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**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 2023 • 12:00 P.M. EDT**

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Committee Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni welcomed everyone to the February 9, 2023, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee and noted that the meeting was being held in person, with board members participating remotely via Webex. Public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube Livestream video platform. A recording of the meeting is available for viewing at: <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

Noting that a quorum of members of the Finance and Facilities Committee was present, Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee members in attendance:

- Vahid Ownjazayeri, Chair (remote)
- Armand Sabitoni, Vice Chair (remote)
- David Martirano (remote)
- Cortney Nicolato (remote)
- Susan Petrovas (remote)
- President Marc Parlange (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)

The URI Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee members not in attendance:

- Michael Fascitelli
- David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting)

"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."

Members of the URI Board of Trustees in attendance:

- Margo Cook, Board of Trustees Chair (remote)

Members of the President's Leadership Council in attendance:

- Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs (remote)
- Abigail Rider, Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)
- Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

The URI staff members in attendance:

- Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities (remote)
- Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate Development (in person)
- Michelle Curreri, Secretary, Board of Trustees (in person)
- Daniel Moos, Assistant to the Vice President for Administration and Finance (in person)
- Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary, Board of Trustees (in person)

Vice Chair Sabitoni 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 18, 2022 Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee** [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni asked for a motion that the Finance and Facilities Committee approve the minutes of its October 18, 2022 Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Institutional Risk and Compliance Committees.

On a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Vahid Ownjazayeri, it was

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the minutes of its October 18, 2022 Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Institutional Risk and Compliance Committees.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Martirano, Cortney Nicolato, Susan Petrovas, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Approvals Under the Delegation of Authority to the President Relating to Land and Property.

[Enclosure 2.a.](#)

Ryan Carrillo, Director of Planning and Real Estate Development, noted that since the November 4, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting two transactions were submitted and approved by the State Properties Committee, in accordance with their regulations. He discussed the two transactions:

1. A Restated Memorandum of Agreement & Site License Agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). This agreement continues an existing relationship between URI and RIEMA for the operation and maintenance of a RI Statewide Communications Network (RISCON) antenna on the water tower at the Kingston Campus. The original agreement took effect in 2008. The restated memorandum serves to update language in the 2008 agreement, clarifies that a 2019 agreement was never implemented, and allows for the installation of a generator. State Properties approved this agreement on December 20, 2022.

2. An Easement Agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Narragansett Electric Company for an overhead and underground distribution system on the northeasterly side of Plains Road, Kingston (Plat 23-1, Lot 1). This electrical easement serves to connect the Plains Road Solar Energy Facility to the grid. State Properties approved this agreement on February 7, 2023.

b. University Financial Update: Governor's FY24 Recommended Budget and URI Mid-Year Review.

[Enclosure 2.b.](#)

President Marc Parlange presented an overview of the University's FY24 Budget Request, the Governor's FY24 Recommended Budget, and details of the URI Mid-Year budget review. The presentation can be found [here](#). The President noted that he will be presenting this information to the Rhode Island Senate President and the Speaker of the House with the intent of showing the needed investment in URI and the proposed return on that investment to the state overall. A discussion ensued regarding the best strategy for President Parlange to undertake in making these presentations. President Parlange noted that in addition to planning URI Day, he is planning an op-ed piece and working with the Alumni Association to tell this story.

c. Review of the "Annual Information for Bondholders FY2022." [Enclosure 2.c.](#)

Vice President Abigail Rider provided an overview of the Annual Information to Bondholders. She noted that this information is submitted to bondholders annually. It is also reviewed annually by bond counsel for compliance. The information is currently posted to EMMA (Electronic Municipal Bondholder Access).

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Review of a Lease Agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the United States Government through the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA) for use of space in the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences

(CBLs), Morrill Hall and Woodward Hall, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.
[Enclosure 3.a.](#)

Director Carrillo discussed the support of USDA at the University, particularly for research in the Graduate School of Oceanography. He noted that the space under question is currently unoccupied and that USDA will complete all renovations and take a 10-year lease on the space.

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the Finance and Facilities Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Lease Agreement and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the Lease Agreement with the United States Government through the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA) for use of space in the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences (CBLs), Morrill Hall and Woodward Hall, Kingston as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 3.a.

On a motion duly made by Vahid Ownjazayeri and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The Finance and Facilities Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Lease Agreement and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the Lease Agreement with the United States Government through the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA) for use of space in the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences (CBLs), Morrill Hall and Woodward Hall, Kingston as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 3.a.
VOTE:		5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
YEAS:		David Martirano, Cortney Nicolato, Susan Petrovas, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Armand Sabitoni.
NAYS:		0
ABSTAINS:		0

4. ADJOURN

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni thanked members of the Committee and called for a motion that the Finance and Facilities Committee adjourn the meeting of February 9, 2023.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Susan Petrovas, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The Finance and Facilities Committee adjourn the meeting of February 9, 2023.
VOTE:		5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

URI Board of Trustees
Meeting of the URI Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee
February 9, 2023

YEAS: David Martirano, Cortney Nicolato, Susan Petrovas, Vahid
Ownjazayeri, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next meetings of The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee is tentatively scheduled for April 2023.

Official