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Faculty Representative

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Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2021 · 1:15 p.m.**

**PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR RAIMONDO'S
EXECUTIVE ORDER, THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY USING
THE WEBEX PLATFORM (BOARD ONLY) AND FACEBOOK
LIVESTREAM (PUBLIC VIEWING)**

MINUTES

A formal roll call was taken verifying that a quorum was present, and Committee Chair Cecilia Rouse called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee voting members in attendance:

- Ms. Cecilia Rouse, Chair
- Ms. Karina Edmonds, Vice Chair
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr.
- Mr. Richard Humphrey (arrived at 1:24 p.m.)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz

Other Board of Trustees voting members in attendance:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair of the URI Board of Trustees
- Mr. Michael McNally, Vice Chair of the URI Board of Trustees

The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee ex-officio members in attendance:

- Mr. Christopher Bove, Student Representative
- Dr. David Dooley, President, University of Rhode Island
- Dr. Mayrai Gindy, Faculty Representative

The University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership Team in attendance:

- Dr. Mary Grace Almandrez, Associate Vice President, Community, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Director of Athletics
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resource Administration

- Dr. Kathy Collins, Vice President, Student Affairs
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Board Secretary
- Dr. Donald DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Mr. Peter Harrington, Interim General Counsel

The University of Rhode Island Staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Jennifer Burgess, Director, Academic Enhancement Center
- Ms. Audrey Cardany, Faculty Senate, Vice President
- Ms. Dee Dee Chatham, Director, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Undergraduate Research
- Ms. Megan Echevarria, Faculty Senate President
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel
- Ms. Ann Morrissey, Special Assistant to the Provost
- Ms. Jayne Richmond, Dean, University College
- Dr. Peter Snyder, Vice President, Research and Economic Development
- Ms. Kim Stack, Director, Center for Career and Experiential Education
- Mr. John Stringer, Director, Institutional Research
- Ms. Anne Veeger, Vice Provost

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Committee Chair Rouse called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of January 14, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Matt Lenz and seconded by Karina Edmonds, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs,
Research and Student Life Committee accept the
Agenda for the meeting of January 14, 2021.

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

YEAS: Karina Edmonds, Matthew Lenz, Cecilia Rouse, Charles
Fogarty

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Committee Chair Rouse called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held October 23, 2020. [\(Enclosure 2a\)](#)

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held October 23, 2020.
	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Karina Edmonds, Matthew Lenz, Cecilia Rouse, Charles Fogarty
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Academic Summit 2021** [\(Enclosure 3a\)](#) Provost Don DeHayes said that the 13th Annual Academic Summit will be held January 21, 2021, with the theme of Antiracism at URI: Academic Curriculum and Pedagogy. Over 500 faculty and staff are registered; members of the BOT are invited to attend. Chair Margo Cook said that she will ask as many Board of Trustees members as possible to attend. The speaker will be Dr. Ibram Kendi.
- b. **Academic Strategic Plan – Update 2021** [\(Enclosure 3b\)](#) Provost Don DeHayes explained that the discussion of the University’s progress on the goals of the Academic Strategic Plan--- *Innovation with Impact: Shaping the Future of URI* appears on the Committee’s template of topics for this meeting. However, because of a full agenda, the topic will be postponed until the next meeting. It is not particularly time sensitive.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. **URI Research Foundation Partnership with Rogue Venture Partners** [\(Enclosure 4a\)](#)
Dr. Peter Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, presented a slide set to let the committee know about the new partnership between Rogue Venture Partners and the URI Research Foundation to help provide funding for development of entrepreneurial

opportunities in the areas of health technologies, senior care, ecommerce, and tech-enabled “blue” economy. The “Blue Ocean Fund” will be the first initiative. URI will be the anchor institution, and this will benefit the whole State of Rhode Island’s economy. Discussion followed.

b. Annual Report of URI Progress Performance Metrics ([Enclosure 4b, 4b\(i\), 4b\(ii\)](#)).

Provost DeHayes explained that state law requires URI to present performance metrics to the Board of Trustees. This meeting’s report is for the 2019-2020 Academic Year and extending into fall 2020. See slides for specific details of the performance metrics. The University has made progress on all performance metrics across the three mandated measures: Graduation/Degree Completion, High Demand/High Wage Degrees Awarded, and Mission Specific metrics. Brief discussion followed.

c. Overview of Academic Efforts in Support of Student Success ([Enclosure 4c](#))

Vice Provost Anne Veeger introduced the Dean of University College for Academic Success, Jayne Richmond. Dean Richmond explained the services provided to support student success. Kim Stack, Director of Career and Experiential Education followed, explaining the outreach to students to assist them in career development and in pursuing credit-bearing experiential learning opportunities. Jennifer Burgess, Director of the Academic Enhancement Center, presented the services offered to students in STEM tutoring, Skills Development, and the Writing Center. DeeDee Chatham then presented the areas of Undergraduate Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. See slides for specific details. Committee Chair Rouse commented that URI students are well-supported, and we look forward to hearing more.

d. Continued Discussion Item: Possible Models for Board and Faculty Senate consideration in regard to approval of New Programs/Majors ([Enclosure 4d](#))

Committee Chair Rouse and Provost DeHayes continued the conversation about possible models and where we have “landed” on this topic. In collaboration with the Faculty Senate leadership, a robust approval process has been the focus. The principles and the process have been laid out. Dr. Megan Echevarria, President of the Faculty Senate, spoke about the process of developing new programs as a series of “safety nets” to ensure that all concerned parties have effective input. (See attachment for specific details.) BOT Chair Margo Cook asked for a sense of the areas of particular discussion. Provost DeHayes said that they started with the BOT bylaws as the foundation of the discussion, as well as Rhode Island law, and the institution as well as the Board of Trustees’ roles and values.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a.** Committee Chair Rouse moved to the first action item and called for a motion that the Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend

that the Board of Trustees approve the awarding of tenure for Dr. Samuel Soule, Graduate School of Oceanography, as recommended and presented. ([Enclosure 5a](#))

On a motion duly made by Richard Humphrey and seconded by Karina Edmonds, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee recommends that the URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of tenure for Dr. Samuel Soule, Graduate School of Oceanography, as recommended and presented.

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

YEAS: Karina Edmonds, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Cecilia Rouse, Margo Cook, Michael McNally

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Charles Fogarty was not present for this vote.

- b. Committee Chair Rouse called for a motion that the Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the awarding of degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors for students who have completed all applicable academic requirements at the conclusion of the fall semester for December 2020, as recommended and presented. ([Enclosure 5b](#))

On a motion duly made by Karina Edmonds and seconded by Matt Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee recommends that the URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to the students who completed all applicable requirements at the conclusion of the fall semester in December 2020 as recommended and presented.

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

YEAS: Karina Edmonds, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz,
Cecilia Rouse, Margo Cook, Michael McNally

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Charles Fogarty was absent for this vote.

- c. Provost DeHayes explained that these honorees were selected for Commencement 2020, but because of COVID-19, that conferral was postponed. We seek the affirmation of the Board of Trustees to bring them forward to the next Commencement ceremony. Therefore, Committee Chair Rouse called for a motion that the Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the request to affirm the awarding of Honorary Degrees for Commencement 2021, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Karina Edwards and seconded by Richard Humphrey, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee recommends that the URI Board of Trustees affirm the awarding of Honorary Degrees for Commencement 2021, as recommended and presented.

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

YEAS: Karina Edmonds, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz,
Cecilia Rouse, Margo Cook, Michael McNally

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Charles Fogarty was absent for this vote.

6. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Rouse thanked the Committee and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 14, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Matt Lenz and seconded by Karina Edmonds, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee adjourn the meeting of January 14, 2021.

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

YEAS: Karina Edmonds, Richard Humphreys, Margo Cook, Michael McNally, Matthew Lenz, Cecilia Rouse

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Charles Fogarty was absent for this vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2021.