

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm

B. ROLL CALL: Barrera, Blanchette, Brehio, Brown, Cahill, Caisse, Cicero, Coates, Dobrzynski, Ferreira, Gulum, Holden, Holzman, Jones, Juhr, Knight, Krauss, Labate, Lamoureux, Longa, Merolla, Nicastro, Pilkington, Pishdadian, Roy, Segal, Sharkey, Smith, Stewart, Thomas, Troiano, Weinreich, Wynne, Zaman

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Lamoureux- Motion to add to Special Orders nominations of Rules and Ethics Committee
2nd Roy

Agenda Approved ☺

D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes Approved ☺

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lamoureux- Motion for the pledge

2nd Juhr

F. PUBLIC FORUM:

G. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- FINANCE COMMITTEE

Holzman- Good evening, everyone. No bills on the floor. The Finance handbook will be brought to the table 2 weeks from now to be approved in time for the October President's meeting.

Coates- Chairman Holzman, you are forgetting what we discussed briefly before the meeting about a new student employee for Senate.

Holzman- Oh yeah. In order to facilitate, the inventory process, I would like to be able to hire one student employee at the wage of \$8.00 or thereabouts to catalog all of our existing assets into our inventory system. The reason why I would like approval for this is because we have a lot of assets. To be able to get through this efficiently, it makes sense to hire someone instead of making committee members who are already busy with their schedules.

Segal- I am just wondering, did you check to see if we have the money or should I do that?

Holzman- If you could do that, although I suspect a tax grant would have to be made.

Roy- I apologize if you said this, but would this be possible to hire a student outside or inside of senate?

Holzman- We make a practice to not hire inside of Senate.

- STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Roy- Very brief report tonight. October 3rd is the second President's meeting that will be done in the compute lab. Thanks to Weinreich for making re-recognition paperwork into writeable PDFs. Looked into DropBox, which is a secure offsite place to keep paperwork. The first president's meeting was last Monday and it went very smoothly.

- ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Caisse: If anyone noticed, we don't have any Projos on campus. Called to renew the readership but our contact is on vacation. She left a bunch of names and numbers for me to call if this is an emergency. At the last executive meeting, we mentioned briefly about opening up the skeleton syllabus again so I might research that policy. I asked my committee members to go out and ask about that. I think Alev mentioned that each college has their own attendance policy. Last meeting, I mentioned something about researching state classes. We figured out UVM has this class called "rebuilding Vermont" which is focused on economy.

OpportunityRI, a tax based incentive program, is something Coates brought up to me about

that, so I will talk to the External’s chair about that and possibly designing a class around that. Other than that, we established a committee time for Academic it is 4:30pm on Wednesdays.
Roy- I was just wondering if you would like us to submit syllabi with our attendance policies.
Caisse- There is a folder on my desk with good/bad syllabi examples if you want to look and submit.

- CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

SS-11/12-24 Bill Calling for the Student Senate Opinion on the Proposed Recreation Fee

Whereas, the URI Student Senate has previously opposed increases to the cost of a university education, and

Whereas, the university is proposing such an increase to support the creation of and to sustain a new campus fitness facility, and

Whereas, the increased cost of a URI education does not benefit students, therefore be it

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate opposes the creation of a student recreation fee, and be it further

Resolved, that the University of Rhode Island Student Senate discourages the University Administration from relying solely on its students to sustain its financial health.

SPONSOR:	Campus Affairs Committee
BILL HANDLER:	Chairwoman Juh
DATE:	Wednesday, September 14, 2011
RECOMMENDATION:	(3- 0 -1)
EXPIRATION:	Perpetual
ACTION:	Vote Next Week

Juhr- Hi, everyone. We have a bill on the floor for next week regarding the proposed recreation fee. Let me know of any questions, comments, or concerns so we can have everything cleared up. Also can talk to President Coates about it. Let me know about broken handicap buttons or blue lights. Memorial Union Facility Service is looking into the broken handicap button next to the bookstore, so keep an eye out. I am also in the process of scheduling a Safety and Lighting Walk, so leave your schedule in my mailbox. Hertz Cars- Don’t forget about the service. Rent them and talk about them to any new students on campus. New parking signs that are going up for Hertz. Parking Services is putting them up for us. That’s it.

Holzman- In regards to the resolution, in the third whereas, do you mean the increased cost does not have an educational benefit?

Juhr- What’s going on with this bill is that there is a new wellness center going up on campus and they don’t have the money to build the gym, so they want the students to beg for the equipment and that is not in our benefit at all.

Holzman- My other point is for the Safety and Lighting Walk, I strongly suggest involving the upper-half of Campus Avenue, specifically between Upper College Road and French Road, near the President’s House. That is a very dark area and there is no well-lit path for the residents of the Women’s Center or any other buildings.

Holden- Please read this bill thoroughly and ask questions.

- CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Ferreira- Cultural is working on a Diversity Week event. It is Oct. 4th at 6pm in Hardge Forum. Cultural has planned what we are going to do. Three events. Theme is going to be leaving stereotypes in the past. Music meeting on September 20th at 6pm in the MCC. IF you are interested in going, let me know. Sunglasses from last year, we are going to set up booths to raise money for Ellery. We are working a timeline for our Taste Around the World program.

Roy- Date for Taste Around the World?

Ferreira- Thinking November.

- **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

Troiano- Commuter Appreciation Week is going to be in association with Commuter Life. We need a lot of ideas for it, so if you guys have ideas for that, please let me know. We think we are going to have gas card prizes or special parking permits. Same week as the Commuter Housing Fair. Other than that, the URI Coalition meeting was postponed. That should be in 2 weeks, either first week of October or last week of September.

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

a. Chief Information Officer

Zaman- Hello, everyone. Today, I met with Finance Chair Holzman and discussed my transition as CIO and what responsibilities I will be taking on. We comprised a long list of tasks including the first and most important. First, I will be documenting historical references regarding Senate. I will also be responsible for the new senator orientation, informing them about Robert's Rules as well as other things. I will also be doing an annual report at the end of the year, summarizing what our goals during the year were. In addition, I will also be doing year end summary of liaison reports. Another task I will be taking on is a compilation of Alumni Contact Information to keep in touch with and have better relations with them. I want to remind everyone that if they ever need any information, feel free to ask me and I will see what I can figure out for you. That's all for today.

b. Director of Communications

Cordisco- Just a quick thing. I created a newsletter that I want to get out by Monday morning, so I am almost finished with it. If there is anything anybody wants me to include, I can include that. My goal is Monday morning, so make sure you just get it to me before Monday morning.

Ferreira- What is in the newsletter?

Cordisco- Basically, it has upcoming events, announcements for Greek Life, Sports and Intramurals, Student Organizations, Student Life. It addresses all of the Executive member positions of Senate. I have an upcoming "breast cancer awareness" month insert and an announcement regarding parent's weekend.

c. Secretary

Jones: Hi, everyone. Not too much tonight, but committees, if you have started to meet this week, please start sending me your committee reports. The only one I've gotten so far is from External from Senator Labate, so thanks Senator Labate. Vice-Chairs, if you meet this week and could get your minutes to me, that would be great! Other than that, I've signed up for two liaison positions so I'll be sure to get the reports to myself and if anybody else signs up for the many available positions, please get them to me too. Kudos from last week is here – for Stephanie and her First Night efforts. Kudos this week goes to Chrissy Juhr for her first bill-writing successes regarding the recreation fee bill along with other members of Campus Affairs.

d. Treasurer

Segal- The only thing I have this week is my financial tip for the week, which is pay credit cards in full to avoid interest fees.

e. Vice President

Holden- Retreat is going to take place on September 24th at 10am in the morning. You all should have received an email from me last week. For everyone else, it is mandatory, so it is going to roughly end around 2 or 3pm. We are going to learn a lot, and I think it will be beneficial to Student Senate as a whole. If you have any medical or dietary restrictions, please let me know ASAP. Please talk to me after the meeting. Applications are going to be available for the Student Senate scholarship. Have to be a junior or above. They are due October 21st at 1pm. I am currently looking for a committee to be on the selection process of this scholarship. If you are interested, visit me after the meeting. URI101- sent out an email to Senator Merolla, so maybe he can share the information in his CSV class, so we can present it to URI101 classes. I am hoping it will be a good program this year. If you know any URI101 mentors, please let them know. Make sure you are doing office hours. You don't need to do it at the same time. For committee chairs or vice-chairs, submit committee attendance to my mailbox. I know we are low in numbers but I would just like to say I am proud of all of you for the work you are doing and the difference you are making in your duties. I ask you please keep it up.

Jones- How often will Scholarship committee be meeting?

Holden- Only going to meet a couple of times to talk about advertising and put it in a newsletter, so we are going to have an advertising meeting and probably a check-in meeting and then selection meeting.

Nicastro- When is the meeting again for the retreat?

Holden- Sept. 24th 10am-3pm.

f. President

Coates- How is everyone doing tonight? It has been a busy week already for us. I am not sure if I said this last week but I appointed Senator Pilkington to a technology committee dealing with a technology fund established by the University. It is going to be extremely interesting to see the work of this committee. They put out RFP's, Request for Proposals, to the community so that they can enhance classroom learning technology. It is going to be excellent to see the work of that committee. Vice President Holden and I met with Jodi Hawkins today and that is where the bill you see before you comes from. I should have relayed this Chairwoman Juhr before the meeting, but they have found some funding for the equipment but they are anticipating an increase in an operating budget of \$1.8 million, which is what the student fee will be paying for. I was under the impression there was no money, but obviously there is some. I obviously do not support an increase in fees for any URI student. We have been on seven straight years of fee increases. Mid-year tuition hikes, technology fee, enough is enough. I have encouraged the university to explore other business models. They have a survey that has been put together, and we are currently reviewing it in the next week, it will be sent out to students, put together by Rec. Services, and we will see what the student body thinks. Anticipates serving over 3,000 students a day if this new gym is constructed. I am going to reserve for my judgment for the rest of the students. In addition to that, I had a meeting with some administration officials on Tuesday morning, and they have agreed in principle to provide us with email addresses for our student organizations. The SOARC Committee and Chairwoman Roy are going to incorporate that into the re-recognition process this fall. It will ensure continuity and smooth transition when we leave. It will also reinforce the university identity. We want to reinforce the student organizations as part of the URI brand. We are also going to get new email addresses for the various senate committee chairs. I have also begun the process of letting the university know that we are seeking to do online elections, and they

have been aware for sometime. They do definitely think February is a little bit of a tight time frame but over the next two weeks, hopefully, we will have a service selected and a contract ready to go. Remind people to run for Student Senate.

Brown- I had a question about the bill. Did they say how much it would increase for students?

Coates- Not technically an increase because you will remember seeing a \$51 per semester fee that would show up on your bill for recreation and that fee has been rolled into tuition. I have a rough idea, but I don't necessarily want to put that on record until I find out more. I do think the survey is supposed to include sort of an idea of what students would be willing to pay.

Zaman- How much more would they still be short? Is it even possible to receive the same funding, the fee that we are paying to go to them?

Coates- I am going to assume that if they were to receive a sum that large, they would have to do something to generate more revenue in tuition. The money is going to have to be added either way.

Pilkington- Look for more donors? Alumni?

Coates- A large portion of the funding is coming from the Alumni in general. \$2 million is being funded by Alumni already and they need more.

- RULES AND ETHICS:

Lamoureux- No report.

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Bylaws

Stewart- Almost found a good meeting time, but still trying to find one. I'll let you guys know.

Elections

Segal- We have two information booths. One is tomorrow from 10-3pm and next Wednesday from 10-3pm. It can count as an office hour, and I really need people to sign up, please sign up. Also, I made a facebook group for the Declarations and I invited you. Please invite your friends so it can show up on a public newsfeed. I want to get our name out and I want a bigger turn out, so if anybody has any ideas, definitely let me or someone on the committee know. Merolla is going to get the word out at URI101. We are going to reach out on different college list-servs and the LGBT, MCC, and TD list-serv. Anything else, let me know. We are also going to get the word out to the dorms with the help of Senator Cicero and Chairwoman Ferreira. We have the dining halls and the Emporium. We are going to have a poster request from Student Involvement for a poster in the Union. Any more ideas to reach out the word to the community, let me or my committee know. Any questions?

Roy- I know that there are some restrictions to running booths. Are there restrictions of who can sit at booths?

Segal- Not for information booths, but for Elections booth.

I. SPECIAL ORDERS:

Nominations for Rules and Ethics Committee

Stewart- Senator Cicero is really smart and he is nice and he is around in the office a lot and I am sure he will be great on Rules and Ethics, deciding what is right and what is wrong.

Segal- You should vote for him because he has done well on Elections so far and will be a great asset to Rules and Ethics.

Cicero- Thanks, guys. I have been looking to get more involved and this is a good way to increase my involvement and I am a fair person. I am a Resident Advisor, so I kind of have to be. If anything, this is the right position for me.

Holden- Congratulations, Senator Cicero.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

K. NEW BUSINESS:

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM:

Coates- For the record, the old fee would have been \$1.224 million.

Pilkington- Yield my time to Maureen.

Maureen- Just a reminder that the Student Organization fair is next Wednesday. You can do that online if you go to the SPO page. Also, if you are involved in other student organizations, encourage them to do so. We have a lot of students, transfers, upperclassmen, and commuters who didn't make it to First Night, so we want to try to continue to promote this. 11-3pm in front of the Union. We only have about 30 student groups registered so we are short of the number of groups here. Push that for the regular group.

Brown- As far as the Surf Club, we are throwing a big event on October 19th, called Extreme Sports Caravan. The idea is to have a bunch of events on the quad. Going to be applying for a grant, so just wanted to give you a heads up.

Coates- Yield my time to Officer Mark.

Officer Mark- Blues N' Cues has a little change in it to accommodate students. Once a month, changed from Wednesday to Tuesday, 9-11pm. Pizza is there. Find some time to come on a Wednesday or Tuesday night, I would appreciate your support as always. The new officer Mark Flanagan, Officer Mike, is here, retired police officer from Coventry.

Officer Mike- Thank you. I really hope to meet a lot of you on good terms. I am learning my way around the campus. If you do see me, remind me that I saw you here, and I am hoping to fit in and look forward to this.

Coates- Come to Applebees at 9pm.

N. ADJOURNMENT:

AYE: Barrena, Blanchette, Brehio, Brown, Cahill, Caisse, Cicero, Dobrzynski, Ferreira, Gulum, Jühr, Krauss, Labate, Lamoureux, Longa, Merolla, Nicastro, Pilkington, Pishdadian, Roy, Smith, Stewart, Troiano, Weinreich, Wynne

NAY: Holzman, Knight

NO VOTE: Coates, Holden, Jones, Segal, Zaman

Adjourned 7:35pm