



Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Michael D. Fascitelli '78

Charles Fogarty '80

Christine Heenan

Richard S. Humphrey

Neil Kerwin '73

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

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
Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 24, 2021 · 4:55 p.m.**

**PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR MCKEE'S
EXECUTIVE ORDER, THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN A HYBRID
FORMAT, WITH SOME PARTICIPANTS IN PERSON, SOME
VIRTUALLY USING THE WEBEX PLATFORM (BOARD ONLY)
AND VIA FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM (PUBLIC VIEWING)**

MINUTES

A formal roll call was taken verifying that a quorum was present, and Chair Kerwin called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m.

Attendees present for this hybrid meeting:

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

- Mr. Neil Kerwin, Chair (Virtual)
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds, Vice Chair (In person)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty (In person)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz (In person)

Absent: Mr. Richard Humphrey

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

- Mr. Christopher Bove, Student Representative (In person)
- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair, Board of Trustees (In person)
- Dr. David M. Dooley, President (In person)
- Dr. Mayrai Gindy, Faculty Representative (In person)
- Mr. Michael McNally, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees (In person)

The University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership in attendance:

- Dr. Mary Grace Almandrez, Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer
- Mr. Thor Bjorn, Director of Athletics
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- 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
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Interim General Counsel
- Dr. Peter Snyder, Vice President, Research and Economic Development

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Dr. Matt Bodah, Vice Provost
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Executive Assistant II
- Dr. Chris Hunter, CEPS, Associate Dean
- Mr. Jonathan Kroll, CEPS, Instruction Support
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary
- Ms. Shawn Marie Simmons, Executive Assistant II

Invited Guest:

- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President Elect (in person)

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Neil Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of June 24, 2021.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee accept the Agenda for the meeting of June 24, 2021.
	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, and Matthew Lenz
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the April 22, 2021 Meeting [Enclosure 2a](#)

Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held April 22, 2021.

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 April 22, 2021.
	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, and Matthew Lenz
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

3. CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER'S REPORT

Provost Don DeHayes presented his report, saying there is positive news to share with the committee and the Board. The Provost reported that since the last board meeting, URI held in-person Commencement ceremonies for each College at Meade Stadium, an in-person undergraduate Academic Excellence Awards ceremony in Edwards Hall, and a complete virtual commencement ceremony with Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha delivering the commencement address to the graduates.

URI received a record-breaking 25,095 undergraduate applications this year for Fall 2021 admission--up approximately 1,200 from last year. At this time, we have received 3,639 deposits and expect some melt between now and the October 15 deadline. Our budget target for number of deposits is approximately 3,280. Graduate school applications are up 12%, and we are projecting a slight increase in graduate enrollment for Fall 2021. Overall enrollment at URI has been stable at a high point over the last three years. Provost DeHayes expressed appreciation for the work of Vice Provost Dean Libutti and the enrollment management team. President Dooley mentioned that URI has made a consistent investment in marketing that has been helpful in recruitment and enrollment efforts. Chair Kerwin expressed that these numbers are excellent.

Following a year of effort and substantial community input, the Provost Office released a document this spring entitled "*Anti-Black Racism: An Academic Affairs Action Agenda for Change.*" Provost DeHayes emphasized the significant investment made by Academic Affairs in fiscal year (FY) 2022 to advance this agenda. Provost DeHayes thanked Dr. Mary Grace Almandrez for her partnership in these efforts.

The action items are as follows:

- Launch of Cohort Model for Distinguished Multicultural Postdoctoral Fellows – three positions

- New Diversity Faculty Cluster Hire Initiative in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) – three tenure-track Faculty
- New Africana Studies Chairperson – Full Professor w/ tenure
- New Diversity-focused Faculty Positions
- Four new Diversity Coordinators in Colleges (A&S, Health Sciences, Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO), & University College for Academic Success (UCAS))
- New Inclusive Pedagogy Specialist in the office of Advancement Teaching and Learning (ATL)
- Support for Graduate School Diversity and Inclusion Badge Program
- Expanded Professional Development – Inclusive Pedagogy and Curriculum
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Faculty Summer intensive workshops – 118 participants

Provost DeHayes discussed the university’s Post-COVID initiatives, including a student vaccination requirement for the fall semester. Study abroad opportunities will resume as well, with vaccination required. The return to “normal” this coming fall semester will be enhanced by technology-enriched hybrid approaches to teaching and learning and enhanced support services to students.

The New England Council of Higher Education (NECHE) will require an interim accreditation report from URI in fall 2022; therefore, we are gearing up to prepare for that.

Additional information from the Provost’s presentation can be found in [Enclosure 3a](#).

4. ACTION ITEMS

Chair Kerwin called for Action on Items 4a and 4b:

- a. Review of Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, General Studies, and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Learner-Designed majors and recommendation to the Board of Trustees ([Enclosure 4a](#))

Provost DeHayes, Dr. Chris Hunter, and Professor Jonathan Kroll answered questions regarding the proposed new majors, which have both been through the complete shared governance approval process in the Faculty Senate, etc.

Vice Chair Karina Montilla Edmonds called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee, recommend that the URI Board of Trustees approve the two new majors as described.

On a motion duly made by Chair Kerwin and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was:

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee recommend that the URI Board of Trustees approve the Bachelor of

Interdisciplinary Studies, General Studies,
and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies,
Learner-Designed majors.

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

YEAS: Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty,
Neil Kerwin, and Matthew Lenz

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Review of the Awarding of Tenure for 22 University of Rhode Island faculty members (listed in [Enclosure 4b](#)) and recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Provost DeHayes explained that the 22 faculty members being recommended for tenure have either been through the tenure review process or are coming to us from other institutions at which they already had tenure. If approved, the granting of tenure would be effective July 1, 2021.

Vice Chair Karina Montilla Edmonds called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee recommend that the URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of tenure for 22 University of Rhode Island faculty members, as set out in Enclosure 4b and as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Chair Kerwin, it was:

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Academic
Affairs, Research, and Student Life
Committee recommend that the Board of
Trustees approve the awarding of tenure to
22 University of Rhode Island faculty
members listed in Enclosure 4b.

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

YEAS: Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty,
Neil Kerwin, and Matthew Lenz

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. ADJOURN

Chair Kerwin thanked the Committee and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 24, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Karina Montilla Edmonds and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee adjourn the meeting of June 24, 2021.
	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, and Matthew Lenz
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.