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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

Marc B. Parlange, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President

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

David Caprio, *Chair*
R.I. Council on Postsecondary
Education

Bethany D. Jenkins
Faculty Representative

Hannah Bachert '23
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, August 4, 2022 · 10:00 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Alumni Center – Beagle Board Room
73 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the August 4, 2022, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and noted that the meeting was being held in person with board members participating remotely. Public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform and is available for viewing at <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

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 10:07 a.m.

Attendees present for this meeting included:

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees voting members:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair (remote)
- Mr. Michael F. McNally, Vice Chair (remote)
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds (remote)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (remote)
- Mr. Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz (remote)
- Mr. Roby Luna (remote)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (remote)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (remote)
- Ms. Susan Petrovas (remote)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (remote)
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni (remote)

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

- Dr. Marc Parlange, President (remote)
- Mr. David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education (remote)
- Ms. Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education (remote) (arrived at 10:19 a.m.)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Faculty Representative (remote)

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

- Ms. Hannah Bachert
- Ms. Christine Heenan
- Mr. Richard Humphrey
- Mr. David Martirano
- Mr. Thomas Ryan

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

- Dr. Laura L. Beauvais, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Abigail Rider, Vice President for Administration and Finance (in person)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Mr. Carl Kalvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities (in person)
- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate Development (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. Carlos Lopez Estrada, Director, Legislative and Government Relations (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

Chair Cook welcomed new ex officio member David Caprio, Chair of the RI Council on Postsecondary Education, to the Board of Trustees. She read into the record 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

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept the Agenda for the meeting of August 4, 2022.

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

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees accept the agenda for the meeting of August 4, 2022.

VOTE: 13 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, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the June 24, 2022 Meeting. [Enclosure 2.a.](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the June 24, 2022 Meeting as set forth in [Enclosure 2.a.](#)

On a motion duly made by Neil Kerwin and seconded by Charles Fogarty, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the June 24, 2022 Meeting, as set forth in Enclosure 2.a.

VOTE: 13 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, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Chair Cook stated that the Finance and Facilities Committee met on August 2, 2022 to discuss changes the University would like to make to the Capital Improvement Plan that the Board approved at its June 24, 2022 meeting. She called upon Finance Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli to report on the Committee's review of the proposed changes.

Agenda Item 4 was considered before Agenda Item 3.

4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

a. **Update – August 2, 2022 Committee Meeting**

b. **ACTION ITEM: Approval of changes in the University of Rhode Island Capital Improvement Plan FY2024-2028.** [Enclosure 4.b.\(i\)](#) [Enclosure 4.b.\(ii\)](#)

Finance Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reported that the Committee met on August 2, 2022 to review two proposed changes to the approved URI Capital Improvement Plan FY2024-2028. He called upon Vice President Abigail Rider to explain the changes.

Vice President Rider reported that the University would like to change the requested funding source for the following facilities improvements from an FY24 referendum bond to Rhode Island Capital Plan (RICAP) funding: Athletics Complex Improvement, including the Meade Stadium east grandstands, the Slade Track & Field, the Beck Baseball Field, the softball field, the soccer field and Tootell pool repairs, at an estimated cost of \$82,300,000.

The second proposed change is an addition to the approved Capital Improvement Plan to build a water treatment facility at URI. The addition is in response to legislation passed during this year's session of the General Assembly requiring all water systems in the state to achieve a level of 20 parts per trillion or less of so-called "forever chemicals" (PFAS – per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) by July 1, 2023. Vice President Rider reported that current levels of PFAS within the University's water system are not significantly higher, but may not meet the new standard. In order to assure that we will be able to meet the standard, the University must construct a water treatment facility. The preliminary planning cost estimate for a new water treatment facility is \$20 million. She noted that the University is exploring funding options with the congressional delegation and the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank. Director Lopez Estrada added that URI is also working with Commerce Rhode Island to access federal funding for this project.

Committee Chair Fascitelli reported that the Committee recommended unanimously that the full Board approve the changes to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the changes in the University of Rhode Island Capital Improvement Plan for FY2024-2028, as presented and recommended in Enclosure 4.b.(i) and Enclosure 4.b.(ii).

On a motion duly made by Karina Edmonds and seconded by Charles Fogarty, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the changes in the University of Rhode Island Capital Improvement Plan for FY2024-2028, as presented and recommended in Enclosure 4.b.(i) and Enclosure 4.b.(ii).

VOTE: 13 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, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. Discussion regarding the acquisition or lease of real property, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).

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

VOTED: ~~THAT~~ The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session for the following item:

- a. Discussion regarding the acquisition or lease of real property, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).

VOTE: 13 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, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

At 10:25 a.m., the Board convened into Executive Session. Virtual public access paused.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board returned to 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 August 4, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Neil Kerwin and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on August 4, 2022.

VOTE: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Board members Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli and Matthew Lenz were not present for the vote.

5. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Vahid Ownjazayeri, it was

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

VOTE: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Michael McNally, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Board members Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael Fascitelli and Matthew Lenz were not present for the vote.

Chair Cook announced that the next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2022.

At 11:03 a.m. this meeting ended.