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*Student Representative*

## The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Thursday April 22, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. EDT

*Pursuant to Governor McKee's Executive Order, this meeting was held virtually using the WebEx platform (Board only) and Facebook Livestream (public viewing).*

### MINUTES

Chair 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 12:32 p.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
- Mr. David J. Martirano
- Mrs. Susan Petrovas
- Mr. Armand Sabitoni

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

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair, Board of Trustees
- Mr. Timothy DelGiudice, Chair, RI Council on Postsecondary Education
- Mr. Michael McNally, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees
- Dr. David M. Dooley, President

The University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership in attendance:

- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Director of Athletics
- Ms. Lil Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Board Secretary
- Mr. 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 URI staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Linda Barrett, Director, Budget and Financial Planning
- Mr. Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President for Facilities
- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning & Real Estate
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel
- Mr. David Lamb, Director of Facilities Operations
- Dr. Daniel Moos, Assistant to the Vice President for Administration and Finance
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary, URI Board of Trustees
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Executive Assistant II, Office of the President

## 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 April 22, 2021.

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 agenda for the meeting of April 22, 2021.

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

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

NAYS:         0

ABSTAINS: 0

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### a. Minutes of January 14, 2021 [Enclosure 2a](#)

Chair Fascitelli called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting.

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 Finance and Facilities Committee accept the Minutes for the meeting of January 14, 2021.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### a. Governor's Recommended FY22 Budget

Chair Fascitelli introduced Vice President Abigail Rider and Ms. Linda Barrett who provided a presentation on the Governor's Recommended FY22 Budget. The presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included details on the Governor's Recommended Budget for FY22, including comparisons with enacted FY21 figures and the differences between the requested budget amounts versus the Governor's recommendation. The Committee discussed concerns with limited RICAP (capital maintenance) funding, noting that although the University holds 25% of the State's buildings, the increase in URI RICAP funding since 2007 has been less in both dollar and percentage terms than that of the other two public institutions of higher education, which together hold only 8% of the State's buildings. It was noted that the overall problem of deferred maintenance is state-wide.

#### b. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Vice President Rider introduced Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director of Planning and Real Estate, who presented the Capital Improvement Plan for the Committee's review. The Capital Improvement Plan information can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Mr. Carrillo's presentation included a descriptive overview of the plan and the mechanics of its development, an overview of current approved projects, and an overview of projects requested for FY23 and beyond.

Chair Fascitelli noted that this plan will be approved by the Board of Trustees at the June 2021 meeting.

#### c. Progress Against IT Strategic Plan

Vice President Rider explained to the Committee that although the IT Strategic Plan would normally be updated in this current fiscal year, due to the arrival of a new President at the University, the plan will be updated next year to assure alignment with any of the plans of the new URI president.

Dr. Kaugars provided a report on progress against the current IT Strategic Plan. This report can be found [here](#). Dr. Kaugars's discussion noted progress in current programs against each component of the Strategic Plan with particular reference to the areas of Teaching and Learning, Research Computing, and Student Support through mobile platforms. Dr. Kaugars noted that the University has made progress with the Strategic Plan despite the current pandemic.

Dr. Kaugars discussed centralized versus decentralized IT services and resources at the University, noting that the University needs to work on a plan that centralizes common work and needs across the University while promoting innovation at the edges and supporting custom IT needs across the University.

Provost DeHayes described to the Committee the University's IT Governance Committee and its role in addressing IT Priorities across the University. He noted that this system is working well. He also noted that many large research universities have a mix of centralized and decentralized IT systems.

**d. IT Resourcing**

Dr. Kaugars presented a report on IT Resourcing, which included a comparison of resource levels at other institutions. This presentation can be found [here](#). Discussing the resource constraints within IT, Dr. Kaugars noted significant success across the University despite limited investment in IT, pointing to increases in research productivity and student success over the last ten years. Provost DeHayes concurred. Dr. Kaugars noted that these outcomes point to a successful allocation of resources for the University overall.

**e. Annual Review of Finance and Facilities Committee Charter**

Chair Fascitelli discussed the purpose of the annual review of the Finance and Facilities Committee Charter. The charter can be found [here](#).

Board Chair Cook noted that there will be focused discussion at the June 2021 Board meeting concerning the charters of all Board committees.

Chair Fascitelli requested feedback on the Finance and Facilities Committee charter prior to the June 2021 Board meeting.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

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

Vice President Rider presented requested changes to the Approved Signature Authority. Because Sally Marinelli has retired, Vice President Rider requested that the Committee recommend to the Board that Cort Burke (Facility Security Officer) be added to Category H of the Approved Signature Authority in accordance with the resolution delegating authority over user agency contracts to the managerial group at the University of Rhode Island. The request for approval can be found [here](#).

Note: Mr. Harrington noted that a quorum was present, and a voice vote is sufficient for all action items.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Sabitoni and seconded by Mr. Martirano, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees that it approve the Updated Signature Authority as presented.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David J. Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, and Armand Sabitoni
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

**b. Review of University Solar 2, LLC Leasehold Easement Agreement and recommendation to the Board of Trustees**

Vice President Rider explained to the Committee details relative to the easement agreement that completes the University’s net metering agreement. Under Rhode Island law, the University must have an ownership or controlling interest in the property on which the net metering resource is located. The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission has determined that such controlling interest can be satisfied by certain leases, easements, and irrevocable licenses. The easement agreement gives the University a controlling interest in the land on which the solar panels are installed. The easement agreement can be found [here](#).

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 Finance and Facilities Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of University Solar 2, LLC Leasehold Easement Agreement as presented.
- VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
- YEAS: Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David J. Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Ms. Susan Petrovas, and Armand Sabitoni
- NAYS: 0
- ABSTAINS: 0

**c. Recommendation to the Board of Trustees to name the West Gymnasium of the Tootell Athletic Complex to the Soloviev Family Basketball Practice Facility**

Vice President Ryder presented the request to rename the West Gymnasium in the Tootell Athletic Complex to the Soloviev Family Basketball Practice Facility in recognition of the \$3M gift to the URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement made by Solow Art and Architecture Foundation. Mr. Bjorn, Director of Athletics, added that his division is grateful to the Soloviev family for the significant gift. The naming request can be found [here](#).

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 recommend to the Board of Trustees that it approve the renaming of the West Gymnasium of the Tootell Athletic Complex to the Soloviev Family Basketball Practice Facility.
- VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
- YEAS: Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David J. Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Ms. 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 April 22, 2021.

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 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 J. Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Ms. Susan Petrovas, and Armand Sabitoni
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

**UPCOMING MEETING**

**The next meeting of The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee is scheduled for June 24, 2021.**