



**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**

Dennis J. Duffy, '80, *Chair*  
*R.I. Council on Postsecondary*  
*Education*

Barbara Cottam, *Chair*  
*R.I. Board of Education*

Bethany D. Jenkins  
*Faculty Representative*

Hannah Bachert '23  
*Student Representative*

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 21, 2022 · 12:00 p.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island  
The Coastal Institute, Hazard Room  
Narragansett Bay Campus  
215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the April 21, 2022, meeting of the Executive Committee of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees. She conducted a roll call attendance and confirmed that a quorum of members was present. At 12:06 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

The Committee held a hybrid meeting, with some Committee members meeting in person and some members participating remotely. Public access to the meeting was available via the Facebook Live video platform.

The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee members participating:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Committee Chair (in person)
- Mr. Michael McNally, Committee Vice Chair (in person)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Mr. Neil Kerwin (in person)
- Mr. Roby Luna (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Mr. Thomas Ryan (remote)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)

URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee member not participating:

- Ms. Christine Heenan

URI President's Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Dr. Laura Beauvais, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)
- Ms. Abby Benson, Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff (in person)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (in person)
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources (in person)

URI Staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Audrey Cardany, URI Faculty Senate President (in person)
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary (in person)

## 1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of April 21, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Roby Luna, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of April 21, 2022.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Thomas Ryan.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the January 21, 2022, Executive Committee meeting [Enclosure 2.a.](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Executive Committee of the URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the January 21, 2022 meeting of the Committee.

On a motion duly made by Neil Kerwin and seconded by Tom Ryan, it was

VOTED:                    THAT                    The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee approve the minutes of the January 21, 2022 meeting of the Committee.

VOTE:                    7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:                    Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Thomas Ryan.

NAYS:                    0

ABSTAINS: 0

### 3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. Discussion regarding President Parlange’s annual review pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).
- b. Discussion regarding collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) with the following: Part-Time Faculty Union, AAUP, PSA, PTAA, Marine Professional Association, Physicians Association, Graduate Assistants Union.
- c. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

Chair Cook noted that President Parlange has been notified in writing that his annual review will be conducted in Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Michael McNally, it was:

VOTED:                    THAT                    The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee enter into Executive Session for:

- a. Discussion regarding President Parlange’s annual review pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1);
- b. Discussion regarding collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) with the following: Part-Time Faculty Union, AAUP, PSA, PTAA, Marine Professional Association, Physicians Association, Graduate Assistants Union; and,
- c. Discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Board entered into Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. Virtual public access was paused. URI Presidential Leadership Council members and URI staff members left the meeting room during discussion of President Parlange’s annual review.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 1:32 p.m. Virtual public access resumed.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Executive Committee of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the Executive Committee’s Executive Session that took place on April 21, 2022.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee seal the minutes of the Executive Committee’s Executive Session that took place on April 21, 2022.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

#### 4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Annual Review of the Executive Committee Charter [Enclosure 4.a.](#)

Chair Cook stated that the Executive Committee Charter outlines the work of the Committee. The Charter was reviewed by Committee members. No changes were identified.

- b. Draft URI Board of Trustees Policy on URI Presidential Performance Review

Chair Cook noted that the Draft URI Board of Trustees Policy on URI Presidential Performance Review has been shared with the Executive Committee members, as it addresses the work of the Committee. She reported that the Governance Committee is also considering the draft policy at their meeting today and will take action at the June meeting. Executive Committee members had no comments on the draft policy.

c. Discussion regarding virtual meetings

Chair Cook reported that the Governor has signed into law certain changes to the Open Meetings Act allowing members of the URI Board of Trustees to participate in meetings remotely. She suggested that the committees meet virtually the week prior to the full board meetings. Chair Cook noted that this change may improve participation, facilitate richer discussions both in the committees and in the full board meetings, and increase in-person attendance at the board meetings. She encouraged Board members to attend the full board meetings in person at URI.

Cortney Nicolato noted the importance of having consistency in scheduling the virtual committee meetings. Michael Fascitelli noted the benefit of handling administrative work remotely, allowing the Board to meet in person to focus on substantive interaction and strategic planning.

Chair Cook will share this information with all members during the full Board meeting.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Ratification of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Part-Time Faculty Union.**

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Executive Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees ratify the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Part-Time Faculty Union, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Roby Luna and Michael Fascitelli, it was

VOTED:            THAT            The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee ratify the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Part-Time Faculty Union, as recommended and presented.

VOTE:            7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:            Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Thomas Ryan.

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Review of the Retirement Plan Agreement with the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee Mission and Composition, and the appointment and indemnification of Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee members, and recommendation for approval and ratification to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure 5.b.](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the Executive Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend the following, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.b.:

That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Retirement Plan Agreement with the Council on Postsecondary Education and authorize each of the Board Chair or the President to execute the Retirement Plan Agreement for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the University of Rhode Island as recommended and presented.

That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve and ratify the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee Mission and Composition attached to the Retirement Plan Agreement as [Exhibit B](#).

That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees ratify and approve the appointment of Abigail Rider, Anne Marie Coleman and Alyssa Boss as members of the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee and ratify any past actions taken by such members in such capacity consistent with these votes.

That the University of Rhode Island shall indemnify members serving on the Joint Alternate Retirement Committee on behalf of the University of Rhode Island to the maximum extent permitted by Rhode Island law.

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

VOTED:            THAT            The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee recommend that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Retirement Plan Agreement with the Council on Postsecondary Education and authorize each of the Board Chair or the President to execute the Retirement Plan Agreement for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the University of Rhode Island as recommended and presented.

That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve and ratify the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee Mission and Composition attached to the Retirement Plan Agreement as [Exhibit B](#).

That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees ratify and approve the appointment of Abigail Rider, Anne

Marie Coleman and Alyssa Boss as members of the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee and ratify any past actions taken by such members in such capacity consistent with these votes.

That the University of Rhode Island shall indemnify members serving on the Joint Alternate Retirement Committee on behalf of the University of Rhode Island to the maximum extent permitted by Rhode Island law.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

## 6. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee adjourn the meeting of April 21, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Michael McNally and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee adjourn the meeting of April 21, 2022.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 1:43 p.m. this meeting ended.

**The next URI Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022.**