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Bethany D. Jenkins
Faculty Representative

Hannah Bachert '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2022 · 3:45 p.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Alumni Center – Beagle Board Room
73 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee held a hybrid meeting. Public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform.

Committee Chair Thomas Ryan conducted a formal roll call and confirmed that a quorum of members was present. The meeting was called to order at 3:48 p.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee members participating:

- Mr. Thomas Ryan, Committee Chair (virtual)
- Mr. David Martirano, Committee Vice Chair (virtual)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (virtual)
- Mr. Michael McNally, Board of Trustees Vice Chair (virtual)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (virtual)
- Ms. Hannah Bachert, Student Representative (non-voting) (virtual)

URI President's Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Ms. Abby Benson, Chief of Staff, Senior Advisor to the President (virtual)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (virtual)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (in person)
- Dr. Sean Rogers, Interim Vice President, Community, Equity & Diversity (in person)

"The University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional stomping ground of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People. We honor and respect the enduring and continuing relationship between the Indigenous people and this land by teaching and learning more about their history and present-day communities, and by becoming stewards of the land we, too, inhabit."

URI Staff members in attendance:

- Captain Michael Chalek, URI Police Department (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Chief Michael A. Jagoda, URI Police Department, Director Public Safety (in person)
- Mr. Frankie Minor, Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs and Director of Housing (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary (in person)
- Ms. Carol Pegg, M.Ed., Executive Assistant II (remote)

Chair Ryan acknowledged that the University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional homeland of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People.

Chair Ryan asked for any proposed amendments to the published agenda. Hearing none, the committee proceeded to the first item on the Agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the June 23, 2022 Meeting. [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022, meeting of the Committee.

On a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Michael McNally, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee approve the minutes for the meeting of June 23, 2022.

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Michael Fascitelli, David Martirano, Michael McNally, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Housing and Residential Life Update [Enclosure 2.a.](#)

- Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs

Interim Vice President, Dr. Ellen Reynolds began her presentation by sharing Housing and Residential Life's (HRL) residence hall occupancy comparing pre-pandemic (2019) numbers to

current occupancy, noting that during the pandemic occupancy numbers fell due to the University pivoting to online learning and many students choosing to remain at their homes. She added that housing normally sees a drop in residency by 10 percent from fall to the spring semester for a variety of reasons, such as December graduation and fewer transfers, however currently the drop in residency is at 7 percent.

Vice Chair Martirano inquired about the housing capacity and how many students could be accommodated. Dr. Reynolds stated that a higher capacity was afforded through tripling (placing three students in each room) and the current maximum capacity is 5,380.

Interim Vice President Reynolds continued her report and provided the University of Rhode Island's community demographics categorized by gender, ethnicity, and residency. She also shared the collaborative effort between housing, admissions, and other partners on campus to ensure students had a seamless transition back to campus. She noted further that there were some challenges in fall 2022 due to more returning students' wanting to move back to campus that couldn't be accommodated; this is a national trend that colleges and universities are experiencing.

Dr. Reynolds shared the importance of Resident Assistants (RAs) and Resident Academic Mentors (RAMs) who are responsible for helping students feel welcomed and supporting our students by providing programs and activities to help students navigate college life. RAs and RAMs are trained in leadership and conflict resolution and given skills to fully support and mentor students living in the residence halls. RAMs also assist in the residential Living Learning Communities (LLC) dedicated to specific academic colleges, by providing academic support through study groups, schedules, and working toward academic success.

Dr. Reynolds continued her report sharing housing's financial status. She explained that HRL is an auxiliary, meaning they are completely self-funded with revenue mostly generated by rentals. HRL has a current budget (FY23) of approximately \$48.8M spread over human resources, operating, and capital expenses. HRL has a fund balance of approximately \$20M dedicated to capital improvements.

Dr. Reynolds provided an inventory of the residence halls on campus. She reported that there are twenty-six different halls on campus with a variety of styles; corridor, tower, suites, apartment, etc. that can house approximately 5,500 students.

Dr. Reynolds provided an overview of what is next for housing and residential life. They are working with campus partners on a master housing study and needs assessment, moving forward with new construction for undergraduate residences, upgrading graduate housing, and conducting two housing studies that analyze number and data comparisons with peer institutions and assess student experience and satisfaction. Dr. Reynolds also reported that looking toward fall 2023, admissions, enrollment management, and HRL are focusing on how to increase housing availability for sophomores through seniors due to the increase in demand for housing on campus.

Chair Ryan asked if HRL's master housing study is going to look at space needs, amenities, etc. for three to seven years out and how the dorms would be laid out differently, how many students do we want to live on campus, and lastly, are public/private partnerships going to be included?

Dr. Reynolds answered there will be a need to have many focus groups with different groups to find out what students' wants and needs are, as it refers to types and styles of housing they'd like to live in. It also has to look at what HRL can afford to build and where on campus do we build.

Committee member Fascitelli asked what the timing on the build was. Dr. Reynolds answered that this work was already underway and awaiting information about potential costs and what HRL, therefore students, can afford in this market. Chair Ryan suggested that a private company be brought in to simultaneously assess the economics of this project.

Student representative Bachert asked if there were any plans to renovate the older residence halls that returning sophomores and juniors are most often assigned to. Dr. Reynolds concurred that while some of those halls are very old and need upgrading, they have to consider when to pull a hall offline to perform a major renovation. She stated that presently it is very challenging to complete major renovations during the summer which is the only time they are currently not in use. Therefore, going forward with construction of a new residence hall is the best route to enable renovations on the older buildings.

Chair Ryan stated that, although there are limited resources, there should be ongoing work on dormitories.

b. Campus Safety and Security Update [Enclosure 2.b.](#)

-Michael Jagoda, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

Chief Jagoda introduced Captain Michael Chalek, who is responsible for security and safety at the University's satellite campus as well as the detective unit and supervises all of URI's criminal investigations.

Chief Jagoda began his presentation with an overview of the department of public safety's annual security and fire safety report (Clery Report – Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Crime Statistics Act). He added that public safety works collaboratively with partners on campus to educate the campus community to be safe in their surroundings, prevent crimes, and promote fire safety. He added that the report gives details on how to report crimes such as missing students, sexual assaults, and alcohol and drug use. Chief Jagoda explained that the Clery Report defines the reportable crimes that must be recorded yearly along with statistics from two prior years.

Chief Jagoda continued his report with an overview of the campus geography for which the department of public safety is responsible and also spoke of the relationship that public safety has with local law enforcement agencies.

Chief Jagoda explained that the Clery Report is broken down into four sections: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) offenses; weapons, drugs, and alcohol offenses; hate crimes; and larceny, intimidation, simple assault, and vandalism offenses. Chief Jagoda gave an overview of the 2021 crime statistics across the URI campuses citing the numbers for arrests, drugs and alcohol arrests or referrals to URI's conduct system, and also the VAWA offenses. He added that the Clery Report also includes a report on fire safety which encompasses all fire-related policies and procedures.

Chief Jagoda concluded by saying that the University of Rhode Island is very safe. The Office of Public Safety works hard to ensure that our campuses are safe, and the officers are highly trained to meet a variety of challenges and work collaboratively with other departments on campus that help to build trust and confidence with all community members.

Chair Ryan inquired on how many officers are at the Kingston campus, to which Chief Jagoda replied that there are 33 sworn police officers with arrest powers who have gone through the municipal training and post academies and are fully certified. There are also 19 security officers throughout URI's three main campuses.

Chair Ryan asked whether, besides the Clery Report, does public safety monitor anything differently that is unique to URI, and what does the student survey say about how students feel about security on campus.

In answer to that question, Chief Jagoda stated that public safety has a call for service system to address needs from lockouts or automobile jumpstarts to crime reporting to which the police respond to promptly. As far as how students feel about security, Chief Jagoda outlined a variety of services that campus police provide, as well as forming community partnerships to build students' trust and confidence, and work with the Police/Student Advisory Council (PSAC), Student Senate and University partners regarding safety and security issues.

In reference to the student survey on security, Chief Jagoda replied by saying he met with the Student Senate to hear feedback, though most of their questions centered around transportation and parking. He further stated that university communities pose challenges because when relationships and bonds are built, the community changes every four years, so those relationships constantly change but the police departments continue to build those relationships through community programming.

Chair Ryan asked student representative Hannah Bachert if she had any comments regarding safety and security and she responded by saying she and her friends always feel safe on campus and that the police department does an amazing job at keeping the campus community safe.

Board Vice Chair McNally asked about the Clery Report and the seemingly significant jump in reported rapes on campus. Chief Jagoda replied that it was less a significant increase but more a reflection that survivors are more willing to come forward and seek help and services. Dr. Ellen

Reynolds concurred and stated further that first-year students go through sexual misconduct prevention training and there is a correlation between their education and the number of reports. Students also have the ability to speak with our Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services (VPAS) counselor so not all reports make it into the Clery Report. She agrees that there is an increase in number of reports because the students now have education and resources and the feeling of support by the institution. While it appears there are increased reports, that may not translate into an increased number of cases.

3. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the October 17, 2022 meeting.

On a motion duly made by Michael Fascitelli and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee adjourn the meeting of October 17, 2022.

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Michael Fascitelli, David Martirano, Michael McNally, and Thomas Ryan

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

The next URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2023.