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Revaa Goyal '27
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, February 16, 2024 · 9:00 a.m. EST**

**The University of Rhode Island
The Anchor Room, Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center
45 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the February 16, 2024, 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 via Webex. Virtual access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform. A recording 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 members was present. Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair (remote)
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (remote)
- Ms. Maria Ducharme (remote)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (remote)
- Mr. Joseph Formicola (remote)
- Ms. Monica Garnes (remote)
- Dr. Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (remote) (arrived at 9:04 a.m.)
- Mr. Roby Luna (remote)
- Mr. Joseph Matthews (remote)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (remote)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (remote)

"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."

URI Board of Trustees Meeting
February 16, 2024

- Ms. Jay Placencia (remote)
- Mr. Thomas Ryan (remote) (arrived at 9:39 a.m.)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)
- Mr. David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting) (remote) (arrived at 9:08 a.m.)
- Dr. Melissa Sutherland (faculty representative, non-voting) (remote)
- Ms. Revaa Goyal (student representative, non-voting) (remote)

URI Board of Trustees members not participating:

- Mr. Michael Grey
- Mr. Richard Humphrey
- Honorable Robert Weygand

URI President's Stewardship Council members in attendance:

- Ms. Abby Benson, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)
- Ms. Chelsea Berry, Interim Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (remote)
- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Director, Athletics (in person)
- Ms. Cynthia Bonn, Dean, Admissions (remote)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Mr. Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Group (remote)
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources (remote)
- Dr. Brenton DeBoef, Dean, Graduate School (remote)
- Dr. Danielle Dennis, Dean, Feinstein College of Education (remote)
- Mr. Gabriele Fariello, Interim Chief Information Officer (remote)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Interim Vice President, Research and Economic Development (remote)
- Dr. John Kirby, Dean, College of Environment and Life Sciences (remote)
- Dr. Kerry LaPlante, Dean, College of Pharmacy (remote)
- Dr. Peter Larsen, Interim Dean, University Libraries (remote)
- Dr. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success (remote)
- Mr. Matthew McDonald, Vice President, Communications and Marketing (remote)
- Ms. Markeisha Miner, Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity (remote)
- Ms. Elizabeth Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (remote)
- Mr. John Poehlmann, Assistant Vice President, Financial Strategy and Planning (remote)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President for Student Affairs (remote)
- Mr. John Stringer, Executive Director, Institution Research (remote)
- Dr. Danny Willis, Dean, College of Nursing (remote)
- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning & Real Estate Development (remote)
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant (in person)

- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. Michael Khalfayan, Chief Information Security Officer (remote)
- Ms. Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

Special Guest:

- Ms. Lynne Radiches, Staff Attorney/Education Coordinator, RI Ethics Commission (in person)

Open Forum Speaker:

- Dr. Jay Walsh, Executive Director, URI Chapter, American Association of University Professors (remote)

Chair Cook acknowledged that the University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional stomping ground of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People.

2. OPEN FORUM

Jay Walsh, Ph.D., Executive Director, URI Chapter, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), registered to speak in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Walsh addressed Board members and noted that as executive director of AAUP, he represents 811 full-time faculty members at URI. He referred to remarks he had made in open forum at the September and November 2023 Board meetings. He reported worsening faculty morale at URI and spoke about reasons for it. He remarked that faculty are doing amazing work for our students and our state; they need the Board's support to ensure that university leadership meaningfully and authentically engages with faculty leadership.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 3, 2023, Board meeting. [Enclosure](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the November 3, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the November 3, 2023, Board meeting.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Tom Ryan was not available for the vote.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. University Updates
- b. Review of Governor's Budget
- c. Strategic Plan KPIs

President Parlange presented University updates, a review of the University's FY2025 budget proposal and the Governor's FY2025 recommended budget, and a review of the Strategic Plan KPIs. His slides can be found [here](#).

University updates included recognition of URI's new deans, Dr. Patrick Vivier, College of Health Sciences, and Dr. Danny Willis, College of Nursing. The President remarked that, despite declines in applications nationally, enrollment applications at URI (26,450) have broken records. Financial aid award is also record-breaking at more than \$140 million. He celebrated the successful December 2023 Commencement, noting outstanding college and faculty representation. President Parlange introduced new May 2024 Commencement traditions, with all commencement ceremonies taking place in the Ryan Center, increasing accessibility and eliminating the impact of weather. Concerns expressed by students and families about moving the main ceremony from the Quad have been addressed. The President reported that the Big Ideas. Bold Plans. The Campaign for the University of Rhode Island will end in June and has raised \$293.80 million to date.

The President reviewed government relations activity this quarter, including URI Day at the State House (March 21). He spoke about the Incentive-Based Budget Model and the need to build new lines of revenue to support strategic investments, the hiring of new faculty, new Ph.D. programs, new graduate students, more teaching assistants and advisors. The President provided an update on URI Capital Projects, including progress on the Narragansett Bay Campus Phase II project, the Fine Arts project, and the Athletics Complex renewal.

President Parlange reviewed the University's FY2025 State budget request and the Governor's FY2025 recommended budget, including a recap of URI's FY2024 request, the Governor's FY2024 recommended budget and the FY2024 enacted budget. He noted that after years of disinvestment, URI saw renewed investment by the State last year. URI is working hard to keep this momentum going. He stated that URI is working to help the state meet their priorities in three areas, including health outcomes, increasing income for all Rhode Islanders, and K-12 education.

The President reviewed URI's funding request for strategic initiatives directly aligned to the University's Strategic plan, along with a review of its funding request for asset protection (RICAP) and the general obligation request for a new biomedical sciences building in support of the State of Rhode Island's life sciences hub.

President Parlange discussed how enrollment has evolved at URI given the decline in high school graduates and since the introduction of the Promise and Hope scholarships and their impact on accessibility to the state's flagship university. Out-of-state enrollment targets have been increased to compensate for the decline in in-state enrollment.

President Parlange and Provost Barbara Wolfe reviewed the current key performance indicators (KPIs) associated with Strategic Priority 2 “Enhance Student Achievement”, including increasing undergraduate first-year retention rates, increasing undergraduate six-year graduation rates, reducing the undergraduate graduation equity gap (Pell vs. non-Pell), growth of degree conferrals and increasing the number of teams winning conference championships. Provost Wolfe highlighted student success efforts and strategic initiatives.

Responding to Board inquiry about the importance of the Incentive Based Budget (IBB) model, President Parlange reported that the IBB model brings to the decision makers, the college deans, opportunities to chart their future and expand programs within their colleges. Deans can now identify and draw on new lines of revenue and support to drive their own budget and advance their strategic plan, in line with the University’s Strategic Plan. He noted that the IBB will allow URI to align better with the needs of the State of Rhode Island and is extremely important for the long-term sustainability at the University.

Board members discussed with the President the Promise Scholarship at CCRI and the Hope Scholarship at RIC, and their impact on enrollment at URI. President Parlange stressed the importance of providing Rhode Island students with equal access to the University of Rhode Island and its many diverse and advanced programs of study. He discussed successful pathways between CCRI and URI and the collaborative environment. Board members encouraged URI to begin its advocacy for the biomedical sciences building bond now.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees convene into executive session pursuant to:

- a. R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion regarding President Parlange’s performance, renewal and employment agreement;
- b. R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2), R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3), and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) and for discussion regarding an assessment of information technology security, as it relates to the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices, and discussion as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, and for discussion of potential litigation; specifically,
 - Update on External Audit IT Management Observations
 - Update on Series 2018A and 2018B Bonds – Audit; and,
- c. R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) for discussion of matters related to the question of the investment of public funds, which includes any investment plan or matter related thereto, where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, specifically,
 - Investments in graduate and professional programs
 - Proprietary enrollment model

President Parlange has been notified in writing that discussion of his performance, renewal and employment agreement will happen in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Courtney Nicolato and Charles Fogarty, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees convene into executive session pursuant to:
R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion regarding President Parlange’s performance, renewal and employment agreement;
R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2), R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3), and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7), for discussion regarding an assessment of information technology security, as it relates to the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices, and discussion as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, and for discussion of potential litigation; specifically,

- Update on External Audit IT Management Observations
- Update on Series 2018A and 2018B Bonds – Audit; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) for discussion of matters related to the question of the investment of public funds, which includes any investment plan or matter related thereto, where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, specifically,

- Investments in graduate and professional programs
- Proprietary enrollment model

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Courtney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members participating remotely confirmed that no other person was present or able to hear the discussion at the remote location.

At 10:23 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 12:57 p.m., the Board returned to open session. Virtual public access resumed.

Chair Cook called for a motion to seal the executive session minutes.

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Monica Garnes, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the February 16, 2024, executive session.

VOTE: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Ethics Training [Enclosure](#)

Lynne Radiches, Staff Attorney/Education Coordinator for the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, conducted a training session to present information about The Rhode Island Ethics Commission and the Code of Ethics by which all elected and appointed officials and employees of state and local governments are bound. Topics included conflict of interest and recusal, nepotism, gifts, advisory opinions, and financial disclosure filing (annual filing due in April).

b. Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Update [Enclosure](#)

Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director, reviewed the current NIL Policy and student-athlete protections going into effect on August 1, 2024. Board members spent time discussing current lawsuits filed against the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) related to NIL that have impact on all members, as listed in the enclosure.

Director Bjorn noted that NCAA government relations officials are encouraging its membership to educate their Congressional representatives on the impact of changes underway at the NCAA to modernize support for student athletes.

Prior to “Reports of the Committee Chairs and Action Items,” Board members Michael Fascitelli (1:22 p.m.) and Roby Luna (1:42 p.m.) left the meeting.

7. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Executive Committee/Compensation Subcommittee Report

- (i) Update – January 8, 2024, Compensation Subcommittee Meeting
- (ii) Update – February 12, 2024, Joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the Compensation Subcommittee

Chair Cook reported that the Compensation Subcommittee reviewed the results of the President's comprehensive review at the January 8, 2024, subcommittee meeting and reviewed proposed terms for an employment agreement at the February 12, 2024, joint meeting. Both committees recommended favorable action to the Board on these items. She noted that the comprehensive review and the proposed employment agreement terms were reviewed with the full Board today during the executive session. The Executive Committee also reviewed and recommended ratification of a contract extension with the PTAA, as noted in Agenda Item 7.a.(iv).

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the recommendations of the Compensation Subcommittee on performance, renewal, and employment agreement for President Parlange.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees hereby: (i) finds that President Marc Parlange's performance in the position of President far exceeds the standard of satisfactory; (ii) appoints Marc Parlange as President of the University of Rhode Island for an additional term of five years from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029, subject to a contract being negotiated and finalized; (iii) authorizes the Chair of the Board of Trustees to negotiate, approve and enter into, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, an employment agreement with Marc Parlange, upon substantially the terms presented and recommended with such other terms as she may approve, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by her execution thereof; and (iv) ratifies and approves prior actions of the Chair in connection with President Parlange's employment agreement consistent with the foregoing.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Jay Placencia, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT

The URI Board of Trustees hereby: (i) finds that President Marc Parlange's performance in the position of President far exceeds the standard of satisfactory; (ii) appoints Marc Parlange as President of the University of Rhode Island for an additional term of five years from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2029, subject to a contract being negotiated and finalized; (iii) authorizes the Chair of the Board of Trustees to negotiate, approve and enter into, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, an employment agreement with Marc Parlange, upon substantially the terms presented and recommended with such other terms as she may approve, such approval to

be conclusively evidenced by her execution thereof; and (iv) ratifies and approves prior actions of the Chair in connection with President Parlange's employment agreement consistent with the foregoing.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Ratification of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the Professional Technical Administrative Association (PTAA) for a one-year extension (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) of the existing collective bargaining agreement with a 2.5% across-the-board salary increase.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees ratify the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and Professional Technical Administrative Association (PTAA) for a one-year extension (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) of the existing collective bargaining agreement with a 2.5% across-the-board salary increase.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees ratify the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and Professional Technical Administrative Association (PTAA) for a one-year extension (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) of the existing collective bargaining agreement with a 2.5% across-the-board salary increase.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Ad Hoc Special Real Estate Committee Report

- (i) Update – January 25, 2024, Committee Meeting

Abby Benson, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance, provided a high-level summary of activity at the January 25, 2024, meeting of the ad hoc special Real Estate Committee. She noted that the committee did not address any action items but did discuss several items in executive session, including ongoing real estate matters related to university housing, URI campuses including Alton Jones, Providence, and Peckham Farm, and some property acquisition and use planning actions underway.

c. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

- (i) Update – February 5, 2024, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting

Armand Sabitoni, Committee Vice Chair, provided an update on activity at the February 5, 2024, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. He noted that the Committee reviewed the Governor's FY2025 recommended budget which President Parlange included in his earlier presentation, updated bondholders' documents providing a broad overview of the University, notification of an upcoming intergovernmental agreement between Oregon State University and URI related to the construction and testing of the new research vessel, Narragansett Dawn. He noted that committee members voted to recommend that the Board approve the action items listed below.

- (ii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Approvals Under the Delegation of Authority to the President Relating to Land and Property [Enclosure](#)

- First Amendment of Lease Agreement Between URI and Rhode Island AG Technologies, LLC (RIAT)
- A Facilities Use and License Agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the University of Rhode Island Research Foundation (URIRF)

Abby Benson, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance reviewed the latest approvals under the delegation of authority to the President regarding land and property, as noted in the enclosure.

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of Tuition and Fee Rates for FY2025 [Enclosure](#)

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve a FY25 tuition increase of 3.6% for in-state students and 3.9% for out-of-state students, and increase fees as recommended and presented in the enclosure, representing a 0.9% increase in total fees.

On a motion duly made by Joseph Formicola and seconded by Neil Kerwin, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve a FY25 tuition increase of 3.6% for in-state students and 3.9% for out-of-state students, and increase fees as recommended and presented in the enclosure, representing a 0.9% increase in total fees.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval under the Policy on Approval and Execution of Contracts and Other Binding Documents greater than \$5 million, including:

- Approval of an Amendment to the Contract between the University of Rhode Island and Katie Schibler & Associates, LLC (KSA) for Media Campaign Advice of Change (AOC) for URI Communications and Marketing [Enclosure](#)

Abby Benson, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance, reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosure.

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve an amendment to the contract between the University of Rhode Island and Katie Schibler & Associates, LLC effective February 5, 2024, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Joseph Matthews and seconded by Matthew Lenz, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve an amendment to the contract between the University of Rhode Island and Katie Schibler & Associates, LLC effective February 5, 2024, as presented.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- Approval of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Commodity Purchases with the State of Rhode Island
[Recommendation Memo](#), [Natural Gas MOU](#), [Electricity MOU](#)

Abby Benson, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance, reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosures.

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees authorize the University to proceed in partnership with the State Office of Energy Resources and Division of Purchases, per the terms of existing Memoranda of Understanding, in contracting for both electricity and natural gas at amounts that may or may not exceed the \$5M threshold outlined in the policy on Approval and Execution of Contracts and Other Binding Documents, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Jay Placencia, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees authorize the University to proceed in partnership with the State Office of Energy Resources and Division of Purchases, per the terms of existing Memoranda of Understanding, in contracting for both electricity and natural gas at amounts that may or may not exceed the \$5M threshold outlined in the policy on Approval and Execution of Contracts and Other Binding Documents, as presented.

VOTE: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Vahid Ownjazayeri left the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

- (v) ACTION ITEM: Approval of Changes to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Procurement Regulations Relative to Outside Attorney Engagements. [Enclosure](#)

Alyssa Boss, General Counsel, reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosure.

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the changes to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Procurement Regulations relative to procurement of outside legal services and attorneys, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

On a motion duly made by Joseph Matthews and seconded by Monica Garnes, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the changes to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Procurement Regulations relative to procurement of outside legal services and attorneys, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (vi) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Lease Agreement with the Town of South Kingstown for land to house the University of Rhode Island's Sailing Center. [Enclosure](#)

Abby Benson, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance, reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosure.

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the Lease with the Town of South Kingstown as recommended and presented and that the Board Chair, President, and Vice President of Administration and Finance are each individually authorized to execute the Lease for and on behalf of the University and the Board of Trustees.

On a motion duly made by Joseph Formicola and seconded by Matthew Lenz, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the Lease with the Town of South Kingstown as recommended and presented and that the Board Chair, President, and Vice President of Administration and Finance are each individually authorized to execute the Lease for and on behalf of the University and the Board of Trustees.

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola,

Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

d. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Report

(i) Update – January 29, 2024, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Meeting

Matthew Lenz, Committee Vice Chair, provided an update on activity at the January 29, 2024, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee meeting. He stated that the committee heard a presentation on the University's Affirmative Action Plan that was submitted to the state late last year. He noted the committee's recommendation that URI develop some KPIs relative to affirmative action goals, an important step to compare our workforce data to that of Rhode Island, the US labor force, and our peer schools. The committee heard a report on anticipated amendments to Title IX. The committee reviewed compliance standards governing the conduct of research, and recent compliance activities. Committee Vice Chair Lenz also reported that the committee heard an update from URI's external auditors on the results of the single audit and NCAA agreed upon procedures. No action was taken at the meeting.

e. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – February 7, 2024, Committee Meeting

Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair, provided an update on activity at the February 7, 2024, Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting, noting that the committee considered and recommended approval of the action items listed below. Provost Wolfe provided an abbreviated summary of her presentation to the committee, which can be found [here](#). Interim Vice President Bethany Jenkins provided an abbreviated summary of her presentation to the committee, which can be found [here](#).

(ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the granting of tenure, effective January 8, 2024, to incoming dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Patrick Vivier, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)

Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, reviewed Dr. Vivier's background, as noted in the enclosure.

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective January 8, 2024, to incoming dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Patrick Vivier, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Charles Fogarty, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective January 8, 2024, to incoming dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Patrick Vivier, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the granting of tenure, effective April 1, 2024, to incoming faculty member Dr. Yoshitaka Ota, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)

Provost Wolfe reviewed Dr. Ota's background, as noted in the enclosure.

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective April 1, 2024, to Dr. Yoshitaka Ota, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

On a motion duly made by Joseph Matthews and seconded by Thomas Ryan, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective April 1, 2024, to Dr. Yoshitaka Ota, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of legislation from the Faculty Senate Curriculum & Standards Committee Report #2023-2024-04B, College of Arts & Sciences organizational change to create the Department of Journalism & Public Relations, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University. [Enclosure](#)

Provost Wolfe summarized the details of this organizational change, as listed in the enclosure.

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve an organizational change of creating the Department of Journalism and Public Relations, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

On a motion duly made by Monica Garnes and seconded by Joseph Formicola, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve an organizational change of creating the Department of Journalism and Public Relations, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Cook noted that the Student Life and Athletics Committee did not meet in February, as they had no tasks on their committee calendar.

f. Governance Committee Report

- (i) Update – February 7, 2024, Committee Meeting

Cortney Nicolato, Committee Chair, recognized Committee Vice Chair Jay Placencia for being recognized by the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce as a 2024 Trailblazer award recipient. She provided a high-level summary of activity at the February 7, 2024, Governance Committee meeting. No action was taken at the meeting.

Committee Chair Nicolato thanked everyone for participating in the Ethics Training. The Governance Committee reviews all disclosures filed with the RI Ethics Commission and Board Secretary Michelle Curreri is available as a resource for any questions about disclosures and recusals. She reported that the committee discussed KPIs to measure Board goals and its continued efforts to increase experiences with our faculty and students. She congratulated trustees Garnes,

Fascitelli, Fogarty, and Matthews for their recent reappointment to the Board, noting that more reappointments will be scheduled soon. She reminded the trustees about the upcoming June 28, 2024, Board retreat and encouraged them to submit topics of interest for the retreat. Concluding her report, she noted the committee's consideration of updates to the policy review schedule, Title IX updates, and a new hiring policy to be acted upon in April 2024.

Prior to adjournment, Board member Fogarty emphasized that the URI Board of Trustees looks very closely at holding tuition to the lowest possible levels, recognizing the stress and the strain on families today, particularly working families in Rhode Island. He noted that the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Administration have worked very carefully to balance the needs of the University with the lowest possible increases, adding that URI continues to stand out as one of the lowest priced of our peer institutions in the Northeast and New England.

Chair Cook agreed, noting that the discussion around tuition and fee rates was long and robust, weighing peer data and admissions data, among other factors. It is a balance of trying to figure out how we ensure that we have the right budget to support our students while understanding the potential financial strain on our students.

President Parlange thanked Trustee Fogarty for raising those points. He noted that URI has contributed some \$145 million this past year in terms of student fee waivers. He reported that URI, together with the University of Maine, are the least expensive public universities.

Chair Cook thanked all for participating in today's meeting. She noted that the Board's support of President Parlange is unanimous and strong. She stated that the University is in a great place with enormous opportunities for the future, and the Board is very supportive of that.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn the February 16, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Charles Fogarty, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees adjourn the February 16, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting.

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

URI Board of Trustees Meeting
February 16, 2024

At 2:34 p.m., this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2024.

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