



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 Meeting
Friday, June 25, 2021 • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EDT
Brookside Hall, 40 West Alumni Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881**

**PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR MCKEE'S EXECUTIVE ORDER,
THE BOARD HELD A HYBRID MEETING.
BOARD MEMBERS GATHERED IN PERSON AND
PARTICIPATED REMOTELY USING THE WEBEX PLATFORM.
FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM WAS USED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.**

MINUTES

Chair Margo Cook welcomed members of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees to the meeting. A roll call was taken by Interim General Counsel Lauren Jensen, who acknowledged that a quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Attendees present for this hybrid meeting:

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees voting members:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair (in person)
- Mr. Michael F. McNally, Vice Chair (in person)
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds (in person)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (in person at 9:11 a.m.)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person)
- Ms. Christine M. Heenan (in person)
- Mr. Richard Humphrey (joined remotely at 11:00 a.m.)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz (in person)
- Mr. Roby Luna (in person)
- Mr. David J. Martirano (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (in person)
- Mr. Thomas M. Ryan (in person)
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni (remote)

Absent: Mr. Neil Kerwin, Ms. Susan Petrovas

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees ex officio members:

- Mr. Christopher Bove, Student Representative (in person)
- Ms. Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education (in person at 9:09 a.m.)
- Dr. Mayrai Gindy, Faculty Representative (in person at 9:30 a.m.)

Absent: Mr. Tim DelGiudice

The University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership members attending in person:

- Dr. David M. Dooley, President
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- Dr. Kathy Collins, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Board Secretary
- Dr. Donald H. DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Interim General Counsel
- Dr. Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer
- Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance
- Dr. Peter J. Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

The University of Rhode Island staff members attending in person:

- Ms. Robin Cawley, Executive Assistant II
- Ms. Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary

Invited Guests:

- Dr. Marc Parlange, URI President-elect (in person)
- Attorney Bruce Copeland, Nixon Peabody, LLP (remote)
- Attorney Steven Richard, Nixon Peabody, LLP (in person)

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept the agenda for the meeting of June 25, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Christine Heenan, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept
the agenda for the meeting of June 25, 2021.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Michael Fascitelli and Richard Humphrey were not present for the vote.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the April 23, 2021 Meeting [Enclosure 2a](#).

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on April 23, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2a.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on April 23, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2a.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Michael Fascitelli and Richard Humphrey were not present for the vote.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- b. Discussion regarding litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2). *Synopsys, Inc. v.*

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University of Rhode Island, and Does 1-10, inclusive Board of Trustees of the University of Rhode Island, Case No. 5:21-cv-00581-BLF (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California).

- c. Discussion related to or concerning a prospective business or industry locating in the State of Rhode Island when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the interest of the public, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(6).

On a motion duly made by Christine Heenan and seconded by Vice Chair McNally, it was:

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- b. Discussion regarding litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2). *Synopsys, Inc. v. University of Rhode Island, and Does 1-10, inclusive Board of Trustees of the University of Rhode Island, Case No. 5:21-cv-00581-BLF (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California).*
- c. Discussion related to or concerning a prospective business or industry locating in the State of Rhode Island when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the interest of the public, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(6).

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Michael Fascitelli and Richard Humphrey were not present for the vote.

At 9:09 a.m., the Board entered into Executive Session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 11:53 a.m., the Board reconvened in Open Session. Virtual public access resumed.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes

of the Executive Session that took place on June 25, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED THAT: The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on June 25, 2021.

 VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

 YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

 NAYS: 0

 ABSTAINS: 0

4. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Executive Committee Report: Update – June 24, 2021 Committee Meeting

Chair Cook reported that the Committee went into executive session to discuss upcoming negotiations with the unions.

b. Governance Committee Report: Update – June 24, 2021 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Thomas Ryan reported that the Committee reviewed the Policy on Nondiscrimination, which will be brought back to the Board in September. The Committee is recommending that the Board of Trustees approve the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Policies and the Policy on Consensual Relationships.

Committee Vice Chair Cortney Nicolato noted that the revised edition of the URI Board of Trustees Statement of Expectations has been provided to Board members. Committee Chair Ryan asked the Board members to read and review the Statement of Expectations, sign it, return a copy to Michelle Curreri, and keep a copy for their records.

c. Finance and Facilities Report: Update – June 24, 2021 Committee Meeting

Vice Chair Vahid Ownjazayeri reported that the Committee reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan and the Plains Road South Parking Lot Solar Array License. He confirmed that the Committee recommends approval of both items to the full Board.

d. Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee Report
Update – June 24, 2021 Committee Meeting

Provost DeHayes reported that the Committee reviewed and recommends that the Board approve the granting of tenure, effective July 1, 2021, to twenty-two (22) designated faculty who have been through the full review process.

The Provost reported that the Committee recommends favorable action on two new degree programs, a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/General Studies, and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/Learner-Designed majors.

5. PRESIDENT’S TRANSITION

See Chair Cook’s comments under Closing Remarks.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of the awarding of tenure for 22 University of Rhode Island faculty members. [Enclosure 6a](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the awarding of tenure for 22 University of Rhode Island faculty members, as recommended and presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the awarding of tenure for 22 University of Rhode Island faculty members, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Approval of Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/General Studies and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/Learner-Designed majors. [Enclosure 6b](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/General Studies, and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/Learner-Designed majors, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Karina Montilla Edmonds and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/General Studies, and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies/Learner-Designed majors, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

c. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan. [Enclosure 6c](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

d. Approval of the Plains Road South Parking Lot Solar Array License. [Enclosure 6d](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Plains Road South Parking Lot Solar Array License, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Plains Road South Parking Lot Solar Array License, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

e. Approval of the establishment of a new standing committee and its charter; modification of an existing standing committee and its charter; and corresponding amendments to Section 5.2 of the Board's Bylaws together with a one-time suspension of the 3-week notice requirement of Section 11.1 of the Board's Bylaws pursuant to Section 11.2 of the Board's Bylaws. [Enclosure 6e](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a new standing committee and its charter; modification of an existing standing committee and its charter; and corresponding amendments to Section 5.2 of the Board's Bylaws together with a one-time suspension of the 3-week notice requirement of Section 11.1 of the Board's Bylaws pursuant to Section 11.2 of the Board's Bylaws.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Vice Chair McNally, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a new standing committee and its charter; modification of an existing standing committee and its charter; and corresponding amendments to Section 5.2 of the Board's Bylaws together with a one-time suspension of the 3-week notice requirement of Section 11.1 of the Board's Bylaws pursuant to Section 11.2 of the Board's Bylaws.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

An updated listing of Committee rosters was distributed to the Board members.

- f. Approval of the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Policies and the Policy on Consensual Relationships

[Enclosure 6f\(i\)](#)

[Enclosure 6f\(ii\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Policies and the Policy on Consensual Relationships, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Vice Chair McNally and seconded by Chair Cook, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Policies and the Policy on Consensual Relationships, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- g. Consideration and approval of a naming opportunity on the URI Kingston campus.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve a naming opportunity on the URI Kingston campus, specifically, the north district quadrangle as the President David M. Dooley Science Quadrangle.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Thomas Ryan and Roby Luna, it was

- VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve a naming opportunity on the URI Kingston campus, specifically, the north district quadrangle as the President David M. Dooley Science Quadrangle.
- VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
- YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Courtney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.
- NAYS: 0
- ABSTAINS: 0

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Addressing President Dooley, Chair Cook commended him for his incredible 12-year term as President, rebuilding the campus and meeting the four goals he laid out for the University, which were bold at the time. She noted that President Dooley globalized the University and created a place where the URI community thought about diversity before diversity was on peoples' tongues. She celebrated President Dooley for bringing a sense of spirit and pride and vision to the University. She expressed her gratitude to President Dooley for his amazing work at URI.

Chair Cook welcomed incoming president Marc Parlange to the University of Rhode Island. She remarked that the Board is thrilled to have him as its next president and is excited about what he is going to continue to build at the University. She confirmed that, as the Board was supportive of President Dooley and his vision, it will be supportive of President Parlange.

Board member Christopher Bove stated that when he served as the student representative on the Rhode Island Board of Education, President Dooley would appear before that Board and would promote URI as the best value between Maine and Virginia. He credited President Dooley for his decision to attend URI and thanked him for making him feel welcome at the University. He acknowledged that over the last twelve years, President Dooley has been instrumental in transforming the University into a place that students can be proud to attend. He credited President Dooley with putting in the work to get the University to where it is today and leading the community through the pandemic while maintaining a sense of stability. He thanked President Dooley for all he has given during his tenure at URI.

Board member Karina Montilla Edmonds noted that while Trustee Bove came to URI because of President Dooley, she came back to URI because of the President. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to President Dooley for instilling a great sense of pride in the University. She noted her personal mission to make sure that students like her continue to have the opportunity to attend URI.

Board member Roby Luna thanked President Dooley for helping him reconnect with the University.

Board member Vahid Ownjazayeri expressed his thanks to President Dooley.

Chair Cook announced that, in recognition of President David M. Dooley's leadership and service to the University of Rhode Island over the past twelve years, President Dooley would be honored with the title of President Emeritus of the University of Rhode Island. Noting that the Board of Trustees is not required to vote on bestowing the title, Chair Cook asked for a ceremonial vote of the Board.

By unanimous vote, the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees supported Dr. David M. Dooley receiving the title of President Emeritus of the University of Rhode Island.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli,
Charles Fogarty, Christine Heenan, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz,
Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato,
Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 12:17 p.m., this meeting ended.