



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

URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

November 1, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Buono, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Confessore, Corsi, Cronan, DeLorenzo, Emami, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, Hurwitz, N Johnson, Kelling, Mayers, McCloskey, Mehorter, Milner, Peckham, Rinne, Rudolph, Sama, Scola, Walding.

Absent: Cruz, Dumas, Johnson R.

Excused: Ndonye, Newman, Palmer, Reyes, Sundell.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Hoover moves to amend Bill SS 23/24-29, to replace all mentions of “general contingency” with “capital improvements fund,” seconded by Chair Johnson.

The motion passes.

Speaker Chadronet moves to add SS President Rizks’s bill about senator of the month, seconded by Chair Peckham.

The motion passes.

Chair Peckham moves to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Chair Johnson.

The motion passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Hoover moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Peckham.

Motion passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

- Senator Johnson informs the General Assembly that due to Former Senator Barbosa's resignation, the position of Student Organizations Committee is now open to be appointed by him. He asks all General Assembly members to reach out to him after the meeting if they are interested.
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Reminds all present to follow the Academic Affairs Committee (@rhodysenateacademics).
 - There will be a panel for Criminology and Criminal Justice majors to learn about internships on November 9th 5:30-6:30PM in the Memorial Union, room 318
 - A First Generation College celebration is taking place on the Quad between 2-4 pm on November 8th.
- External Affairs Committee
 - Chair Hoover tells the Senate that he is looking for students interested in reaching out to local businesses to help gauge the economic impact of college students on local communities.
- Cultural Affairs Committee
- Campus Affairs Committee
 - Chair Buono encourages the Senate to fill out the Blue Light Walk when2meet.
 - Reminds the Senate that if members are interested in having input on housing and residential life, HRL is looking for students to be part of a student advisory council, which will be talking about campus living experiences, etc.
 - Is planning to send out a transportation and parking feedback survey
- Executive Committee
 - Speaker
 - Reminds the Senate that his Senator of the Month resolution is on the floor
 - Reminds the Senate that there is a resolution requesting reform to library usage policies on the floor tonight.
 - The university is the examining framework of other universities' to accelerate the creation of a syllabus bank.
 - Vice President
 - Director of Treasury
 - Reminds the Senate that there is a treasury bill on the floor.
 - Director of Communications

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

- Chair Rudolph reminds the Senate that at 4 pm on Friday, November 3, voting will close for Fall Elections
- Chair Rudolph yields time to Dr. Stiles. Dr. Stiles informs the Senate that there was a technical failure with the software that the elections are being held on. As a result, people may vote for people beyond their constituencies. He has already reached out to the software provider to ask them to make sure that this failure does not happen again.

J. SPECIAL ORDERS

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEW BUSINESS

President Rizk introduces resolution SS-23/24-28 and walks the Senate through the points being made. Chair Packham reminds the Senate that she is the bill handler and as such, reaffirms her support of the resolution.

SS-23/24-28 [PRESIDENT RIZK] BILL CALLING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE ROBERT L. CAROTHERS LIBRARY STUDY ROOM USAGE POLICY

Whereas, the Robert L. Carothers Library at the University of Rhode Island offers study rooms to students to facilitate effective learning, and

Whereas, a recent policy was implemented imposing a 3-hour time limit and a fine of \$10 per hour for exceeding the time limit, without prior consultation with the Student Senate, and

Whereas, the primary purpose of the Student Senate is to represent the interests of the student body and advocate for policies that promote a conducive learning environment, and

Whereas, it is imperative to acknowledge that many students living on campus are experiencing financial hardships, and excessive fines can exacerbate their challenges, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, hereby proposes the following amendments to the Robert L. Carothers Library Study Room Usage Policy:

A. 10-Minute Grace Period:

Purpose: To provide students with a brief window of time to conclude their study sessions, gather their belongings, and vacate the study room without incurring penalties.

Proposed Amendment: The Carothers Library Study Room Usage Policy shall be amended to include a 10-minute grace period after the initial three-hour time limit. During this grace period, students will not be subject to fines.

B. Fine Structure Modification:

Purpose: To ensure that penalties for exceeding the time limit are proportionate and reasonable, recognizing the financial hardships that some students face.

Proposed Amendment: The existing fine structure of \$10 per hour shall be replaced with a more equitable fine of \$5 per 30 minutes. This revised structure will better reflect the amount of time a student occupies a study room and alleviate the financial burden on students experiencing financial difficulties.

C. Automated Email Reminders:

Purpose: To assist students in managing their study sessions more effectively by providing timely reminders of approaching time limits.

Proposed Amendment: The University shall implement an automated email system that sends reminders to students who are approaching the time limit for their study room. These reminders will help students plan their study sessions and avoid unintentional policy violations, thus mitigating the financial impact of fines.

SPONSOR:	Academic Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chair Peckham
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
DATE:	November 1, 2023
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

SS-23/24-28 passes.

Director Bose explains the purpose of bill SS-23/24-29 to the Senate.

SS-23/24-29 – [DIRECTOR BOSE] BILL CALLING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF A \$1,374.65 GRANT OUT OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO THE URI FENCING CLUB

Whereas, the URI Fencing Club submitted a budget request on time for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, and is eligible to apply for contingency grants, and

Whereas, on October 10th, 2023, the URI Fencing Club submitted a contingency grant for \$1,374.65 to Director Bose for a Favero Millenium reel pair and a SG12-ST scoring machine, and

Whereas, Director Bose discussed at length with the President of the URI Fencing Club regarding their need for new fencing equipment, and

Whereas, Director Bose determined that the URI Fencing Club deserved the contingency grant, as they are a long-standing student organization with a great fundraising record, and

Whereas, Director Bose determined that this contingency grant would be a good long-term investment for the URI Fencing Club that would benefit them for future years, and therefore it is, now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the URI Fencing Club Club receive a \$1,374.65 contingency grant from the Capital Improvements Fund to help cover the costs for the Favero Millenium reel pair and a SG12-ST scoring machine that will be used for fencing practices and matches that the URI Fencing Club participates in.

SPONSORS:	Chair Hoover, Chair Johnson, Senators Palmer, Mayers, Rudolph
BILL HANDLER:	Senator Cronan
DATE:	November 1, 2023
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

SS-23/24-30 [PRESIDENT RIZK] RESOLUTION CALLING TO COMMEND SENATOR HANNAH COLLINS AND NAME HER “SENATOR OF THE MONTH” FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Whereas, the Student Senate of the University of Rhode Island is committed to the advancement of academic excellence, student engagement, and fostering a culture of active participation, and

Whereas, Senator Hannah Collins has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership as the Vice Chair of the Academic Committee, contributing significantly to the academic enrichment of our student body, and

Whereas, Senator Hannah Collins consistently showcases a remarkable ability to take initiative, actively participating in committee activities, and demonstrating a remarkable talent for generating innovative ideas, suggesting impactful bills, and contributing substantially to the Academic Committee's mission statement, and

Whereas, Senator Hannah Collins not only actively participates in meetings but also excels in encouraging fellow senators to share their ideas and feel comfortable expressing themselves, contributing to a vibrant and inclusive Senate environment, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Student Senate of the University of Rhode Island hereby recognizes Senator Hannah Collins for her exceptional contributions to the Academic Committee as Vice Chair, and her significant efforts in advancing the mission and objectives of the Student Senate, and be it further,

Resolved, that the Student Senate names Senator Hannah Collins the Senator of the Month of October.

SPONSOR:	Senator Ndonye, Milner, Newman Chair Peckham, Hoover
BILL HANDLER:	Speaker Chadronet (President Rizk)
DATE:	November 1, 2023
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Review
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

The Senate applauds.

Resolution SS-23/24-30 passes.

The Senate applauds.

M. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

N. ROLL CALL

O. ADJOURNMENT