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**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Friday, September 9, 2022 · 2:45 p.m. EDT**

**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 September 9, 2022, 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. Chair Kerwin conducted an attendance roll call and determined that a quorum was present. He then acknowledged that the University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional homeland of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People. At 2:45 p.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 (voting, remote)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty (voting, remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (voting, remote)
- Ms. Susan Petrovas (voting, remote)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Faculty Representative (non-voting, remote)
- Ms. Margo Cook, Board Chair (ex-officio, voting, remote)
- Mr. Michael McNally, Board Vice Chair (ex-officio, voting, remote)
- Dr. Marc Parlange, URI President (ex-officio, non-voting, remote)

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

- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds, Committee Vice Chair
- Mr. Richard Humphrey

"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 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 (remote)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Human Resources (remote)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (remote)
- Dr. Peter J. Snyder, Vice President, Research & Economic Development (in person)
- Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Interim Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity (remote)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Dr. Danielle Dennis, Interim Dean, CEPS (remote)
- Dr. Brian Krueger, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Shawn Marie Simmons, Executive Assistant (remote)
- Dr. Anne Veeger, Vice Provost for Academic Faculty Initiatives (remote)

In an effort to increase the efficiency of meetings, “Acceptance of the Agenda” has been removed as a standing item on the agenda. Chair Kerwin asked members if there were any proposed amendments to the published agenda. Hearing none, the committee considered the first agenda item, “Approval of the Minutes”.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the June 14, 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 June 14, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Margo Cook and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held June 14, 2022.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Fall 2022 Updates

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Laura Beauvais, reported on fall updates for enrollment, new leaders and new faculty, global programs, and strategic planning. [Enclosure 2.](#)

3. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER

Annual Review of Research Activities, Issues and Budget

Dr. Peter Snyder reviewed the mission and vision of the Research Division, as well as the organizational structure. [Enclosure 3.](#)

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Review of 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 are approved by the faculty of 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 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 are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.a.

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

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| 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 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 4.a. |
| | VOTE: | 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative. |
| | YEAS: | Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew |

Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Review 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, and recommendation 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 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 4.b.

On a motion duly made by Michael McNally and seconded by Margo Cook, 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 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 4.b.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- c. Review of the following academic program changes, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees:**

- 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 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 academic program changes listed above and detailed in Enclosure 4.c.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Susan Petrovas, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the following academic program changes, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 4.c.:

- 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: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of Sept. 9, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Margo Cook and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT: The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee adjourn the meeting of Sept. 9, 2022.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Michael McNally, Susan Petrovas.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
September 9, 2022

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 17, 2022.

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