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Hannah Bachert '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2022 · 1:45 p.m.**

**The University of Rhode Island
Coastal Institute, Large Conference Room
URI Narragansett Bay Campus
215 South Ferry Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee held a hybrid meeting. Public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform.

Committee Chair Thomas Ryan conducted a formal roll call and confirmed that a quorum of members was present. The meeting was called to order at 1:55 p.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee members participating:

- Mr. Thomas Ryan, Committee Chair (remote)
- Mr. David Martirano, Committee Vice Chair (in person)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Mr. Roby Luna (in person)
- Mr. Michael McNally, Board of Trustees Vice Chair (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (in person)
- Ms. Hannah Bachert, Student Representative (non-voting) (in person)
- Ms. Margo Cook, Board of Trustees Chair (ex officio, voting) (in person)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)

URI President's Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director (in person)
- Ms. Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (remote)

URI Staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Audrey Cardany, Faculty Senate President (in person)
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Associate General Counsel (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary (in person)
- Ms. Carol Pegg, M.Ed., Executive Assistant II (remote)

Committee Chair Ryan welcomed Hannah Bachert to the Committee. Ms. Bachert was appointed by President Parlange to serve on the Board of Trustees as the Student Representative. Hannah is currently a junior at URI and is also a Student-Athlete on the Women’s Rowing team. She is majoring in Communications with a double-minor in Leadership Studies and Crime, Justice and Law. Hannah holds positions on the Athletic-Advisory Board (AAB) as the Student-Representative and is the Atlantic-10 Representative for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). She is also an intern for iStand, URI’s Bystander Intervention program for Sexual Assault on college campuses.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of April 21, 2022.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics 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, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2022, meeting of the Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee approve the Minutes for the meeting of January 20, 2022.

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Mental Health Presentation [Enclosure 3.a.](#)

Interim Vice-President, Ellen Reynolds provided an overview about supporting the mental health needs of our students before and during the pandemic and how educational institutions are coping with the demands for mental health services.

Ms. Reynolds provided further detail on how URI Health and Counseling services are currently meeting the needs of URI students, and how it met pre-pandemic needs. Ellen stated that institutions had been placing increased attention on student well-being and making mental health a priority; however, with the pandemic, there was a marked increase in the number of students affected. She provided data illustrating that 80% of college students reported COVID-19 has negatively impacted their health.

Ms. Reynolds highlighted the mental health services that are available for students at URI and the importance of having multiple ways to meet students' needs. She stated that there is a collaborative effort between the URI Counseling Center, Psychological Consultation Center, the Couples and Family Therapy Program and URI Health Services. She also reported that due to the pandemic, all centers have implemented virtual/phone services that have proven to be highly sought after and utilized.

Committee Chair Ryan asked how health services, the counseling center, and other student affairs measure their success; what metrics are being used to evaluate impact on student success. Ms. Reynolds responded that they look at their accreditation standards and customer service surveys from the students. Chair Ryan requested a future presentation on metrics/key performance indicators from Student Affairs.

Ms. Reynolds stated that staffing at the URI Counseling Center is still facing challenges, with several vacancies presently. Ms. Reynolds provided an update on the planned new construction

of a state-of-the-art, integrated health and counseling center that will allow the University to prioritize student wellness.

b. Athletics Update [Enclosure 3.b.](#)

Athletic Director Thorr Bjorn presented his report beginning with the two significant basketball coach contracts that have been made with the women's and men's teams. He stated that the women's basketball coach, Tammy Reiss, turned the program around from a poor performing team to a best winning percentage in the program's history. He further stated that her 10-year contract was based on several factors including a mutual commitment between the Athletics Department and the coach, and the feasibility of reaching the NCAA tournament. Mr. Bjorn also stated that Coach Reiss has increased donors from 40 to 993 in the past two years.

Conversation between Mr. Bjorn and the Committee ensured about donor gifts, attendance at games, and support for the women's basketball program.

Mr. Bjorn continued his presentation announcing Archie Miller as the men's basketball coach, noting that he was the primary coach URI was seeking because of his many accomplishments, including winning two A-10 titles, six national postseason appearances in nine attempts, and being named A-10 Coach of the Year. Mr. Bjorn stated that Mr. Miller had interest in URI's men's basketball because of its success over the years and that there was a high level of support in bringing Mr. Miller to URI. Mr. Bjorn also stated that in order to find a great coach it was important to focus on spending, recruitment, team travel, head and assistant coach salaries, etc. and the Athletics Department was able to do that. He emphasized that a commitment has been made that can put URI near the top of the A-10 conference.

Athletic Director Bjorn will share an in-depth report on the Athletic Strategic Plan and its mission and metrics at an upcoming meeting.

c. Annual Review of the Student Life and Athletics Committee Charter [Enclosure 3.c.](#)

Committee Chair Ryan reviewed the Committee Charter, noting the Committee's purpose to assist the Board in oversight of matters related to student life, extra-curricular activities, health and wellness, etc. The Committee also assists the Board in oversight of athletic programs and policies. Committee Chair Ryan stated that there must be a way to measure success and progress in all levels of student life and athletics and emphasized the need to review metrics.

There was discussion about inviting students to the Committee meetings to present to the Committee and to share their feedback, allowing the Committee members to ask questions. Ms. Reynolds and Mr. Bjorn noted that they will work together to move this forward.

d. Annual Review of the Student Life and Athletics Committee Calendar

Committee Chair Ryan noted that for the June meeting, the Committee will review the Strategic Plan, compliance review, and student life metrics. He said the Committee must set tasks for the September and November meetings, and may include discussion of facility updates, housing updates, and safety and security of students on campus. He asked that Committee members

bring forward any other topics to be added to the calendar for consideration at upcoming meetings. He expressed an interest in hearing about student engagement and dormitory life and whether URI is doing all it can to assist students in those areas.

4. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the April 21, 2022 meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee adjourn the meeting of April 21, 2022.

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Michael Fascitelli left the meeting prior to the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022.