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$5,880 granted by Student Senate

by Anne Coppinger
Cigar News Staff

The Student Senate Monday night appropriated $5,880 in grants and $6,750 in loans to several organizations including the Weekenders, the Student Lecture Series, and the Student Entertainment Committee.

The Senate passed a $2,280 programming grant for the Weekenders. The money will be used for expenses for the Roomful of Blues concert and for a wine tasting event. Expenses include advertising, security, printing of tickets and technical crews for the concert.

Student Lecture Series received a program grant of $1,600. This will be put towards the expenses of another lecture.

Student Entertainment Committee was given a programming grant of $2,000 and a floatable loan of $3,500. This money will be used for a spring concert. Expenses include paying the entertainer, security, advertising and tickets.

A floatable loan is one in which an amount is given and the receiving organization returns as much as possible.

The Gay Student Coalition was granted eligibility for Senate funding. Carl Swanson, president of GSC, said his organization is a political organization whose purpose is "to eradicate homophobia." Swanson defined homophobia as "an intense, irrational dislike of homosexuals."

Swanson said URI is far behind other colleges in supporting gay students. He said Rhode Island College already has a "very viable gay organization funded by students."

The Senate also approved a plan to help Little Brother/Little Sister purchase a new van. Previously, the Senate had agreed to match the amount that Little Brother/Little Sister can pay in the form of a loan. The amount settled upon was $3,250 each. This loan will be paid back to the Senate.

Winnie Brownell, acting Dean of the College of Human Sciences, presented a plan for an "Almost Anything Goes" competition for April 13. The competitions will be between faculty and administration and the students. Funds raised from this event will be used for scholarships based upon merit, Brownell said.