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Matthew Lenz '11

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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

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*R.I. Council on Postsecondary*  
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Bethany D. Jenkins  
*Faculty Representative*

Hannah Bachert '23  
*Student Representative*

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees  
Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 21, 2022 · 03:15 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**

Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli welcomed all members of the Committee to the meeting and asked for a roll call. Noting that a quorum was present, Chair Fascitelli called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

The Committee held a hybrid meeting, with some committee members meeting in person and some members participating remotely.

The URI Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee members in attendance:

- Michael Fascitelli, Chair (remote)
- Vahid Ownjazayeri, Vice Chair (in person)
- Matthew Lenz (in person)
- David Martirano (in person)
- Susan Petrovas (remote)
- Armand Sabitoni (remote)
- Margo Cook (ex officio, voting) (in person)
- President Marc Parlange (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)

The URI Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee members not in attendance:

- Christine Heenan
- Michael McNally (ex officio, voting)

Members of the President’s Leadership Council in attendance:

- Laura Beauvais, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)
- Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance (in person)

The URI staff members in attendance:

- Tracey Angell, Director of Purchasing (in person)
- Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Group (in person)
- Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources Administration (in person)
- Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning & Real Estate Development (in person)
- Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant, Office of the General Counsel (in person)
- Pam Hallagan, Manager, Risk Control and Insurance (in person)
- Peter Harrington, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel (in person)
- Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Systems (in person)

## 1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of April 21, 2022. 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 Finance and Facilities 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, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Armand Sabitoni.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### a. Minutes of January 20, 2022. ([Enclosure 2.a.](#))

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Meeting of the Finance and Facilities Committee. On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee accept the Minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting of the Committee.

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### a. Governor's Recommended FY2023 Budget

Vice President Abigail Rider led a discussion on the Governor's Recommended FY2023 Budget. She reviewed the difference between URI's FY2023 Budget Request and the Governor's FY2023 Proposed Budget. The Committee discussed the budget needs of URI including funding for research computing, the need for staff replacement hiring, as well as outstanding items submitted with the budget proposal for FY2023. The Committee agreed that URI brings tremendous value to Rhode Island through its research initiatives. Additional budget discussions with state leadership will continue.

The State's FY2023 budget is expected to be approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly some time in June.

#### b. Capital Improvement Plan FY2024-2028 ([Enclosure 3.b.](#))

Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate, provided a discussion of the University's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY2024-2028.

Director Carrillo indicated that the FY2024-2028 CIP five-year plan has not yet been approved. He highlighted changes from the FY2023-2027 approved plan and spoke to the prioritization of projects. The Committee discussed URI's bond strategy, as well as various funding sources such as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Committee Chair Fascitelli reiterated that to move forward with the Narragansett Bay Campus (NBC) Phase II projects \$157.5M is needed. President Parlange spoke of the importance of the NBC Phase II Project, the Life Sciences Building, the Student Health & Counseling

Center, and the Student Success Center initiatives, as they are investments not only in URI, but in the State's future.

**c. External Auditor Selection Process Update**

Vice President Rider provided an update on the External Auditor selection process. She explained that the State requires the University to change its external auditors at a minimum every five years in order to maintain a proper arm's length relationship between the auditors and the University.

She reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued in conjunction with the Council on Postsecondary Education, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island for a new external auditor. The results of the RFP will be shared at the June Committee meeting.

**d. Board Procurement Regulations ([Enclosure 3.d.](#))**

Vice President Rider discussed the draft Board Procurement Regulations.

She explained that the Board of Trustees, as a public agency, has the power to regulate purchases made with auxiliary, sponsored and restricted funds, while purchases made with unrestricted funds, in which the University is considered a state agency, are subject to State regulation. She discussed recommended changes to thresholds for requiring a public, sealed bid for a purchase. Current thresholds have not been changed since 1999 and are out of alignment with other Land Grant institutions, posing a significant administrative burden. Vice President Rider commended the extensive efforts of General Counsel Alyssa Boss, Associate General Counsel Peter Harrington, and Director of Purchasing Tracy Angell for presenting these recommended regulations to the Board. This item will be voted on during the next Committee meeting.

**e. IT Strategic Plan Update ([Enclosure 3.e.](#))**

Vice President Rider and Chief Information Officer (CIO) Karlis Kaugars discussed the IT Strategic Plan.

CIO Kaugars provided an update on the components of the IT Strategic Plan, highlighted in the attached [presentation](#). Over the past year, IT has supported the core mission of URI by improving research support and enhancing teaching and learning, all while providing support and engagement initiatives for the entire community. Administrative improvements included new service availability and introduction of new tools to increase efficiency (digital forms, new service platform). Priority focus for the coming year will include IT security to include penetration testing, mandatory training, and user identification (ID) management, among other initiatives.

**f. Annual Review of the Finance and Facilities Committee Charter ([Enclosure 3.f.](#))**

Committee Chair Fascitelli led a discussion of the annual review of the Finance and Facilities Committee charter. He asked that the members of the Finance and Facilities Committee review the Committee

Charter before the June meeting. Feedback should be shared with Michelle Curreri, Secretary to Board of Trustees.

**g. Annual Review of the Finance and Facilities Committee Calendar** ([Enclosure 3.g.](#))

Committee Chair Fascitelli led a discussion of the annual review of the Finance and Facilities Committee calendar. He asked that the members of the Finance and Facilities Committee review the Committee Calendar before the June meeting. Feedback should be shared with Michelle Curreri, Secretary to Board of Trustees.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Review of the Renewal of the License Agreement between the URI Board of Trustees and the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees.** ([Enclosure 4.a.](#))

Vice President Rider discussed the highlights of the license agreement between the URI Board of Trustees and the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission.

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the renewal of the License Agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the license as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.a.](#)

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED:        THAT        The Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the renewal of the License Agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission and authorize President Marc B. Parlange to execute the license as a duly authorized agent, pursuant to the Approved Signature Authority of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.a.](#)

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

YEAS:        Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Review of the demolition of the Quonset hut (76 Pier Road) and the Perkins building (80 Pier Road), Narragansett Bay Campus, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees. ([Enclosure 4.b \(1\)](#) and [Enclosure 4.b \(2\)](#)).**

Vice President Rider discussed the demolition of the Quonset hut (76 Pier Road) and the Perkins building (80 Pier Road), Narragansett Bay Campus.

Committee Chair Fascitelli moved that the Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the demolition of the Quonset Hut at 76 Pier Road and the Perkins building at 80 Pier Road, Narragansett Bay Campus, as recommended and presented in ([Enclosure 4.b \(1\)](#) and [Enclosure 4.b \(2\)](#)).

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED:        THAT        The Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the demolition of the Quonset Hut at 76 Pier Road and the Perkins building at 80 Pier Road, Narragansett Bay Campus, as recommended and presented in ([Enclosure 4.b \(1\)](#) and [Enclosure 4.b \(2\)](#)).

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

YEAS:        Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

- c. Review of an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority effective February 21, 2022, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees. ([Enclosure 4.c](#)).**

Vice President Rider explained that a change in personnel, noted below, necessitated this update.

Committee Chair Fascitelli moved that the Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority by REMOVING Kathy Collins (COLLINS) and ADDING Ellen Reynolds (REYNOLDS) to category A effective February 21, 2022, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.c](#).

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED:        THAT        The Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority by REMOVING Kathy Collins (COLLINS) and ADDING Ellen

Reynolds (REYNOLDS) to category A effective February 21, 2022, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.c.](#)

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**d. Review of an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority effective March 21, 2022, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees. ([Enclosure 4.d.](#))**

Vice President Rider discussed the update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority, effective March 21, 2022. VP Rider explained that a change in personnel, noted below, necessitated this update.

Committee Chair Fascitelli moved that the Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority by ADDING Angela Miller to categories C, F, and G effective March 21, 2022, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.d.](#)

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by David Martirano, it was

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority by ADDING Angela Miller to categories C, F, and G effective March 21, 2022, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 4.d.](#)

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**5. ADJOURN**

Committee Chair Fascitelli thanked Committee members and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of April 21, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities 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, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Armand Sabitoni.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 4:45p.m.

**UPCOMING MEETING**

The next meeting of The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee is scheduled for June 23, 2022.