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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  
Governance Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 6, 2023 · 10:30 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island  
Meeting Room 130 · Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center  
45 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Committee Vice Chair Jay Placencia welcomed everyone to the April 6, 2023, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees Governance Committee and noted that the meeting was being held in person with board members participating remotely. Virtual access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform and is available for viewing at <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

Board secretary Michelle Curreri conducted a roll call attendance and reported that a quorum of members was present. Vice Chair Placencia called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee members in attendance:

- Ms. Jay Placencia (Committee Vice Chair) (remote)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (remote)
- Mr. David Caprio (non-voting) (remote)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)

The URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee members not participating:

- Ms. Cortney Nicolato, Committee Chair
- Ms. Christine Heenan

*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 is an equal opportunity employer committed to community, equity, and diversity and to the principles of affirmative action.*

URI 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. Elizabeth Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (remote)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President for Student Affairs (remote)
- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

URI 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)

Committee Vice Chair Placencia 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 Governance Committee Meeting. [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

Vice Chair Placencia called for a motion that the Governance Committee of the URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023 meeting of the Committee.

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

VOTED:      THAT      The URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee  
approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023 meeting  
of the Committee.

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

YEAS:      Charles Fogarty, Matthew Lenz, Jay Placencia.

NAYS:      0

ABSTAINS: 0

## 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. URI Board of Trustees Appointments

Vice Chair Placencia reported that on March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Committee on Education met to consider for advice and consent the following reappointments made by Governor McKee:

- Reappointment of Armand E. Sabitoni to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees for a term expiring February 1, 2026.
- Reappointment of Jay Placencia to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees for a term expiring February 1, 2025.
- Reappointment of Matthew Lenz to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees for a term expiring February 1, 2025.
- Reappointment of Charles Fogarty to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees for a term expiring February 1, 2024.
- Reappointment of Margo Cook to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees for a term expiring February 1, 2026.

The Senate Committee interviewed the trustees and approved their reappointments. That same day, the full Senate approved the reappointments. Additional hearing(s) will be scheduled to consider advice and consent on the Governor's remaining reappointments and appointments.

**b. Student Trustee Appointment**

President Parlange reported on the selection process for the next student trustee appointment. He noted that seventeen students applied; he interviewed three very engaging finalists. Sophomore Revaa Goyal has been selected to serve as student member. President Parlange reviewed her qualifications and her involvement in the URI community.

**c. Finalize Agenda for Annual Board Retreat – June 29, 2023**

Vice Chair Placencia thanked Abby Benson and staff for putting together the upcoming board retreat. She thanked committee members for their input on what they would like to see at the retreat and encouraged them to share any additional ideas. Abby Benson reported that the annual board retreat will include a speaker, Michael Ledford, President of Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, who has over two decades of experience in public policy and advocacy. Mr. Ledford has been involved in shaping policy throughout the federal process, including shepherding large-scale research grants through congressional appropriations and the oversight process. Mr. Ledford will present a view from Washington on the trends in higher education, including the policy and budget front, looking at research and higher education policy. The Provost will then moderate a panel discussion to include Dean Marchese (Engineering), Dean Riley (Arts and Sciences) and Dean Rogers (Business). The panel will build on Mr. Ledford's presentation and will look at how the colleges plan to implement initiatives outlined in the University's strategic plan, Focus URI.

**d. Annual Board Self-Assessment Form**

Vice Chair Placencia reported that the self-assessment form will be distributed to board members following the April meetings, with results reviewed at the June retreat.

**e. Board of Trustees Orientation Manual**

Vice Chair Placencia noted that a lot of time and effort went into creating the board orientation manual several years ago. Updates to the electronic edition of the manual are made continually, as information changes. She listed recent updates to the manual, and welcomed any additions that the committee members felt new members may find helpful. A finalized Spring 2023 edition will be added to the Board Effect portal. Updated orientation manuals will be reviewed with new trustees during the orientation process once gubernatorial appointments are confirmed by the RI Senate.

**f. Annual Review of the Governance Committee Charter [Enclosure 2.f.](#)**

The committee charter was displayed for members to view. Vice Chair Placencia reviewed proposed edits to the Governance Committee charter, including liaison assignments. She noted that final edits will be reviewed at the June committee meeting and acted upon at the June 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**g. Annual Review of the Governance Committee Calendar [Enclosure 2.g.](#)**

The committee charter was displayed for members to view. Vice Chair Placencia noted the proposed edits identified in red in the current edition linked to the agenda. Final edits will be reviewed at the June committee meeting and acted upon at the June 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**3. ADJOURN**

Vice Chair Placencia called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee adjourn the meeting of April 6, 2023.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee adjourn the meeting of April 6, 2023.
	VOTE:	3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Matthew Lenz, Charles Fogarty, Jay Placencia.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

At 10:46 a.m. this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2023.