

**Graduate Student Association  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
Memorial Union Room 300  
10/6/10 12:30-1:30PM**

**Exec board members in attendance:** Jack, Courtney, Greg, Wyatt, Josh

**Senators in attendance:** Kyle Scully, David Shapiro-Lysk, Donald Bacoat, Arthur McDonald, Lauren D'Ambra, Alexander Blunt, Arnab Mujamdar, Megan Nelson, Scott Arden, Puneet Kumar, Patrick Bowden, Ben Young, Brittany White, Scott Martin

- I. Call to Order, 12:36 pm
- II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from 9/15/10
- III. Agenda Approved (*with the addition of the Student Advisory Committee to the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education [SAC to BGHE] to list of University Committees*)
- IV. Introduction of Officers and Senators
- V. Internal Operations
  - A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)
    - i. Committee Reports
      1. Joint Strategic Planning Committee (October 5 Meeting)  
*An accreditation body is coming to review the university. The process is being handled by the Strategic planning committee. The committee is also looking into opportunities for teaching assistantships associated with distance learning.*
      2. Graduate Council (will meet on October 18)
      3. Strategic Budget Planning Council (October 26)
      4. Faculty Senate (October 21)
    - B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)
    - C. Treasurer's Report (Greg Thaelke)
      - i. Budget Update: *University disbursements should arrive in October and April. We've received 33 requests for conference reimbursements so far this semester.*
    - D. Secretary's Report (Josh Atwood)
      - i. Emails
    - E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)
      - i. *Updating the website to reflect new URI branding*
    - F. Committees
      - i. GSA
        1. Budget and Finance Committee  
*Looking to add people to this committee.*
        2. Community Service Committee  
*Sheila, Arnab, and Brittany volunteered.*
        3. Bylaws and Constitution Committee  
*Scott Martin has volunteered.*
      - ii. University
        1. Academic Standards and Calendar (*Brittany*)
        2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (*Alex Blunt*)
        3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (*Robynn Butler*)
        4. Library Committee (*Rosaleen Greene-Smith or Eleni Tsoukatos*)
        5. Teaching Effectiveness (*Lauren D'Ambra*)
        6. Athletics Advisory Board (*Greg Thaelke*)  
*Working to integrate athletics calendar with academic calendar*
        7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (*Justin Payne*)
        8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (*Pilar Gibson*)
        10. Council for Graduate Research (*Scott Martin*)  
*TIG group is coming to evaluate our research and development program. Reviewing intellectual property policies.*
        11. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board (*Josh Atwood and Arnab Mujamdar*)
        12. Graduate Council (*Jack Szczepanski, Ben Young & Arthur McDonald*)
        13. Student Advisory Council to RI Board of Gov for Higher Ed (*Pat*)  
*Reviewing potential bond issues related to the new Chem building*  
*Trying to extend bus pass program to RIC and CCRI students*  
*Budget for all three schools is \$143M. This is the same as in 1998, despite there being an additional 5000 students enrolled now.*
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Group Recognition
    - i. GSLIS Student Special Library Association
    - ii. Student American Library Association  
*Both recognized by unanimous vote to approve.*
- VII. New Business
  - A. Future Senate Meeting Dates (always at 12:30-1:30pm, Rm 300, Memorial Union)
    - i. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - B. Upcoming Socials

- i. Learn to Surf, Narragansett, Oct. 9, and Oct 17  
*We're subsidizing \$15/person, total cost \$6-700. Requesting funds from GAU.*
- ii. Trivia, Oct 21 at Casey's  
*Pat knows a jockey with questions. Considering a pasta buffet at Casey's.*
- iii. Ice Skating, with Grad School Office (dates?) *Grad School office is working on this.*
- iv. Grad School Bowling in Dec. (dates?)
- v. Winter Formal

C. Discussion of rules regarding department distinctions in bylaws

*Should we have a senator for every department, or every degree offered within that dept?*

VIII. Announcements

A. Formatting Workshops

- i. 6 October 2010 at 5:30pm or 7 October 2010 at 10:30am in the Memorial Union Atrium
- ii. need to register on Grad school website

B. Grad School Research Mini-Grants, forms on Grad School website

C. Get updates via SMS by texting **follow URIGradSchool** to **40404** in the United States, or follow **URIGradSchool** on **Twitter**

IX. Open Forum

X. Adjourn 1:36 pm