



**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

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees  
Governance Committee Meeting  
Thursday, June 24, 2021 • 3:45 p.m. EDT  
Brookside Hall, 40 West Alumni Avenue  
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881**

**PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR MCKEE'S EXECUTIVE ORDER,  
THE COMMITTEE HELD A HYBRID MEETING.  
BOARD MEMBERS GATHERED IN PERSON AND  
PARTICIPATED REMOTELY USING THE WEBEX PLATFORM.  
FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM WAS USED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.**

**MINUTES**

Committee Chair Thomas Ryan welcomed all to the hybrid meeting and conducted a roll call of those members in attendance. He acknowledged that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m.

**Ex Officio Members**

Tim DelGiudice, *Chair*  
*R.I. Council on Postsecondary  
Education*

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

Mayrai Gindy  
*Faculty Representative*

Christopher Bove '23  
*Student Representative*

The URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee voting members in attendance:

- Mr. Thomas M. Ryan (Committee Chair) (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (Committee Vice Chair) (in person)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (in person)

The URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee ex officio member in attendance:

- Mr. Michael McNally, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees (in person)

The URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee ex officio members absent:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair, Board of Trustees
- Ms. Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education
- Dr. David M. Dooley, President

The URI Board of Trustees non-committee member in attendance:

- Mr. Armand Sabitoni (in person)

The URI Senior Leadership members attending in person:

- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Board Secretary
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Interim General Counsel
- Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President, Division of Administration and Finance

The URI staff members attending in person:

- Ms. Robin Cawley, Executive Assistant II
- Ms. Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President Enterprise Risk Management
- Dr. Dan Moos, Assistant to the Vice President, Div. of Administration and Finance
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary

## 1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion to accept the agenda for the June 24, 2021 meeting.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Governance Committee accept the June 24, 2021 meeting agenda.

VOTE:        5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:        Cortney Nicolato, Charles Fogarty, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### a. Minutes of the April 22, 2021 Meeting [Enclosure 2a](#).

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED:        THAT        The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Governance Committee approve the April 22, 2021 meeting minutes.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Cortney Nicolato, Charles Fogarty, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### a. Board of Trustees Policy Review

##### i. Policy on Nondiscrimination [Enclosure 3a\(i\)](#)

Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance, provided an explanation of this agenda item. She noted that before the formation of the URI Board of Trustees, the University was subject to the Council on Postsecondary Education's Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination. She said that last summer, because of the changes to Title IX, the Board of Trustees enacted the Policy on Sexual Misconduct. Ms. Rider reported that the Policy on Nondiscrimination before the Committee today is the companion policy to the Sexual Misconduct Policy and corresponds to Title VII (of the Civil Rights Act).

Ms. Rider asked that the Committee consider putting this policy into effect immediately, with formal action by the Board at the September meeting. Interim General Counsel Lauren Jensen noted that the policy is listed as a discussion item on the agenda; therefore, the Committee cannot act on this item at this meeting. No action on the matter was taken at this meeting.

Committee Chair Ryan confirmed that the Governance Committee will consider action on the Policy on Nondiscrimination at the September 23, 2021 meeting.

### 4. ACTION ITEMS

#### a. Board of Trustees Policy Review and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees

##### i. URI Board of Trustees Policy on Policies [Enclosure 4b\(i\)](#)

Committee Chair Ryan noted that this policy was discussed at the April Committee meeting, with the plan to recommend action to the Board at this meeting.

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Policies, as recommended and presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Governance

Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Policies, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**ii. Policy on Consensual Relationships [Enclosure 4b\(ii\)](#)**

Committee Chair Ryan noted that this policy was discussed at the April 22, 2021 Governance Committee meeting and certain modifications were suggested. Ms. Rider confirmed that the few changes that were recommended at the April meeting have been incorporated into the policy. She asked that the Committee recommend approval of the policy to the full Board.

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Policy on Consensual Relationships, as recommended and presented.

On a motion duly made by Vahid Ownjazayeri and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Governance Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Policy on Consensual Relationships, as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**5. ADJOURN**

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 24, 2021.

URI Board of Trustees  
June 24, 2021 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

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 Governance Committee adjourn the meeting of June 24, 2021.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the URI Board of Trustees Governance Committee is scheduled for September 23, 2021.**