



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 Meeting
Friday, April 22, 2022 • 9:00 a.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 22, 2022, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and announced that the Board was meeting in person, with some members participating remotely. Public access to the meeting was available via the Facebook Live video platform.

Board Secretary Michelle Curreri conducted a roll call attendance and reported that a quorum of voting members was present. Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Attendees present for this meeting included:

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees voting members:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair (in person)
- Mr. Michael F. McNally, Vice Chair (in person)
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds (remote)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (remote) (joined at 9:08 a.m.)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person)
- Mr. Richard Humphrey (in person) (arrived at 9:48 a.m.)
- Mr. Neil Kerwin (in person)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz (in person)
- Mr. Roby Luna (in person)
- Mr. David J. Martirano (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (in person)
- Ms. Susan Petrovas (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (in person)
- Mr. Thomas M. Ryan (remote)
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni (remote)

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees ex officio members:

- Ms. Hannah Bachert, Student Representative (in person)
- Ms. Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education (in person)
- Mr. Dennis Duffy, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education (remote)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Faculty Representative (in person)

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees member not present:

- Ms. Christine M. Heenan

The University of Rhode Island President's Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (in person)
- Dr. Laura L. Beauvais, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)
- Ms. Abby Benson, Senior Advisor to the President 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)
- Ms. Lil Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (URIFAE) (in person)
- Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance (in person)
- Dr. Peter Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development (in person)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Lauren Burgess, Director, Legislative and Government Relations (in person)
- Ms. Audrey Cardany, URI Faculty Senate President (in person)
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant, Office of the General Counsel (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. Carlos Lopez Estrada, Director, Legislative and Government Relations (in person)
- Ms. Ann Morrissey, Special Assistant to the Provost (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Dr. Sean Rogers, Interim Vice President, Community, Equity, Diversity (in person)

Chair Cook noted that the Board of Trustees was meeting at the Coastal Institute on the University's Narragansett Bay Campus, home to the URI Graduate School of Oceanography. She thanked Dean Paula Bontempi for her hospitality and for leading a tour of the campus on Thursday.

Chair Cook welcomed three new members to the Board of Trustees. Hannah Bachert was appointed by President Parlange to serve as the Student Representative. Dennis Duffy joined the Board from the RI Council on Postsecondary Education, having recently been appointed by Governor McKee to serve as Chair of the Council. Dr. Bethany Jenkins was appointed by President Parlange to serve as the Faculty Representative. Chair Cook also thanked Tim

DelGiudice, former ex officio board member and chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, for his service to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees. She read portions of a proclamation addressed to Tim and noted that his name will be added to a Board of Trustees perpetual plaque located in Green Hall.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept the Agenda for the meeting of April 22, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept the agenda for the meeting of April 22, 2022.
	VOTE:	15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the January 21, 2022 Meeting as set forth in [Enclosure 2.a.](#)

On a motion duly made by Michael McNally and seconded by Vahid Ownjazayeri, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the January 21, 2022 Meeting, as set forth in Enclosure 2.a.
	VOTE:	15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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.

3. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Paul Brown registered to speak in advance of the meeting. He provided verbal comments regarding the University's recent revocation of honorary degrees.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2):
 - (i) 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).
 - (ii) 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).
 - (iii) Louis Kwame Fosu v. The University of Rhode Island, University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees, David M. Dooley, President, The University of Rhode Island, Donald DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Jeannette E. Riley, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, C.A. No. 21-279-JJM-PAS (U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island).
- 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 the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(3).

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2):
 - (i) 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).
 - (ii) 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).
 - (iii) Louis Kwame Fosu v. The University of Rhode Island, University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees, David M. Dooley, President, The University of Rhode Island, Donald DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Jeannette E. Riley, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, C.A. No. 21-279-JJM-PAS (U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island).
- 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 the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(3).

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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 9:23 a.m., the Board entered into Executive Session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 10:41 a.m., the Board reconvened in Open Session. 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 22, 2022.

On a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED	THAT:	The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on April 22, 2022.
	VOTE:	16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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
	ABSTAINS:	0

Following a brief recess, the Board resumed its open meeting at 11:01 a.m.

5. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Executive Committee Report

(i) Update – April 21, 2022 Committee Meeting

Chair Cook reported that the Committee met with President Parlange in executive session to conduct an annual performance review. The Committee discussed the President's self appraisal and provided feedback. The full Board will have an opportunity to meet with the President at the June meeting to discuss his performance.

(ii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft URI Board of Trustees Policy on URI Presidential Performance Review

Chair Cook reported that the draft policy has been considered by the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee and the full Board will act on the URI Board of Trustees Policy on URI Presidential Performance Review at the June meeting. The Executive Committee also reviewed its charter.

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Ratification of the collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Part-Time Faculty Union.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Part-Time Faculty Union.

On a motion made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Part-Time Faculty Union.

VOTE: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval and Ratification 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, as recommended and presented in [Enclosure 5.a.\(iv\)](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion 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 made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: 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;

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;

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;

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: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Governance Committee Report

(i) Update – April 21, 2022 Committee Report

Committee Chair Nicolato reported that the Committee discussed efforts to support new board members through the transition and orientation process to ensure that board members are as prepared as possible for the work of the Board. She added that the Committee has created a Board Interest Form for anyone who is interested in serving on the Board. The form will be available on the URI Board of Trustees webpage soon.

The Committee reviewed a listing of policies and anticipated review schedule as well as its charter and calendar. Committee Chair Nicolato noted that time was spent discussing the upcoming Board retreat, which will include the annual board self-assessment and a session on the University’s strategic plan. She celebrated the enactment of changes to the Open Meetings Act that allows the URI Board of Trustees to participate in public meetings remotely. She noted that legislation is pending that will impact the operation of the Board, including a reduction in the quorum requirement, and amendments to the appointment process. The Committee reviewed potential changes to the bylaws, should this legislation be passed. There was also discussion of the draft policy on Presidential Performance Review.

(ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of Revisions to the Sexual Misconduct Policy
[Enclosure 5.b.\(ii\)](#)

Committee Chair Nicolato called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve Revisions to the Sexual Misconduct Policy as recommended and presented.

On a motion made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve Revisions to the Sexual Misconduct Policy 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, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of Revisions to the Policy on Board of Trustees Remote Meeting Participation
[Enclosure 5.b.\(iii\)](#)

Committee Chair Nicolato called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve Revisions to the Policy on Board of Trustees Remote Meeting Participation, as recommended and presented.

On a motion made by Neil Kerwin and seconded by David Martirano and Michael Fascitelli, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve Revisions to the Policy on Board of Trustees Remote Meeting Participation, 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, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

c. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

- (i) Update – April 21, 2022 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Fascitelli reported that the Committee discussed the Governor’s recommended FY23 Budget, URI’s Capital Improvement Plan FY24-28, the external auditor selection process, the Board Procurement Regulations, and the IT Strategic Plan. He asked that Committee members review its charter and calendar.

- (ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Renewal of the License Agreement between the URI Board of Trustees and the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission.
[Enclosure 5.c.\(ii\)](#)

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the

Renewal of the License Agreement between the URI 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.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Renewal of the License Agreement between the URI 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.

VOTE: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

(iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the demolition of the Quonset hut (76 Pier Road) and the Perkins building (80 Pier Road), Narragansett Bay Campus
[Enclosure 5.c.\(iii\)-1](#) [Enclosure 5.c.\(iii\)-2](#)

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the demolition of the Quonset Hut (76 Pier Road) and the Perkins building (80 Pier Road) at the University of Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Campus, as recommended and presented.

On a motion made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the demolition of the Quonset Hut (76 Pier Road) and the Perkins building (80 Pier Road) at the University of Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Campus, 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, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority effective February 21, 2022. [Enclosure 5.c.\(iv\)](#)

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the URI 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.

On a motion made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Roby Luna, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island 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.

VOTE: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

- (v) ACTION ITEM: Approval of an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority effective March 21, 2022. [Enclosure 5.c.\(v\)](#)

Committee Chair Fascitelli called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority, adding Angela

Miller (MILLER) to categories C, F, and G effective March 21, 2022, as recommended and presented.

On a motion made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve an Update to the University of Rhode Island Approved Signature Authority, adding Angela Miller (MILLER) to categories C, F, and G effective March 21, 2022, 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, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

d. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – April 21, 2022 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Kerwin stated that Provost Beauvais reported on the following topics:

- Update on searches for deans, including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion deans
- Update on fifth-year interim report to New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), the University's accrediting body
- Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP) work on the mission statement and revisions to URI's core values
- Update on faculty annual reviews, promotion, and tenure
- Progress report on the revised Honorary Degree nomination process
- COVID Report

Provost Beauvais encouraged the Board members to attend Commencement 2022.

Committee Chair Kerwin stated that Dr. Peter Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development reported on the following topics:

- Update on EPSCoR Track I submission

- Submission of the Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Regional Challenge (EDA BBBRC) grant application; timeline for next steps
- Completed external audits of structure and resourcing of Office of Sponsored Programs, and of Research Development Office. Committee Chair Kerwin noted that the offices are under considerable stress with limited staffing, adding that the University's reputation will be affected to some extent by its success in sponsored research and contract work over the coming years
- URI's participation in international summit on plastics pollution

Committee Chair Kerwin reported that the Committee will edit its charter and calendar to reflect the realignment of tasks, due to the creation of the Student Life and Athletics Committee.

- (ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2022 term and who have been approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure 5.d.\(ii\)](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2022 term and who have been approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2022 term and who have been approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, 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, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the creation of a new Bachelor of Science in Nutrition within the College of Health Sciences. [Enclosure 5.d.\(iii\)](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the creation of a new Bachelor of Science in Nutrition within the College of Health Sciences, as recommended and presented.

On a motion made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Vahid Ownjazayeri, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the creation of a new Bachelor of Science in Nutrition within the College of Health Sciences, 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, Richard Humphrey, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Courtney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Awarding of Posthumous Academic Degrees to the following students at Commencement 2022:

Ms. Leah Ribner-Martin, College of Environment and Life Sciences

Ms. Kathryn Bergmann, College of Environment and Life Sciences

Mr. Alex Banner, College of Business *

Mr. Maximus Julian, College of Business

[Enclosure 5.d.\(iv\)](#) updated *

**Due to a scrivener's error, the wrong first name was used for Mr. Banner in board materials; it has been corrected in the wording of the updated recommendation memorandum, these minutes and the Board resolution.*

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the Awarding of Posthumous Academic Degrees to the following students at Commencement 2022, as recommended and presented:

Ms. Leah Ribner-Martin, College of Environment and Life Sciences
Ms. Kathryn Bergmann, College of Environment and Life Sciences
Mr. Alex Banner, College of Business *
Mr. Maximus Julian, College of Business

On a motion made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Awarding of Posthumous Academic Degrees to the following students at Commencement 2022:

Ms. Leah Ribner-Martin, College of Environment and Life Sciences
Ms. Kathryn Bergmann, College of Environment and Life Sciences
Mr. Alex Banner, College of Business *
Mr. Maximus Julian, College of Business

VOTE: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, 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

ABSTAINS: 0

e. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Report

(i) Update – April 21, 2022 Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Roby Luna reported that the Committee reviewed its charter and calendar with no extensive objections or discussion. The Committee heard from Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management regarding a Compliance Review Update and an update on Institutional Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans.

Abigail Rider, Vice President, Administration and Finance, reported that URI has set up an internal compliance function to help ensure that URI is in compliance with the many regulations and statutes to which it is subject. She reviewed the fundamentals of the University's Compliance Program. Vice President Rider noted that the University will be involved in a routine USDA Civil Rights Compliance review, outlined the USDA sponsored activities at URI, and listed how the University is preparing for the review.

Vice President Rider reported that in June 2020 the University created an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) office. Since then, URI has been setting up the elements of an ERM Program. Outreach and education are ongoing and include meetings with deans, department chairs and directors to work with them to identify and assess risks and provide guidance on treatment plans. The intent is to work systematically throughout the University identifying risks, incorporating them into the risk register, determining what the treatment is, and then monitoring the actual action items that are generated as a result.

Board members discussed the work of state auditors, the value of internal audits, and the importance of compliance monitoring. Chair Cook encouraged the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee to continue this discussion.

f. Student Life and Athletics Committee Report

(i) Update – April 21, 2022 Committee Report

Vice Chair David Martirano reported on activity at the April 21, 2022 Committee meeting. He noted that Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, talked about the University's mental health services, the need for more clinicians to meet student demand, collaborative efforts to partner with outside agencies to provide mental health services, and the planned new integrated health and counseling facility.

Vice Chair Martirano reported that Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director, talked about the hiring of a new men's basketball coach and the contract extension for the women's basketball coach. He shared Coach Reiss' statistics, success, and impact on the URI women's basketball program. He also highlighted Coach Archie Miller's statistics and success as a coach, as well as the support the University is providing to build the URI men's basketball program.

He reported that the Committee considered the charter and calendar. The Committee will discuss the metrics of student success and sports success at the June meeting.

Chair Cook noted the importance of broadly examining metrics within each committee. She suggested the use of metrics to explore how the work of the committees aligns with the strategic plan that the President will share with the Board at the June retreat. She asked that the Governance Committee take up this discussion, looking at goals and how the University measures outcomes.

g. University Advancement and External Affairs Committee Report

(i) Update – April 21, 2022 Committee Meeting

Committee Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni reported that the Committee reviewed its charter and calendar and noted that they are in line with the mission and responsibilities of the Committee. He reported on the search for the Vice President of Communications and Marketing.

Carlos Lopez Estrada, Director of Legislative and Government Relations, reported on efforts at the State House regarding the University. He reported on the success of the remote meeting legislation and continuing efforts on the board composition legislation. He noted that the purchasing legislation is pending in both chambers. He thanked the Board members and President Parlange for their efforts on behalf of the University.

Lauren Burgess, director of Legislative and Government Relations, reported on significant legislative accomplishments at the federal level, including securing roughly \$20 million for URI for a variety of projects related to the blue economy and other priorities. She noted that the process to secure funding for the upcoming fiscal year has begun.

Director Burgess highlighted the President's near constant activity with elected officials, which included members of the General Assembly coming to campus to see the facilities or flying to D.C. to meet with the congressional delegation and the Secretary of Commerce. President Parlange has been testifying at the State House to advocate for funding to support the University's top priorities, including the Narragansett Bay Campus, the life sciences building and the health services center, for increasing state support of URI's operating budget and other policy matters. She also stated that the President has been successful in developing relationships with leadership at the State House, the Governor, and with our senators and congressmen. Board members stressed the importance of relationships and the credibility of the message.

Lil Breul O'Rourke, president, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement, provided an update on the Big Ideas. Bold Plans. The Campaign for the University of Rhode Island and Presidential introduction events. She said \$230.6M has been raised to date, with the elevated goal of \$300M. She said 29,600 donors to date have contributed, from a broad swath of the community. President O'Rourke spoke of other initiatives, including the Oliver Watson Society, the launch of a faculty/staff campaign and trustee giving. She thanked the trustees for their support and for participating in the President's events.

6. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM

- a. Resolution Delegating Authority Over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island: [Enclosure 6.a.](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI 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 6.a. and as recommended and presented.

On a motion made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by David Martirano, 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 6.a. and as recommended and presented.

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Richard Humphrey, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Thomas Ryan was unavailable for the vote.

The Board took a brief recess at 12:14 p.m. At 12:39 p.m. the Board resumed its meeting.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM

The University of Rhode Island Land Acknowledgement Statement [Enclosure 7](#)

This item was incorporated into the Report of the President.

8. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Update on Board Engagement, Meeting Practices and Recent Activities

Chair Margo Cook shared several updates on Board activity. Members of the Board successfully testified in favor of recent legislation, including a bill that gives the Board the flexibility to conduct remote meetings permanently. She presented a new meeting structure that will begin with the June meetings. She reported on the progress of legislation that will lower the Board's quorum to a simple majority, include the president as a member of the board and codify how URI brings trustee candidates to the Governor for appointment.

Chair Cook reported that the University of Rhode Island Foundation & Alumni Engagement has hosted several events with alumni and Board members, including a Women in Leadership Series featuring Christine Heenan and Karina Edmonds and Presidential introductory events spanning Florida to New York. Chair Cook also reiterated opportunities for engagement between the Board and students, including through the Career Connect Program, internships, and participation in Commencement. Chair Cook concluded by stressing the importance of the Board in two critical areas, 1) hiring the president and 2) helping to shape the 10-year strategic plan, which will require careful input and consideration from all stakeholders.

9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. Update on Strategic Planning Process
- b. Presidential Priorities

President Parlange began his report with the formal University of Rhode Island Land Acknowledgement Statement:

The University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional stomping ground of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People. We honor and respect the enduring and continuing relationship between the Indigenous people and this land by teaching and learning more about their history and present-day communities and by becoming stewards of the land we, too, inhabit.

President Parlange's presentation can be found [here](#). He gave an update on University life after completing eight months at URI. He reported that enrollment numbers are on a strong upward trajectory, and he has met many new, excited students at the University Welcome Days. He continues to meet with faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

The President reported that he has spent many hours with the Governor and state legislators, traveling to Washington, D.C., to meet with senators and representatives, as well as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo, noting that the University is fortunate to have URI champions in many of its elected leaders. He assured the Board that he will continue to forge and strengthen those partnerships.

President Parlange stated that listening to so many different stakeholders in the community over the past several months has been a true joy, but it has also highlighted a significant factor that has implications for the University: institutional health. He believes that URI serves a distinct and valuable role in the state. As the flagship public research university, URI provides access, research, and societal and economic benefits to all communities in Rhode Island, but it comes at a significant cost. For those reasons, URI is engaging in a multi-pronged approach to set the University on a sustainable and healthy financial path forward. This approach will leverage fundraising (URI has raised its capital campaign goal to \$300 million), seek an increased operating budget from the state, pursue federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (URI has asked for \$308.2M), and request a general obligation bond (URI will need \$157.5M for revitalization of the Narragansett Bay campus). With these investments, URI can continue to offer world-class education while raising its profile in scholarship and research. The University of Rhode Island can be a hub of entrepreneurial activity that brings transformative innovation, business, industry, partnerships, and critical, competitive funding to the state.

President Parlange concluded his report by saying we are building a University for the future, and he is grateful to everyone in the community who has participated in a community forum as part of URI's strategic planning process. The Steering Committee has identified four themes, and the community's insight into these areas of focus has been invaluable. He reported that URI will continue to hold community forums and work through the summer to finalize a draft of the plan. Information continues to be shared on URI's [website](#).

10. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made by Matt Lenz and seconded by Roby Luna, it was

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

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Charles Fogarty, Richard Humphrey, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, and Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Michael Fascitelli and Thomas Ryan were unavailable for the vote.

At 1:55 p.m., this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2022.