

URI STUDENT SENATE: Fall 2011 ELECTIONS

**Monday, September 12th through Friday, September 22rd (Declaration Period)
Wednesday, September 28th and Thursday, September 29th (Elections)**

Dear Candidates,

Your interest in student government is appreciated. All students are welcome to attend the General Senate Meetings on Wednesday evenings in the Senate Chambers (third floor in the Union) at 6:30 p.m. Agendas for the meetings may be obtained in the Senate Office (Rm. 201 in the Union) prior to the start of the meeting. All students are encouraged to join one of the following Senate committees: *Academic Affairs*, *Campus Affairs*, *Cultural Affairs*, or *External Affairs*. Check the Senate website or with the Senate Office Coordinator for the times and locations of the meetings. Before signing up for the elections, be sure you have **read and understood** the rules and regulations governing elections, found below. Feel free to ask questions if something is unclear. Failure to abide by the election rules may void your candidacy. Remember, only students within the constituency (college / residency group) for which you are running may vote for you. Any student may run or vote for the At-Large seats.

ELECTION RULES

Before filing for any position, all candidates must read these rules and signify their agreement to be bound by them for the purposes of the election.

WHAT IS EXPECTED: All members of the URI Student Senate must attend weekly Senate meetings on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30pm until the time of adjournment. Every Senator is also required to belong to at least one standing committee, and attend all of its weekly meetings. Your term of office ends at the Annual Meeting (the Wednesday following Spring Break), in March of the following year. By declaring your candidacy, you are affirming that you can meet these basic job requirements for the duration of your term of office.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDACY: Any undergraduate who pays the student activities tax and is enrolled as either a full-time or part-time student is eligible to run for office. This eligibility is contingent upon maintaining a 2.0 or higher cumulative GPA. An eligible individual may run for only one (1) position in any given election. Declaration of candidacy must be submitted in writing, and include your full name, student ID number, current *living* address, valid telephone number, the exact way in which you desire your name to appear on the ballot, the position sought, a statement assuring that you have read, understand, and can fulfill the basic job requirements of the position (stated above), and a statement signaling that you will abide by the election rules stated herein.

PLATFORMS: The Committee on Elections shall provide, equally to all candidates for each position, an opportunity to publish without charge a platform. This should be a brief introduction of yourself and your goals. The content of the platform is entirely the responsibility of the respective author, and shall not be edited for content, grammar, or spelling. The platform will be published on the Election Days in *The Good 5¢ Cigar*, and must obey the following format: 75 words, double spaced, 12 pt. *Times New Roman* font, TEXT ONLY. Please submit platforms to urirhodysenate@gmail.com.

CAMPAIGNING: There is no campaign spending limit, and any legal method of promotion or advertisement may be utilized by any candidate, subject to the following stipulations. Posting advertisements may be used on campus, provided that their usage does not harm University or private property nor interferes with the operation of the University. On the days of the election, no person may campaign in the Memorial Union in any way, nor may the candidates be discussed at the polls; any campaigning on that day must take place at least twenty-five (25) feet away from the entrances of the Memorial Union. All flyers and posters are entirely the responsibility of their authors, and must be disposed of properly following the election period. No student activities tax funds may be used in any way to influence the outcome of the election. Flyering of parked cars and door-to-door solicitation in dormitories are not permitted. Posting of campaign materials inside buildings is only permitted if prior permission from the building director is granted.

VOTING: In order to vote, a student must present a valid URI ID or present a valid driver's license AND their student ID number. All eligible voters may cast a vote for the At-Large seats. An eligible voter may only vote in one (1) college and one (1) residential group, of which they must also be a member. A student who is a member of more than one college must choose which one in which they will vote. The residence status and academic college of each student shall be determined by the records of the Registrar's office. No proxy voting is allowed. No candidate may work at the polls or count ballots for any position.

RESULTS: The unofficial results of the election shall be posted by noon of the following day; they will be validated on the next Wednesday at the Senate Meeting if no challenge is lodged. Any candidate may observe the counting of the ballots, and may request a recount of ballots as per Rhode Island State Law. Any challenge to the election results must be brought in writing to the Committee on Elections no later than three days following the posting of the unofficial results. Any decision or interpretation by that committee can be appealed immediately to the Rules and Ethics Committee. Any decision or interpretation by the Rules and Ethics Committee may be immediately appealed to the full senate, which will hear the challenge and render a final decision at the next meeting of the Student Senate. The Senate's decision may not be appealed.

Fall 2011 Election Schedule

Sept. 7th -- First General Senate Meeting - If you're planning on running for election you should attend as many of the General Meetings as possible to see how the Senate works. General Meetings are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Senate Chambers (Memorial Union 3rd floor).

Sept. 12th -- Declaration Period Opens - First day to sign up for the elections! Fill out your candidate declaration form in the Senate Office.

Sept. 23rd -- Declaration Period Closes / Platforms Due Last day to sign up for elections! You must fill out your candidate declaration form by *noon*. Candidates must submit their platforms by 5:00 p.m. to urirhodysenate@gmail.com (make sure they're properly formatted), NO EXCEPTIONS.

Sept. 28th -- Election Day 1 First day to vote for Student Senate representatives Memorial Union,
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 29th -- Election Day 2 Last day to vote for Student Senate representatives Memorial Union,
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 30th -- Election Results Posted Results will be posted on the Senate Office door and in the *Cigar*

Oct. 11th -- New Senator Orientation Newly elected Senators must attend to learn the basics and get assigned to a committee. Refreshments served.

Oct. 12th -- Swearing-in of the New Senate All newly elected senators will be sworn in.