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Bethany D. Jenkins
Faculty Representative

Hannah Bachert '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, September 23, 2022 · 9:00 a.m. EDT**

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the September 23 2022, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and noted that the Board was meeting in person, with some members participating remotely via Webex. Public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform and is available at: <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

Board Secretary Michelle Curreri conducted a roll call attendance and reported that a quorum of voting members was present. Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

Attendees present for this meeting included:

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees voting members:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair (in person)
- Mr. Michael F. McNally, Vice Chair (in person)
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds (remote)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (in person)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person)
- Ms. Christine Heenan (in person, a.m./remote p.m.)
- Mr. Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz (in person)
- Mr. David Martirano (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (remote)

“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 Board of Trustees (continued):

- Ms. Susan Petrovas (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (remote)
- Mr. Thomas Ryan (in person)
- Mr. Armand Sabitoni (in person)
- Dr. Marc Parlange, President (ex officio) (non-voting) (in person)
- Ms. Hannah Bachert, Student Representative (non-voting) (in person)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Faculty Representative (non-voting) (in person)

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees members not present:

- Mr. Richard Humphrey
- Mr. Roby Luna
- Mr. David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
- Ms. Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education

Special Guest:

- Dr. Jean-Yves Parlange (in person)

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 (in person)
- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director (in person)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources (in person)
- Mr. Dean Libutti, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success (in person)
- Mr. Matthew McDonald, Vice President for Communications and Marketing (in person)
- Ms. Lil Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (in person)
- Ms. Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (in person)
- Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance (remote)
- Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Vice President, Community, Equity, Diversity (in person)
- Dr. Peter Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development (in person)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Chelsea Berry, Communications Specialist, Office of the President (in person)
- Ms. Lauren Burgess, Director, Legislative and Government Relations (in person)
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. Carlos Lopez Estrada, Director, Legislative and Government Relations (in person)

- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Associate General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Kacey Light, Chief NCAA Compliance Officer (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Dr. Michael Rice, President, Faculty Senate (in person)
- Dr. John Robinson, interim co-director, The George and Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience (in person)
- Dr. John Stringer, Director, Institutional Research (in person)
- Dr. William Van Nostrand, interim co-director, The George and Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience (in person)

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

In an effort to increase the efficiency of meetings, “Acceptance of the Agenda” has been removed as a standing item on the agenda. Chair Cook described legal requirements under the Open Meetings Act related to amending an agenda and asked members if there were any proposed amendments to the published agenda. Hearing none, the Board considered the first agenda item, “Approval of the Minutes”.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the August 4, 2022 Meeting. [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the August 4, 2022 Board meeting.

On a motion duly made by Christine Heenan and seconded by Thomas Ryan, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the August 4, 2022 Board meeting.
	VOTE:	15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cook reported that no one signed up to speak during the Open Forum.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Standing Committees

Chair Cook reported that she, the President, Neil Kerwin, and a few others are looking at the Academic Affairs and Research Committee's charter with respect to research. She said the group is considering ways to make research a stronger, more focused aspect of the Board's work and is considering a few restructuring options that will align with the University's strategic plan. Chair Cook said that stronger, more focused language will be added to the Academic Affairs and Research Committee charter related to research. She noted that the responsibilities of the University Advancement and External Affairs Committee will be reorganized and that the committee will no longer meet. As a result of these changes, there will be some committee restructuring. More information will be provided prior to the November meeting.

Chair Cook encouraged board members to share their comments and viewpoints on the final draft of the Strategic Plan directly with the President. A full discussion and action on the Strategic Plan will take place at an upcoming board meeting.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT Presentation

President Parlange provided a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

- a. Strategic Plan
- b. U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges Rankings
- c. Bond Campaign
- d. Federal Opportunities

President Parlange provided a fall update on enrollment, with record-setting applications of 25,400, over 3,300 new first year students and over 17,000 total students. He highlighted recently held special events and activities and formal leadership changes, including new Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Matthew McDonald and Vice President of Community, Equity, and Diversity, Sean Edmund Rogers. He noted that searches continue for key positions at the University.

The President discussed next steps to aggressively identify and pursue new funding sources and opportunities, including bringing on a new federal research consultant, vigorously exploring partnerships in aquaculture, and opportunities for growth in the defense sector and through the Blue Tech Innovation Campus.

National and international rankings were displayed and discussed, with URI ranked 182 out of 440 overall by U.S. News and World Reports, falling in ranking from 162 in 2021.

The President reviewed state and federal funding secured for the fiscal year 2023. He outlined the need for increased state appropriations to support URI and showed the decline in state funding per student over the years. Compared to all other public, land grant research institutions in the country, URI falls to the bottom well below the 25th percentile in state appropriations received per full time student. Board members asked for a summary of relevant facts in order to shed light on this issue.

President Parlange shared an update with the Board regarding an upcoming general obligation bond referendum, approved by the General Assembly, which will be on the ballot this November in Rhode Island. If approved by Rhode Island voters, the bond will provide \$100 million in funds to improve outdated facilities, and construct new facilities, on our Narragansett Bay Campus to support research and educational programs and ensure that the state of Rhode Island remains a global leader in the Blue Economy. President Parlange stressed that the Blue Economy—which includes the defense industry, tourism, marine trades, fisheries, and offshore wind—is a critical driver of the state’s economy, generating more than \$5 billion every year. By 2030, that total is projected to double. A modern URI Bay Campus will help create the innovative jobs of the future for Rhode Island residents.

Vice President Matthew McDonald laid out the “Vote Yes On 1” General Obligation Bond campaign plan and timeline.

The President shared the final draft of the University’s Strategic Plan with the Board. He reviewed the Plan’s vision:

- “The University of Rhode Island will be a leading global research university that drives positive social, economic, and environmental change by contributing and instilling new knowledge to address the world’s greatest challenges.”

The Strategic Plan’s Priorities are:

1. Broaden our impact through a reinvigorated commitment to our land- and sea-grant missions and the state of Rhode Island;
2. Enhance student achievement by cultivating an engaged and inclusive learning environment;
3. Foster an inclusive, people-centered culture;
4. Implement leading-edge administrative and financial systems and practices to power the university of the future.

President Parlange discussed key performance indicators that will be used to measure the effectiveness of the Plan’s priorities and actions and identify how the University is having an impact, including things like the number of publications and citations, the impact of research, the number of grant submissions and successful grant proposals, the number of formal partnerships, and research awards and expenditures.

Board members expressed their support of focused efforts to get URI to a point of distinction in five years and asked for comparative statistics around our peers and aspirational peers in strategic areas.

- e. The George and Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience: History, Progress, and Looking Forward Presentation [Enclosure 4.e.](#)

Provost Laura Beauvais introduced Dr. William Van Nostrand and Dr. John Robinson, interim co-directors of the George and Anne Ryan Institute of Neuroscience, who made a presentation to the Board on the history, progress and future of the George and Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience at the University. The Ryan Institute was established in 2013 from generous gifts from Tom and Cathy Ryan in honor of Tom's parents and is a research center based at URI, with a focus on finding therapies for Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders. Drs. Van Nostrand and Robinson celebrated the University's strong commitment to the Ryan Institute and outlined its accomplishments over a short period of time. Looking forward, the Institute plans to advance its contributions in unique areas of research and expand its collaborative network and global presence.

Board members discussed with Drs. Van Nostrand and Robinson the limiting resources of the Institution, its organizational challenges, partnerships with local hospitals, indirect costs, protection of intellectual property and biomarker research.

Prior to the call to go into executive session, the Board took a ten-minute break at 11:00 a.m.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board may seek to enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) with the following;
 - Maritime Professional Association (MPA)
 - URI Physicians' Association (NEA/RI)
 - Graduate Associates United (GAU)
- b. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- c. Discussion regarding performance goals and President Parlange's annual review, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1).
- d. Discussion regarding a matter related to the question of the investment of public funds, which includes any investment plan or matter related thereto, where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7).

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session for the items listed above. President Parlange was notified in writing that discussion regarding his annual review will be held in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) with the following;
 - Maritime Professional Association (MPA)
 - URI Physicians' Association (NEA/RI)
 - Graduate Associates United (GAU)
- b. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- c. Discussion regarding performance goals and President Parlange's annual review, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1).
- d. Discussion regarding a matter related to the question of the investment of public funds, which includes any investment plan or matter related thereto, where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7).

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Board members Susan Petrovas and Christine Heenan were not available for the vote.

Board members participating remotely confirmed that no other person was present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location.

At 11:10 a.m., the Board convened into Executive Session. Virtual public access paused.

At 1:50 p.m., the Board returned to Open Session. Virtual public access resumed.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on September 23, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

- VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on September 23, 2022.
- VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
- YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.
- NAYS: 0
- ABSTAIN: 0

6. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ACTION ITEMS

[Committee reports were taken out of order, with the Finance and Facilities Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reporting first on the September 16, 2022 Joint meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Institutional Risk and Compliance committees.]

- d. Joint Report of the Finance and Facilities and Institutional Risk and Compliance Committees
- (i) Update – September 16, 2022 Committee Meeting
 - (ii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Approvals Under the Delegation of Authority to the President Relating to Land and Property. [Enclosure 6.d.\(ii\)](#)

Committee Chair Fascitelli reported that the Committee reviewed the approvals that the President has made since the last Board meeting under the Board’s Delegation of Authority to the President to approve certain transactions related to land and property.

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the University of Rhode Island Total Budget Request, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY 2024, and the Total Budget Allocations for FY 2023. [Enclosure 6.d.\(iii\)](#)

Committee Chair Fascitelli noted that this year the University took a different approach to the budget, based on the themes and goals from the Strategic Plan, a survey of the deans, and a more permanent financing plan to identify the University’s needs and the appropriate levels of state support. He noted that the FY2024 budget proposal contains a much bigger request for funding than usual. During the September 16, 2022 joint committee meeting, the Finance and Facilities Committee elected to defer to the Board the actual setting of the tuition and mandatory fee rates without a recommendation from the Committee.

Vice President Rider provided a detailed review of the budget presentation [Enclosure 6.d.\(iii\)](#).

The University is requesting an appropriation of general revenues from the state of \$123.3 million. The request, which represents a \$32 million increase over current-year funding from the state, seeks to offset significant increases in the University’s general operating costs exacerbated by current rates of inflation—including utilities, insurance, debt service, cost of living adjustments, and other contractual obligations—as well as support new strategic initiatives to deliver on the institution’s land-grant, education, and research missions.

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island FY 2024 Budget Request, Tuition and Fee Rates, amended to [reflect a tuition increase of] 3.9 [%] for in-state students and 4.5 [%] for out-of-state students, and the Total Budget Allocations for Fiscal 2023, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.[(iii)], with that amendment.

On a motion duly made by David Martirano and Neil Kerwin, and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island FY 2024 Budget Request, Tuition and Fee Rates, amended to [reflect a tuition increase of] 3.9 [%] for in-state students and 4.5 [%] for out-of-state students, and the Total Budget Allocations for Fiscal 2023, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.[(iii)], with that amendment.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members asked that the budget documents be updated and shared to reflect the vote of the Board.

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the URI Board of Trustees Procurement Regulations. [Enclosure 6.d.\(iv\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Procurement Regulations pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 16-32-2(e), as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(iv).

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Michael McNally, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Procurement Regulations pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 16-32-2(e), as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(iv).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

(v) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Board Resolution for the Issuance of a Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Bond to support the Utility Infrastructure Upgrade Phase 2 Project. [Enclosure 6.d.\(v\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the resolution authorizing the borrowing in connection with the issuance of Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility Revenue Bonds for the Utility Infrastructure Upgrade Phase 2 Project, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(v).

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Michael McNally, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the resolution authorizing the borrowing in connection with the issuance of Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility Revenue Bonds for the Utility Infrastructure Upgrade Phase 2 Project, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(v).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

- (vi) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Board Resolution for the Issuance of a Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Bond to support the Facilities Service Sector Upgrade Project. [Enclosure 6.d.\(vi\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the resolution authorizing the borrowing in connection with the issuance of Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility Revenue Bonds for the Facilities Service Sector Upgrade Project, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(vi).

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the resolution authorizing the borrowing in connection with the issuance of Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility Revenue Bonds for the Facilities Service Sector Upgrade Project, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(vi).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

- (vii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Lease Agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the Independence Square Foundation for rental of space at 25 West Independence Way, Kingston, RI for URI's Department of Communicative Disorders. [Enclosure 6.d.\(vii\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the Lease Agreement and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the Lease Agreement with the Independence Square Foundation for 4,300 square feet of space at 25 West Independence Way, Kingston, RI for URI's Department of Communicative Disorders as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the

Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(vii).

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Lease Agreement and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the Lease Agreement with the Independence Square Foundation for 4,300 square feet of space at 25 West Independence Way, Kingston, RI for URI's Department of Communicative Disorders as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(vii).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

(viii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Lease Agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the Independence Square Foundation for rental of space at 25 West Independence Way, Kingston, RI for URI's Physical Therapy program. [Enclosure 6.d.\(viii\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the Lease Agreement and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the Lease Agreement with the Independence Square Foundation for 16,400 square feet of space at 25 West Independence Way, Kingston, RI for URI's Physical Therapy program as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(viii).

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Lease Agreement and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the Lease Agreement with the Independence Square Foundation for 16,400 square feet of space at 25 West Independence Way, Kingston, RI for URI's Physical Therapy

program as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(viii).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

- (ix) ACTION ITEM: Approval of an Update to the University of Rhode Island's Approved Signature Authority on Behalf of the University of Rhode Island and the URI Board of Trustees effective September 23, 2022. [Enclosure 6.d.\(ix\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the request to update the URI Approved Signature Authority on Behalf of the University of Rhode Island and the URI Board of Trustees as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(ix).

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Michael McNally, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the request to update the URI Approved Signature Authority on Behalf of the University of Rhode Island and the URI Board of Trustees as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.d.(ix).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

a. Executive Committee Report

(i) Update – September 19, 2022 Committee Meeting

Chair Cook reported that the Committee considered the President’s performance goals during the September 19, 2022 meeting, as well as the following action items.

- (ii) ACTION ITEM: Ratification of the 2022-2025 collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the Maritime Professional Association, AFSCME, Council 94, Local 2877A.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board of Trustees ratify the 2022-2025 tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the Maritime Professional Association AFSCME, Council 94, Local 2877A.

On a motion duly made by Michael McNally and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees ratify the 2022-2025 tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the Maritime Professional Association AFSCME, Council 94, Local 2877A.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli was not present for the vote.

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a 2.5% across-the-board salary increase for all non-union, non-classified employees effective July 1, 2022.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve a 2.5% across-the-board salary increase for all non-union, non-classified employees effective July 1, 2022.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve a 2.5% across-the-board salary increase for all non-union, non-classified employees effective July 1, 2022.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli was not present for the vote.

b. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – September 9, 2022 Committee Report

Committee Chair Neil Kerwin reported that the Committee met and heard reports from the Provost and the Vice President for Research. Provost Beauvais shared highlights of her presentation to the Committee, including a report on current enrollment, new faculty members, study abroad programming, new university leadership, and upcoming events on campus including the Honors Colloquium.

Vice President Snyder shared highlights of his presentation to the Committee, including:

- \$126M in total external awards in FY22 – up \$3M from the preceding year – from all sources (over \$98M from federal agencies, with \$7M through the URI Research Foundation (URIRF), \$7M from the State of RI, and the balance from other sources);
- 51% of all awards are for marine sciences in GSO, CELS, Coastal Institute, RI Sea Grant, and in partnership with external agencies such as the Ocean Exploration Trust;
- 666 grant applications submitted in FY22, totaling over \$430M in funding requests, with a success rate of slightly over 25%;
- New electronic management system is about 70% fully implemented, providing the ability to interrogate our database and portfolio and identify strengths, emerging areas, use of core facilities, and activities of departments and colleges with continuous up-to-date information;
- Awarded \$150K in seed funding in FY22, plus some funds from individual centers and institutes (e.g., Coastal Institute). Return on investment from this program, over the past 12 years, is approximately \$22M, on a total investment of \$1.2M;
- Search ongoing for a new Executive Director for IP and Tech Transfer;

- Large effort by the division and URIRF over the past year to improve URI’s culture of entrepreneurship, with a number of senior staff teaching the higher-level courses in the business school, in College of Engineering, and mentoring for students and faculty;
- Mr. Tom Sperry, our venture capital partner – Rogue Venture Partners – has been actively contributing to these efforts and was just appointed as the Entrepreneur in Residence within the College of Business;
- The Small Business Development Center has had a busy year, with over 750 clients (new businesses), 62 training events, 39% minority clients and 51% women owned new business ventures;
- The most pressing concern that will limit future growth centers are adequate staffing and staff compensation. Compared to other regional institutions (University of Maine, University of Vermont, University of New Hampshire, University of Maryland, University of Connecticut), we are staffed at roughly 50% the level that we need to support a robust extramural research program;
- The Academic Affairs and Research Committee received a detailed analysis of gaps in this regard and what is needed to ensure that URI can meet the President’s vision for the university as a major research institution.

- (ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the awarding of degrees, certificates, diplomas, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Summer 2022 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure 6.b.\(ii\)](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion 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 will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Summer 2022 term and who have been approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.b.(ii).

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island 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 will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Summer 2022 term and who have been approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.b.(ii).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the granting of tenure, effective January 1, 2023, to faculty member Dr. Zhu (Drew) Zhang, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure 6.b.\(iii\)](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective January 1, 2023, to faculty member Dr. Zhu (Drew) Zhang, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.b.(iii).

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective January 1, 2023, to faculty member Dr. Zhu (Drew) Zhang, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.b.(iii).

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the following academic program changes:

- Creation of the URI Online Master's Degree in Data Science
 - Program Closure – [Masters in] Special Education Program
 - Organizational Change for Criminology and Criminal Justice from Program to Department
- [Enclosure 6.b.\(iv\)](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the following academic program changes, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.b.(iv):

- Creation of the URI Online Master’s Degree in Data Science
- Program Closure – [Masters in] Special Education Program
- Organizational Change for Criminology and Criminal Justice from Program to Department

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the following academic program changes, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 6.b.(iv):

- Creation of the URI Online Master’s Degree in Data Science
- Program Closure – [Masters in] Special Education Program
- Organizational Change for Criminology and Criminal Justice from Program to Department

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Karina Edmonds Montilla, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

c. Governance Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 14, 2022 Committee Report

Committee Chair Cortney Nicolato reported that the items on the September 14, 2022 meeting agenda were deferred to the October 17, 2022 meeting of the Committee.

e. University Advancement and External Affairs Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 20, 2022 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Christine Heenan reported that the Committee discussed the bond campaign, the capital campaign, and heard an update on government relations from Directors Lopez Estrada and Burgess. The committee discussed the need to communicate about the University and its

financial challenges. Committee Chair Heenan noted that the committee reviewed the sunseting of the committee based on integrating the work of the Foundation and the government relations team more fully into the overall board, and, where relevant, into Finance and Governance. She added that a new Foundation committee is being formed around communications, marketing, and advancement; the committee discussed the idea that a board member from this body serve as a member of that group.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM

- a. Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) [Enclosure 7.a.](#)

Thorr Bjorn, Director of Athletics, shared a presentation regarding the University's increasing efforts to support student-athletes through name, image, and likeness opportunities and platforms consistent with NCAA guidelines. Part of the report addressed how NIL collectives may be formed and the potential impacts they may have. Director Bjorn and Kacey Light, URI's Chief NCAA Compliance Officer, responded to board members' questions.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS : 0

Board members Michael Fascitelli and Karina Montilla Edmonds left the meeting prior to the vote.

At 3:09 p.m. this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2022.