



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

URI STUDENT SENATE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

September 27, 2023

Recording Secretary: Chair Peckham

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Barbosa, Buono, Chadronet, Clyde, Collins, Confessore, Corsi, Cronan, Cruz, DeLorenzo, Emami, Gamache, Hook, Hoover, N Johnson, V Johnson, Kelling, Mayers, McCloskey, Mehorter, Palmer, Peckham, Rinne, Rudolph, Sama, Scola, Small, Sundell, Walding.

Absent: Dumas, Milner.

Excused: Ndonye, Neighbors, Newman, Reyes.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senator Mayers moves to add the report of the president to the start of the Public Forum, seconded by Chair Johnson.

The motion passes.

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

The motion passes.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

The motion passes.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Report of the President

Has been asked to find six to eight students to participate in an advisory group for the Department of Housing and Residential Life.

Reports that the Faculty Senate has responded positively to President Rizk's proposal of a syllabus bank.

The first "Senator of the Month" will be announced on October 11.

Vice President Reynolds Introducing Assistant Vice President for Housing and Residential Life Tom Cooley.

Vice President Reynolds

Provided statistics on newly admitted students.

Informs the Senate that the University will be implementing more programs to ensure a welcoming environment for incoming students.

Reminded the Student Senate that QuadFest will be held on Thursday, October fifth, the State of the University will be held on Tuesday, October tenth, and that Alumni weekend will take place between Friday, October thirteenth and Sunday, October fifteenth.

Assistant Vice President Cooley

Confirms that he is looking for a group of students to form a housing advisory committee.

Emphasizes the need for transparent communication between his department and the student body.

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Student Organization Committee

Chair Johnson informs that he will have bills from his committee on floor next week

Reminds the Senate that he is conducting the Presidents' Meeting for student organizations on Monday, October 2nd.

- Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Peckham reminds the Senate that there will be bill writing workshops on Monday, October second between 4:30-5:30 and also on Friday, October 6th between 3PM and 4PM.

There will be DAI polling on Monday, October 16th between 11PM and 2PM at a Memorial Union booth. She reminds senators to sign up for booth hours!

She asks all who are present to follow the committee's Instagram (@rhodysenateacademics.)

- External Affairs Committee

Chair Hoover informs the Senate that Ellen has responded positively to the idea of starting an off-campus newsletter to help inform students of disciplinary legal action that has been taken against students who rent off campus to remind students to stay responsible.

- Cultural Affairs Committee

Senator Johnson (committee member) informs the Senate that nearly all members of the Cultural Affairs Committee have started working on their own events and initiatives.

- Campus Affairs Committee

Chair Buono informs the Senate that the Blue Light Walk will be happening in October. She explains what the Blue Light Walk is and how it helps keep the student body safe.

Senator Johnson asks if we know whether or not lights that are reported have been fixed.

Speaker Chadronet reminds the Senate that he used to be the chair of the Campus Affairs Committee. If lights have consistently recorded as non-functional remain non-functional, he will personally take legislative action ensuring that all lights are fixed within a short timeframe.

Senator Mayers requests that if legislative action was taken, it may also include making sure that fire alarms are audible in residence halls.

Speaker Chadronet informs Senator Mayers that residence hall fire alarms are likely managed by another department and are unrelated to the Blue Light system, making them irrelevant to such legislative action. He informs the General Assembly that the conversation is off topic and that if this topic is to be further discussed, it should be done in committee.

- Executive Committee
 - Speaker

Speaker Chadronet emphasizes the importance of attending the bill writing workshop and that it may help students achieve goals that drove them to run for the Student Senate.

- Vice President
- Director of Treasury

Director Bose informs the General Assembly that the first finance training for student organizations will be held on Tuesday, October 3 and that a makeup training will be held at a later date.

- Director of Communications

Director Feroz informs the Senate that she has made a post on Instagram about the new Student Senate website.

She has created a Student Senate LinkedIn page.

H. REPORT OF THE COURT

I. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Elections Committee

- Chair Rudolph releases tentative dates for the election period:
 - Declaration of Candidacy period will be open between the moment candidacy packets become available until Wednesday, October 18.
 - Campaigning period will last between Thursday, October 19 and Friday, November 3rd.
 - There are a current total of 8 seats.
 - 5 First Year Representatives
 - College of Pharmacy Representative

- University College for Academic Success Representative
- One At Large Representative
- Chair Johnson asks if seats may be opened during the election period.
- Chair Rudolph responds that elections cannot be conducted based on the assumption that a seat may later become open and that only current seats may be made available to candidates.

J. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM

Speaker Chadronet explains the importance of committee attendance.

Chair Peckham reiterates that committee members' time is important. She encourages members to give some form of advanced notice of absences whenever possible so that committees do not end up waiting for members to show up when they may not show up at all.

K. ROLL CALL

Speaker Chadronet gavels two senators out of order for having a side conversation, informs the entire Senate that he has multiple protocols for disciplinary action against disruption of meetings of the General Assembly.

L. ADJOURNMENT