

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30

B. ROLL CALL: Abbe, Adepoju, Ahrens, Allison, Bedard, Boiteau, Clarke, Feinberg, Ginsberg, Harrington, Holden, Holland, Holzman, Jacques, Larocca, Lee, Luther, Meehan, O'Brien, Pelletier, Petit, Sibbald, Slater, Stewart, Stolow, Sullivan-Bennis, Tremaglio, Yensan

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: no changes**D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: No changes ☺****E. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Petit motions for Pledge- opposition- vote- passed****F. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Paul Whitney – URI Bookstore- Thank you for your time. Director of the URI bookstore, come here tonight to talk to you about working with the academic affairs committee about textbook affordability. I did this a few years ago, fairly successful, open up communications, can be particularly confusing to students. We are going to talk with the faculty senate to see if there is a way to lower costs. I am looking at bringing in some of the large regional managers about the production of textbooks. Produced and delivered to a campus, buyback is an important element of used book purchases. That is one of the easiest ways to lower the cost of textbooks. A little bit of a sounding board, I want to find out how to help students in the end. Textbook costs have risen and risen every year and semester. You are also faced now with not being able to sell back as many books at the end of the term. It is due to changes in the industry. Course access codes, I need input from this group first, then we can work with other students on campus. We saw a lot of price increases this fall, we will order books as early as June. We sometimes see a price increase from June to July or September. We have had situations where we have to reorder after term starts and then there is another price increase. I can't personally justify where there are 200 dollars or 300 dollar bundles of textbooks and course materials. Hopefully I can get some assistance from this group and here to answer questions.

LaRocca- Permission to ask 2 questions, would it help if professors assigned books to their courses earlier than June.

Rep- It helps in two ways, tell us materials previous to a buyback period. 35 years ago books didn't cost this much. Sometimes professor adoption is held off because a new edition is pending. Talked about buyback on readopted title. Faculty select books and course materials, their job is to develop what is good for your studies, they are stressed from the publishing industry as well because they are not in the used book business. Stresses are on the marketplace. The other used book pool is the book companies from around the country. The earlier we have information, the more we try to bring in more used books. Some used books are now 80, 90 or 100 dollars.

LaRocca- This is my 4th year now, buyback prices are usually lower in the bookstore than they are in the RI Book Company.

Rep- That would be the case only because we are carrying all of the books. More of the buyback is coming back to the store. Our goal is to pay 50% of the used list price. Our buy back is substantially larger than the off campus store in total volume. We are buying an amount of books that we think they can sell in the fall. If the off campus store might still want more in stock, they might be paying more when we have enough in stock.

Stolow- I want to know if there is any immediate action that we can take now to plan for next semester.

Rep- We are asking for spring adoptions towards the end of October, more come in through November. The year that we did work with Academic Affairs, we had the most adoptions in October than we have ever had. The biggest impact we probably can have is communicating with the departments. The flip side of that is we can sometimes get in very early adoptions, we buy the books, and then the faculty member switches books and we get a lot of returns.

Ginsberg- As I have seen over the years, a lot of my professors have been going to binders with pages inside. Is that being more widely spread, between the books it has been a cheaper price to get the binder?

Rep- The buybacks of binders, not to pain the publishing industry into the negative. One of the ways to reduce cost is to put it in binders. If students are in Physics 1, the cost is 40-50 dollars, it is comparable to physics 2 and the students are often in both. As long as the binders are in good condition and the pages are not missing or filled in, it can be bought back. When a university runs a bookstore, I have been with private lease operators as well. If they would honestly answer, college bookstores are interested in getting

prices down. There are a lot of students who are not even buying books at all. The reason you are here is to move on in your education. Another key element is going to be the definition is required. Am I really going to get a better grade in this course with this book. There is much more value in a book that is really required to get a better grade. When you get to the class and you find out that only a few chapters are needed, you can return the book if it is early enough.

Clarke- Will you buy back books from anywhere?

Rep- Yes, we will buy them back as long as they are the right edition.

Bedard- Welcome back McGuire, a student senate alumni. He clearly has a lot on his plate now that he is in the real world.

G. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Petit- We hired a computer tech to work on our computers, Joe Hackman. Replacing Ben from last year.

- STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (SOARC):

SS -08/09-27 Bill Calling for the Recognition of URI Physical Therapy Club at Level 4

Whereas, URI Physical Therapy Club will provide an outlet for students interested in physical therapy with the intent to promote networking, professional growth, and preparation for future physical therapy endeavors.

Whereas, URI Physical Therapy 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 recognize URI Physical Therapy Club.

SPONSOR:	SOARC
BILL HANDLER:	Chairwoman Clarke
DATE:	Wednesday, September 24, 2008
RECOMMENDATION:	Passage (4 - 0 -0)
EXPIRATION:	Valid until Next Re-Recognition
ACTION:	Passed

Rep- URI PT club, network between undergrads and graduate students. 30 graduate students and 45-50 undergraduates. Great for networking, opportunities to look at schools, volunteering in community service, shadowing graduate students. Usually in a physical therapy program, biggest option is to go to graduate school.

Ginsberg- Why would you like to be immediately considered?

Clarke- I forgot to make the motion and it was supposed to be on the agenda last week.

Clarke motioned for immediate consideration, Holden seconds.

Allison- Do you have weekly meetings or is it online networking?

Rep- They will be twice a month.

LaRocca- As per the bylaws, all student orgs need to meet twice a month.

Petit- How many?

Rep- 30 grad students and about 45 undergraduates

Bill passed!

Clarke- Going to change committee time, Monday October 6th, 5:30 in the senate office. Next week is the same time, Tuesdays at 4.

- ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Stolow- First off, Meg Luther is our vice chair. Congrats to her! Faculty senate just handed out mentoring awards for a professor and dean of a college. Dean Brennel from Arts and Sciences. Professor LeBrun from plants sciences. I have been in contact with provost DeHayes, discussing changes to the sets. He is having a meeting this week and hopefully I will talk to him next week about how the meeting went. Academic Affairs meets Monday at 3pm in room 302.

Petit- Did you look into attending the meeting with him?

Stolow- I am going to see if it is open.

Shah- Has your committee thought about what changes they would like to see?

Stolow- I am going to look into what Brown did, there is a professor here. I am going to talk to the provost about adopting some of the same ideas.

Ahrens- Second semester, we had a new SET for some classes, ways to ask questions instead of the old form. I would like to see that the SETS become more public as well.

Petit- Trying to make them public.

- EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

O'Brien- Our meetings are now Thursday at 2:30 in room 354, rough meeting on Monday, working on lighting contest for the winter. Talk to me or Tom if you are interested in judging it. Getting more awareness around campus. Working on fun ideas, most for the spring since it's getting cold.

- CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Adepoju- Nothing really new tonight, a few events around campus. President's House- Not sure about the topic, about labor laws. Diversity week event, if you want to go, let me know, Thursday at 4pm. UHRUSASA and Philosopher's anonymous- open forum about upcoming elections- October 24th-planning to have it in Edwards. Costume day on October 31st maybe, working with cigar, quick ad, whoever dresses up on that day, little incentive for them. Working on stuff for this semester and next semester.

- CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

LaRocca- Should all have received the RIPTA maps, those are the day and night maps for the 211 shuttles that go around campus. The hill climber is referred to as the 66. It is in color on the website, if you want to check it out online, RIPTA.com, select Kingston connection, you can check out everything. Brochures in the office about how to schedule Flex Bus. Safety and Lighting walk was on Monday night, only about 3 senators between us. We are inviting a lot of the head administration so 3 students is a really poor showing. It was finished in an hour and 25 mins. If you have done the walk before, this means the campus is looking really good. Two big problem areas still- campus ave. and the library. Campus Ave is maintained by South Kingstown. New blue light between Fogarty and TEP, telecommunications in charge of installing the light. Our meetings are Wednesday at 3:30 in room 301. Going to get the ball rolling on our Ellery Pond restoration project with officer Mark.

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

a. **Director of Communications- Simon-** Worked with Kim to put an Ad in the cigar for the free legal advice. Press releases for orange sticker policy. First Monday of the month, newsletter where the cigar is usually left. All chairs, please talk to me about what you want to see in the newsletter.

b. **Secretary- Pelletier-** Kudos goes to any people that are running for senate, are sitting in the back and came to the retreat!

c. **Treasurer- Shah-** I know I say no report every meeting but all I do is pay the bills. So today I went to the cigar to give them internal transfer form for ads that we did for the election. If you are curious about what I do, then you can ask me.

Petit- Did you pay the bill that I gave you today?

d. **Chief Operations Officer- Feinberg-** hope you enjoyed the retreat, it went very well, going to be focusing on the Liaisons, definitely look for an email about hat. Amalfi's formal is Set for December 9th, looking into bus and DJ's.

- e. **Vice President- Bedard-** I have yet to get any senate outreach forms back this semester. By now you should have contacted your groups, if you haven't, you need to contact them tomorrow. If you have not met with your group yet, meet with them ASAP. If you have met with them, please write up a quick little response on how that meeting went. You are only going to be there for at most 10 minutes.

Sibbald- I didn't know that there was a form process.

Bedard- you basically go to the groups and ask them the questions, what does your group need, what has senate done for you and what can senate do for you in the future. What they like about senate. We asked for them by next week. I don't want to have to yell at you about it next week. Scholarship ads will go out next week October 1st, 8th and 9th. Deadline is October 17th. Must be of junior standing, GPA of 2.5 or higher, actively involved in senate group and then second scholarship, must have some Greek involvement. About 700 each.

- f. **President- Ahrens-** Homecoming- Battle of the Bands- going out to student groups, everyone here, any friends in bands, need one URI student, October 15th at 8pm. SEC concerts is co-sponsoring with us. We have the request for our stage and equipment. Going to work on reserving food for hot dog eating contest. Registration at 3, starts at 4. Kim has the envelope, give money to her before Friday. The walk is on Saturday.

Retreat- A lot of people find us intimidating, I think we should rearrange our office. First thing we are doing is get rid of desks and have 2 people at each desk. All of the forms and paperwork are going to be labeled much more clearly. Much brighter. I want suggestions about how to make the office more welcoming, more school spirited. I want to put pictures of all of the senate's in the office. If you have any ideas or suggestions, help clean up. Every desk has to be cleaned by next week. Submit ideas. Also, based on the retreat, typed up list of all of our goals for the year, gave to all chairs and broke it down for each committee. Going to one meeting for each committee once a month. One of the boards is going to be our permanent goal list. If we fail at doing it, they should know. More motivation. We made these goals for a reason. From sets to Ellery pond, working with athletics, getting our name out there more. Starting working with our goals. I need to submit tonight Faculty Senate Liaisons, the honors committee, library, teaching effectiveness, university college and general education committee. For all of those who knew Cristin, she was the queen of the committees and met a lot of people at the University through those committees.

LaRocca- Some senators who have served, talk about their experience and how it helped them network on the campus.

Petit- Served on three different ones, academic standards and calendar committee, important, what holidays, when reading days are, I don't know if there are any spots on it this year, I am on it this year. I worked a lot with the Dean of student last year with SRR, with Dr. Dougan and Chip Yensan because they are on a few committees. Committees themselves aren't a huge time commitment, meet once or twice a week for about two hours. What they are going through with Faculty and common issues.

Ginsberg- Have been on two, University college and general Education, you decide what courses will be in general education, you get to go through and see why certain courses are there and figure out why they should be there, meet professors from other schools. Have worked on the libraries committee- went in to see how we could better the library and other technology.

Yensan- Building committee and Honorary degree- connections, working the provost, extremely helpful to get yourself more involved in the campus.

Ahrens- Talk to me tonight after the meeting. The purpose of the retreat was to get the ball rolling, don't be the one who stops it. Make sure you are doing your job, reading minutes, doing office hours.

Tremaglio- What is the rain plan on Saturday?

Ahrens- I don't have an answer, I'm pretty sure it is going on regardless.

- RULES AND ETHICS: No report

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Elections Committee

Elections went pretty well. Some platforms didn't get in the cigar today. They were all available at the booth. We have a person running for a seat in the college he is not actually in. if you are signed up tomorrow make sure you're there. Frat circle is ON CAMPUS. If the book has home address, you need to give them off campus. If it says UC they must not get a business or hss ballot.

Holzman- when do you expect to have the results

Nicole – takes a few hours. Will post when finished

Joelle: how many people voted

Nicole I have no clue

Bylaws Committee- Petit: Tuesdays after exec is not going to work especially when exec is ridiculously long. We will start talking about the issues next week since we didn't talk about anything this week.

I. SPECIAL ORDERS:

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

K. NEW BUSINESS:

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM:

Shah-Tonight is Jerry from Ben and Jerry's it is at 8 tonight, he brought 2 big carts of ice cream. The event is 5 dollars and the ice cream is free.

Pelletier- Go to Ben and jerry's, promote other student group activities, it is one of our goals.

Sibbald- I want to have better discussion, there is a section called announcements and a section called discussion. What Vidhi said is an announcement. What Nicole said was a discussion of the announcement. Thank you, love you all , peace.

Gorman- Can we discuss the Ben and Jerry's event, what is Jerry going to talk about tonight.

Shah- He is going to talk about how he started the business and his favorite flavor. He will talk layout anything the audience wants to talk about.

Bruce- to continue this discussion, he is going to talk about the business of being socially conscious. The other discussion is Paul who spoke at the beginning of your meeting, he is very student proactive. He wants to try and figure out a way to work on this bigger problem. He really wants to try and solve the problem as much as he can.

Petit- If anyone wants to go to Applebee's to discuss senate things after the meeting, just meet in the senate office after this discussion ends. If anyone is interested in the amethyst initiative, contact me,

LaRocca- Can someone ask Ben and jerry's a question about his thoughts on PETA asking that he use breast milk instead of regular milk.

Holland- Motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Holden.

M. ROLL CALL: AYE:

N. ADJOURNMENT: 7:24PM