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Faculty Representative

Hannah Bachert '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 23, 2022 · 2:00 p.m.**

**The University of Rhode Island
Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering – Room 025C
2 East Alumni Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881**

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. A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

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 2:04 p.m.

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

- Mr. Thomas Ryan, Committee Chair (in person)
- Mr. David Martirano, Committee Vice Chair (in person)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (in person)
- Mr. Michael McNally, Board of Trustees Vice Chair (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (remote)
- Miss Hannah Bachert, Student Representative (ex officio, 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:

- Dr. Laura Beauvais, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)
- Mr. Thor Bjorn, Athletics Director (in person)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Ellen Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (in person)
- Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Interim Vice President, Community, Equity & Diversity (in person)

URI Staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. Archie Miller, Head Basketball Coach (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Carol Pegg, M.Ed., Executive Assistant II (remote)

URI Student Athletes in attendance:

- Miss Julia Fortin (in person)
- Mr. Malik Martin (in person)

Committee Chair Ryan read the 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.”

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 June 23, 2022.

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

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| VOTED: | THAT | The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of June 23, 2022. |
| | VOTE: | 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative. |
| | YEAS: | Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan. |
| | NAYS: | 0 |
| | ABSTAINS: | 0 |

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the April 21, 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 April 21, 2022, meeting of the Committee.

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

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

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Introduction of new committee liaison, Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Interim Vice President of Community, Equity and Diversity

Committee Chair Ryan welcomed new committee liaison, Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Interim Vice President of Community, Equity and Diversity to the Committee.

Sean is the Spachman Professor of Human Resources and Labor Relations in the URI College of Business. Since April, he has served as Interim Vice President of Community, Equity and Diversity. Prior to joining URI in 2018, Sean held faculty appointments at Cornell University, New Mexico State University, and University of New Mexico. He is a nationally recognized scholar in the areas of employment discrimination, workplace diversity, and labor unions and was recently elected to the executive board of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, the nation's leading academic and professional organization for work and employment relations. At URI, he teaches undergraduate, master's, and doctoral courses in management and business theory. Sean earned a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and master's degrees from Wake Forest School of Law, University of Illinois, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR), and a Society for Human Resource Management Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP). Before his academic career, Sean held corporate roles in industrial engineering, finance, marketing, and operations at UPS, US Airways, America West Airlines, ATA Airlines, and AirTran Airways. From 2000-2008, he

served in the US Army and Army Reserve and is an Iraq War combat veteran. He currently serves as an aeromedical evacuation squadron officer in the US Air Force Reserve.

b. Year-end review of metrics and key performance indicators, including academic progress of student athletes, compliance with applicable regulations, and success in team and individual competition. [Enclosure 3.b](#)

Athletic Director Bjorn introduced student athletes Julia Fortin (Rowing) and Malik Martin (Men's Basketball), co-presenters of the Athletics' presentation. Miss Fortin and Mr. Martin reported that student athletes are interested in a wide variety of subjects; 44% of athletes are on the Dean's list; less than 2% of student athletes are on probation; the 2022 graduation rate was 75% which is above the University average of 69%. They further reported that student athletes' graduation rate in 4 years is an average of 73% which is higher than the University average. It was also reported that each sport met the maximum NCAA scholarships to student athletes based on grade point average (GPA) scores.

Committee Chair Ryan asked Director Bjorn what he attributed the change in rising GPA scores. Athletics Director Bjorn replied that he has seen steady progress over the years due largely by the academic support, recruitment, and a competition amongst the student athletes about success.

Chair Ryan asked about the impact on URI's academic metrics related to student athletes who leave URI and enter the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Transfer portal. Athletics Director Bjorn advised that their GPA, etc., continue to impact both institutions (former and new).

The committee discussed the new NCAA policy on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) and the impact on Athletics. Athletics Director Bjorn advised that they have educated student athletes; NIL has not yet had a major impact at URI. Trustees requested this topic be discussed at the September meeting to ensure that all have a sound understanding of the impact on the institution and the student athletes.

c. Year-end Review – Division of Student Affairs [Enclosure 3.c](#)

Interim Vice President Ellen Reynolds began her report by highlighting student satisfaction with Health Services. She explained that Health Services provides a wide range of treatments for students, and they utilize surveys each semester to evaluate the services they receive.

Ms. Reynolds reported that 92% of students surveyed would recommend their services, 94% reported that Health Services met their expectations, and 95% indicated Health Services staff were helpful.

Regarding the Counseling Center, Interim Vice President Reynolds reported that close to 2,000 students attended counseling appointments. She further stated that the Counseling Center focuses on providing a variety of resources for students.

In terms of measuring success, the Counseling Center utilizes pre- and post-treatment questionnaires for students to gauge satisfaction with the care they received. Further, they will be partnering with URI's Institutional Research office to gather utilization and demographic data.

Next, Interim Vice President Reynolds reported on the Talent Development (TD) program. This program is available for students in Rhode Island who do not meet traditional admission criteria but have an opportunity for a place at the University of Rhode Island. Talent Development is a program built around supporting these students to be successful through a rigorous summer program and a TD adviser throughout their academic career.

Ms. Reynolds reported that there are currently 966 TD scholars; 93% of the students identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and 3% identify as white.

Ms. Reynolds also stated that Talent Development surveys their scholars regarding their progress once per semester. Eighty-four percent of scholars surveyed reported they felt accepted, supported, comfortable, and a strong sense of belonging. Ms. Reynolds reported that Talent Development's first-year, full-time retention rate is 78%.

Ms. Reynolds highlighted success stories of TD Scholars; two of whom received prestigious awards and one who is serving the country as a member of the National Guard.

Discussion began regarding the Talent Development Program. Chair Ryan asked about the awareness and cost of the Program at the State level. It was noted that while there may be some knowledge that the Program exists, most are unaware. President Parlange stated that the investment in the Program is approximately \$14 million.

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

Committee members did not discuss this item.

4. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the June 23, 2022 meeting.

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

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| VOTED: | THAT | The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee adjourn the meeting of June 23, 2022. |
| | VOTE: | 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative. |
| | YEAS: | Margo Cook, Michael Fascitelli, David Martirano, Michael McNally, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan. |
| | NAYS: | 0 |

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2022.

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