

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 PM

B. ROLL CALL: Abbe, Ahrens, Almeida, Aronoff, Bedard, Bickham, Boiteau, Brown, Clarke, Coates, Einhorn, Faustin, Gaudio, Ginsberg, Harrington, Holden, Holland, Holzman, Infusino, Inthisone, Kearns, LaRocca, Luther, Lynch, McCormick, Meehan, Messineo, Mingoia, Moss, O'Brien, Pelletier, Petit, Prata, Rodrigues, Shah, Sinapi, Slater, Smith, Stein, Stewart, Stollow, Valenti, Walsh, Yensan

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Change recommendations on bills SS-08/09-50 and on bill SS-08/09-55. Because of the recommendation put on bill SS-08/09-50, change the bill to failure.

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: change finance report from last week to say \$400 instead of \$1400, minutes approved

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Petit motions for pledge, Holden seconds, opposition, vote, passed

Ginsberg- ZETA asked to read, Holly Anderton benefit, passed away from Liver cancer. Holding a pasta dinner, tickets are 5 dollars each. All of the money raised will help pay for a tombstone. Kingston church across from upper college rd. This Friday December 5th.

Shah- Stephen Lynch, Ryan Center tomorrow, 10 dollars at 8pm tomorrow. Check him out on You Tube.

Holzman- Dining halls have comment cards, very under utilized. Got a very nice thank you letter from Butterfield. Only get two comment cards/day. We are on senate to make change, if you want to change in the dining halls, fill out cards.

F. PUBLIC FORUM:

Lucas Lussier – RIPTA- Thank you for inviting me here, I'm a business analyst university employee. Manage the RIPTA service on campus, brief overview of the current service and what we are looking to do for next year. Currently, 7 shuttles on campus, 4 with 211 Kingston connection line, main route from parking lots through center of campus, accesses frat circle and keaney lots. 2 shuttles in morning and afternoon and 2 in the evening. They have an 8 minute head way, there are traffic conditions during certain times of the day, bus sometimes gets stuck in the traffic. We also have one additional shuttle, 210 flex service, reservation based, anyone can call to be picked up and brought to their class. This is highly utilized and scheduled before classes start. That is filled within the first 2 weeks of the start of the fall semester. We are looking into adding additional service. We have 2 more, the campus hill climber, one was added a year and a half ago to resolve overcrowding on plains rd lot. A lot of students use this to go to memorial union and then to upper college rd. It used to only run from 830 to 1230 and last spring, we continued to see additional overcrowding, this fall semester, we enacted a full day additional campus hill climber. That runs until 530, accesses residence halls, union and upper college rd. I invited ripta to be here to talk more about the statewide service, I'm less familiar with that but I can answer any questions. I spoke to Amanda and I hope to have them here for next semester to answer any other questions. We also offer a 50% subsidy, students can purchase a bus pass in the union for half off to use throughout the state.

Clarke- for the flex bus, is priority given to students with disabilities?

Lucas- works just like any other ADA service, students with disabilities cannot be denied but priority is not given. That is the same throughout the state.

Kearns- Earlier in September, started a project about signs to let students know about signs, I was wondering how process is going and why hasn't it been completed.

Lucas- 2 separate issues, one is the actual bus stop signs, several have gone missing, ripta individuals have been here since the 1st of December reinstalling signs that were missing. I will get feedback from ripta when that is complete.

Second issue- individual signs that show the actual bus stop locations throughout campus, looked at option with ripta about individual time points.

Ripta has still been working on scheduled time points and back and forth about if they want to do it, because of traffic, hard to stick to but without time points, hard to enforce timeliness with route for driver. We have ordered the display cases to put the maps in at individual stops. Facilities is going to be installing those over the winter break, the inserts are still up in the air and that is a ripta decision.

Adepoju- Is it possible to get more stops, not more shuttles.

Lucas- Yes, if you want to email me any stops you would like to see added, that is a possibility, the more stops along a route, the longer the trip gets. Each stop is going to extend the time to travel around campus. llussier@uri.edu is my email address.

LaRocca- Beginning of the year, second hill climber runs til 5:30. I am on campus mon-fri and have not seen hill climber past 3. I was out at 5pm, at 5:15 a 211 went to Keaney and then no other shuttle came down until 5:38. I have been getting different answers about the evening schedule.

Lucas- evening schedule starts at 6:30, there is a lapse between 5:30 and 6:30 when we switch. The campus hill climber runs until 5:30. It goes to about a 15 minute headway for the campus hill climber. The majority of the issue is that there is a new driver on campus that is unfamiliar with the route, ripta will send someone down who can help them out. Attention can be brought to me or parking services.

Harrington- Is there any set time during your week that you are in your office?

Lucas- I am not always in my office, I always do respond by email, that is the best way to reach me. New service we are looking at for next fall, express service to eastward look, negotiations with ri dept of env management to utilize beach parking lot. We will have a direct shuttle from that lot and be able to board the shuttle to campus. That would be a shuttle that comes every 40 to 50 mins. We are also looking at the possibility of a night shuttle to go to south county area, mews and casey's.

Petit- Motion to extend the time until all questions are answered.

LaRocca seconds.

Yensan- One in particular point, the traffic situation on campus, 25,000 vehicles entering and leaving, and then drivers being new to the program. The 3 times that I have actually spoken to drivers, first time on the job, I think one of the things we can work on, stacking up of the busses.

Lucas- We call it bunching, another issue is construction. You will get a bus caught up in traffic. 8 minute headway gets reduced when busses catch up with one another. The bus behind wants to stop and let the first one go forward. That's often difficult because there are people who need to get to class. It happens elsewhere throughout the state as well, it does affect the schedule. The best thing to do is look at where the congestion occurs and see if we can solve those issues.

Slater- Unofficial numbers for when the busses should show up at each stop?

Lucas- They aren't always accurate depending on traffic, if you are at plains rd, we have the two 211 busses services and the hill climbers, the wait should be between 6-8 mins. The times are all posted on parking services website. If you go to the Kingston connection. When they finally do the sign, it will say approximately what time.

Brown- We have people who are concerned about routes, about fiscal development, particularly internal to the campus but also external?

Lucas- We don't have any plans to cut internal, 6 of 7 on campus are funded by transportation fee, one of the hill climbers is fully supported by Ripta, no cuts expected of our on campus service. Only one cut that was going to affect the university but just heard cut is not going to happen, 64 service, Middletown Newport shuttle to the university. Average of 8 riders a day which is very low. Generally faculty and staff. As of late august, had decided to cut as of Jan 1st. My contact thought that would be overturned and I have heard that that service will not be cut. Planning to add another providence to uri shuttle for next fall semester.

Adepoju- As far as off campus, we also have off campus students coming from providence, are their any incentives as far as fairs.

Lucas- subsidiaries we already offer, highly used providence to URI, sometimes on Fridays, students are denied rides on the bus because there are so many people. For the month pass, it is 45, so university students only have to pay 22.50. For the 15, it is also half price, also can buy a one time use pass.

Petit- What are you doing to hold bus drivers accountable?

Lucas- any info I pass onto ripta, most hopefully if I have bus number, license plate number, send to ripta and shift manager usually meets with them when they return to ripta, I usually get an email response to the situation. We once had a driver curse at an individual, individual got number and it was followed up, driver was reprimanded.

If anyone has any suggestions for anything else, feel free to email me.

G. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- FINANCE COMMITTEE:

SS-08/09-49 CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR HILLEL

Whereas, Hillel is a Senate recognized organization, and

Whereas, Hillel would like to hold a programming event on campus, and

Whereas, it is within their mission statement to do so, and

Whereas, Hillel would like money to help cover the costs of the event, and
Whereas, this request is within the finance policy of the Senate and it is the Senate’s custom to grant such requests, therefore be it
Resolved, that the Student Senate grant \$1,800.00 from our Programming Contingency to the Category #130 (Programming) line in the budget of Hillel.

SPONSOR: Finance Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairman Petit
DATE: Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008
RECOMMENDATION: Passage (5-0-0)
EXPIRATION DATE: Upon Dispensation
ACTION: Passed

Petit motions for immediate, Ginsberg seconds.

Holzman- Hillel wants to bring in music group of African American and Jewish individuals. They do a mix of music. 3 programs over 2 days, Utilizing fine arts for one of the programs. We will be charging admission. 3 dollars for students and 10 for non students. We have gotten a lot of co-sponsorship money but are still a bit short.

Yensan- I am not active in Hillel, they throw serious events, they advertise on facebook. Let’s support this and try to make this unanimous. They do a very good job and spend senate’s money very well.

Aronoff- I am a member now, we should support as well, they reach out toward everyone. They hold events all the time, they have weekly dinners. They are for the entire URI community.

Clarke- When is the event and how much?

Holzman- First is Thursday, January 29th, concert is Thursday night, wed evening as well is the workshop. The workshop and convocation are free. The concert is 3 for students and 10 for non students.

Holden motions to vote and Gorman seconds.
Abstentions from senator Holzman, Ginsberg, Aronoff.

SS-08/09-50 CONTINGENCY GRANT REQUEST FOR 500 Family

Whereas, 500 Family is a Senate recognized organization, and
Whereas, 500 Family would like to hold a programming event on campus, and
Whereas, 500 Family would like money to help cover the costs of the event, and
Whereas, this request is within the finance policy of the Senate and it is the Senate’s custom to grant such requests, therefore be it
Resolved, that the Student Senate grant \$3,000.00 from our Programming Contingency to the Category #130 (Programming) line in the budget of 500 Family.

SPONSOR: Finance Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairman Petit
DATE: Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008
RECOMMENDATION: Failure (1-3-0)
EXPIRATION DATE: Upon Dispensation
ACTION: Passed

Monday- 500 family came to finance asking for 10,000. Finance denied and they appealed to exec. Exec decided on 3000 and it would come to full floor for a vote. It has a recommendation for failure.

Petit- motioned for immediate consideration and holden seconds.

Vice president of 500 family- summary of what we are planning on doing, February 13th, pre-valentines day show with Ginuwine cosponsors with pink, sec, senate and hearing from panhel. We are trying to cosponsor with a lot of female orgs. The artists is Ginuwine, he has been out for about 10 years now, February 13th.

Adepoju- The reason we want Ginuwine, really great marketing scheme, as far as co sponsorship, we have gotten go ahead from all except panhel so far. Incorporation 6 orgs that may not work with each other generally. 500 family is going through with mission statement. ASA, Pink women, SEC, PRS, we found a common interest through entertainment. We are looking for a very

successful show. We feel as though this is can't lose. Ginuwine is a very universal artist. Please vote to approve this bill.

Ginsberg- To Petit- reading the language of the bill, why is there no whereas that says it is within mission statement.

Petit- We brought it up in finance, felt it was not really in their mission statement, our understanding was to bring groups together and then do programming not program themselves and then bring groups.

Clarke- I can only think that this event will be successful, I think they will succeed in bringing out people to the concert.

Ahrens- We are also going to try to do events as senate to raise some money with them. We have a bunch of groups and feel confident in being able to sell out this show. Won't be that difficult of a challenge. Ginuwine has all different genres. 500 family is doing a really good job promoting. We have always wanted to promote weekend programming, this is a great way.

Adepoju- Go off of what Allen mentioned about mission statement, it was never asked at finance, they never asked what exactly we were doing with the show. The 500 family, we are basically setting up this so these orgs can work the show. The 500 family will not be as hands on because the other orgs will be taking over. We are having a show and after party, pink women will be running the after party, hopefully panhel and asa will help put on the show. We want to structure it so others can facilitate.

Harrington- originally asked for 1000, can you run the show with only 3000 or where are you going to get the rest of the money.

Adepoju- Finance was not able to full give the 1000, first time finance has given the money, giving 3000, through Bruce and Allen, came up with notion, if we can get 7500 of show set and in our hands, would override the 10000 to day of show, as soon as ticket sales start, and have the extra 2500, will sign the contract. The other 2000 is coming from student senate co sponsorship.

Coates- Ball park figures on admission, 18 for students and 30 for others.

Adepoju- generally 25,000 dropped down to 10,000

Slater- orgs that wouldn't normally work together are working together, by blocking this, would probably do more harm, just give it a chance, facilitating an event, wouldn't be fair to not give them the chance.

Ginsberg- Other orgs you are working with are facilitating, you are just brining them together, why aren't the other orgs coming for the money to do their part of the event. Normally the group asking for money is the group facilitating the event.

Adepoju- Some of the orgs we are working with aren't level 2 or 3. We didn't want to drain the accounts of the bigger orgs, we want to have it set up for them to get the show actually rolling and show them that these orgs can work together in the future. We don't want the ball to fall just on these orgs.

Rep- Although we are just recently organized as a group, we have had other events. We are trying to teach other orgs how to have an event like this. We pass it on to other orgs. We asked pink women if they would like to facilitate the after party, because we are going to be handling the actual show. We still have an active role in every aspect of the show, giving other orgs a chance.

Brown- 2 part question, how much if any co-sponsorship money if any has been put forth, how much will 500 family stand to gain.

Rep- As of right now, we have about 5000, we are anticipating a revenue large enough for an event this Saturday, hope to be able to pay back loan, we aren't looking to make a huge profit but to be able to pay for everything and give back the contingency money.

Ahrens- Talking to Lowell, hoping to generate a profit so they don't have to come to us for large amounts of money, hoping to be self sufficient, I feel fully confident that we will be paid back.

Adepoju- If we sell out Edwards with all URI students, we would make about 16000, we would need about 3000 to give back to senate.

Vote- abstentions from Adepoju, Brown, Inthisone

Bill Passes

SS-08/09-51 – TAX GRANT REQUEST FOR STUDENT SENATE

Whereas, Student Senate funded the creation of the URI Challenge Course in 2000, and

Whereas, the purpose of the course was to benefit the student body and be at no cost to Student Senate groups, and
Whereas, the usage of the course has increased by hundreds each year and this demand is expected to continue to increase, and
Whereas, there is a request to expand upon the URI Challenge Course to allow for opportunities for URI students to fulfill the increased demand, and
Whereas, this request is within the finance policy of the Senate and it is the Senate’s custom to grant such requests, therefore be it,
Resolved, that the Student Senate grant \$25,000 from our Activities Tax to the Student Senate’s budget and therefore be it also,
Resolved, that the URI Challenge Course be available free of charge to all URI student recognized groups.

SPONSOR: Finance Committee
 BILL HANDLER: Chairman Petit
 DATE: Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008
 RECOMMENDATION: Passage (4-0-0)
 EXPIRATION DATE: Upon Dispensation
 ACTION: Passed

Petit- One more thing, voted on first meeting we get back, bill explains it, I have a copy of the proposal. I can pass it around now or leave it on table in the office to be reviewed. Talk to myself or anyone on the committee. Melissa Boyd and staff will be coming to answer more in detail. She will have a presentation about it. Talk to myself and committee beforehand. I just need to see finance committee after the meeting.

- **STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (SOARC):**

SS-08/09-47 Bill Calling for the Recognition of URI Physical Education Club at Level 4

Whereas, the purpose URI PE Club is to raise money for physical education workshops and reach out to the community by providing information about physical education and health sciences, and
Whereas, URI PE Club meets the requirements for recognition at level 4, and
Whereas, it is the custom of the Student Senate to do so, therefore be it
Resolved that the URI Student Senate recognize URI PE Club.

SPONSOR: SOARC
 BILL HANDLER: Chairwoman Clarke
 DATE: Wednesday, December 3, 2008
 RECOMMENDATION: Passage (5-0-0)
 EXPIRATION: Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
 ACTION: Passed

Clarke- one bill

Rep- Treasurer, going to be a professional development, we want to raise funds to attend events held by physical educators community. Want to network for personal reasons and support URI’s program. Most schools have a club like this, most people have their names out there. People aren’t recognizing our program. We want to do things for the community, hoping to get food drive going and get after school programs for kids to stay after.

Clarke- Really beneficial to be recognized, will be able to get meetings rooms, more members and take out booths.

Yensan- More of a comment, going to elementary schools, I think you should try to get college students to be more active. A large percentage is not being active.

Rep- Some of our fundraisers, help college students get active, family fun night, all of the fundraisers geared toward college students.

Ginsberg- motion to previous question, second by Harrington.

Vote- Passed

SS-08/09-52 Bill Calling for the Recognition of the URI Field Hockey Club at Level 3

Whereas, the URI Field Hockey Club will provide an outlet to practice, play and compete in the Northeast Division on a field hockey team, and

Whereas, the URI Field Hockey Club meets the requirements for recognition at level 3, and

Whereas, it is custom of the Student Senate to do so, therefore be it

Resolved that the URI Student Senate recognizes the URI Field Hockey Club.

SPONSOR:	SOARC
BILL HANDLER:	Chairwoman Clarke
DATE:	Wednesday, December 3, 2008
RECOMMENDATION:	Passage (8-0-1)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

SS-08/09-53 Bill Calling for the Recognition of the Human Development and Family Studies Club (HDF Club) at Level 4

Whereas, the HDF Club will provide professional development support, social networking for students and provide opportunities for students interested in HDF to support each other academically, and

Whereas, the HDF Club meets the requirements for recognition at level 4, and

Whereas, it is custom of the Student Senate to do so, therefore be it

Resolved that the URI Student Senate recognizes the HDF Club.

SPONSOR:	SOARC
BILL HANDLER:	Chairwoman Clarke
DATE:	Wednesday, December 3, 2008
RECOMMENDATION:	Passage (9-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

SS-08/09-54 Bill Calling for the Recognition of the URI Car Club at Level 3

Whereas, the URI Car Club will unite car enthusiasts within the URI community through weekly meetings to discuss car appreciation and plan as well as host car shows, and

Whereas, the URI Car Club meets the requirements for recognition at level 3, and

Whereas, it is custom of the Student Senate to do so, therefore be it

Resolved that the URI Student Senate recognizes the URI Car Club.

SPONSOR:	SOARC
BILL HANDLER:	Chairwoman Clarke
DATE:	Wednesday, December 3, 2008
RECOMMENDATION:	Passage (9-0-0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid Until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

Clarke- 3 more bills to be voted on first Wednesday when we get back. A few announcements, hoping to have meetings Mondays at 5:30 in room 314. Announcement to general senate, when a group comes in to hand in recognition paperwork, remind them they need to sign up for a SOARC meeting.

- **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Stolow-** Last week we had a meeting with provost DeHayes to talk about changing the gen ed programs. Really great ideas from students.

Everyone should come to these meetings. We just had the last meeting but next semester they will come out. I've yet to get in contact with paul about the bookstore. I will stop by tomorrow, I've been busy. Hopefully more teachers have submitted books. I'll send an email. Besides that my committee needs to give me availability for next semester.

Larocca – please pass on my suggestion that American sign language should be counted as a language in gen eds

Stolow - sure

- **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: O'Brien-** The bus isn't cancelled. Got emails from ripta, Working to get together a booklet of everything we do as a student body, going to present to coalition, that is our big project.
 - **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Adepoju-** Gingerbread houses are freaking beautiful! Voting was great, 60 to 70 people voting on the houses, hoping that people vote tomorrow, maybe about 150 votes. Thank my committee for helping me out. Cultural affairs next program with soarc, inauguration on January 20th, ballroom if possible. Rhody Market if possible or TV and food. Meeting time next Monday, schedules leave in my mailbox. No other announcements, you are all beautiful, hope to see you next semester.
 - **CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: LaRocca-** Please let me know if you think of anything else for ripta, I can pass questions on to him or you can use his email address. Committee, you gave me schedules. Ellery pond, when we come back, going to finalize plans for chunk of land to be utilized. If you know anyone who is an art major or landscape architecture, we need artist renderings or a URI alum. Preferably someone who is there right now.
- Ginsberg-** If we know the artists, should they contact you?
LaRocca- Yes and they can join the Ellery pond restoration project. If you are friends with me or officer mark.
Clarke- For the pictures, do you want there designs?
LaRocca- We are going to get the technical stuff but will give them something to be able to approve the plans and have them work something out.
- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

SS-08/09-55 Bill Calling for the Student Senates Response to the Offensive Images & Descriptions of President elect Barack Obama

Whereas, in the past two months, on three separate occasions; there have been offensive descriptions and images that have been brought to the attention of the University, about the President elect Barack Obama, and

Whereas, these comments and images represent a disregard and lack of respect for not only the President elect Barack Obama, but to the University of Rhode Island Community and our Nation, and

Whereas, the Student Senate acknowledges every individuals right to their freedom of speech and believes these rights should not be infringed upon, and

Whereas, the Student Senate also understands and does feel that actions such as these cannot and will not be supported by the University of Rhode Island Student Senate, therefore be it

Resolved, that The University of Rhode Island Student Senate disapproves of the actions taken by these individuals, and does not condones these behaviors; and will raise awareness to avoid similar behaviors in the future.

SPONSOR:	Executive Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Adepoju
DATE:	Wednesday, Dec. 3 rd , 2008
RECOMMENDATION:	(9-0-1)
EXPIRATION:	In Perpetuity
ACTION:	Passed

Adepoju- Bill is talking about some of the offensive images or actions about president elect Obama. Someone drew a picture of Obama with negative words in one of my classes. I wanted to put a bill on the floor to show how we feel as students. If you read the bill, it is simple and very basic.

Clarke- motions for immediate consideration, Ginsberg seconds.

Coates- I realize that we don't live in a world that is free of racism, it surprises me that we are feeding into these incidents when people like this are looking for attention, I was surprised that things here made the local news. I understand why the bill was written, and I understand the reference to events. Where does a lack of respect begin and end. If this was a bill that condemned hate speech without regard to one individual but I don't think it should specifically be about Obama.

Ahrens- The reason this bill was brought up was because of specific events with Obama, the reason it says for not only president elect, discussing any sorts of prejudice or racism being completely inappropriate. We are dealing with things that are going on directly, things that directly impact URI students, state our point that we do not accept what is going on, we are going to be reps saying that people are open, welcome and diverse. It is much broader than one person and sending an important message to the campus.

Ginsberg – agree with Coates, president elect Obama was not the only one this semester to have something done against him. I think the bill should be overall and not have a specific name.

Adepoju- As far as what was said about Obama, not about his character, about his physical features, in class, called him a monkey, different if talking about his personality or education. I feel that this uncalled for to talk about his physical features. This bill is calling for student senate to not support actions toward anyone on campus.

Yensan- Huge issue recent, phrase post racial society in America, discussed in class, be careful when using the phrase, racism is not gone because of who has been elected president, just want to say openly, if you are going to gain in this type of racist activity, you don't belong at uri, at any institution and we don't want you here.

Brown- Perspective to agree with both Ahrens and Coates, language does commentate politics, understanding the nature of conflict at hand because of the direct target, having difficulty seeing the immediacy, reflects larger body of the racist sentiment on campus. We should all come to an agreement, however I consider that this might be beyond the scope of our power. We maybe should be looking at the broader scope but with this bill, looking at president.

Petit- We should maybe amend the bill to take on a broader scope rather than just this one incident.

Ginsberg- I also agree that it should not say this person, throughout the bill, should talk about all of the cases of racism, be against racist acts and not just against the one person.

Adepoju- in the bill it does not say racist acts, just says disrespectful, as far as incidents with president elect, not just rumors, brought to highest powers of our university and in newspapers. Not just minor incidents, I have not heard any about John McCain, not to say that it was because of race, for the most part, brought to light because it was disrespectful. I did not hear of anything else, if I had heard, it would be about all political candidates. For the most part, these disrespectful actions are not appropriate and should not be fed through the university.

Ginsberg- What I was referring to was Zionism and September 11th, also brought up to provost and VP Dougan.

Ahrens- Bill was created based on these specific events. It is not rare for us to talk about things that specifically happen. Just because there are bigger issues, this particular bill is based on the 3 separate incidents concerning Obama. I feel confident to pass this bill because we are in the press about racial tension on campus because these specific incidents were inappropriate. If we want to do another bill about other issues, we can do another bill. This bill is about particular things.

Yensan- Max and President Ahrens just nailed it. It is about a specific incident. If we want to make another bill about racist activity, then I will support it 100%.

O'Brien- The way I see this bill, it is a specific thing that we are going against. We should be combating these things. It should be implied that we do not support racist acts. I think this bill is just letting people know about specific incidents.

Coates- If we are not talking about racist actions and are talking about disrespectful ones, chairman Adepoju talked about the pictures, Newsweek ran an issue with our president as a monkey. If we aren't going to come out against hate speech, I don't think this bill should be in the front of us.

Adepoju- Newsweek is not an organization at URI. I put this on the floor to speak about senate's actions. As far as my being the cultural affairs chair, this bill is about incidents on our campus.

Ginsberg- Agree with Coates, don't see a reason why this bill should be on the floor. I think a letter to the editor would have sufficed what we wanted. Would have given people a chance to talk about this.

Motion to vote by Adepoju

Opposition, vote, bill passed.

Abstention from senator Brown.

- a. *Director of Communications- Simon-* not here, just leave a note for her if you have anything for newsletter.
- b. *Secretary-Pelletier* Kudos to Yvens Faustin for gingerbread work, Have a great break and Holidays.
- c. *Treasurer- Shah-* Put notes with receipts, there are 3 random ones, I have no idea what they are, I am not going to pay those until I know what they are. Good luck on your finals.
- d. *Vice President-Bedard* Last meeting, going to try to keep every bad job aspect out of my report. Formal is Tuesday, I gave Amalfi an official number so if you haven't paid, you are not going. We have exactly 60 people between ourselves and SEC. If you live on campus, bus circle at 6:30 to amalfi. If you live off campus, you are responsible for yourself. Our DJ is former COO Kevin Sullivan.

Only December meeting, Brianna Valenti, Tom Sibbald, Nicole Pelletier and Steve Boiteau Happy Birthday!!

Last meeting of the semester, do your office hours, you are not required after next week. Committees, you are not required to have more meetings except for this week. Because it is the last meeting, going to Applebee's after the meeting. Good luck on finals. Happy Holidays, Have a Safe Break!!

Aronoff- No office hours next week?

Bedard- You just need to do one before Friday if you haven't done one since Monday. After Friday, not checking but still encourage you to do hours.

Petit- Just so you know, Kim is going to be working on the website during finals, if you have any suggestions, bring them up to her. If you are good with making websites, I am sure she would appreciate that help.

f. *President-Ahrens* Last meeting of the year, hope everyone is doing well in classes, tomorrow morning at 7am, will be in the front of the union selling PC tickets. If you want tickets, first come first serve basis, game is Saturday at 2pm in providence. Following night, Friday night, sponsorship with black ice, event til 3am, dance, 2 canned food items. Going to go to Juelia and Maxwell for our canned food drive. Thursday night, over at Bobby G's with Beta, collecting more food items. Beginning of the year, set some accomplishments, we have had a fairly successful year, battle of the bands, tentville, donated 250 to ADA, fought tuition increases, Maxwell had vote or die, rerec happened flawlessly, lawsuit still going on, Ellery pond service project and canned food drive. Started off campus programming. White out with PRS. Academic affairs is aggressively going after SETS. Having formal, did gingerbread house competition and had a retreat. Really good semester, I am sure there is a lot more that I am forgetting. Great job everyone. We have it set up so when we return from break, first men's and women's game will be URI sponsored game, will have a chance to talk to during half time, also going to be handling a half time musical chairs competition. If you are around during winter break, going to be going over student BOG and senate's role with other senates at RI schools. With tuition increases and presidential search, be a more active role earlier in the process. I'll be here all winter. Be safe and have a great holiday.

- RULES AND ETHICS: no report

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Bylaws Committee- no report

I. SPECIAL ORDERS:

Nominations and Elections of Elections Committee Members

Aronoff nominates Allison, Rodrigues seconds

LaRocca nominates Luther, seconded by Holden

Coates nominates Ginsberg, seconded by Holden

Holzman nominates Noble, seconded by Rodrigues

Larocca nominates Pelletier, seconded by Harrington

Stolow Nominates Shah, seconded by Holden

Pelletier respectfully decline.

Shah respectfully declines.

Petit nominates Ahrens, seconded by Ginsberg. Respectfully declines

Pelletier nominates LaRocca, seconded by Petit

Ginsberg motions to immediately vote.

LaRocca- It is really hard to plan this, if you are elected to this committee, please do your job.

Ginsberg motions, Gorman seconds, Motion passed to vote immediately.

The spring election is the bigger election, two separate, one in the beginning and one in the end of February. Typically has to be people not running in the election.

New elections committee is LaRocca, Allison, Ginsberg, Luther and Noble.

Nomination for Rules & Ethics

Bedard – one open seat. 5 person committee. They deal with complaints and bylaws interpretations. Exec committee members are not eligible. Elections comm. is not eligible.

Stolow nominates Einhorn seconded by Harrington

Petit nominates Prata seconded by Stein

Gins nominates Aronoff seconded by Messineo

Clarke nominates Holland who declines

Max nominates Abbe second by Ginsberg

Rodrigues nominates Messenio who declines

Gorman nominates Rodrigues who declines

Ginsberg motions to close nominations, Harrington seconds.

Nominations closed, reopen in January.

Ginsberg- if you are thinking about Rules and Ethics, please talk to others.

Bedard- If you are interested, current members please raise your hands.

There are a number of people who have been on it before.

Results of the elections committee, congrats Allison, LaRocca, Luther, Noble and Ginsberg.

LaRocca- Meet after the meeting.

Pelletier- Utilize Kim.

Shah- Talk to me about budget.

J. Unfinished Business- Secret Snowperson! Thank you Kim for the candy!!

K. NEW BUSINESS:

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM:

Adepoju- Bring up the discussion about the exec bill. After it was voted on, sat back and looked at what was written. Read what the bill said. Talked about what opposition is saying today, should not be just about Obama, not only issues pertaining to him but any type of discrimination or prejudice. Quite aggressive during that, would like to apologize. Only way that I could press the issue and make my point clear. Bill like this needed to be unanimous. About letting people know that student senate did not respect or approve of any actions taken with any individual.

Brown- Appreciate that, apology is not necessary, atmosphere for that type of debate. A few other points, seemed to create some type of discrepancy, subjective orientation with the articulation, should all strive for objectivity when dealing with these highly contentious issues. In the drafting of bill, chairman reached out to affiliates. Still argue that bill does not address the genuine issues that actually prompted the outcome. Would like to question what role we have in the university in addressing these issues. What role in making actual desire for change.

Adepoju- Agree with senator brown, as far as wording, not just one incident, not just after the second occurrence, took initiative, senate just playing a favored card, after issue in my class, felt need to draft bill. Language stands strong as far as lack of respect and disregard. Looked at issue and people not feeling as

though it is an issue. Talking about not only president elect Obama, what is reported on a daily basis. Editorial in the cigar, really felt as though it needed to be addressed once it happened a third time. Needed to look to deans of college and senate needed to say something for students.

Brown- Just questioning when you mention student senate, does it talk about entire senate or what you think about it.

Adepoju- The bill was on the common table and the executive committee also had the chance to edit the bill. If you picked up your minutes and agenda, you should have seen it on the table.

Coates- I appreciate the apology, unnecessary, I still seriously disagree with the bill that was put in front of us. If we are not talking about an issue of hate speech, everyone has the right to disagree. Talked about political satire and Newsweek. All things that everyone sees everyday. Some might be harsher than others.

Clarke- Think that chairman Adepoju was right in brining up subject to talk about the bill.

Ginsberg- That was how the bill went.

Brown- Agree about this being the right thing to do, would like to question the fact but think the bill has a lack of substance.

LaRocca- I wish these points were brought up before we voted. It stinks and we can talk about it all we want but we all just voted for it. It's a lesson to a lot of people that we should speak up.

Adepoju- There is a difference between hate speech and talking about what you feel without talking about disrespecting and not liking what is said. Can't just say whatever we want because we have laws against hate crimes.

Coates- I don't believe that I raised any new points that I missed earlier, agree with Max.

Brown- In response to LaRocca, I was hoping to make those comments known but the vote was rushed.

Petit- Reminder for finance, meet me and I'd appreciate it. Everyone have a good, safe break.

Bedard- Senate as whole, when a bill comes out of senate, whether you vote for it or against it, it is considered the official stance of the senate and it is understood that you support senate's decision as a whole when you leave this room.

Stolow- Forgot to say in my report, starting next semester, new way to evaluate teachers, no more SETS.

Bruce- reminder, this Friday afternoon, closing of nominations for Rainville. Very simple, takes about 2 minutes online. Maureen and I want to wish you all success with your exams.

Ginsberg- Thank everyone for a great semester, happy holidays, good luck on your exams and be safe over break.

Messineo- New senators, senate hasn't done a lot this semester, this is a great example to what we do as senate. Great hat we all have our own opinions and can have a discussion about them. Dark knight is not playing tonight in honor of senator Gorman.

Rodrigues- Victoria Secret's fashion show is at 10pm.

Messineo- 9pm preshow.

O'Brien- My committee, we are meeting Friday, Happy break!

LaRocca- Elections is meeting in the back.

Adepoju- Huge thank you to my committee, have pushed and accomplished a lot this semester. I heart you guys, be strong and really make cultural the number one committee of senate.

Reminder- Formal starts at 7, bus at 6:30 at the bus circle. 7-11pm, look forward to seeing you all.

M. ROLL CALL: AYE: Abbe, Adepoju, Allison, Almeida, Aronoff, Bickham, Boiteau, Brown, Clarke, Coates, Einhorn, Faustin, Gaudio, Forman, Harrington, Holland, Holzman, Infusino, Inthisone, Kearns, LaRocca, Luther, McCormick, Meehan, Messineo, Mingoia, Moss, O'Brien, Petit, Prata, Rodrigues, Sinapi, Slater, Smith, Stein, Yensan

Nay- Ginsberg, Stolow

No Vote- Bedard, Pelletier, Shah

N. ADJOURNMENT: 8:40