



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

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 University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 23, 2021 · 1:30 p.m.
Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
350 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Committee Chair Thomas Ryan conducted a formal roll call and confirmed that a quorum of members was present in person. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

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

- Mr. Thomas Ryan (Committee Chair)
- Mr. David Martirano, (Committee Vice Chair)
- Ms. Jay Placencia
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Mr. Roby Luna
- Mr. Christopher Bove, Student Representative (ex officio, non-voting)

The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee members not present:

- Mr. Michael McNally, Board of Trustees Vice Chair (ex officio, voting)
- Ms. Margo Cook, Board of Trustees Chair (ex officio, voting)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting)

URI Senior Leadership members in attendance:

- Dr. Kathy Collins, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Mr. Thor Bjorn, Athletics Director
- Dr. Mary Grace Almandrez, Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer

URI Staff members in attendance:

- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Assistant Legal Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Carol Pegg, M.Ed., Executive Assistant (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary

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 September 23, 2021.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee accept the Agenda for the meeting of September 23, 2021.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Michael Fascitelli, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Jay Placencia, and Thomas Ryan
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Athletic Director Thorr Bjorn presented his report, highlighting the mission and vision statements from the Athletics' Strategic Plan. Athletic Director Bjorn also provided data and information on URI's comparisons to other A10 schools. Specific information was provided for Men's Basketball and Women's Basketball. Director Bjorn announced the largest gift in Women's Basketball history – a new \$125,000 per year gift over five years (totaling \$625,000) for Women's Basketball to go toward charters for away games. Additional information can be found in the Athletic Director's Report in [Enclosure 2.a](#). Department financials including FY19 Actuals and FY22 Projections can be found in [Enclosure 2.b](#).

3. VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Vice President Kathy Collins presented her report and provided updates on the Student Affairs Strategic Plan--on track for timely completion, and addressed student mental health, and upcoming construction projects. Construction on the integrated health and counseling center is due to begin in summer 2022, and the Memorial Union renovation is scheduled to be complete in 2026.

Conversation was held regarding housing on campus and the impact of the Town of Narragansett zoning changes

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Student experience at URI – update on COVID-19

Dr. Collins provided an update on vaccine requirements for students, faculty, and non-classified staff. Currently 6.5% of students have a vaccine exemption and are required to get tested 2 times per week. Failure to test will result in various consequences--first missed test is a warning; second missed test is probation; and a third missed test will likely result in emergency suspension, removal from campus, housing, classes, and athletics. Barrier-free testing and symptomatic testing are available for the URI community.

b. Student Affairs and Athletic Facilities Overview

In her earlier report, Dr. Collins gave an update on the facilities currently being renovated-- Memorial Union, and the building of the integrated health and counseling center. Director Bjorn provided an update on the Athletics construction and renovation needs that include Meade Stadium grandstand seating, outdoor track, press boxes for soccer, softball and baseball, and the need for a permanent boathouse.

i. Staffing in Student Affairs, Athletics, and Community Equity and Diversity

i. Overview of staffing, budget, salaries

Dr. Collins stated that the global pandemic has brought about a significant labor shortage not only around the country but here at the University. During the first week of the semester, 70 students were hired to work in dining services--one week later, 70 students quit for reasons such as not wanting to work nights or weekends. The lack of workers has led to reduced hours and longer lines.

Chair Ryan commented on the depth of the Student Affairs Division highlighted in the Student Affairs [Strategic Plan](#) while Dr. Collins stated that there are 473 full-time staff, 31 graduate students, 1,200 student employees, and a \$111M budget.

Dr. Collins stated that URI is short-staffed in comparison to its peers. She reported that there was a 200% increase in students seeking counseling services. The counseling center is comprised of a staff of 11 with two psychiatrists, and the staff will need to be expanded when the new center is built.

Dr. Collins reported that there are only 2 full-time professionals and one graduate student to support the Greek life population, which is the largest in New England with over 3,000 students.

ii. Organizational charts for Athletics, CED, and Student Affairs

Dr. Mary Grace Almandrez, Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity (CED), distributed an [organization chart](#) for her division and provided an update of the search for social justice leadership positions throughout the University. Among those positions are 2 CED directors and 4 assistant deans to be placed in the University College, Graduate School of Oceanography, College of Health Sciences, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Almandrez also reported that the Campus Climate Survey report is due to be released in a few weeks with a live presentation on October 15 at noon.

5. ADJOURN

Chair Ryan thanked the Committee and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of September 23, 2021.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee adjourn the meeting of September 23, 2021.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Michael Fascitelli, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Jay Placencia and Thomas Ryan
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

The next URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2021.