

Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Michael D. Fascitelli '78

Charles Fogarty '80

Christine Heenan

Richard S. Humphrey

Neil Kerwin, Ph.D. '73

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

David Martirano '91

Michael F. McNally '81, *Vice Chair*

Karina Montilla Edmonds, Ph.D. '92

Cortney M. Nicolato '01

Vahid Ownjazayeri

Susan Petrovas '92

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01

Thomas Ryan '75

Armand E. Sabitoni '73

Ex Officio Members

Marc B. Parlange, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President

Chair
R.I. Board of Education

David Caprio, *Chair*
*R.I. Council on Postsecondary
Education*

Bethany D. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Faculty Representative

Hannah Bachert '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. EST**

**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 February 7, 2023, 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. Public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform and is available for viewing at <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

Committee Chair Kerwin conducted an attendance roll call and determined that a quorum was present. At 9:02 a.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)
- Honorable Charles Fogarty (Committee Vice Chair) (remote)
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds (remote)
- Ms. Susan Petrovas (remote)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins (non-voting) (remote)
- Dr. Marc Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)

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

- Mr. Richard Humphrey
- Ms. Christine Heenan

URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
February 7, 2023

learning more about their history and present-day communities, and by becoming stewards of the land we, too, inhabit.”

The URI Board of Trustees members present as guests:

- Ms. Margo Cook (remote)
- Mr. Michael McNally (remote)

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

- 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. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management (remote)
- Dr. Peter J. Snyder, Vice President, Research & Economic Development (remote)
- Dr. Barbara E. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Dr. Matthew Bodah, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel & Budget (remote)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Dr. Kristin Johnson, Vice Provost for Global Initiatives (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Shawn Marie Simmons, Executive Assistant (remote)
- Dr. John Stringer, Executive Director, Institutional Research (remote)
- Dr. Anne Veeger, Vice Provost for Academic Faculty Initiatives (remote)

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the October 31, 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 October 31, 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 October 31, 2022.
-------	-------	--

	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0
--	-------	--

members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty,
Neil Kerwin, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Committee Chair Kerwin asked for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee amend the agenda to allow the committee to consider the scheduled action items before proceeding to the reports.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Susan Petrovas, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee
amend the agenda to allow the committee to
consider the scheduled action items before
proceeding to the reports.

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

YEAS: Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty,
Neil Kerwin, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Review of the granting of tenure effective August 27, 2023, to incoming faculty member Dr. Jean Gordon who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. Enclosure 4. a.**

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 granting of tenure, effective August 27, 2023, to incoming faculty member Dr. Jean Gordon who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.a.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Susan Petrovas, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of

the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective August 27, 2023, to incoming faculty member Dr. Jean Gordon who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.a.](#)

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

YEAS: Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Review of the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Fall 2022 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation for approval 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 the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Fall 2022 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.b.](#)

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Susan Petrovas, 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 undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Fall 2022 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.b.](#)

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

YEAS: Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER [Enclosure 2.](#)

- a. Report on key performance metrics**
- b. Overview of academic efforts in support of student success**
- c. Update of progress, metrics, and planned action steps of academic initiatives in the current University Strategic Plan**

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Barbara Wolfe, presented her first report to the Board of Trustees. She provided the most recent information on key performance metrics, an overview of academic efforts in support of student success and provided an update on the academic portion of the new URI strategic plan.

3. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER [Enclosure 3.](#)

- a. Special Committee on Research**
- b. Brief Update on Plastics: Land to Sea COLAB, and Potential Next COLAB**
- c. Brief Update on 1st of Three Planned Innovation Centers – Rapid Progress**

Dr. Peter Snyder discussed the formation of a special ad hoc committee on research, gave a brief update on URI's COLAB initiatives to work on the issue of plastic in the oceans, and provided an update on the first of three planned innovation centers.

5. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 7, 2023.

On a motion duly made by Susan Petrovas and seconded by Charles Fogarty, it was

VOTED: THAT: The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee adjourn the meeting of February 7, 2023.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Karina Montilla Edmonds left the meeting prior to the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

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

Official