



Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Michael D. Fascitelli '78

Charles Fogarty '80

Christine Heenan

Richard S. Humphrey

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

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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 Meeting
Friday, January 15, 2021 • 10:45 a.m.**

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

MINUTES

Chair Margo Cook welcomed Board members to the meeting. A roll call was taken by Interim General Counsel Peter Harrington, who acknowledged that a quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m.

Attendees present for this virtual meeting:

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees voting members:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair
- Mr. Michael F. McNally, Vice Chair
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (arrived at 10:55 a.m.)
- Ms. Christine M. Heenan
- Mr. Richard Humphrey (arrived at 10:55 a.m.)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz
- Mr. Roby Luna
- Mr. David J. Martirano
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri
- Mrs. Susan Petrovas
- Ms. Jay Placencia
- Mr. Thomas M. Ryan
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni

Absent: Ms. Cecilia Rouse

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

- Mr. Christopher Bove, Student Representative
- Ms. Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education
- Mr. Tim DelGiudice, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
- Dr. Mayrai Gindy, Faculty Representative

The University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership:

- Dr. David M. Dooley, President
- Mr. Thor Bjorn, Director, Athletics
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- Dr. Kathy Collins, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff, Board Secretary, and Board Liaison
- Dr. Donald H. DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Mr. Peter Harrington, Interim General Counsel
- Mr. Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer
- Ms. Kelly Mahoney, Executive Director for External Relations and Communications
- Ms. Elizabeth Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement
- 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:

- Ms. Linda Barrett, Director, Budget and Financial Planning
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary

Invited Guest:

- Mr. Alfred J. Verrecchia, Chairman of the Board, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees accept the agenda for the meeting of January 15, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept the agenda for the meeting of January 15, 2021.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Charles Fogarty and Richard Humphrey were not present for the vote.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the October 23, 2020 Plenary Session [Enclosure 2a](#)
- b. Minutes of the October 24, 2020 Meeting [Enclosure 2b](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Plenary Session of the Board that took place on October 23, 2020, as set forth in Enclosure 2a., and the minutes of the Meeting of the Board that took place on October 24, 2020, as set forth in Enclosure 2b.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Plenary Session of the Board that took place on October 23, 2020, as set forth in Enclosure 2a., and the minutes of the Meeting of the Board that took place on October 24, 2020, as set forth in Enclosure 2b.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Charles Fogarty and Richard Humphrey were not present for the vote.

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cook reported that no one signed up to speak during the Open Forum.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Board convene into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding the matter of security, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(3)
- b. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Karina Montilla Edmonds, it was

VOTED THAT: The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees convene into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding the matter of security, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(3)
- b. Discussion regarding the matter of security, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Charles Fogarty and Richard Humphrey were not present for the vote.

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. Virtual public access was paused. The following University staff members were present:

- Dr. David M. Dooley, President
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff, Board Secretary, and Board Liaison
- Dr. Donald H. DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Mr. Peter Harrington, Interim General Counsel
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel
- Mr. Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer (Item 4.a. only)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary
- Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 1:05 p.m. 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 January 15, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

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|-------|-----------|---|
| VOTED | THAT: | The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on January 15, 2021. |
| | VOTE: | 16 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, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni |
| | NAYS: | 0 |
| | ABSTAINS: | 0 |

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Update on Board Governance Issues

Chair Cook introduced new staff members to the Board, including Interim General Counsel Peter Harrington, Associate General Counsel Lauren Jensen, and Associate Secretary Lynn Owens. Each staff member provided an overview of their work history.

Chair Cook reported that Board member Cecilia Rouse has been called to serve on the national level as Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. She noted that Cecilia brought to the Board a great perspective from the academic sector, and she celebrated her success and influence on the Board. Chair Cook also mentioned the transition in leadership in Rhode Island, with Governor Raimondo being appointed to serve as Commerce Secretary. She noted that plans are underway to meet with Lieutenant Governor Dan McKee.

Chair Cook suggested that the Board identify goals to be accomplished during the general board session, to focus its time and effort on Committee objectives.

Chair Cook encouraged all Board members to attend the Plenary Sessions, emphasizing the importance of the session to educate the Board members regarding the research, scholarship, creative work, and career building taking place at URI. She noted that it is also a good way for the faculty, students and administration see the Board being involved with the University.

Yesterday's Plenary Session included five research projects driven by amazing faculty:

- Dr. Brennan Phillips, Assistant Professor in Ocean Engineering, highlighted the work that he and his students have performed in the Undersea Robotics and Imaging Lab.
- Dr. Marcus Nevius, Assistant Professor of History, whose research interests include the history of slave resistance, slavery-based economies, and abolition during the age of revolutions, shared an outline of his book entitled, "*City of Refuge*": *Dismal Plantation in the Revolutionary War Era*.
- Dr. Katharina Quinlan, Assistant Professor in the College of Pharmacy, shared an overview of her research at the George and Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience, including spinal cord nerve degeneration and neural injury.
- Dr. Matt Wei, Associate Professor of Oceanography, highlighted research being performed at URI on earthquake physics and nuclear monitoring.
- Dr. Elizabeth Mendenhall, Assistant Professor in Marine Affairs and Political Science, shared a presentation entitled "Global Ocean Governance".

Chair Cook said she would be remiss if she didn't talk about the role of the University and the events of the nation that we witnessed over the course of the last week. She recalled President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's quotation, "...the real safeguard of democracy is education." She said she was comforted by the fact that she is a trustee at a university that educates its students to be critical thinkers, and opined that if we, as a society, have as many critical thinkers as possible, we will protect democracy.

Chair Cook encouraged all Board members to attend the upcoming 13th Annual Academic Summit, being held virtually on January 21, 2021. The topic is "Antiracism at URI - Academic Curriculum and Pedagogy".

6. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Governance Committee Report

- Update – 1/14/2021 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Thomas Ryan reported that the Governance Committee reviewed five discussion items including an update on the Presidential search, Board member Cecilia Rouse's pending resignation, the Board composition matrix survey results, an update on the annual retreat, and the creation of a board member orientation book.

Vice Chair Courtney Nicolato reviewed the results of the Board composition matrix survey, which will be updated regularly to ensure that the Board is best representative of the student body, faculty, and URI community.

Committee member Jay Placencia reviewed the planned outline of the Board orientation book and welcomed input from the Trustees on important material to be included in the book.

Committee Chair Ryan spoke of Cecilia Rouse's pending resignation following her appointment to President Biden's cabinet, and discussed the recruitment of a new board member. Plans are in the works to meet with the incoming Governor to discuss board member term limits and certain legislative items. He spoke of plans for the June retreat, which will provide the Board with a deeper understanding of key issues in education; he encouraged Board members to submit topics of interest to them.

Committee Chair Ryan completed his report with an overview of the Presidential search, noting that many qualified candidates have advanced in the selection process. He outlined the timeline for further review and the scheduling of interviews. The search firm continues to accept applications.

b. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Report

- Update – 1/14/2021 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Roby Luna provided an abbreviated summary of the work conducted at the Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the compliance calendar, a compilation of legally mandated reports that evidence compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements or programs. The Clery Report on Crime was presented to the Committee. The annual report summarizes three years of crimes statistics and fire safety reporting on campus. The report also contains numerous URI policies and resources that are available to students who are either victims of crime or have mental health or medical issues. The Committee reviewed URI's management of export controls, an introduction to a

range of agencies and regulations that govern all the export controls, including, but not limited to computer system access. The Committee was given an introduction to the function and responsibilities of the export control office under the supervision of the vice president of research.

Committee Chair Luna reported that the Committee heard a brief overview of the State's Public Private Partnership Act (PPPA), which falls under the RI Ethics Code regulations, and the University's management of research related conflicts of interest. Chair Luna noted that the University navigates a lengthy process to seek an exemption every time a new financial commercial partnership is considered, based on URI intellectual property. The Committee was provided a high-level overview of management, computer systems and security. Specific details of certain high-level activities that have occurred on URI's network were shared in executive session.

Committee Chair Luna noted that discussion of Item 3.f., "Policy on URI Technology and Sponsored Non-Immigrant Aliens" was tabled to the April 22, 2021 meeting.

c. Facilities and Finance Committee Report

- Update – 1/14/2021 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reported on the Committee's review of the University's purchasing regulations and process. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Finance and Administration, outlined the regulatory structure governing the procurement process, and stressed the need to modernize regulations by raising thresholds to improve URI's purchasing efficiency. Board members expressed their support of this initiative.

Committee Chair Fascitelli reported that the Committee was briefed on the recently enacted FY 2021 budget, the anticipated coronavirus response and relief package, and the proposed FY 2022 budget. Linda Barrett, Director of Budget and Financial Planning, provided a brief overview of the enacted state appropriations for FY 2021 including asset protection allocations, the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funding, and anticipated Higher Education Emergency Relief funding through the new Corona Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. She also spoke of the March 2021 bond referendum item seeking funding for the fine arts center, as well as challenges and opportunities regarding student enrollment.

Committee Chair Fascitelli noted that Vice President Rider provided the Committee with the bondholder report which contains detailed information on the University; he encouraged all Board members to read the report.

Vice President Rider provided a brief overview of the updated signature authority document, which now includes a new level of signature authority regarding labor agreements and employment related documents. Committee Chair Fascitelli confirmed that the Committee is recommending that the Board approve the updated signature authority document.

d. University Advancement and External Affairs Committee Report

- Update – 12/16/2020 and 1/14/2021 Committee Meetings

Committee Chair Christine Heenan reported on the special Committee meeting held on December 16, 2020. She noted that Committee members were joined by members of the URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (URIFAE) Board for a discussion and deeper dive on university rankings. The consensus amongst the group was that the URI status and level of excellence have surpassed where URI's ratings are, and the rankings have not caught up to the URI of today.

Regarding the January 14, 2021 Committee meeting, Committee Chair Heenan noted that the Committee reviewed a marketing and communications update, focusing on raising brand awareness through social media campaigns to promote the University. She reviewed the media placements made in 2020.

The Committee received a report from Lil O'Rourke on the "Big Ideas, Bold Plans" campaign. The campaign has made incredible progress and anticipates meeting fundraising goals for this fiscal year.

Committee Chair Heenan introduced the Career Connect Initiative which was launched in September and is designed to connect alumni and students as mentors and mentees. She encouraged board members to serve as mentees in their respective fields.

Kelly Mahoney briefed the Board on government relations, including plans to meet with the incoming governor and his key staff, board appointments, efforts to enact legislation related to virtual meetings, and the March 2nd special election to consider higher education bond initiatives.

e. Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee Report

- Update – 1/14/2021 Committee Meeting

Provost DeHayes spoke on behalf of Committee Chair Cecelia Rouse. He reported that the Committee discussed four items, including a URI Research Foundation partnership with Rogue Venture Partners, the annual report of URI Progress Performance Metrics, an overview of academic efforts in support of student success, and possible models for Board and Faculty Senate consideration in regard to committee approval of new programs.

Vice President Snyder reported on the new research partnership with Rogue Venture Partners, a venture capital fund. He said the URIFAE and URI will be the anchor research partner with Rogue creating a blue ocean fund, taking advantage of an area of reputational and substantive strength for the University around ocean science and technology. Rogue Venture Partners has been thoroughly vetted by the URI Research Foundation. Vice President Snyder noted that the driving force of this partnership is to create opportunities to expand a greater flourishing of economic development at URI and in the State.

Provost DeHayes briefed the Board on the annual URI Progress Performance Metrics as reported to the State of Rhode Island. The three metrics, defined by the Performance Incentive Funding Act, are graduation and degree completion, workforce development (tying academic degrees to workforce opportunities for graduates), and mission specific to develop the University's specific metrics. The University has shown dramatic progress in that in each of the fourteen metrics across the three categories, the University is showing positive gains. Targets set by the former governing board have already been surpassed. Board members considered reviewing the specific metrics during the June retreat.

Provost DeHayes provided an overview of academic efforts in support of student success at the University. Four presentations focused on academic advising, on career and experiential learning, on URI's academic enhancement center (student academic support facility) and the University's undergraduate research and innovation and launch lab initiatives.

In conclusion, Provost DeHayes reported that the Committee continued discussion on possible models for Board and Faculty Senate consideration regarding committee approval of new programs. He noted that much progress was made on advancing this initiative, recognizing the shared governance process. He commented that there seemed to be consensus from Committee members on a fair, appropriate, and collaborative model for reviewing new academic programs and academic structure changes in accordance with the Board of Trustees' bylaws. No action was taken on this matter.

f. Executive Committee Report

- Update – 1/15/2021 Committee Meeting

Chair Cook highlighted the critical role and success of the University liaisons in ensuring that the agendas make sense, in bringing subject matter experts in front of the Board, and in meeting with the Committee chairs beforehand. She expressed her appreciation to university staff for their work in preparing for the board meetings. Chair Cook discussed the importance of transparency during these public meetings, while noting Board member Heenan's suggestion to use the public forum to highlight Board activity.

Chair Cook reported that Committee members discussed the balance of work in each committee; it is possible that work may be shifted amongst committees to maintain that balance as the Board moves forward. She encouraged Board members to provide feedback to the Chair and Vice Chair on this topic. The Committee discussed the Board's role in the presidential transition process at the University. She confirmed that the annual presidential performance review is not necessary this year due to President Dooley's impending retirement.

7. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. Fall 2020 Recap and Spring 2021 Update

President Dooley spoke of the transitions in state government, noting that the new Speaker of the House, Joseph Shekarchi, was a co-sponsor of the legislation that created the Board of Trustees. He said the University has an excellent relationship with Speaker Shekarchi, with Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, and with the incoming Governor Dan McKee, and is well positioned for the upcoming legislative session.

In speaking of the national situation, President Dooley shared the words of former RI Senator John Pastore, spoken during the height of the Cold War - "The sanity of America is the security of the world." He noted that never before in our lifetimes has the sanity of America been so much in question. President Dooley asserted that the University of Rhode Island will stand, as it always has, for science, for facts, for truth, and against conspiracy theories, alternative facts and bending the truth to fit any particular agenda. He said that as a public research university, we feel that is a compelling and central part of our mission. President Dooley confirmed that we will use all of our capacities, intellectual, scientific, our teaching, learning, and service, to serve the nation as best as we can and to prepare our students to be global leaders.

Reflecting on the challenges presented by the pandemic in 2020, President Dooley stated that URI has weathered the storm remarkably well, and for many reasons, including its performance and the judicious use of its reserve funds, to making strategic investments, to continuing to improve the institution even when times are tough. He noted that over the last several years, URI has added more than sixty faculty positions, and enrollment and student success have grown substantially.

The President reminded the Board that for two successive years, the University was identified by the Association of Public and Land Grant universities as one of the best three institutions in America for degree completion improvements.

President Dooley remarked that the blended format of the fall semester was quite successful. He noted that the Faculty Senate did an excellent job giving students constructive and flexible options for handling grades. Graduation rates were high,

and students continued to succeed and complete their degrees even in the current climate. The President said that the innovative J Term has become a major factor for teaching and learning at URI, and that applications for the coming year are strong, and include a surge in out-of-state applicants.

President Dooley reported that the recent low COVID-19 testing positivity rate at the University is an indication that the community is taking this very seriously. He noted that all students will be tested at no charge upon their return to campus. He celebrated the work of Dr. Angela Slitt in the College of Pharmacy, in leading a robust effort to develop and validate a saliva-based assay for COVID-19. URI will be setting up a service laboratory on campus, which will be a cost savings. The University is working closely with the RI Department of Health on the rollout of the vaccine and will continue its rigorous testing every two weeks.

In conclusion, President Dooley remarked that the University continues its efforts to revise the curriculum, having learned that students prefer synchronous online learning; faculty has adapted readily to new practices to benefit the students. He noted that URI is looking forward to a successful spring including blended instruction and synchronous learning. He thanked the great people who work in student health and student life, and the faculty, appreciating the work that they do on behalf of the students and the university.

Board member Ryan remarked that, given the efforts of the faculty and staff at URI during the pandemic, it is appropriate for the Board to send a letter recognizing the University community for the outstanding job it has done during this time. The Board recognizes and appreciates the work of faculty, staff, and students, teaching and learning in a different environment while remaining flexible, resourceful, and resilient to get it all done, and with a positive attitude.

Chair Cook celebrated the impressive work of the professors that presented during the Plenary Session. She thanked the President's team for making these meetings content rich and meaningful. She mentioned the use of executive summaries for the more complex issues, going forward. Chair Cook noted that between now and the next meeting, work continues on legislative initiatives, the presidential search, follow-up on technology and security issues, the research-led investment fund, the bond referendum process, and identifying Board candidates.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Approval of the Request for Exemption Under the Public-Private Partnership Act**
[Enclosure 8a](#)
[Enclosure 8a\(i\)](#)
[Enclosure 8a\(ii\)](#)
[Enclosure 8a\(iii\)](#)
[Enclosure 8a\(iv\)](#)

Vice President Peter Snyder provided an overview of this action item. Chair Luna confirmed that the Committee recommends approval.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the Request for Exemption under the Public-Private Partnership Act, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED THAT: The URI Board of Trustees approve the Request for Exemption under the Public-Private Partnership Act, 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, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Christine Heenan was not present for the vote.

b. Affirming of the awarding of Honorary Degrees Commencement 2021

Provost DeHayes confirmed that these candidates were approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education a year ago. They were to be part of URI's 2020 commencement, which, due to the pandemic, did not happen.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the affirming of the awarding of Honorary Degrees, Commencement 2021, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED THAT: The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the affirming of the awarding of Honorary Degrees, Commencement 2021, 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, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Christine Heenan was not present for the vote.

c. Approval of 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 [Enclosure 8c](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI 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 set forth in Enclosure 8c and as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and Armand Sabitoni, and seconded by Charles Fogarty, it was

VOTED THAT: The University of Rhode Island 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 set forth in Enclosure 8c and 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, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Christine Heenan was not present for the vote.

d. Approval of the awarding of tenure for Dr. Samuel Soule, Graduate School of Oceanography [Enclosure 8d](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of tenure for Dr. Samuel Soule, Graduate School of Oceanography, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Courtney Nicolato, it was

VOTED THAT: The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the awarding of tenure for Dr. Samuel Soule, Graduate School of Oceanography, 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, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Christine Heenan was not present for the vote.

e. Approval of Updated Signature Authority Memorandum [Enclosure 8e](#)

Committee Chair Fascitelli confirmed that the Finance and Facilities Committee recommended that the Board approve the updated signature authority document.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the Updated Signature Authority Memorandum, as set forth in Enclosure 8e and as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED THAT: The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Updated Signature Authority Memorandum, as set forth in Enclosure 8e and 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, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Christine Heenan was not present for the vote.

f. Approval of the 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule Enclosure 8f

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule, as set forth in Enclosure 8f and as recommended and presented.

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

VOTED THAT: The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule, as set forth in Enclosure 8f and 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, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Christine Heenan was not present for the vote.

9. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by David Martirano, 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, Richard Humphrey, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Christine Heenan was not present for the vote.

At 4:09 p.m. this meeting ended.

The next meeting of the URI Board of Trustees is scheduled for April 23, 2021.