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Faculty Representative

Hannah Bachert '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Meeting Room 103
Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center
45 Upper College Road
Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting was held in person, with committee members participating remotely. Virtual 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 welcomed everyone to the April 6, 2023, meeting of the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees. He conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present. At 9:05 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 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

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. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President for Student Affairs (remote)
- Dr. Barbara E. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (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, CEPS (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 February 7, 2023, 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 February 7, 2023.

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

VOTED	THAT:	The Academic Affairs and Research Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held February 7, 2023.
	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Karina Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Susan Petrovas.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Provost Wolfe reported about the ongoing searches for several key positions with assistance from Isaacson Miller. She announced that Dr. Sean Rogers has been appointed dean of the College of Business and welcomed him to his new role. His current position is Chief Diversity Officer, and Dr. Ellen Reynolds will chair that search.

Provost Wolfe then gave a brief update on the selection of this year's speaker for URI's main commencement ceremony. She also discussed annual faculty reviews, promotion, and tenure; potential plans to sell the Shepard Building in Providence; and the plans for each college to participate in strategic plan mapping.

Provost Wolfe announced that Dr. Bethany Jenkins will serve as interim vice president, Research and Economic Development, replacing Dr. Peter Snyder, effective April 8, 2023. Provost Wolfe and Committee Chair Kerwin both expressed thanks to Dr. Snyder for his service to the University.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Annual Review of the Academic Affairs and Research Committee Charter

[Enclosure 3.a.](#)

b. Annual Review of the Academic Affairs and Research Committee Calendar

[Enclosure 3.b.](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin asked that committee members review the Academic Affairs and Research Committee calendar and charter and provide input. He also stated that the committee will act on these documents at the June meeting.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Review of the awarding of an honorary degree for Commencement 2023 and recommendation for approval to the URI 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 an honorary degree for Commencement 2023, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Karina Edmonds 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 an honorary degree for Commencement 2023, as recommended and presented.
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VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
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voted in the negative.

YEAS: Karina 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 Spring 2023 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 Spring 2023 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 Karina Edmonds 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 Spring 2023 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 Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin,
Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- c. Review of the awarding of tenure, effective June 18, 2023, to Dr. Kenneth Rubin,**

Graduate School of Oceanography, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees. [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 granting of tenure, effective June 18, 2023, to incoming faculty member Dr. Kenneth Rubin, Graduate School of Oceanography, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.c.](#)

On a motion duly made by Karina Edmonds 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 June 18, 2023, to incoming faculty member Dr. Kenneth Rubin, Graduate School of Oceanography, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.c.
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VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
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YEAS:	Karina Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Susan Petrovas.
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NAYS:	0
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ABSTAINS:	0
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d. Review of the following academic program closures, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees: [Enclosure 4.d.](#)

-- Closure of the URI B.S. in Non-Profit Administration

-- Closure of the URI B.S. in Professional Leadership Studies

Provost Wolfe explained that the programs have had little or no enrollment for some time; and given the current market, URI will take action to close them. Brief discussion followed.

On a motion duly made by Karina Edmonds 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 following academic program changes, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.d.
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VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
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YEAS: Karina Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin,
Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- e. **Review of the following academic program creation and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees: [Enclosure 4.e.](#)**
-- Creation of the PhD in Education graduate degree program

Dr. Annemarie Vaccaro presented the proposed new degree program, and brief discussion followed.

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

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the creation of the PhD in Education graduate program, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.e.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. **ADJOURN**

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of April 6, 2023.

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

VOTED THAT: The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee adjourn the meeting of April 6, 2023.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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

Official