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**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Monday, October 31, 2022 • 12:30 p.m. EDT**

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Committee Chair Neil Kerwin welcomed everyone to the October 31, 2022, meeting of the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees. The meeting was held in person, with Committee members participating remotely. Chair Kerwin conducted an attendance roll call and determined that a quorum was present. He then read a statement acknowledging that the University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional homeland of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People. At 12:35 p.m., this meeting was called to order.

The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee members in attendance:

- Dr. Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair (remote)
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds, Committee Vice Chair (remote)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty (remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (remote)
- Ms. Susan Petrovas (remote)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins (non-voting, remote)
- Ms. Margo Cook, Board Chair (ex-officio, voting, remote)
- Mr. Michael McNally, Board Vice Chair (ex-officio, voting, remote)
- Dr. Marc Parlange, URI President (ex-officio, non-voting, remote)

The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee member not in attendance:

- Mr. Richard Humphrey

"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."

The University of Rhode Island President’s Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Dr. Laura L. Beauvais, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)
- Ms. Abby Benson, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (remote)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources (remote)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (remote)
- Dr. Peter J. Snyder, Vice President, Research & Economic Development (in person)
- Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Interim Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity (remote)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Dr. Hyunjin Kim, Associate Professor, School of Education (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Shawn Marie Simmons, Executive Assistant (remote)
- Dr. Annemarie Vaccaro, Associate Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies (in person)
- Dr. Anne Veeger, Vice Provost for Academic Faculty Initiatives (remote)

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the September 9, 2022 Meeting [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held September 9, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Karina Montilla Edmonds, it was

VOTED	THAT:	The Academic Affairs and Research Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held September 9, 2022.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Laura Beauvais, reported on fall enrollment, international programs, and the implementation of the new university strategic plan. Chair Kerwin, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Laura for her dedicated service as Interim Provost.

3. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER

Dr. Peter Snyder discussed research staffing issues. He noted that President Parlange has requested a short-term plan to use fund balance on a couple of key positions, and they hope to do some targeted hiring over the next two years.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Review of the awarding of honorary degrees for Commencement 2023 and recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the awarding of honorary degrees for Commencement 2023, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Karina Montilla Edmonds, it was

VOTED	THAT:	The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the awarding of honorary degrees for Commencement 2023, as recommended and presented.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

b. Review of amendments to the Academic Affairs and Research Committee Charter, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure 4.b.](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Committee Charter, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.b.

On a motion duly made by Karina Montilla Edmonds and seconded by Matt Lenz, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Committee Charter, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.b.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

c. Review of the following academic program changes, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees:

- Creation of the URI B.S. in Early Childhood Education, Pre-K-2
- Creation of the URI B.A. in World Language Education [Enclosure 4.c.](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the academic program changes listed above and detailed in Enclosure 4.c.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Charles Fogarty, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the following academic program changes, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.c.:

- Creation of the URI B.S. in Early Childhood Education, Pre-K-2
- Creation of the URI B.A. in World Language Education

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of October 31, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Margo Cook and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT: The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee adjourn the meeting of October 31, 2022.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2023.