



Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Michael D. Fascitelli '78

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
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, January 15, 2021 • 9:00 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 Margo Cook welcomed members to the meeting and conducted a formal roll call of those in attendance. Chair Cook acknowledged that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee voting members:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Committee Chair
- Mr. Michael McNally, Committee Vice Chair
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli
- Ms. Christine Heenan
- Mr. Roby Luna
- Mr. Thomas Ryan

Absent: Ms. Cecilia Rouse

The University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership:

- Dr. David M. Dooley, President
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the URI Board of Trustees
- Mr. Peter Harrington, Interim General Counsel

The University of Rhode Island Staff:

- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of January 15, 2021
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Christine Heenan, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Thomas Ryan
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting

Chair Cook called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee approve the September 10, 2020 meeting minutes
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Christine Heenan, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Thomas Ryan
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

3. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. Feedback from Chairs on committee structure and process

Chair Cook opened up the discussion with the committee chairs regarding meeting structure, discussion topics, and committee workload. Vice Chair McNally acknowledged that the meetings held on January 14 ran on time, provided important information, and were outstanding overall.

Chair Cook inquired about the relationship between the committee Chairs and university liaisons. Committee member Luna, Chair of the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee, shared that the Board would not be as successful without the liaisons who are experts on the subject matters and issues discussed in meetings.

President Dooley commented on the need for committees to discuss and address sensitive issues shared in a public meeting without compromising the university's integrity and security. A question arose as to whether a committee is allowed to hold an executive session under the Open Meetings Act. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, confirmed that a committee is allowed to hold executive session. It was requested by committee members that Attorney Harrington look more deeply into the best practices of how other Rhode Island public institutions handle executive session and that time be carved out in the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee and other committees to discuss sensitive and confidential matters as they arise.

The topic of executed meeting minutes was discussed, and it was suggested and agreed that going forward, they provide a summary of the meeting rather than a transcript.

The matter of committee workload was addressed in terms of the amount of information and data that is presented to the Board for discussion and/or action. Due to the large amount of information presented, especially in the Finance and Facilities Committee, it was recommended that an executive summary with meeting materials be prepared prior to each committee meeting. This will allow committee members to better prepare for the meetings and will assist in the smooth execution of both the committee and full board meetings. It was also suggested that the initial and mid-year budget reviews requiring full Board attendance be scheduled in addition to the four regularly scheduled Finance and Facilities Committee meetings.

Chair Cook recommended that 5-6 goals for each board meeting be set which comprise an aggregate of what's taking place in the committees. This process will give Board members advanced notice as to the discussion, feedback, or action taking place in the following day's full board meeting.

Committee member Christine Heenan, Chair of the University Advancement and External Affairs Committee, commented on the remarkable presentations that were given by URI faculty in the Plenary Session on January 14. She suggested that presentations and information such as that, if provided before a meeting, should be shared on the URI website, social media, and via their own channels. She suggested that the Board members prepare questions for those presenting, which in turn, could be shared via social media in an effort to not only humanize the Board, but also open it up to a wider audience. Ms. Heenan also recommended pairing faculty with board members in an effort to showcase the talents of both.

URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting
January 15, 2021

The discussion reverted back to committee workload. It was noted that there will be, at times, an uneven amount of workload among committees, and it may be necessary to revisit the structure of certain committees to balance the work within.

The role of a vice chair was discussed whereby committee Chairs provided feedback pertaining to the creation of that role and shared the ways in which the vice chair is being utilized.

4. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 15, 2021.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee adjourn the meeting of January 15, 2021

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Christine Heenan, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Thomas Ryan

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2021.