



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

URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

November 15, 2023

Recording Secretary: Chair Peckham

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Buono, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Confessore, Cronan, Cruz, DeLorenzo, Hook, Hoover, N Johnson, Mayers, McCloskey, Mehorter, Milner, Ndonge, Palmer, Peckham, Reyes, Rinne, Rudolph, Sama, Scola, Sundell, Walding, Ebrahimpour, Njende, Cayer, China, Della Selva, Hudson, Wentworth.

Absent: Corsi, Hurwitz, Kelling.

Excused: Emami, Gamache, R Johnson, Newman.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

The motion passes.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Hoover moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Clyde.

The motion passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Stiles encourages those who will be transitioning out of leadership roles to talk about it to their committees and the Speaker in addition to preparing transition materials

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee - Chair Johnson
 - *Last President's meeting was successful*
- Academic Affairs Committee - Chair Peckham
 - *Follow @rhodysenateacademics on Instagram*
 - *Reminds the Senate how to properly advise students on filling out academic complaints*
 - *There are extra supplies from a recent Senate event in the office including free journals, stickers, and lotion up in the Senate Office*
 - *Feel free to use them to help practice mindfulness and journal to relieve stress!*
- External Affairs Committee - Chair Hoover

- *Speeding on Kingston Road has been recognized by local authorities as a growing becoming a huge problem*
- *An External Newsletter will be posted through RhodyToday every month starting in February*
- *There were eight stickers this week off campus*
- Cultural Affairs Committee - Chair Reyes
- Campus Affairs Committee - Chair Buono
 - *Monday, November 20, Blue Light Walk*
 - *Meet in Senate Office at 4:45PM*
 - *Please RSVP*
 - *Committee will meet with dining services tomorrow (Thursday 11/16) at 6PM*
- General Assembly - Speaker Chadronet
 - *No meeting next week*

G. REPORT OF THE COURT

The court met last week to elect Daniel Tarazi as the Head Jurist of the Court.

Head Jurist Tarazi - The Court has concluded that Senator Dumas has exceeded the number of allotted absences per the Bylaws (Article 2, Section 6.1) and is now subject to removal by the General Assembly.

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee - Chair Rudolph

Congratulates the newly elected senators

I. SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Mayers moves Senator Dumas from the Student Senate, seconded by Senator Clyde.

The motion passes and Senator Dumas is removed.

SS-23/24-31 – BILL CALLING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THE FALL 2023 STUDENT SENATE ELECTIONS

Be it,

Resolved, that the University Senate officially certifies the results of the Fall 2023 Student Senate elections as presented by the Elections Committee.

SPONSOR:

BILL HANDLER:

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION:

EXPIRATION:

ACTION:

Elections Committee

Chair Rudolph

November 15, 2023

(5-0-0)

Valid Until Reviewed

Vote Tonight

Resolution SS-23/24-31 passes.

Swearing in of New Senators.

New Senators are sworn in.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

SS-23/24-32 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR INCREASED COURSE AVAILABILITY DURING COURSE SELECTION PERIODS

Whereas, students' access to the courses required for their major(s) directly correlates to graduating on time, and

Whereas, required major courses in E-Campus often fill up or close before the course selection period is over, and

Whereas, waitlists are often full and professors cannot grant access to a course where seat capacity has already been reached, and

Whereas, students who work or commute are negatively impacted by the first come first serve class selection policy, now therefore be it,

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate formally requests class selection priority be designated to students within the major prior to other students outside of the major. (I.e. Psychology students get first selection of PSY classes before people who are Business, Health Studies majors, etc), and be it further

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate suggests that the University of Rhode Island hire more professors for popular majors.

SPONSOR:	Academics Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Senator Newman
DATE:	November 15, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote This Week

Senator Rudolph speaks in support of resolution SS-23/24-32 and hopes it leads to future reforms on E-Campus.

Resolution SS-23/24-32 passes.

SS-23/24-33 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNIVERSITY PROVIDED HIGHER-CAPACITY WIFI AND INTERNET ACCESS

Whereas, students and faculty have been having trouble accessing the internet due to slow wifi, and

Whereas, students' internet access has a direct impact on grades as more and more class content is located online, and

Whereas, students being unable to access academic websites such as TopHat, Edfinity, etc. negatively impacts their attendance and participation grades, and

Whereas, equitable access to education dictates that every student should have the same opportunity as any other student, and the decreased access to WiFi negatively impacts lower-income students that rely on University WiFi to get their work done, and

Whereas, each wifi repeater or extender can only accommodate about 100 students at a time, becoming an issue especially in lectures with over 100 students, now therefore be it

Resolved, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate formally requests that more WiFi routers and/or repeaters be installed in high-traffic areas such as the 24 Hour Room in the Robert L. Carothers Library & Learning Commons, and auditoriums with class capacity of 100 students or above.

SPONSOR:	Academics Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Elise Newman
DATE:	November 15, 2023
RECOMMENDATION:	(7-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Reviewed
ACTION:	Vote This Week

Resolution SS-23/24-33 passes.

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Newly elected Senators Ebrahimpour, Njende, Cayer, China, Della Selva, Hudson, Wentworth, and Hlazkova introduce themselves.

Chairs Buono, Hoover, Reyes, Peckham, and Johnson introduce their committees.

M. ROLL CALL

N. ADJOURNMENT