

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:32pm

B. ROLL CALL: Barrena, Blanchette, Boiteau, Brehio, Caisse, Cicero, Coates, Dobrzynski, Ferreira, Gulum, Holden, Holzman, Jones, Juhr, Kessler, Knight, Krauss, Labate, Lamoureux, Longa, May, Pezza, Pilkington, Pishdadian, Quinonez, Rossi, Roy, Thomas, Troiano, Weinreich, Wynne, Zaman

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Agenda Approved ☺

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes Approved ☺

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Boiteau- Motion for pledge

2nd Juhr

F. PUBLIC FORUM:

Jodi Hawkins and Christine Dias—Club Sports

Hawkins- I am the director of Recreation Services and this is Christine Dias one of the facility coordinators. We are here tonight to say thank you for your support for the club sports program. Chris Daigle is our coordinator of club sports and wasn't able to be here today. He put this presentation together that is a handout so you can see all the successes that our clubs have done this year. Club sports represents 500 student athletes and if it weren't for your support, they wouldn't be where they are today. If there are any questions, glad to take them.

Holden- Questions?

Hawkins- Thank you.

G. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

SS-11/12-19 TAX GRANT REQUEST FOR SAILING TEAM

Whereas, Sailing Team is a Senate recognized organization under Club Sports, and

Whereas, Sailing Team would like attend a national competition in Oregon, and

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

Whereas, Sailing Team would like money to help cover the costs of attending this competition, 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 \$2,500.00 from our Activities Tax to the Sailing Team's budget within Club Sports.

SPONSOR:	Finance Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Boiteau
DATE:	Wednesday, May 4th, 2011
RECOMMENDATION:	Passage (6- 0- 0)
EXPIRATION DATE:	Upon Dispensation
ACTION:	Vote Next Week (Immediate Consideration)

Boiteau- We have 4 bills on the floor for tonight. For the first bill, motion for immediate consideration.

2nd May

Boiteau- The sailing team did place in the top 10 in their division at the semi-final competition in California. We have 2 representatives here from the sailing team if you would like to speak.

Rep- We ended up qualifying in the top 9 in our division, which was the western division. We qualified for nationals, which are at the end of May which is the top 18 teams from around the country.

Rep- The first time the team has qualified since 1994, first time in 17 years. We are very excited. We are asking for money for funding towards the team. Going to bring a lot of publicity to the school, nationally broadcast on ESPN. I know we are very excited as a team and look forward to doing well.

May- What did you place?

Rep- 9th in the Western Conference

Bill Approved ☺

SS-11/12-20 LOAN REQUEST FOR SAILING TEAM

Whereas, Sailing Team is a Senate recognized organization under Club Sports, and

Whereas, Sailing Team would like attend a national competition in Oregon, and

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

Whereas, Men’s Sailing Team would like money to help cover the costs of attending this competition, 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 \$2,450.00 from our Tax Account to the Sailing Team’s budget within Club Sports to be repaid by the last day of classes in the academic school year 2015-2016

SPONSOR:	Finance Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Boiteau
DATE:	Wednesday, May 4th, 2011
RECOMMENDATION:	Passage (6- 0- 0)
EXPIRATION DATE:	Upon Dispensation
ACTION:	Vote Next Week (Immediate Consideration)

Boiteau- Next bill in the form of a loan. Motion for immediate consideration.

2nd Weinreich

Rep- Same thing. We have all types of fundraising to pay it back.

Juhr- What types of fundraising?

Rep- We have reached out to a lot of alumni and heard a lot of positive feedback. We sent out a letter to them and have had a lot of feedback through emails and phone calls saying they are excited for the team. Those are the first steps of reaching out. We are going to put on alumni event where they can come sail themselves and donate money.

Holden- Questions?

Boiteau- Before we vote, motion to amend the 4th whereas to strike Men’s Crew to replace with sailing.

2nd Labate

Recommendation: (3-0-0)

Quinonez- What is the time frame for it to be re-paid?

Rep- 5 years for this loan.

Boiteau- In the last line of the bill, 2015-2016

Bill Approved ☺

SS-11/12-21 TAX GRANT REQUEST FOR MENS CREW TEAM

Whereas, Men’s Crew Team is a Senate recognized organization under Club Sports, and
Whereas, Men’s Crew Team would like attend a national competition in Georgia, and
Whereas, it is within their mission statement to do so, and
Whereas, Men’s Crew Team would like money to help cover the costs of attending this competition,
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 \$2,500.00 from our Activities Tax to the Sailing Team’s budget
within Club Sports.

SPONSOR: Finance Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairman Boiteau
DATE: Wednesday, May 4th, 2011
RECOMMENDATION: Passage (6- 0- 0)
EXPIRATION DATE: Upon Dispensation
ACTION: Vote Next Week (Immediate Consideration)

Boiteau- Next bill we have is tax grant request. Motion for immediate consideration.
2nd Roy

Boiteau- Motion to amend last resolve to strike “sailing” and replace with “crew”

Recommendation: (4-0-0)

Caisse- This money is going mostly for transportation and lodging. Limited amount of guys going to this. Some freshmen had to unexpectedly drop out, so this is money we didn’t budget for and we would like this financial boost to go to Atlanta, Georgia.

Boiteau- The reason why they need this because each member of the team has to pay \$600 to go to this competition, on top of \$900 in dues they started paying. If we have funding available, we should be able to help them out.

2 Abstentions.

Bill Approved ☺

SS-11/12-22 LOAN REQUEST FOR MENS CREW TEAM

Whereas, Mens Crew Team is a Senate recognized organization under Club Sports, and
Whereas, Mens Crew Team would like attend a national competition in Georgia, and
Whereas, it is within their mission statement to do so, and
Whereas, Mens Crew Team would like money to help cover the costs of attending this competition, 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 \$883.00 from our Tax Account to the Sailing Team’s budget
within Club Sports to be repaid by the last day of classes in the academic school year 2013-
2014

SPONSOR: Finance Committee
BILL HANDLER: Chairman Boiteau
DATE: Wednesday, May 4th, 2011
RECOMMENDATION: Passage (6- 0- 0)
EXPIRATION DATE: Upon Dispensation
ACTION: Vote Next Week (Immediate Consideration)

Boiteau- Next bill is loan request for Crew Team. Motion for immediate consideration
2nd May

Boiteau- Motion to strike “sailing” and replace with “crew”

Recommendation: (4-0-0)

Caisse- Same thing. We split up the money half and half. We will be paying back sum in the form of \$843 by end of 2013 academic year.

Holden- Questions?

2 Abstentions.

Bill Approved ☺

Boiteau- Other than that, in committee this week, we didn’t do too much. It was my last bill, so I am all done.

Holden- Questions?

May- Did a great job as Finance Chair, Chairman Boiteau.

- **STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

Rossi- No bills and nothing to say. My last meeting. Good luck next year, and I will be back, maybe.

Holden- Questions?

Pilkington- You did a great job.

- **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

Caisse- Hi everyone. I want to say thank to you to those who worked the advising booths. We had a huge response over the last couple of days, have about 60+ submissions. Brought those reports to the advising steering committee and they were pretty receptive to that. Report is on my desk. At the steering committee yesterday, it was pretty interesting to hear the problems and strengths of the different colleges. We went around and each dean explained how their advising program worked, strengths and weaknesses were apparent. Business is the strongest model so far. Former Chairman Cologne was right about the Business Advising model, it seems to work best. The next meeting for the Steering Committee is May 17th, and if anybody is around, you should go to it. Other than that, I am working on a number of academic complaints. That’s it.

Holden- When is the next meeting?

Caisse- May 12th @ 3pm in Cherry Auditorium in Kirk

Holden- Reminder email can be sent out to the Senate.

Weinreich- What is the status of the changes to the drop period?

Caisse- President Coates has that information in his report.

- **CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

Juhr- All that is going on is that we have the system for VoteNet. We need 2 more sources handled by the end of the school year.

Holden- Questions?

Juhr- Good luck on finals.

- **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

Ferreira- We had our last meeting of the semester today. Came up with great survey ideas and questions and will be finalizing over the summer. We are researching our sister schools for homecoming ideas. Let me know if you have any ideas. New committee meeting time on Tuesdays at 2pm.

Holden- Questions?

- **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

SS-11/12-18- RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PASS OPPORTUNITY RI

Whereas, the URI Student Senate recognizes that students must pay back student loans after graduation, and
Whereas, the need to pay back loans influences college graduates to live where job opportunities exist, and
Whereas, Rhode Island is enduring a “brain drain”, in which college graduates are choosing to leave Rhode Island due to lack of job opportunities, and
Whereas, the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program, otherwise known as Opportunity RI, would provide incentives for students to stay in Rhode Island, and
Whereas, Opportunity RI has bipartisan support among campus Democratic and Republican organizations, therefore be it
Resolved, that the Student Senate strongly urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program Act of 2011 (Opportunity RI)

SPONSOR:	External Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairman Troiano
DATE:	Wednesday, May 4, 2011
RECOMMENDATION:	Passage (5-0-0)
EXPIRATION DATE:	Perpetual
ACTION:	Vote Tonight

Troiano- We have a bill on the floor tonight. Hope everyone had a chance to look at it over the past week.
Bill Passes ☺
Holden- Questions?

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

a. Chief Information Officer

Holzman- Good afternoon, everybody. Got the alumni list back from the alumni center, so after finals, I will send out an email to alumni and let them know about the alumni program and get them engaged hopefully.

b. Director of Communications

Pezza- Newsletter is done and need a plan on when to send it out. This is my last meeting. Good luck.

c. Secretary

Jones- Not much going on this week. Vice-Chairs of committees if you have met recently or have any more minutes to send me before we wrap up for the semester, please email me so I can file those. Thanks again to those who have sent in liaison reports, Ashley Smith sent one in from Nursing I believe, so thank you. We have a lot of open positions, so I am not sure what the plan is for the fall as far as reports, so I may send out an email and let you know. Other than that, Kudos goes to Ryann Rossi, Samantha Pezza, and Steven Boiteau this week for their efforts and all the work they have done for Senate until the very last meeting tonight- they stuck around and have been doing a great job still, so I would like to give Kudos (or Snickers) to them as thanks for the great work all year and wish them luck in their future endeavors!

d. Treasurer

e. Vice President

Holden- Good evening, everybody. As foreman Chairman Cologna would say, May the 4th be with you. Couple things for tonight. First, I want to wish everybody luck on their finals. Happy

and healthy year in the fall. Tentative date for Senate Retreat on Sat. Oct. 1st or 2nd. Tentative date. Once a final date has been scheduled, I will let you know. For those of you on Summer Senate, please start working on First Night. Committee chairs, most of you told me your times that you will be meeting for next semester. Write down the date and put it in my mailbox as well as those who can't make that meeting time, so I can re-assign them. If you received an absence warning email last week, I encourage you to meet with me this week. Watch your absences because I am getting quite a few of them lately. Last night going to Applebees, so please come if you can. Special thank you to Chairwoman Rossi, DOC Pezza, and Chairman Boiteau. You will be missed but never forgotten, and I wish you guys the best of luck. Finally, I am passing around a sign-up sheet. Sign up if you think you will be able to work First Night.

f. President

Coates- Good evening, everybody. Enjoying the wonderful music downstairs. As Chairman Caisse mentioned, I do have information regarding Drop Period Changes, but I am going to withhold comment until Faculty Senate has been informed as a whole. They have made a decision but don't know if they shared it with the rest of the faculty members. I got invited to the groundbreaking from Hillside. We have been congratulating all the Club Sports Team for their accomplishments this year, but I would like to recognize URI Soil-Judging Team for their accomplishments. Congrats, Soil-Judging. Chairman Troiano and I went to the Statehouse today, and I testified before House Finance Committee regarding Opportunity RI bill, which was just passed. I think it is going a long way to help the State of Rhode Island Higher Education system. I think there were a lot of positive feelings behind this piece of legislation. Besides that, I can tell you the Master Planning Committee met to discuss the basketball courts, so that is moving extremely rapidly and they are not taking us lightly with our clause that it needs to be done by mid-point next semester. Field Lighting Committee met again. Our field is still being worked on. I would like to thank my trio of Executive Members that are leaving tonight.

Weinreich- I was wondering if you could give us the general reasoning of why the Faculty Senate isn't informed of the Drop period policy.

Coates- I would like to give professional courtesy to my counterparts on Faculty Senate who have not yet had an opportunity to share the information with the faculty and don't want to make it more difficult for them.

Jones- What are the next steps for the Opportunity RI bill?

Coates- I don't think they will reach a vote for the end of the semester. Trying to schedule a meeting for financial aid people of every college and for private institutions as well. Once that happens, the only opposition to the bill so far has been the administrative opposition.

Caisse- I don't know if you want to share the official ruling that the Board of Governors had.

Coates- As most of you know, the tuition increase for next year has been approved by 7-3 vote. I thought it was interesting that it was 7-3. It took 90 minutes to reach that decision. I think they realize we are on the verge of not being competitive with other institutions. I urge them to take the steps necessary to receive funding from the state. There were not a lot of alternatives to a \$12 million budget gap. They are absorbing \$3 million in cuts. As I pointed out, yesterday on NPR, this is \$38 million since 2007 has been cut. They have already cut a huge percentage of their budget. It really is an uncomfortable situation. It is up to the people in this room as well as the board and this administration to make sure the state understands they need to subsidize our education to the level they promised.

- RULES AND ETHICS:

Lamoureux- No report.

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Bylaws

Holzman- No report.

Elections

Cicero- Hey, everybody. We have a bill on the floor for tonight. Not voted on until we get back. First part of the bill explains by laws in regards to Elections. Also lists the seats that are available right now, as well as the Elections Date and the reports from that.

Holden- Questions?

SS-11/12-23 BILL CALLING FOR THE ELECTIONS FOR FRESHMAN AND OPEN SEATS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

Whereas, Article VII Section A Part 3 Subpart a. of the Student Senate Bylaws states: The annual election for Freshman Representatives shall be held as early as practical each autumn, and

Whereas, Article VII Section A Part 3 Subpart c. of the Student Senate Bylaws states: The Senate may by legislation call a special election at any tie for the filling of any vacant seat or the placing of any referendum question, and

Whereas, in addition to five (5) Freshman seats there are the following vacancies:

- Off-Campus Representatives (2)
- On-Campus Representatives (1)
- At-Large Representatives (4)
- College of Human Sciences and Services Representative (1)

Whereas, The Elections committee has determined that the earliest practical dates for the annual election for freshman Representatives and additional vacant seats are September 28, 2011 and September 29, 2011 therefore it be,

Resolved, that the Annual Fall Election be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 and Thursday September 29, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and be it further

Resolved, that the declaration period open Monday September 12, 2011 and close on Friday September 23, 2011, during regular operational hours of the Student Senate.

Sponsor:	Elections Committee
Bill Handler:	Chairwoman Stephanie Segal
Recommendation:	Passage (5-0-0)
Date Introduced:	May 4, 2011
Date Expired:	Upon Validation of the Annual Fall Election results
Action:	Vote Next Meeting

I. SPECIAL ORDERS:

Swearing in of Finance Chair

Holden- Congratulations, Chairman Holzman.

Swearing in of SOARC Chair

Holden- Congratulations, Chairwoman Roy.

Nominations of Chief Information Officer

Coates- I would like to nominate Senator Hania Zaman.

Holden- The nomination is up. We will vote on the next meeting on the confirmation of this position.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Confirmation of Director of Communications—Ashley Cordisco

Coates- Good evening. As you know, we are forced to replace DOC Pezza. In order to do that, we jointly sent out information to members of the Public Relations community, Journalism, and Communications majors. I put it out as a Job Search. I narrowed down the pool down to 3 finalists. There was one candidate I was not able to interview. Ashley Cordisco is a Junior going to be a Senior next year. Held numerous positions in marketing firms. Her resume and samples were above all other candidates. I encourage you to vote in favor of this nomination. This position requires someone with professional knowledge of the field.

Holden- Questions?

Weinreich- So, were you able to contact her while she was abroad to discuss with her the details of the position and what is involved?

Coates- Contacted her via email about the position. Going to meet when she returns to discuss goals next year.

Holden- Congratulations to the new DOC Ashley Cordisco.

K. NEW BUSINESS:

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM:

Coates- Go to Applebees. It is the last meeting of the year.

Caisse- Forgot to mention in my report. I am meeting with USA Today tomorrow.

B. Hamilton- Good luck on your exams, get some sleep, and have a safe, enjoyable summer. To our 3 outgoing Executive members, you rock. Thank you!

Coates- One more thing. I really want to thank Bruce Hamilton, Maureen McDermott, and Officer Mark and everybody who works in this building and their commitment to the Senate. Please give them a round of applause.

Holzman- For the people on by laws, keep an eye on your email over the summer. For those on finance currently, please raise your hands if you are continuing in the fall. I'll be in touch.

Roy- For those of you that want to join SOARC, going to be on Mondays at 4:30pm.

Holden- Committee Chairs, let me know when you are going to be meeting.

Holzman- Finance will be at 5:30 on Mondays. For new Senators, the first meeting in the fall is in fact that first Wednesday of classes. So don't think that we don't have a meeting because it's the first day.

Holden- People who signed up to work First Night, I have the list, so I know who is supposed to be there.

Jones- Where is the sign-up sheet for First Night?

Holden- Going around.

Roy- Go to Applebee's

Troiano- Motion to adjourn.

2nd Caisse

N. ADJOURNMENT:

AYE: Barrena, Berger, Blanchette, Cahill, Caisse, Dobrzynski, Ferreira, Gulum, Jühr, Kessler, Krauss, Labate, Lamoureux, Longa, May, Nicastro, Pilkington, Pishdadian, Quinonez, Roy, Thomas, Troiano, Weinreich, Wynne, Zaman

NAY: Holzman, Knight

NO VOTE: Coates, Holden, Jones,

Adjourned 7:23pm