyde, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, Hurwitz, R Johnson, Mayers, Mehrtorf, Palmer, Rudolph, Sundell, Walding.*

*12-2-13*

*The motion to table Resolution SS-23/24-18 and Resolution SS-23/24-19 indefinitely fails.*

*Director Feroz argues that the last resolved clause of SS-23/24-18 politically endorses Israel over Palestine and asks if a voting member is willing to amend the resolution to avoid making that statement, whether the statement was made intentionally or not.*

*Speaker Chadronet asks Chair Rudolph if he can find an equitable amendment that addresses Director Feroz's concern.*

*Chair Rudolph suggests that Director Feroz decides what language to use in such an amendment.*

*Speaker Chadronet informs Director Feroz that she does not have to come up with the language immediately, but may take some time to write down an amendment to recommend to the general assembly.*

*Director Feroz suggests amending the clause in question to read "Resolved, that the General Assembly hopes for a resolution (one that costs no purposeful taking of innocent life, regardless of where they reside) in support of Israel and Palestinian right to exist as a democratic place of refuge for the Jewish, Muslims, and Christians and all people, all finally free from hate-driven, terrorist attacks, and oppressive governments" in place of "Resolved, that the General Assembly hopes for a resolution (one that costs no purposeful taking of innocent life, regardless of where they reside) in support of Israel's right to exist as a democratic place of refuge for the Jewish people and its citizens, all finally free from hate-driven, terrorist attacks." She clarifies that the amendment only adds a few words and does not excessively restructure the clause.*

*Senator Barbosa moves to amend the clause in question to read as recommended by Director Feroz.*

*Chair Johnson asks for a second full reading.*

*Speaker Chadronet requests that Director Feroz send her suggested amendment to the General Assembly and then reads it out loud.*

*Chair Peckham moves to call to question, seconded by Chair Hoover.*

*Speaker Chadronet puts the General Assembly into a recess not to exceed five minutes in order for him to count the votes.*

*Speaker Chadronet calls the General Assembly back to order.*

*On the amendment of "Resolved, that the General Assembly hopes for a resolution (one that costs no purposeful taking of innocent life, regardless of where they reside) in support of Israel's right to exist as a democratic place of refuge for the Jewish people and its citizens, all finally free from hate-driven, terrorist attacks." to "Resolved, that the General Assembly hopes for a resolution (one that costs no purposeful taking of innocent life, regardless of where they reside) in support of Israel and Palestinian right to exist as*

*a democratic place of refuge for the Jewish, Muslims, and Christians and all people, all finally free from hate-driven, terrorist attacks, and oppressive governments”:*

*Yes: Barbosa, Collins, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, DeLorenzo, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, N Johnson, R Johnson, Kelling, McCloskey, Mehorter, Ndonye, Peckham, Scola, Sundell, Walding.*

*Abstain: Chadronet.*

*No: Clyde, Hurowitz, Mayers, Newman, Palmer, Reyes, Rudolph.*

*The amendment passes.*

*Speaker Chadronet informs the Senate that during the recess in which he was counting the votes, he was informed that Chair Rudolph and Senator Johnson wish to make announcements on the resolutions which they are the handlers of. He opens up the floor for them.*

*Senators Rudolph and Johnson withdraw their resolutions.*

*To clarify procedure to the General Assembly, Speaker Chadronet and Dr. Stiles explain that a handler has the right to unilaterally withdraw their resolution or bill.*

*SS-23/24-18 is withdrawn.*

*SS-23/24-19 is withdrawn.*

### **SS-23/24-18 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF ANTI-JEWISH ATTACKS PERPETRATED AGAINST THE ISRAELI PEOPLE BY HAMAS TERRORISTS**

**Whereas**, during what should have been a peaceful communal-celebration of the final moments of Sukkot, several hundred innocent (and overwhelmingly Jewish) Israeli lives were unjustifiably taken by Hamas terrorists, and

**Whereas**, the attack has been widely recognized as the single largest killing of Jewish people since the Holocaust, which was one of the most uniquely evil chapters in human history, and

**Whereas**, the ongoing conflict between the Israeli government and Hamas has cost countless innocent Israeli and Palestinian lives, leaving generations of families and communities forever hollowed, now therefore be it,

**Resolved**, that the University of Rhode Island General Assembly concurs with President Parlange’s earlier statement, “denouncing the attack on Israel by Hamas” and be it further

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly condemns the senseless, brutal violence perpetrated against the Jewish people during their holy celebration, within Middle East region in general, and throughout the entire world by both Hamas and all other inherently anti-Jewish hate groups in the strongest possible terms, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly stands in solidarity with all peoples victimized by said ongoing conflict, including those of Jewish ancestry, within the region, within the URI community at large, and around the world, and including the innocent Palestinians who should not be punished for the actions of Hamas, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly fundamentally understands that Hamas is not representative of, nor necessarily implicitly endorsed by, the innocent Palestinian people, who have also been victimized by Hamas's oppressive regime, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly hopes for a resolution (one that costs no purposeful taking of innocent life, regardless of where they reside) in support of Israel and Palestinian right to exist as a democratic place of refuge for the Jewish, Muslims, and Christians and all people, all finally free from hate-driven, terrorist attacks, and oppressive governments.

SPONSORS:	Speaker Chadronet, Chair Hoover, Senators Gamache, Hurwitz, Mayers.
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Rudolph
DATE:	October 18, 2023
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

**SS-23/24-19 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS**

**Whereas**, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate General Assembly recognizes that the actions of Hamas Militants do not speak for the people of Palestine and that the Netanyahu-lead government does not speak for all those living in Israel, and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly condemns all forms of violence, especially towards civilians, and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that members of the student body it represents have been affected by the ongoing conflict and atrocities, and

**Whereas**, the Human Rights Watch has reported the use of white phosphorus by the Israeli government in densely populated areas of Gaza and Lebanon, and

**Whereas**, a press release from the United Nations warned that the order to evacuate northern Gaza and force civilians from their homes would "decimate and permanently alter the civilian population of Gaza," and

**Whereas**, the World Health Organization has condemned the order by the Israeli government for Palestinian civilians to evacuate Gaza, and

**Whereas**, the actions of oppressive undemocratic organizations like Hamas, as well as the punitive response of the Netanyahu-lead Israeli government which aims to punish Palestinians are condemned, and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that seventy-five years of violence have been committed against the people of Palestine, and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes Palestinian civilians' basic rights to to health, safety, and freedom, and

**Whereas**, all students who have been impacted in any way by any form of violence against Palestine or Israel deserve public acknowledgement as a form of support from the General Assembly, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly recognizes the importance of community awareness on international current events and their historical contexts, including but in no way limited to both the continued persecution of the Jewish people and the devastating violence against Palestinian people, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly calls on the University of Rhode Island to formally and publicly offer its support and condolences to those of Palestinian descent and origin just as they have Jewish and Israeli students, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly encourages both the recognition of our shared humanity and the condemnation of all violence against civilians and their homes, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly supports work made towards accomplishing peace in the region.

SPONSORS:	Speaker Chadronet, Chairs Peckham, Johnson, Senators Newman, Walding
BILL HANDLER:	Senator Johnson
DATE:	October 18
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

*Chair Johnson moves to amend the date in the final resolved clause of SS-23/24-20 to read as "2023-2024" in place of "2022-2023," seconded by Chair Reyes.*

*Chair Johnson moves to immediately consider, seconded by Senator Newman*

*The motion passes by unanimous consent.*

### **SS-23/24-20 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “ALUMNI OF COLOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

**Whereas**, the “Alumni of Color Student Leadership” mission statement is, “The Alumni of Color Student Leader group functions as a student branch of the Alumni of Color Network (ACN). Our main objective is to bridge the gap between alumni of color and students of color by establishing a robust network of opportunities within the URI community. We aim to serve as a liaison between alumni and current students, fostering mentorship, professional development, and community engagement. Our ultimate goal is to empower students of color with valuable resources, guidance, and support from experienced alumni. Through various initiatives, events, and collaborations, we strive to provide students with the chance to come face-to-face with alumni who have gone through similar experiences and can provide valuable insights,” and

Whereas, Alumni of Color Student Leadership 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 Alumni of Color Student Leadership as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Alumni of Color Student Leadership 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 Johnson
DATE:	October 18, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

*Chair Johnson moves to amend the date in the final resolved clause of SS-23/24-21 to read as “2023-2024” in place of “2022-2023,” seconded by Senator Mayers.*

*Chair Johnson moves to immediately consider, seconded by Senator Newman.*

*The motion passes by unanimous consent.*

**SS-23/24-21 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “ASPIRING EDUCATORS OF RI” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Aspiring Educators of RI” mission statement is to “Promote interest among aspiring educators who are interested in education careers. Provide members with opportunities for promoting personal growth and professional development. Establishing connections and providing networking opportunities at the local, state, and national levels. Advocating for higher standards of education preparation from all stakeholders. Create a unified student voice in matters relating to the teacher preparation program across the state of Rhode Island. Promote and protect the human and civil rights of all persons involved in an educational setting. Develop in future educators an understanding and appreciation for the education profession and the power of a unified voice,” and

Whereas, Aspiring Educators of RI 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 Aspiring Educators of RI as a recognized organization, and be it further

Resolved, that Aspiring Educators of RI 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 Johnson
DATE:	October 18, 2023



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

*Chair Johnson moves to amend the date in the final resolved clause of SS-23/24-22 to read as “2023-2024” in place of “2022-2023,” seconded by Chair Hoover.*

*Chair Johnson moves to immediately consider, seconded by Chair Peckham.*

*The motion passes by unanimous consent.*

### **SS-23/24-22 – BILL CALLING FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF “MEDICAL MINDS MATTER” AS A SENATE-RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the “Medical Minds Matter” mission statement is, “Medical Minds Matter is a volunteer-led startup nonprofit organization that seeks to transform the narrative of mental health in the medical field through storytelling, community-building, and grassroots advocacy efforts. We hope to support the medical community in a manner that cultivates a culture of wellness, acceptance, and healing. We aim to create a world where the entire medical field fosters an environment of wellness, where no member of the medical community would be afraid of seeking help for sdasand speaking out about their mental health issues,” and

Whereas, Medical Minds Matter 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 Medical Minds Matter as a recognized organization, and be it further,

Resolved, that Medical Minds Matter 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 Johnson
DATE:	October 18, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(5-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

## **J. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM**

*Senator Mayers informs the Senate that he has a speech that he wished to give during discussion on the bills. He emotionally explains that due to antisemitism, his family, who was of Jewish origin, was forced to change their name and distance itself from Jewish faith, and that as a result he is one of the only remaining members of his family who currently identifies with Judaism.*

*Senator Newman voices dissent to the Senate’s decision to call the question when senators still wished to engage in discussion on bills and motions.*

*A constituent named Wade Violette informs the Senate that he is running for one of the open seats in the election. He expresses support for what Senator Newman says but incorrectly asserts that anyone, including non-voting members is entitled to speak on bills and motions being made (this is not the case*

*during New Business). He then describes the General Assembly's conduct as scummy and then publicly calls all voting members "scummy fucks."*

*Speaker Chadronet admonishes Violette's decision not to conduct himself professionally, declaring that such speech and conduct is an excessive violation of the General Assembly's decorum, that no criticism of character or targeted profanity will ever be acceptable during a General Assembly meeting, and that nobody may do that in future meetings.*

**It should be noted that in future meetings, any individual who behaves in this manner will be expelled from the Senate Chambers, and if they are a voting member, their absence will be marked unexcused.**

*Violette apologizes for his conduct but then reaffirms his previous statements against the characters of senators.*

*Speaker Chadronet ends General Discussion and Open Forum.*

#### **K. ROLL CALL**

#### **L. ADJOURNMENT**