

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. ROLL CALL: Almeida, Bedard, Bickham, Boiteau, Clarke, Coates, Daodu, Faustin, Gaudio, Holden, Holland, Holzman, Kearns, Long, MacKinnon, Messineo, Mingoia, O'Loughlin, Prata, Puleo, Raupers, Renzi, Shah, Sharkey, Simon, Sinapi, Slater, Van Fechtmann, Weiss

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: passed**D. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: passed****E. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holzman-** Motion for pledge.

Clarke- Student came in to talk about a trip to Dominican republic. Political science department. Focus on culture and history. Financial aid and scholarship available and it can be done for credits. Sign up if you're interested.

Coates- 2 free ticks for cabaret for Friday night.

Boiteau- T-shirt that Rachael is wearing we are selling for our class. 5\$ goes to _____ for epilepsy

Messineo- Yensen says hi!

Holden- Don't pay attention to flyers, it already happened.

Clarke- yields time to Sam Ab: 3 credits, \$4000 for the program. Can apply for scholarship/country. If you need more info go to URI and type in African American Studies. Go to June 1 to next year.

F. PUBLIC FORUM: President Dooley

Bedard- Waive the 10 minutes limit on presentation

President Dooley- As regular and frequent as you would like. If you have things you want to talk about or things come up, talk to Dave because he and I talk frequently and I will come over and talk. Want to talk as friends in respect to one another. Everything I have heard about the senate has been uniformly positive. Board of governors-I want to be as candid and open as I can be.

The two points I wanted to make tonight was one I want to ask you to join with me and the faculty in rethinking how we do a lot of things here at URI. I've been saying a few things to the colleges that I think are important.

As an outsider coming in, I think we can do a lot better with general education. I'm not persuaded in GE is the best that we can do for students. I asked the faculty to think about that and lead a quick effort and come up with suggestions and ideas as to how it can be improved.

The other is that universities today are regarded as to what should matter most to us. What does it mean to structure the university, #1 value of undergrad in URI. I think that when we think about those things we can improve. Take fewer classes and therefore have more opportunities to do undergrad research, internships, and so on, outside of the classrooms. Just as well and even better. A lot of studies show that research and internships really help students in the long run-huge benefits for undergrad students.

Faculty has responded pretty enthusiastically about it. I just want to get it on the table with a sense of urgency. Go to work on things that could make URI look differently a year from now, rather than 3 years from now.

Universities that do that and do it well will find two things happen, students will want to come and be a part of that, and money will also come and be a part of that. Demonstrates that they can be innovative, flexible, responsive, entrepreneurship.

I hope that you will be enthusiastic participants in the discussions as well. I don't know the outcomes, but I think it will work here, and work very well.

Second point, begin an early conversation as to what this and next year will look like in a state budget perspective. We will be sharing a process for budgeting and planning that will empower a council who will be charged with developing a budget that will reflect the process. The media can be present if they want to be, such as the cigar or projo. We want to invite people from the university to sit in. A lot more open and more input to the university. Better budgets than what we are developing by our current standards.

The deans are looking at it, we want the planning council by the end of the year. We have to submit 2011 budget without even knowing what our 2010 budget is.

Left to find 65 million in reductions in the budget in July. Bottom line, the state is going to reduce our current operating budget, ours is about \$3.5 million. Some of that is expected to happen in furloughs and work without pay. A tentative agreement was created, but we don't know what that is actually going to

look like. Whether a group of employees will come to work and receive no pay. We don't know who the state is going to do for state workers vs. higher education employees. There's a high expectation that if some do it, more will do it. (workers).

If things happen like last year, Revenues will be down below projections and therefore we are looking into 2010 and 2011 budgets.

Put on the table and alert you to: 1 mechanism to look at...emergency surcharge midyear. If we did nothing to fill any of those positions, we would save 1.5 million dollars and still be at least 2 million short. So the question is what's best? Charge more? More reductions? A mixture?

Notify students in the spring that their bills may be higher, if we don't do that, then we wouldn't be able to do it at all.

Wanted to lay that out for you. We will be working with David and the exec committee. Once it is published by the board of governor higher education I will be more than happy to come and talk to you. Not a lot of people know about this, but I wanted to let you know what was going on. We want what is best for the students. The priority is giving students what they need. Sorry to be a downer.

Boiteau- I know last year did sort of the same thing. To me I just don't think its fair for students half way through the year to change the amount. Students came in this year with a set amount and now if they come half way through the year, I just don't think it's fair. It's not the right time to do it.

Dooley- Last September 2010 budget was created based on the last year. It is not fair. It's flawed. It's not fair to students. It would be helpful to have had this info last year and we could have worked with it differently. I agree with you. And I want to try to build a budget process with a lot more money in it that we want TO committee to spend. So that way we have a cushion there. I don't like it.

Prata- I'm in-state. What is estimated state scholarship?

Dooley- Send me an email, so I can follow up on that. So I can talk to Doogan's financial aid so I can follow and handle that. So I know who to talk to in order to handle that.

Prata- Research grants-13 million dollars. For a woman working at URI. Can any of that money be given to URI?

Dooley- Yes. We do get some, it helps pay lighting, and other aspects of the research. As well as oversight and management.

Clarke- Other than raising tuition, are there any other ideas as to cut spending?

Dooley- Good point. A little reluctant to assume that. Our university was 80 million to less than 60 million. So I think that the university has cut as much as they could to a certain extent. Hundred less employees at URI. Money given back to the state. We became more efficient. Someone retires, or leaves for whatever reason and then the seat remains unfilled. The money spent was about 2 million less than what we spent before. But we always have to work hard. That's one of the reasons why I want to put the budgeting committee together.

Messineo- How do you determine what staffing get the furloughs? Does the state chose, or who does?

Dooley- This to imply to every employee, because that's only fair. Everyone has to agree to come to work and not get paid. Close the state down, there was other discussion that on certain days state buildings will just shut down. We said no, not while the academic year has started. We need to still be functioning.

Some don't have the option to just shut down-such as lab. Animals, or the oceanography department on a boat. It's easier for us to deal with unpaid work rather than shut down days.

Almeida- Since most of the money comes from out of state students how will you be able to get inner city students from Providence?

Dooley- 5 million dollars to help aid those who would have a financial problem otherwise. Say tuition is \$10000 and the state gives you \$5000, then the state is only funding half of your education. It has to be made up somewhere. Instate and out of state students. It's what happens to a lot of state universities like us. We want to make sure all of those that are able to get in and qualify, have the opportunity to get in.

Sinapi- Restoration project cancelled, Varsity sports gone, Club sport-going to world cup, Tuition up. Everyone's pockets are getting lighter because of the economy. Budget and the planning can be transparent from the beginning.

Dooley- The budget had to be bulked and submitted before the semester started. To the department of administration in the state of RI. I find it ironic sand troubling. Submitting budgets without having all of the information. I agree with you. We want to have the budgeting and the planning largely done. We want to build most of the budget of 2012 by the end of 2010. We want to do a lot of work for 2012 budget. The question comes up, what to do next. I want us to have an expedited process in the fall so we can actually use it to do the next budget.

It's a process, what are our priorities? I want the old process to change for the 2012 budget. Everyone I have talked to wants to change the process as well. Energy is behind it and we want to start this process this fall.

Holzman- Any discussion pertaining to the part time faculty?

Dooley- BOG and union reps on the other. Have a large hand in it. BOG reached an agreement just a couple weeks ago, so I think it shows that we can do the same. Try to make a ruling that puts the process forward.

Prata- Yield my time to Jones.

Jones- Meeting with the BOG or Gov himself. I just feel that our governor just doesn't get it. And I wanted to know if there was a way for students to get involved more with this issue.

Dooley- I hope so. We had student Lobbyists. What I've seen in a lot of cases that students are a better advocate and are listened to more than what lobbyists hear from reps or me. They know what I'm going to say. Because of this, it makes students voices more powerful than mine. In talking to the assembly, the administration, and outside supporters. If you have suggestions or ideas, I'd love to hear them.

Slater- If you ask anyone one thing wrong with their department, it could be overlap. Is there a way that we could have a form or something that we could have students form their own departments. There are certain things that are redundant. Two separate offices that do the same thing. Why both? Is there a way student could help cut budget boarders to help make things run smoother?

Dooley- How much inefficiency do we still have? If we don't need to do it, we shouldn't do it. I agree with you that we want to find every opportunity to help do that. Its one of the reasons why I talked about what I talked about in the beginning. If you are spending more time than you need to going over the same material, it could harden our academics. Service learning, research, internship, etc. would help undergrads. Fewer classes extremely well, than larger classes that don't teach as much. I want to do that not really to save money but give you a better education. We need to have a look at exactly those kinds of things.

Slater- I don't think people realize that there are overlaps. They don't look outside their bubble.

Dooley- One problem for URI, I don't think there has been enough communication. How do we structure to create better outcomes?

Coates- RI increased student population, without possibly keeping up with infrastructure for those students, possibly come to a point that we create a better infrastructure?

Dooley- I'm not convinced that URI has more students than it has. The student faculty ratio is excellent. 15 to 1. That's excellent for a university like URI. It doesn't need to get any lower to provide an excellent education. If there were more students, we one wouldn't have anywhere to house them, and that ratio wouldn't be as good. I think that more international students/multicultural students would be positive on this campus. I want to see the university become more diverse. Learn more culture through peers. Adjust the distribution of students in the university. Something that would possibly have a positive effect would be enrolling more graduate students. I think that having grad students work with undergrad would be great for peer learning. They are people of some achievement; they have more in common with students and would be positive for both parties.

Less undergrad, more graduate level students. That's something we should and need to focus on. What should the student body look like? Undergraduate and graduate?

Sinapi- It was nice to hear that you mentioned different types of students.

Also, I want to thank you for mentioning the graduate and undergraduate student enrollment comments. I've never heard any faculty or staff mention it before, and I think that that point, is very important.

Dooley- I think it's a national shame that we cannot afford and don't invest in national education the way in which we once did. It's difficult and that's why I want to keep that in front of URI as a goal for us to think about all the time.

Prata- Yield to Sam.

Sam- How do you intend to strengthen the bonds between student senate and the multicultural department?

Dooley- Not just tolerate or see difference, but actually respect, learn from and understand different cultures. It has never been more important for American students in particular to meet, see and work with other people. How do we build community, that's why we are setting up a space in the president's house for groups to come together? I think that's really important. Finding opportunities to get students involved. I think it's a way to bring students together. Working down in New Orleans, Indian reservations, anything is such an opportunity.

You have my email, you will get a response. Its there, and really, I want to hear from you.

Bedard- Presents award to President.

G. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE: Holzman-** Outing club came for rock gym passes.
- **STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (SOARC): Holland-** Rerec paperwork already. Oct 7 is the due date. Brainstorming ideas as to how _____. Hopefully I will be working closely with chairwoman Prata. Meetings are Monday at 5:30 in room 315.
- **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Coates-** Talked about advising. Projo coming in October. Dean of libraries has not yet filled seats. Very important position. Want student input. If you want to get involved, let Dave know.
- **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Clarke-** November 17th at Roger Williams –open meeting. Reminder coalition meeting is the 8th. Leaving a box in the office, if you have questions put it in the box. Organizing for America-offering internships, once she sends me more information, I will send it to all of you.
- **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Prata-** Changing the meeting time to Mondays in room 301 from 4-5. Urge all of you to attend one or two events during diversity week. Do a little write up. Upcoming events: planning on holiday events. Everyone and anyone can be on cultural affairs.
Messineo- POI aren't finance and SOARC meetings closed?
- **CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Sinapi-** Parking should be more or less the same amount as what we had in the beginning, just in different locations. The buses have been having problems because of the gates. Watch out for and report reckless driving from bus drivers. Safety and lighting is almost done. Hertz is pending, going through the lawyers to see if there's anything else we have to do.
- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**
 - a. **Director of Communications Simon:** Talking with Kim about trying to send the monthly newsletter to students over the URI listserv. It's hard because they are picky about what goes out through listserv, but still trying. Also, posted on our website. The more things we do online, less we do on paper...save money and stay green. Ideas?
Almeida- Quad hand out newsletter even if each of us hand out ten.
Bedard- save money and paper trying to get more people to go to our website. When the newsletter comes out, let people know.
Holzman- how many were printed last year?
Simon- One to all student groups and some extra.
Bedard- About 150.
Almeida- How many this year?
Bedard- Same range, just not increase it. Going for more online.
Coates- Maybe if the situation comes up with a month of .
O'Loughlin- listserv?
Simon- That's what Kim and I are trying to do.
Almeida- How many times do you go on your email? It's better on paper.
Simon: I don't check mine often either. But usually freshmen have more of a likelihood to check that account...trying to get them to see what our school is offering, events, groups, and how to get involved...hopefully listserv (If we're able to use it) will help reach out to them. It's also posted on the website.
Long- Where's the senate website? I find it difficult to get to senate's page. Is there a way to have a link from URI site to senate's site?
Bedard- Search it or go to uristudentsenate.org. It's not as difficult as it seems.

Bruce- It's very difficult for a lot of things to get on the front page of that website. Keep trying to improve what's going on for the students. Active calendar etc.

- b. **Secretary Harrington-** not here
- c. **Treasurer Boiteau-** Paying bills.
- d. **Vice President Shah-** Retreat Retreat ! Tell me if you cannot come. LET ME KNOW! Be at the office at noon so we can go on time.

Bruce: Isn't this mandatory?

Shah: Yes. BBQ was fun. Next time hopefully more people can come. If you have any questions, let me know.

Messineo: What time will we be done?

Shah: 8, we will have dinner.

Mingoia: My friend's running the retreat and she said we are doing the high course. It will be fun. Zip line, rock climbing, so fun!

Shah: We're one of the first to do the high ropes course.

- e. **President Bedard-**

Retreat is mandatory. See you at noon! 1st blog on the website is up. It went up on Friday. Working with survey monkey. Regarding the President- student groups up to president's house. Converted the downstairs as a student hang out. Student senate October 4th (Sunday) we are going there. It isn't mandatory. For all of the representatives, I will be setting up meetings for you. Off campus reps-

On campus-HRL

College- someone in your college

I will have more info, but keep in mind that this will be taking place. I would like these to happen before the end of October. And I'll hark on that more later. Committees still have open seats. The library committee doesn't sound exciting, but it is. Part of that is redrawing the library, how its set up, etc. SOLC is an affiliate of Senate. Other idea-senate outreach program-required senators to go to at least one other organization's meeting. Along those lines, go to an event. If you have questions, come talk to me after the meeting.

Prata- meeting at the pres house time?

Bedard- 7-730

Slater- I'll take one of the library seats.

Messineo- I'll take the second library seat.

Holzman- "and where is that list hiding?"

Bedard- the office...on the table...you cant miss it. Michelle will be forwarding those dates to me so groups can sign up to go to the president's house. Around 40 students at a time. Smaller groups team up. Probably by Monday, there will be a list of dates open.

Bruce- keep in mind, don't just pair up with a normal group that you would. Try to switch it up.

Bedard- senate is pushing collaboration this year. Get groups to talk and meet each other.

- **RULES AND ETHICS:** no report

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Elections: If you signed up to help run the election booth on September 30th and October 1st, you must be there. It counts as your office hour. If you have spare time during those days, please come and help out...there are times where no one signed up. So far each open seat has someone running for it...hope to get some more to increase competition. The last day to sign up is the 25th at noon. TELL PEOPLE TO SIGN UP!

Bedard: Encourage people to still sign up. Want competition to expand election.

I. SPECIAL ORDERS: nothing

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

K. NEW BUSINESS: nada

L. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM:

Holland- motion to adjourn, Prata seconds.

M. ROLL CALL: AYE: Almeida, Bickham, Clarke, Daodu, Einhorn, Farrow, Gaudio, Holden, Holland, Long, MacKinnon, Messineo, Mingoia, O'Loughlin, Prata, Puleo, Raupers, Renzi, Sharkey, Sinapi, Van Fechtmann, Weiss

NAY: Coates, Holzman, Slater

No Vote: Bedard, Boiteau, Shah, Simon

N. ADJOURNMENT: