



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

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

### **September 13, 2023**

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

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

*Present: Barbosa, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Cronan, DeLorenzo, Emami, Hook, Hoover, Hurwitz, N Johnson, V Johnson, Mayers, Mehorter, Milner, Ndonye, Neighbors, Newman, Reyes, Rinne, Rudolph, Scola, Sundell, Walding.*

*Absent: Buono, Confessore, Corsi, Cruz, Dumas, Gamache, Keller, Palmer, Peckham, Sama.*

*Excused: Kelling.*

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

*Senator Rudolph motions to approve the agenda, second by Senator Mayers.*

*The motion passes.*

#### **D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

*Chair Reyes motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Mayers.*

*The motion passes.*

#### **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Speaker Chadronet announced that Senator DeLorenzo's birthday was last week, all present sang Happy Birthday.*

#### **F. PUBLIC FORUM**

*Kelley Ryan presenting resources and services provided by Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services*

##### Questions/Discussion:

*Senator Johnson asked if the scope of VPAS includes assisting victims of dating violence and was informed that VPAS, Public Safety, and the Counseling Center all respond to cases of dating-related abuse.*

*Senator Johnson asked if VPAS reporters can be penalized when reporting if the reporter is known to have alcohol or drugs. Kelley Ryan informed the General Assembly that sensitive information like alcohol and drug possession is not within the scope of VPAS reports and that confidentiality of reporters and victims is only broken when there is a direct threat to human safety.*

*Chair Johnson asked how confidentiality policies differ between departments such as VPAS, Dean of Students Office, and Public Safety. He was informed that VPAS is the most confidential and has policies regarding victim confidentiality that mirror those of a therapist. VPAS helps a victim navigate the systems of support that are in place*

and utilize resources. The Dean of Students Office has an approach that is private, but not confidential and reports are forwarded to VPAS.

Chair Johnson asked if a victim's insurance is affected if VPAS refers them to off campus services. Kelley Ryan informed him that external counseling and therapy may affect insurance, but any medical testing, contraceptives, or other immediate care following assault or other physical abuse may be covered by Health Services.

Speaker Chadronet asked if Ryan personally speaks at all URI 101 classes to introduce VPAS. Kelley Ryan said that she personally attends most sessions where VPAS is discussed but may send someone in her place when need be.

Senator Mayers suggested that VPAS should give specialized presentations on how people use guilt to abuse partners.

## **G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Student Organization Committee
  - Chair Johnson informs the General Assembly that he is working with clubs on instrument literacy, particularly knowing their constitutions.
- Academic Affairs Committee
  - Vice Chair Collins reminds committee members to fill out the "when2meet" scheduling survey to establish a committee meeting time.
- External Affairs Committee
  - Chair Hoover is establishing a monthly meeting time with South Kingston and Narragansett police departments.
  - Working with the 2100 Foundation to encourage students to register to vote in RI for the 2024 election so students have an opportunity to help end the ordinance restricting how many URI students may rent a house together.
- Cultural Affairs Committee
  - Chair Reyes informs the General Assembly that her committee members have projects that they intend on working on throughout the semester.
  - Informs the General Assembly that she is working on finding a date for the Senate to receive teamwork and leadership training at the Northwoods Challenge Course.
  - Asks what dates members will be able to attend.
- Campus Affairs Committee
  - Vice Chair Milner updates the General Assembly that Academic Affairs and Campus Affairs are collaborating on a school supplies drive.
  - Reminds committee members of the committee meeting time.
- Executive Committee
  - Speaker
    - Has received a letter of resignation from Senator Shazad
    - Has granted requests of leaves of absence from Senators Small and McCloskey
    - In Director Feroz's absence, informs the Senate that Director Feroz will update Senate information on URInvolved by adding the members' student email addresses. Tells members to contact himself or Director Feroz if they wish not to have their emails added to the website. Informs members that their student emails will only be visible to members of URInvolved, who already have direct access to student emails through the RhodyConnect

*mobile application, therefore, there is no change in students' privacy or availability of their contact information.*

- President
- Vice President
  - *Composting initiative is in progress.*
  - *Commended the initiative and work ethic of Student Action for Sustainability and their president, Dylan Murdock.*
  - *Trying to work on getting more people involved.*
  - *Informed the General Assembly that he would like legislative support when the initiative is closer to completion.*
  - *Will be setting up attendance and office hours next week.*
  - *In President Rizk's absence, informed members that the president is presenting to the Faculty Senate on the importance of providing the student body with a syllabus bank next week.*
- Director of Treasury
  - *Beginning to coordinate future finance trainings for clubs.*
  - *Informs members that there may be a Senate fundraiser in the near future and that it will need support from the Senate.*
- Director of Communications

## **H. REPORT OF THE COURT**

## **I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

## **J. SPECIAL ORDERS**

Nominations and Elections for the Elections Committee

*Senator Newman nominates Senator Collins, seconded by Chair Johnson.*

*Chair Reyes nominates Senator Rudolph, seconded by Chair Johnson.*

*Chair Johnson nominates Senator Mayers, seconded by Senator Newman.*

*Senator Rudolph nominates Senator Barbosa, seconded by Chair Johnson.*

*Senator Barbosa nominates Senator Scola, seconded by Senator Emami*

*The nominees are unanimously confirmed.*

## **K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **L. NEW BUSINESS**

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

*Chair Hoover reminds the Senate that his leadership training will be held on Tuesday, September 19th at 5 pm.*

*Speaker Chadronet speaks on absences. Reasons for excusing an absence include family commitments, medical reasons, loss of transport, emergencies of any sort, tragedies, Senate related work (like outreach or representing the General Assembly at an event.) Reasons that do not merit an excused absence include double-booking (having multiple commitments scheduled at the same time), fraternity and sorority commitments, work, and forgetting to attend. He adds that if a member requests help getting excused from another event in order to attend General Assembly meetings, he is inclined to provide assistance.*

*Senator Scola asks if job fairs and other career-related events will be considered excused.*

*Speaker Chadronet says that they will not be marked as excused absences by the same reasoning that does not excuse members for work shifts.*

*Senator Scola asks Speaker Chadronet to reconsider because they are extremely important opportunities to members of some colleges and they are not recurring.*

*Speaker Chadronet agrees that since this affects members of some colleges disproportionately, it is non-recurring, and it is somewhat related to academics, he is willing to consider them excused and will likely consider them separately on a case-by-case basis.*

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**