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Mayrai Gindy
Faculty Representative

Christopher Bove '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, April 23, 2021 • 9:30 a.m. EDT**

**PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR MCKEE'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 members of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees to the meeting. She introduced URI's newest trustee, Neil Kerwin, former president of American University, friend of URI, and the new chair of the Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee. 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 9:33 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 9:40 a.m.)
- Ms. Christine M. Heenan
- Mr. Richard Humphrey (arrived at 9:59 a.m.)
- Mr. Neil Kerwin
- 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

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 members:

- Dr. David M. Dooley, President
- Ms. Mary Grace Almandrez, Chief Diversity Officer of Community, Equity and Diversity
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources (joined at 12:34 p.m.)
- Dr. Kathy Collins, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Board Secretary
- Mr. Donald H. DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Mr. Peter Harrington, Interim General Counsel
- Mr. Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer (joined at 11:00 a.m.)
- 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 members:

- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate Development
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Executive Assistant II
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel
- Ms. Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary

Invited Guests:

- Ms. Audrey Cardany, Vice President, URI Faculty Senate
- Attorney Bruce Copeland, Nixon Peabody, LLP (joined at 11:00 a.m.)
- Ms. Megan Echevarría, President, URI Faculty Senate
- Ms. Austyn Ramsay, President, URI Student Senate
- Ms. Madyson Ramsay, Vice President, URI Student Senate
- Attorney Steven Richard, Nixon Peabody, LLP (joined at 10:59 a.m.)

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees accept the agenda for the meeting of April 23, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Karina Montilla Edmonds and seconded by Roby Luna, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept
the agenda for the meeting of April 23, 2021.

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, 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 January 14, 2021 Plenary Session [Enclosure 2a.](#)
- b. Minutes of the January 15, 2021 Meeting [Enclosure 2b.](#)
- c. Minutes of the April 8, 2021 Special Meeting [Enclosure 2c.](#)
- d. Minutes of the April 12, 2021 Special Meeting [Enclosure 2d.](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Plenary Session that took place on January 14, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2a., the minutes of the Meeting that took place on January 15, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2b., the minutes of the Special Meeting that took place on April 8, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2c., and the minutes of the Special Meeting that took place on April 12, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2d.

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 that took place on January 14, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2a., the minutes of the Meeting that took place on January 15, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2b., the minutes of the Special Meeting that took place on April 8, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2c., and the minutes of the Special Meeting that took place on April 12, 2021, as set forth in Enclosure 2d.

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Christine Heenan, Neil Kerwin, 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. PLENARY SESSION

Shared Governance – An overview of the URI Faculty Senate and the URI Student Senate

Megan Echevarría, President of the Faculty Senate; Audrey Cardany, Vice President of the Faculty Senate; Austyn Ramsay, President of the Student Senate; Madyson Ramsay, Vice President of the Student Senate

Chair Cook introduced Megan Echevarría, President of the URI Faculty Senate, and Audrey Cardany, Vice President of the URI Faculty Senate, who were present to speak about Shared Governance at URI. Chair Cook noted the importance of understanding the concept of shared governance and how decisions are made at the University.

Ms. Echevarría provided a PowerPoint entitled “[Faculty Senate – Shared Governance at URI](#)”.

She remarked that shared governance is about rights, privileges, and responsibilities, and is also about caring about each other and caring about institutions, figuring out the best way to move forward in normal times and in challenging times, for the common good. When you have good governing partners who respect one another and trust each other, you will have a successful institution.

While there are different models of shared governance across the country, Rhode Island state law codified the shared governance system, essentially making the president and a committee of the faculty equal governing partners. In 1960, the general faculty senate was created to serve as agent of the faculty. The Faculty Senate’s sole goal is to protect, serve and act in the best interest of the University.

Ms. Echevarría noted that there are different degrees of participation in shared governance decision-making processes, based on areas of expertise and primary areas of responsibility. She reviewed the four categories of shared governance:

- Determination: something is completely entrusted to the faculty, such as course approvals.
- Joint action: working together with the president, consensus is reached, and the appropriate action is implemented.
- Consultation: when one party has an important decision to make, advice is collected from many voices, to get as many perspectives as possible to make certain that it’s the right decision and that it’s going to be implemented appropriately.
- Discussion: when an important decision must be made, the rationale behind the decision is communicated to the faculty senate.

In describing her experience with President Dooley, Ms. Echevarría noted that they have been very effective partners, with joint action and consultation. She said that they are in constant communication, and value each other's opinions. She noted that President Dooley personifies the entire senior leadership team. She reviewed the structure in place at URI which promotes collaboration between the President, his senior leadership team and presidential committees, and the Faculty Senate, its leadership team and the Faculty Senate standing committees.

Ms. Echevarría reviewed the Faculty Senate's organization and composition, noting the three-year cycle for elected officials which provides for leadership training and ensures continuity. She highlighted the fact that the Faculty Senate's ex officio members include senior leaders, deans, the Student Senate president, and the Graduate Student Association president. She stated that the work of the Faculty Senate includes making policy, examining and modifying policies, advocating for both faculty and student needs, advising the president, provost and other senior leaders, planning, and most importantly this past year, crisis management.

Responding to Chair Cook's question about lessons learned during the COVID crisis, Ms. Echevarría noted that the level of communication increased significantly, for logical reasons, and we were able to strengthen the trust; the level of joint action increased significantly, because it had to, as demonstrated by the decision to develop the flex/mixed model.

Responding to Chair Cook's inquiry about his interaction with the Faculty Senate, President Dooley noted that, having had the benefit of being a faculty member for years, he has deep respect and familiarity with how faculty think. He noted that shared governance is essential to the effective functioning of an institution of higher education, and said he has tremendous admiration for members of the senior leadership team for the way they engaged the faculty, right from the beginning, and thinking about how to manage through this pandemic. He confirmed that all the decisions we made, how we were going to transition, how we were going to teach, how we were going to manage the institution, were made with faculty participation; and the Senate leadership played a tremendous role. One of the reasons we did well in managing the pandemic was because we had that kind of faculty participation. Our Senate put student wellbeing first, they put the institution first, frequently ahead of their own interests; they were empowered to help decide what was going to happen and how the University was going to work through this pandemic. President Dooley recognized the tremendous asset of this board, to have a Faculty Senate and a faculty that is so dedicated to working collaboratively, thoughtfully, deliberatively, honestly, and transparently with university leadership to lead the university together.

Chair Cook introduced Austyn Ramsay, outgoing president of the Student Senate, and Madyson Ramsay, who was re-elected to serve as vice president of the Student Senate.

Austyn Ramsay and Madyson Ramsay provided a PowerPoint entitled "[The University of Rhode Island Student Senate – Student Governance at URI](#)".

Madyson Ramsay spoke about the Student Senate, made up of undergraduate students elected by the student body. She noted that the Senate works to improve and enhance the quality and scope of education and life at the University of Rhode Island. The Student Senate accomplishes this by providing an official, representative government through which the undergraduate student voice may be expressed.

The Student Senate ensures the effective representation of its constituents in University affairs and administration.

Austyn Ramsay outlined the structure of the Student Senate, and highlighted the distinct roles of the Executive, Legislative (Assembly), and Judicial branches. The Student Senate encourages the development of responsible student participation in the overall policy and decision-making process of the university community and ensures that students' academic needs and concerns are constantly being checked and addressed. Madyson Ramsay noted that the Assembly members work with the administration, collaborate with campus leaders and groups, and serve on committees to give student insight and perspectives on ways to improve and enhance the college experience for all members of the URI community. The Academic chair acts as a liaison between the Student Senate and the Faculty Senate, attends monthly Faculty Senate meetings and serves on various Faculty Senate committees.

Austyn Ramsay outlined the special relationship between the Executive Committee and the Administration, the Faculty Senate, and other departments, to maintain a proper line of communication. The Student Senate President acts as a liaison between the student body and the Administration. She said she meets monthly with President Dooley and the Vice President of Student Affairs about issues, ideas, and exciting collaborative projects.

Madyson Ramsay spoke of the liaison positions within the Student Senate; each position serves as a bridge between the Student Senate and other external organizations, academic colleges, departments, and the administration, and provides opportunities for students to get involved in student government. She noted that the Student Senate also recognizes student organizations and provides funding for programming and events.

Austyn Ramsay emphasized the importance of shared governance during the pandemic. The Academic Chair shared the student experience and collaborated with the Faculty Senate, so faculty understood the students' needs, wellbeing, and academic concerns. She confirmed that the administration did a wonderful job of hearing us and letting us know they care. She recognized it was a successful year, given the constraints.

In response to Chair Cook's request for an example of shared governance success, Ms. Cardany noted the joint statement of the Faculty Senate and the Student Senate delivered in April 2021, which called for flexibility and compassion during the pandemic with a reminder to students on available resources. Austyn Ramsay confirmed that it was empowering to see what can happen when we all come together to bridge the gaps between students and faculty.

Board members commended Austyn and Madyson Ramsay for their leadership of the Student Senate and their advocacy for the URI student community. Board members expressed their support of the shared goal of improving the student experience.

Chair Cook encouraged the Faculty Senate and Student Senate representatives to continue their interaction with the Board; she confirmed that the Board supports the faculty and students' cooperative efforts to advance the success of the University.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. Discussion regarding Sean Burt, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Board of Trustees of the University of Rhode Island, and Does 1-10 inclusive, C.A. No. 20-465-JJM-LDA (U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island); and,

Logan Thomson, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Board of Trustees of the University of Rhode Island, C.A. No. 20-295-JJM-LDA (U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- b. Discussion regarding litigation: 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), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- c. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- d. Discussion regarding a proposed amendment to President David M. Dooley’s contract extension, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1), pursuant to which President Dooley was notified in advance in writing that the Board may be discussing his job performance or character at this meeting and was advised of his right to require that any such discussion be held at an open meeting, which he has not requested.

On a motion duly made by Neil Kerwin and seconded by Karina Montilla Edmonds, Roby Luna, and Cortney Nicolato, it was:

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

- a. Discussion regarding Sean Burt, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Board of Trustees of the University of Rhode Island, and Does 1-10 inclusive, C.A. No. 20-465-JJM-LDA (U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island); and,

Logan Thomson, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Board of Trustees of the University of Rhode Island, C.A. No. 20-295-JJM-LDA (U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- b. Discussion regarding litigation: 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), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

- c. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- d. Discussion regarding a proposed amendment to President David M. Dooley's contract extension, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

VOTE: 17 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, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:53 a.m. Virtual public access was paused.

The following University staff members were present:

- Dr. David M. Dooley, President (left prior to Item 5.d.)
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Executive Assistant II
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources (joined at 12:34 p.m.)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Board Secretary
- Mr. Donald H. DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (left prior to 5.d.)
- Mr. Peter Harrington, Interim General Counsel
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel
- Mr. Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer (present for Item 5.b. only)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary

Attorney Bruce Copeland, Nixon Peabody, LLP, was present for Item 5.b.

Attorney Steven Richard, Nixon Peabody, LLP, was present for the Items 5.b. and 5.c.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 1:34 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 April 23, 2021.

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 seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on April 23, 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, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

 NAYS: 0

 ABSTAINS: 0

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

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Report on Board Governance Issues

Chair Cook commended all involved in the successful presidential search process. She noted that the whole URI community was involved in selecting a president that will understand the University of Rhode Island through the lens of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Dr. Parlange will build on the University's success in research and will attract and retain faculty. Chair Cook confirmed that URI would not have gotten the candidates it did had it not been for the success of President Dooley over the last twelve years.

Chair Cook celebrated the passage of the bond to fund the remaining improvements to the Fine Arts building, noting the importance of balancing the resources we put into research and science with the arts and humanities. She stated that the Fine Arts building supports about 5,000 students and about 50,000 visitors annually and is an important asset to the state.

Chair Cook highlighted Vice President Collins' report to the Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee, which pointed out the interconnection that happens at the University that leads to student success. She remarked that URI is creating pathways to success, with a lot of intentionality.

Chair Cook announced that Kelly Mahoney and Peter Harrington, both members of senior leadership, are leaving URI to pursue other opportunities. She noted their tremendous advocacy of the University and wished them the best. She confirmed that the search for a new general counsel is well underway, with final candidates being interviewed shortly.

7. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. Spring 2021 Update

President Dooley thanked both Kelly Mahoney and Peter Harrington for their great service to the University and wished them well in their next career steps.

President Dooley gave the Board a brief COVID-19 update, noting that the University will announce by June 1 if it will require a vaccine for new and returning students. Some of the variants of the virus have been detected on campus, so URI is increasing its vigilance, maintaining processes and requirements through the end of the semester and the summer. Working with the Department of Health, URI has received an allotment of vaccine; a vaccination center has been set up at the Schneider Electric facility. President Dooley noted that URI continues its efforts to seek authorization to conduct vaccinations. He stated that URI is optimistic that it will be able to use its own saliva test, currently in the certification process. The RI Department of Health is evaluating guidelines and potential mandates for higher education institutions; URI will continue to work with them through the summer.

President Dooley reported that URI has made the decision that it will no longer use triple rooms in the residence halls, only singles and doubles will be used. Residential life is being reconfigured.

President Dooley said URI is very pleased with Governor McKee's proposed budget, which reflects a significant increase in state appropriations (\$81.5 million for FY22). He noted that URI is also appreciative that the Governor rebuilt asset protection funding to \$9.9 million, which will allow URI to do a lot of critical work that was postponed this past year.

The President reported that URI representatives met with the House leadership in the General Assembly and plan to meet soon with leadership in the Senate, to request that they support the Governor's budget. He added that URI is also highlighting the needed bond authorizations to issue its own bonds to build a new health and counseling center as well as to substantially renovate and improve the Memorial Union. President Dooley noted that during this legislative session, URI will also be pursuing funding for RI Promise 1.0, a state scholarship for all Rhode Islanders attending an in-state school. URI gets about \$2.5 million from that program, an important source of financial aid.

President Dooley highlighted some of the numerous success stories within University athletics this spring, celebrating teams, players, and coaches. He thanked Stefan Soloviev and his family for their generous \$3 million gift to the University to construct a practice and training facility.

Following inquiry from Board member Bove, President Dooley discussed the University's long-range plans for housing and transportation, including two major housing projects under consideration at the gateway apartments and the graduate village, and a new on-campus parking lot with solar features. President Dooley noted that the Housing and Residential Life team continue to assist students looking for offsite housing. He reported that the RI Department of Transportation is reconfiguring bus routes and building a transportation hub at URI, which will greatly facilitate bus transportation in South County and commuting at URI.

8. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Governance Committee Report – 4/22/2021 Committee Meeting Update

Governance Committee Chair Thomas Ryan reported on the agenda items considered during its Committee meeting. He noted that there are about twelve policies which will be reviewed by the Board and updated over time. During yesterday's meeting, two draft policies were reviewed:

[Policy on Policies](#): Committee Chair Ryan stated that the goal of this policy is to delineate the roles between the President and the Faculty Senate, the administration, and the Board.

[Policy on Consensual Relationships](#): Committee Chair Ryan noted that this policy is meant to ensure that we have a learning and working environment that is characterized by professional ethical behavior with respect to romantic, consensual relations. He stated that the University wants to make sure there are no relationships that have an uneven power dynamic.

Committee Chair Ryan added that Ms. Rider will return to the Board in June to request approval of modified policies based on Committee members' input.

Committee Chair Ryan announced that an orientation manual has been created for the Board of Trustees; new board member Neil Kerwin has reviewed the manual. The manual will be made available to the Board members; the online edition will be updated as information changes.

Committee Chair Ryan noted that the Committee reviewed its charter and discussed the uneven level of work amongst the committees. He said that during the June meeting, the Board will take a step back and look at committee makeup and assigned responsibilities. He added that the Committee discussed formalizing how it identifies and vets new board candidates.

Regarding the upcoming June retreat, Committee Chair Ryan reviewed tentative plans to bring in an outside speaker to discuss justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion at URI. He said that the Board will discuss committee assignments, roles, responsibilities, the possible creation of new committees, and a shift in committee responsibilities.

Committee member Nicolato added that Ms. Rider will provide a report to the Board on the timeline for review of policies, to help the Board prioritize the cadence to which the policies should be reviewed, and to add the assignments to its annual calendar.

b. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee – 4/22/2021 Committee Meeting Update

Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Chair Roby Luna reported that five discussion items were covered during the committee meeting.

Ms. Rider provided a brief overview of the [Research Grant Accounting Compliance Review](#) process. She noted that there is an almost annual visitation from one or more of the federal agencies URI does research for, and URI has a good track record in terms of being in compliance with their rules and

regulations. The single audit report is done for the federal agencies by our external auditors, reported to the Risk Committee and then to the full Board. URI attracts over \$100 million in graduate funding for research.

Dr. Snyder provided a brief overview on URI's Policy on [University Technology and Sponsored Non-Immigrant Aliens](#). He noted that he apprised the Committee of a new administrative policy that was put in place at the end of this past calendar year. The policy includes increased controls and oversight to tighten up URI's overview of who is visiting the campus from external institutions on visas from foreign countries (employees or visiting scholars), to ensure that certain foreign visitors identified by the State Department or the Department of Treasury do not have access to our internal computer systems.

President Dooley mentioned pending legislation in Congress involving federally funded universities' relationships with foreign entities. Committee Chair Luna noted that the Committee discussed the university's role in protecting national security, and how the enactment of pending legislation may impact URI.

Committee Chair Luna applauded the development of the enterprise risk management operation. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Snyder, Ms. Rider, Ms. Larsen, Mr. Kaugars, and their team.

Ms. Larsen provided a brief update on URI's [IT Risk Assessment](#).

Mr. Kaugars provided a brief overview of the [Digital Identities Report](#). Committee Chair Luna emphasized the importance of Board members using their assigned URI email addresses.

Committee Chair Luna stated that he will be working with Dr. Snyder and his team to develop policies and to take steps to minimize URI's digital footprint. He reported that the Committee reviewed its charter and reported that no changes were needed.

c. Finance and Facilities Committee Report – 4/22/2021 Committee Meeting Update

Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reported that the Committee had a detailed discussion on four major topics. He asked his Committee liaisons to speak briefly on the topics.

Ms. Rider provided an overview of the [Governor's Recommended FY22 Budget](#). She noted that the Governor's recommended appropriation for FY22 is \$82.8 million, which includes some monies that are for a short-term designated project. She said that while URI requested \$18.1 million in RI Capital Plan Fund (RICAP) funding, \$9.9 million is recommended by the Governor. For comparison purposes, she noted that the state appropriated \$82.5 million for URI in 2007; the state's appropriation to URI in real dollars has declined 22% since 2007, while total enrollment has increased 12.8% in the same time. Ms. Rider noted that URI has done an outstanding job in developing other revenue sources to enable it to continue to grow; she attributed this to the efforts of President Dooley and Provost DeHayes.

In terms of COVID-19 relief funds, Ms. Rider reported that URI has been allocated a total of \$47 million which includes CARES Act money, coronavirus relief funding, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) money, and American Rescue Plan funds. She

confirmed that URI's extraordinary expenses related to the coronavirus exceed the value of those grant funds. She noted that direct grants to students continue to help in terms of enrollment.

Mr. Carrillo provided an overview of the FY23-FY27 [Capital Improvement Plan](#) (CIP), including the [URI Capital Improvement Plan FY23-FY27 spreadsheet](#). Mr. Carrillo stated that the five-year plan consists of projects in excess of \$1 million; it is submitted annually and is subject to re-prioritization every year. The plan includes new construction, renovation, and capital maintenance projects. He confirmed that the CIP was presented for review; the Board will consider approving the CIP at the June meeting. Mr. Carrillo noted that following Board approval, the CIP is sent to the State House for executive and legislative consideration. He confirmed that the current CIP consists of 32 projects with a total value of \$967 million. URI is asking to be included in the November 2022 general obligation bond referendum to fund two projects; the Narragansett Bay Campus Phase 2 renewal project; and the Ryan Institute Lab Phase 2 project.

Mr. Kaugars provided an overview of [Progress Against IT Strategic Plan](#). He stated that URI is making great progress, particularly in areas of student success and online digital engagement. He reported on URI's new research computing department, and collaborative relationships with other computing centers and universities to assist faculty in research computing.

Mr. Kaugars provided an update on [IT Resourcing](#), with a particular focus on Information Technology (IT) security, resourcing, and staffing. He reviewed the results of a core data survey that was conducted amongst public doctoral institutions along the East Coast. He stressed that, while URI does operate in a severely resource constrained environment, its attention to IT security and IT spending around security is significantly above what it spends in general on IT.

Committee Chair Fascitelli noted that the committee's charter was reviewed; minor adjustments were suggested and will be presented at the June meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- i. Approval of Updated Signature Authority Memorandum. [Enclosure 8c\(i\)](#).

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Updated Signature Authority Memorandum, as set forth in Enclosure 8c(i) and as recommended and presented by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Updated Signature Authority Memorandum, as set forth in Enclosure 8c(i) and as recommended and presented.

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, Neil Kerwin, 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

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

ii. Approval of University Solar 2, LLC Leasehold Easement Agreement. [Enclosure 8c\(ii\)](#).

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the University Solar 2, LLC Leasehold Easement Agreement, as set forth in Enclosure 8c(ii) and as recommended and presented by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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 approve the University Solar 2, LLC Leasehold Easement Agreement, as set forth in Enclosure 8c(ii) and as recommended and presented.

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, Neil Kerwin, 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

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

iii. Approval of the naming of the West Gymnasium of the Tootell Athletic Complex to the Soloviev Family Basketball Practice Facility. [Enclosure 8c\(iii\)](#).

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve of the naming of the West Gymnasium of the Tootell Athletic Complex to the Soloviev Family Basketball Practice Facility, as set forth in Enclosure 8c(iii) and as recommended and presented by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve of the naming of the West Gymnasium of the Tootell Athletic Complex to the Soloviev Family Basketball Practice Facility, as set forth in Enclosure 8c(iii) and as recommended and presented.

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, Neil Kerwin, 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

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

d. University Advancement and External Affairs Committee Report - 4/22/2021 Committee Meeting Update

Committee Chair Christine Heenan reported on items discussed at the Committee meeting.

Ms. Breul O'Rourke provided a high-level summary of [The Campaign for the University of Rhode Island](#). She noted that the goal of the campaign is \$250 million; currently URI has raised \$205.4 million.

Ms. Mahoney provided a [Media and Marketing Update](#) which included a [Government Relations and Legislative Progress Report](#). She noted that URI has seen a substantial increase in media coverage this quarter. She stated that the Committee spent some time discussing rankings and where to make improvements. She noted URI's involvement in support of the Governor's proposed budget as well as five legislative requests before the General Assembly.

Committee Chair Heenan made note of the increased amount of engagement in both media and social media on President-elect Parlange's announcement. She encouraged all to strategically build upon that.

e. Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee Report – 4/22/2021 Committee Meeting Update

Committee Chair Neil Kerwin reported on items discussed at the Committee meeting. He spoke about the impact of the pandemic on academics and state funding. He remarked that somehow the University was able to ensure that students that were on track to complete degrees have done so. Regarding the enormously important Academic Summit on anti-racism held earlier this year, Committee Chair Kerwin noted that twice the number of faculty attended the summit than in the past.

Provost DeHayes reported that the number of students expected to participate in commencement this year has increased. He acknowledged that URI students have received national fellowships and awards. He noted that seventy of URI's undergraduates will graduate with honors.

Committee Chair Kerwin asked Dr. Kathy Collins to provide an overview of the [Student Affairs Strategic Plan](#), and the [Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan](#) presentation. He noted that it is the first plan of its kind written for that division, and addresses health and wellness, connectedness, access and affordability, the ability of students to be successful academically, and the general focus on efficiency and effectiveness.

Dr. Collins applauded the staff of the Student Affairs Division, its faculty, colleagues, and students for making tremendous progress during the global pandemic in meeting our metrics and moving the plan forward. She highlighted one action plan: to enhance the collaboration between academic affairs and student affairs focusing on URI's student veterans and their experience. She noted that one of the outcomes of this work is the creation of a new student center for military and veteran education to further enhance URI's services to its military veterans and military dependents, and to thank them for their service.

Dr. Collins reviewed the University's latest numbers in terms of COVID response including testing, contact tracing, interviews, and associated costs. Committee Chair Kerwin acknowledged the truly extraordinary and remarkable efforts of the University in fighting the pandemic.

Ms. Almandrez provided an overview of the Committee's discussion on the [Proposed University Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement](#). She said that the proposed statement was shared with several bodies across campus, including the Native American Advisory Board, the Senior Leadership team, and the University Diversity Council. She noted that over the next few months the proposed statement will be shared with the Faculty Senate as well as student and staff leaders; she hopes to present the draft statement to the full Board at an upcoming meeting. She also shared important initiatives to strengthen URI's partnership and commitment to indigenous community members, including scholarships for Narragansett students, recruitment programs and community partnerships.

Provost DeHayes provided an overview of the [Preliminary Report of Progress on the Academic Strategic Plan](#). He focused his remarks on student success, and how the university measures success. He stated that URI has increased retention of its student population, especially out-of-state students, increased retention of all student populations on campus and doubled its students of color over the last decade. He noted that one of the most dramatic measures is the increase in the number of degrees awarded at URI; over the past ten years, URI has awarded over 10,000 additional degrees compared to the trajectory of five years prior. He concluded by saying that ninety percent of last year's graduating class is either employed or engaged in graduate education, and made note of URI's investment in credit-bearing experiential learning opportunities.

Committee Chair Kerwin discussed the Committee's charter and responsibilities, and noted that in his experience, the Committee's jurisdiction is shared with at least two to three other committees. He acknowledged that the size of the Board and the demand placed on individual members may limit options.

ACTION ITEM:

- i. Approval of the awarding of degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors for students who have completed all applicable academic requirements at the conclusion of the Spring semester for May 2021 commencement. [Enclosure 8e\(i\)](#).

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion 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 Spring semester for May 2021 commencement, as set forth in Enclosure 8e(i), and as recommended and presented by the Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee.

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 awarding of degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors for students who have completed all applicable academic requirements at the conclusion of the Spring semester for May 2021 commencement, as set forth in Enclosure 8e(i).

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, Neil Kerwin, 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

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of Resolution Delegating Authority Over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at The University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure 9a](#).

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Resolution Delegating Authority Over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island, as set forth in Enclosure 9a.

On a motion duly made by Neil Kerwin and seconded by Roby Luna, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Resolution Delegating Authority Over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island, as set forth in Enclosure 9a.

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, Neil Kerwin, 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

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

b. Approval of Amendment to President David M. Dooley's contract extension.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the amendment to President David M. Dooley's contract extension.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and Neil Kerwin, and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the amendment to President David M. Dooley's contract extension.

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, Neil Kerwin, 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

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

At 3:45 p.m., the Board took a short break before welcoming Dr. Marc Parlange.

10. WELCOME - DR. MARC PARLANGE – INCOMING URI PRESIDENT

At 4:01 p.m., Dr. Marc Parlange, URI’s incoming President, joined the virtual meeting. Chair Cook welcomed Dr. Parlange and reviewed the University’s plans to support him during his transition.

Dr. Parlange thanked Chair Cook and Board member Ryan for leading the presidential search process, and President Dooley and Provost DeHayes for assisting with the transition. He is looking forward to learning more about URI, meeting with senior leadership, and working as a team with the Board of Trustees. He noted that the entire Rhode Island community has been great in welcoming him, and he knows he is walking into a very healthy, productive, and positive environment in the State of Rhode Island.

11. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn.

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

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

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, Neil Kerwin, 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

Richard Humphrey was not present for the vote.

At 4:33 p.m., this meeting ended.

The next meeting of the URI Board of Trustees is scheduled for June 25, 2021.