



Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Michael D. Fascitelli '78

Charles Fogarty '80

Christine Heenan

Richard S. Humphrey

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

David Martirano '91

Michael F. McNally '81, *Vice Chair*

Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds '92

Vahid Ownjazayeri

Susan Petrovas '92

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01

Cecilia Rouse

Thomas Ryan '75

Armand E. Sabitoni '73

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meetings
Thursday • June 25, 2020 • 9:00 a.m.
45 Upper College Rd Kingston, RI 02881**

PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR RAIMONDO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-46, THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY USING THE WEBEX PLATFORM (BOARD MEMBERS ONLY) AND FACEBOOK LIVE (PUBLIC VIEWING).

MINUTES

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

Chair Cook welcomed the members of The University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees to this meeting and acknowledged that a quorum was present. Chair Cook called this meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Attendees present for this virtual meeting:

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees voting members:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair
- Dr. Karina Montilla Edmonds (remote)
- Mr. Michael D. Fascitelli
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty
- Ms. Christine M. Heenan
- Mr. Richard S. Humphrey (9:35 a.m. attendance)
- Mr. Matthew D. Lenz
- Mr. Roby Luna (remote)
- Mr. David J. Martirano
- Mr. Michael F. McNally, Vice Chair
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri
- Mrs. Susan Carson Petrovas (remote)
- Ms. Jay Placencia
- Ms. Cecilia Rouse (remote)
- Mr. Thomas M. Ryan
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni

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

- Mr. Tim DelGiudice—Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
- Ms. Barbara Cottam—Chair, Board of Education
- Mr. Christopher Bove—Student Representative
- Dr. Mayrai Gindy—Faculty Representative

The University of Rhode Island Staff

- President David M. Dooley
- Mr. Louis J. Saccoccio, General Counsel
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Chief of Staff and Board Liaison

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees accept the Agenda for the meeting of June 25, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Placencia and seconded by Mr. Ryan it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
accept the Agenda for the meeting of June 25, 2020.

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

YEAS: Margo L. Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael
D. Fascitelli, Charles J. Fogarty, Jr., Christine M.
Heenan, Richard S. Humphrey, Matthew D. Lenz,
Roby Luna, David J. Martirano, Michael F.
McNally, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay
Placencia, Cecilia Rouse, Thomas M. Ryan, and
Armand E. Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. ORIENTATION

Chair Cook began this meeting by welcoming the Board to the meeting. She thanked them for their patience as they navigated through the challenges of meeting virtually for the last three meetings. She commended President Dooley on his vision and strategy of the URI Board of Trustee formation. Chair Cook shared that it was important for the Board to create a culture and series of procedures. She challenged the Board to think about how to act as one unitary voice on behalf of the University. She also challenged them to think about their operating procedures. Finally, she asked the Board to consider how

to operate as one unit even when they do not agree; she encouraged them to think about how to support the President instead of a separate operating unit.

President David Dooley welcomed the Board. He shared that accomplishing great goals takes patience and persistence, along with great team collaboration. He shared that this in-person Board meeting represents a new era for The University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Carol Cartwright, Senior Consultant and Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards Consulting; President Emeritus, Kent State University and Bowling Green State University, shared her presentation entitled [Role of University Trustee, Governance](#).

During the presentation, Mr. Ryan shared that an effective Board often challenges ideas, concepts, and opinions offered. These challenges lead to great ideas and a strong Board. However, given the Open Meetings Act, he asked how the Board can challenge each other while still appearing to be a cohesive unit.

Dr. Cartwright shared that educating the public about the way the Board goes about its business when arriving at decisions is critical. The Board will have to share with the public that debate, and dialogue is how the Board gets its business done. The Chair can be very explicit when crafting the agenda acknowledging that discussion will occur. If these times are marked as deliberate and purposeful, the public will understand this is just part of the process.

Mr. Ryan asked about the Board's role in educational quality. Dr. Cartwright shared that the Board must be sure that the programs offered by the University are being regularly assessed. It is not the job of the Board to do the assessment, but it is the Board's job as a fiduciary to be sure that educational quality is measured. The Board can work closely with the Provost. This data can include enrollment, graduation rates, student employment rates post-graduation, and program enrollment.

Mr. Lenz asked the Board's responsibility in ensuring academic freedom. Dr. Cartwright shared that the University needs to have appropriate policies in place to protect the appropriate parties for both academic freedom and freedom of expression. The Board needs to also make sure the University acts within the scopes of its policies that it has created surrounding these freedoms.

Mr. Ryan asked for clarity on speaking to the media as a Trustee. Dr. Cartwright pointed out how the Committee Charters and Bylaws state that the Board Chair speaks for the Board, and the President speaks for the University. The Trustee's job is to support the Board and not act as a separate unit.

Mr. DelGiudice strongly discouraged individual Board Members from reaching out to individual staff members at the University. All inquiries should go through the Chair. Chair Cook also stated that all media requests go through the President or the Board Chair.

Mr. Ownjazayeri asked for clarity and guidelines on how to have a conversation with the general public because questions will inevitably arise. Chair Cook responded that Board Members can absolutely have a conversation, but it must never reveal anything confidential about the University.

Chair Cook shared that the authority of the President needs to be addressed; the Board needs to determine what defining amount of the University's resources trigger input from the Board. Dr. Cartwright stated that it is important for the Board to discuss when they would like to be involved in the decision-making process.

Chair Cook shared her major take away from this presentation included how to address the Board's decisions in a public setting. Vice Chair McNally commented that the legislation for the Board is complicated and there is a lot of work that must be done to ensure the Board's success.

The Board Members took a lunch break from 12:25-12:52 p.m.

URI President David Dooley gave a presentation entitled [URI Overview, Mission, Programs, Budget, Campus, Enrollment, SBPC, Research, and International Goals.](#)

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Donald DeHayes gave a presentation entitled [Academic Affairs Overview.](#)

Vice President for Student Affairs, Kathy Collins gave a presentation entitled [Student Affairs Overview and Trends.](#)

The Board Members took a break from 3:30-3:45 p.m.

Vice President for Administration and Finance, Abigail Rider gave a presentation entitled [Funding Trends/Budget Overview, Facilities Status Asset Protection and Real Estate Projects.](#)

Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Peter Snyder gave a presentation entitled [Research and Economic Development Overview.](#)

The Director for Athletics, Thorr Bjorn gave a presentation entitled [Athletics Overview.](#)

URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement President, Lil Breul O'Rourke gave a presentation entitled [Overview of University of Rhode Island Foundation and Alumni Engagement Goals and Operations.](#)

3. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting of June 25, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Edmonds and seconded by Mr. Luna it was

VOTED:	THAT	The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting of June 25, 2020.
	VOTE:	16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo L. Cook, Karina Montilla Edmonds, Michael D. Fascitelli, Charles J. Fogarty, Jr., Christine M.

Heenan, Richard S. Humphrey, Matthew D. Lenz,
Roby Luna, David J. Martirano, Michael F.
McNally, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Susan Petrovas, Jay
Placencia, Cecilia Rouse, Thomas M. Ryan, and
Armand E. Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.