



Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

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Charles Fogarty '80

Christine Heenan

Richard S. Humphrey

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

David Martirano '91

Michael F. McNally '81, *Vice Chair*

Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds '92

Cortney M. Nicolato '01

Vahid Ownjazayeri

Susan Petrovas '92

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01

Cecilia Rouse

Thomas Ryan '75

Armand E. Sabitoni '73

Ex Officio Members

Tim DelGiudice, *Chair*
R.I. Council on Postsecondary Education

Barbara Cottam, *Chair*
R.I. Board of Education

Mayrai Gindy
Faculty Representative

Christopher Bove '23
Student Representative

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Thursday January 14, 2021 at 11:30 a.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

Chair Michael Fascitelli welcomed all members of the committee and asked for a roll call. Noting that a quorum was present, Chair Fascitelli called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee voting members in attendance:

- Mr. Michael Fascitelli, Chair
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri, Vice Chair
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (joined at 12:00 p.m.)
- Mr. David J. Martirano
- Ms. Susan Petrovas
- Mr. Armand Sabitoni

Other URI Board of Trustees voting members in attendance:

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

The URI Board of Trustees ex-officio Committee members in attendance:

- Mr. Tim DelGiudice, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education

The University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership in attendance:

- Dr. David M. Dooley, President
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- 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

- Dr. Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer
- Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance

The University of Rhode Island Staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Tracey Angell, Director, URI Purchasing
- Ms. Linda Barrett, Director, Budget and Financial Planning
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel
- Dr. Daniel Moos, Assistant to the Vice President for Administration and Finance

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee accept the Agenda for the meeting of January 14, 2021.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee accept the Agenda for the meeting of January 14, 2021.

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

YEAS: Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the October 23, 2020 Meeting

Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee accept the Minutes for the meeting of October 23, 2020.

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 Finance and Facilities Committee accept the Minutes for the meeting of October 23, 2020.

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

YEAS: Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Purchasing Regulations and Processes at URI

Chair Fascitelli introduced Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance who, along with Tracey Angell, Director of Purchasing, provided an overview of the regulatory structure(s) that govern procurement at the University. Vice President Rider's presentation can be found [here](#). Vice President Rider's presentation provided information on procurement times, statutes that control procurement, types of governmental agencies in Rhode Island (noting that URI is a "state agency" for the purpose of expending unrestricted funds, and a "public agency" for the purpose of expending restricted, sponsored and auxiliary funds), Board responsibilities regarding procurement, examples of agency-specific procurement situations, purchasing thresholds, and peer and Office of Management Budget (US) comparisons. In a discussion following the presentation, Chair Fascitelli noted the extremely low state thresholds compared to federal thresholds; President Dooley noted that these thresholds cost the University time and money and subsequently reduce competitiveness. The Committee suggested that Vice President Rider create a proposal for recommending change to these requirements for the next meeting and supported the administration's efforts to begin discussions at the state level regarding opportunities for changing these procurement thresholds. The Committee concurred that the Board did not need to vote to allow the University administration to start these conversations. Vice President Rider and Ms. Angell will provide recommendations to the Chair and Vice Chair.

b. Update on FY21 Budget

Vice President Rider introduced Ms. Linda Barrett, Director of Budget and Financial Planning, who provided an update on the FY21 Budget. Ms. Barrett's presentation can be found [here](#). Ms. Barrett's presentation included information on changes in revenue to the University, Cares Act/CRF funding, possible additional education relief funding, an overview of the timing of budget requests (for FY22), budget challenges and opportunities, and budget reduction principles. President Dooley noted that the current strength of the University is due to a decade of strong financial management, with the support of governors and legislators. He also expressed concern that the current level of state appropriation is lower than the University's 2007 State appropriation. Board of Trustees Chair Margo Cook inquired about the current plans for the Wellness Center and Memorial Union; President Dooley noted that both are the highest priorities within auxiliaries for construction and renovation.

c. Annual Information Relating to URI for Bondholders

Vice President Rider provided an overview of information that is presented annually to the University's revenue bond holders. This document is available [here](#). Vice President Rider noted that this document contains a great deal of information that may be useful to Committee members when seeking current and historical information on the University. Vice President Rider noted changes from last year, primarily focusing on changes in auxiliary revenue due to special housing situations and costs incurred due to increased (COVID-19) testing programs.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Review of Updated Signature Authority and recommendation to the Board of Trustees

Vice President Rider presented an update on Signature Authority, which includes a new category that allows signatory authority relative to employment-related documents. The recommendation for signature authority relative to this category includes the Board Chair, University President, and Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, with a provision for the delegation of this authority.

Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Updated Signature Authority, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Vice Chair Ownjazayeri, and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Updated Signature Authority, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative. Additionally, the Board Chair and Vice Chair voted in the affirmative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. ADJOURN

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

On a motion duly made by Vice Chair Ownjazayeri and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee adjourn the meeting of January 14, 2021.

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

YEAS: Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

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The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next meeting of The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee is scheduled for April 22, 2021.