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Revaa Goyal '27
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, April 26, 2024 · 9:00 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Brookside South Residence Hall · Multipurpose Room
40 West Alumni Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni welcomed everyone to the April 26, 2024, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and noted that the meeting was being held in person with some Board members participating remotely via Webex. Virtual access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform. A recording of the meeting 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. Vice Chair Sabitoni called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (in person)
- Ms. Maria Ducharme (in person)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person) (arrived at 9:05 a.m.)
- Mr. Joseph Formicola (in person)
- Ms. Monica Garnes (in person)
- Dr. Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (in person)
- Mr. Roby Luna (remote) (arrived at 9: 25 a.m.)
- Mr. David Martirano (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Matthews (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (remote) (left at 12:17)
- Mr. Thomas Ryan (remote) (left at 12:12)

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- Honorable Robert Weygand (left at 12:17 p.m.)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Mr. Michael Grey (ex officio, non-voting) (remote) (arrived at 10:14 a.m.)
- Dr. Melissa Sutherland (faculty representative, non-voting) (remote)
- Ms. Revaa Goyal (student representative, non-voting) (in person) (arrived at 9:39 a.m.)

URI Board of Trustees members not participating:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair
- Mr. David Caprio

URI President's Stewardship Council members in attendance:

- Ms. Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance (in person)
- Ms. Chelsea Berry, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (in person)
- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Director, Athletics (in person)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (in person)
- Mr. Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Group (in person)
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources (in person)
- Ms. Jeanne Hruska, Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff, Provost's Office (in person)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Interim Vice President, Research and Economic Development (in person)
- Dr. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success (in person)
- Mr. Matthew McDonald, Vice President, Communications and Marketing (in person)
- Ms. Markeisha Miner, Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity (in person)
- Ms. Elizabeth Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (in person)
- Mr. John Poehlmann, Assistant Vice President, Financial Strategy and Planning (in person)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President for Student Affairs (in person)
- Dr. John Stringer, Executive Director, Institution Research (in person)
- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning & Real Estate Development (in person)
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

Vice Chair Sabitoni acknowledged that the University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional stomping ground of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People. He welcomed returning trustee David Martirano and recognized the appointment of Abby Benson to the permanent position of Vice President for Administration and Finance.

2. OPEN FORUM

Note: Public participants must submit an online public comment form requesting permission to speak no less than 2 hours in advance of the meeting. The online request form and instructions for submission can be found via this [link](#).

No one signed up to speak during the Open Forum.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the February 16, 2024, Board meeting. [Enclosure](#)

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the February 16, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

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

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

YEAS: Armand Sabitoni, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members Charles Fogarty and Roby Luna were not available for the vote.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. President Parlange's employment contract

Vice Chair Sabitoni reported that Chair Cook and President Parlange have executed a five-year employment contract. All employment terms discussed during the February 12, 2024, Joint Executive Committee and Compensation Subcommittee meeting and the February 16, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting have been captured in the contract document. Vice Chair Sabitoni reported on behalf of Chair Cook that she addressed the URI Faculty Senate on March 28, 2024, regarding the Board of Trustees' comprehensive review of President Parlange and noted that the results of the Faculty Senate's review of the President were very consistent with the results of the Board's comprehensive review.

b. URI Day Highlights - March 21, 2024, Rhode Island State House

Vice Chair Sabitoni remarked that URI Day bolstered ongoing efforts to increase awareness and support from the state. URI representatives showcased the work and statewide impact of the state's flagship public research university through interactive exhibits and the participation of our student athletes, student-researchers, faculty, coaches, and University leadership. State legislators heard directly from their student-constituents and learned about the return-on-investment URI provides to the state. Elected leaders praised President Parlange for his new energy and sense of collaboration. They also praised the work of the University's Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Sabitoni reported that he emphasized to the hundreds of participants that we are Rhode Island's university, and at URI, we are working hard to address the state's and the governor's priorities. While at the State House, he noted URI's work to support education, positive health outcomes, and access to jobs that will increase.

Vice Chair Sabitoni recognized state and local elected officials who attended the event and thanked them for their continued support of URI. He thanked Board members who participated in URI Day at the State House, and all staff for making it a very successful day.

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Parlange's presentation slides can be found [here](#).

a. Campus Updates

President Parlange celebrated recent events and good news on campus including an inclusive excellence awards ceremony, the Rainville awards ceremony, a robotics competition, the biomechanics day, the Langevin Symposium, an employee years-of-service recognition breakfast, the Providence Business News emerging industries summit, state and national awards and grants, music events and student art on exhibit at Green Hall. He announced the appointment of Chelsea Berry to the permanent position of Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff.

The President provided an update on enrollment, including a record-breaking 26,894 undergraduate first-year applications for Fall '24. He spoke about the recent challenges associated with the Department of Education's redesign of FAFSA and its rollout.

President Parlange provided a fundraising update, stating that the campaign has raised \$297.12 million of its \$300 million goal. He thanked all those who support the University. A Campaign Celebration is planned for September 26, 2024, at the Ryan Center to thank all donors.

President Parlange introduced the new URI brand awareness campaign, "Smallest State. Biggest Thinkers. Outsized Impact." He noted that the campaign aims to raise awareness of URI's impact as a leading research university within the state and regionally, increase pride amongst URI alum, and amplify URI's impact. A media campaign has been rolled out and includes print, billboard, and television promotions.

b. Budget Model Discussion

President Parlange discussed the incentive-based budget (IBB) model, its introduction and implementation timeline, and its many advantages over the current budget model, including increased transparency, increased ownership and retention of surpluses by the colleges, and improved nimbleness to achieve priorities and seize opportunities as they arise. He reported on important IBB discussions being held with the faculty across the university in every college, marked by healthy dialogue, good questions and valuable feedback as people understand the budget model better. He stated that the University is committed to transparency to increase engagement and collaboration. The President noted that the new budget model gives the deans of the colleges and their colleagues control over resources and how they allocate those resources. He stressed that those spending time educating should have resources to support their teaching mission. Those that are also engaged in research and forming education programs should have the investments and the resources to support their work.

Trustee Ryan commended the entire University community for transitioning to the new budget model.

c. Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators: Priority 1

President Parlange reviewed the key performance indicators of Focus URI's Priority 1 Broaden Our Impact. He pointed out that this is a re-commitment to the state of Rhode Island and our land and sea grant mission. The President reviewed the three key performance indicators (research expenditures, the proportion of papers cited in quality publications worldwide, and external recognition and honorific awards), discussing the baseline statistics, incremental targets and 10-year targets.

Concluding his report, the President reviewed capital projects in process and planned, and thanked elected officials for supporting improvement efforts to URI's athletics and arts facilities. He reported on plans for Commencement 2024 to be held in the Ryan Center the weekend of May 17-19, 2024.

Responding to an inquiry from Trustee Fogarty, the President identified challenges facing the University, including shifting the operation of the University and the mindset on campus with changes to the budget model, and improving under-supported areas. He emphasized the importance of continuing the role of the University within the state in terms of its impact to lift people up and create new opportunities in K-12 education, healthcare, research, the blue economy, and environmental sciences. Vice Chair Sabitoni spoke of the partnership between the University and state leadership and efforts to capture more grant funding to remain competitive.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion to enter into executive session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding potential or anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- b. Discussion regarding collective bargaining with all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2), including discussion of a one-year extension to the collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the URI Professional Staff Association, and a one-year extension to the collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the URI Marine Professional Association.
- c. Discussions or considerations of the acquisition of real property for public purposes wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest to the public, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5), specifically:
 - Approval of Property Acquisition
- d. 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, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7); specifically,
 - Investment in potential programming

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 convene into executive session pursuant to:

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion regarding potential and anticipated litigation;

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion regarding collective bargaining with all bargaining units, including discussion of a one-year extension to the collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the URI Professional Staff Association, and a one-year extension to the collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the URI Marine Professional Association;

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) for discussions or considerations of the acquisition of real property for public purposes wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest to the public, specifically: Approval of Property Acquisition; 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: Investment in Potential Programming.

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

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

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 10:00 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 11:30 a.m., the Board returned to open session. Virtual public access resumed.

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

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the April 26, 2024, executive session.

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

YEAS: Armand Sabitoni, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Matthew Lenz was not available for the vote.

7. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ACTION ITEMS

Vice Chair Sabitoni noted that the ad hoc special Real Estate Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Compensation Subcommittee did not meet this month.

a. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

(i) Update – April 4, 2024, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Vahid Ownjazayeri provided an update on activity at the April 4, 2024, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. He reported on the following discussion items and noted that the Committee recommended approval of the action items listed below.

- Vice President Benson provided the annual report on forecasted FY24 financial performance, with least likely and most likely scenarios compared to budget. She expects that, despite the budgeted deficit of \$4.1M, the University will end the year positively, between \$6.6M and \$14.8M in surplus. She noted that some of these increases are one-time only, including a significant number of budgeted positions that were not filled in FY24 and a one-time infusion of \$2.7M from the State to reimburse URI for its portion of the State assessed fringe pool.
- Vice President Benson also provided a brief update on the Incentive Based Budget (IBB) model, providing a broad overview of the model as well as the current schedule for the model's implementation. The committee had a good discussion on how the University is using information from other institutions regarding their challenges and successes implementing IBB (or similar models) and the broad differences between incremental and IBB budget models.
- Vice President Benson provided an overview of University debt, a presentation that will be made annually to the Committee. She discussed both General Obligation and Revenue Bonds and more broadly the opportunities and priorities for borrowing, noting any future borrowing will be brought to the Board for approval.
- Vice President Benson gave an update on two administrative initiatives under way at URI--the implementation of the University's new eProcurement system, which they are calling RhodyBuy, and a Classification and Compensation Study being managed by the Office of Human Resources that is looking at non-classified and non-faculty employees.
- Vice President Benson discussed three proposed changes to the University's policy on "Approval and Execution of Contracts and Other Binding Documents" addressing delegations of signature authority, change orders to contracts, and the use of State Master Price Agreements.
- The Committee also discussed the use of term sheets for approval of real estate transactions going forward and reflected in the action items in the agenda packet. Approval of term sheets allow the Board to approve the major terms of real estate agreements and authorize the University to proceed with finalization of the documents as needed, providing more flexibility on timing, as transactions often go to the State Properties Committee for approval.
- The Committee discussed proposed changes to the Finance and Facilities Charter and annual calendar.

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

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

- (iii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Capital Improvement Plan FY2026-2030 [Enclosure](#)

Vice President Benson introduced the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the timeline for presentation, approval, and submittal to the State of Rhode Island. The CIP is a rolling five-year plan of proposed University capital projects of \$1M or more funded with unrestricted funds together with related requests for State funding. Vice President Benson noted that the Committee reviewed the CIP in detail at the April 4th meeting. The Board was invited to comment on the proposed CIP and will be asked to approve the final proposal at the June Board meeting.

The enclosed presentation provides updates to existing CIP projects scope/budget/schedule, including the Narragansett Bay Campus Phase 1 and 2 projects, the Fine Arts Center, the Athletics Complex Renewal, the Biomedical Sciences Building, and New Undergraduate Housing (if the public private partnership approach is not successful). It also provides updated cost information for the Memorial Union and Health and Counseling Center projects which have been on hold for the last several years to prioritize housing.

The presentation also highlights several proposed additions to the CIP, with a heavy emphasis on addressing the significant backlog of asset renewal needed on URI's buildings, which in total comprise 28% of the State's buildings. These additions include improving campus accessibility, access control, and building envelope integrity, and refurbishment of the Carothers Library HVAC systems and the University's water tower. Additional new projects include the replacement of graduate housing and moving URI's automotive shop to accommodate undergraduate housing expansion. Finally, the CIP includes a new project to address destabilization of the access road to the newly completed NBC pier due to recent, significant storm damage.

The presentation also notes that given URI's plans to undertake a Campus Master Plan this year, the University does not intend to identify a 2026 GO Bond project in this year's CIP. URI intends to submit a GO Bond project in next year's CIP, when it will be required for consideration by the General Assembly.

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a real estate transaction with the East Farm Commercial Fisheries Center and the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, and the negotiation and execution of all documents relating to such transaction. [Enclosure](#)

Vice President Benson reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosure.

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion and, on a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Joseph Matthews and Thomas Ryan, and hearing no discussion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve licensing real estate at 61 C East Farm Road to the East Farm Commercial Fisheries Center and Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, jointly and severally, on substantially the terms outlined in the enclosed Term Sheet, and that the Board Chair, President, and Vice President of Administration and Finance are each individually authorized, for and on behalf of the University and the Board of Trustees, to negotiate and execute a Real Estate License Agreement and any other documents relating to such transaction on substantially the terms outlined in the enclosed Term Sheet, with any such changes and additional terms as are deemed necessary by the person executing the same.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (v) ACTION ITEM: Approval to exercise the options to purchase 177 Plains Road, Kingston, Rhode Island and 75 and 85 Briar Lane, Kingston, Rhode Island and execute all documents relating to these acquisitions. [Enclosure](#)

Vice President Benson reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosure.

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the request to exercise the University's options to acquire title to the properties located at 177 Plains Road and 75 and 85 Briar Lane, Kingston, Rhode Island, as granted to the University pursuant to the provisions of those Lease/Purchase Agreements related thereto and presented, and that the Board Chair, President and Vice President of Administration and Finance are each individually authorized, for and on behalf of the University and the Board of Trustees, to take all such actions and to execute all such documents as such person deems necessary and appropriate in furtherance of exercising such options and

consummating the acquisition of the foregoing properties as recommended and presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (vi) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a real estate transaction with the Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum, and the negotiation and execution of all documents relating to such transaction.

[Enclosure](#)

Vice President Benson reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosure.

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion and, on a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Matthew Lenz, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve licensing real estate at 3045 Kingstown Road to the Tomaquag Indian Museum on substantially the terms outlined in the enclosed Term Sheet, and that the Board Chair, President, and Vice President of Administration and Finance are each individually authorized, for and on behalf of the University and the Board of Trustees, to negotiate and execute a Real Estate License Agreement and any other documents relating to such transaction on substantially the terms outlined in the enclosed Term Sheet, with any such changes and additional terms as are deemed necessary and appropriate by the person executing the same.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (vii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Revocable Easement Agreement with Rita L. Santilli Revocable Trust, Mario and Dolores Petrarca, and Lucia Santilli. [Enclosure](#)

Vice President Benson reviewed the details of this action item, as noted in the enclosure.

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion and, on a motion duly made by Maria Ducharme and seconded by Joseph Formicola, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the Revocable Easement Agreement with Rita L. Santilli Revocable Trust, Mario and Dolores Petrarca, and Lucia Santilli in West Greenwich, Rhode Island, as recommended and presented, and that the Board Chair, President, and Vice President of Administration and Finance are each individually authorized, for and on behalf of the University and the Board of Trustees, to execute the Revocable Easement Agreement as recommended and presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report and Action Items were moved up on the agenda and considered here.

d. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – April 10, 2024, Committee Meeting

Committee Vice Chair Charles Fogarty provided an update on activity at the April 10, 2024, Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting, noting that the committee considered and recommended approval of the action items listed below. He reported that key facts within the Provost's April 10th report to the Committee are detailed in the President's report to the Board.

(ii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Update on the Division of Research and the URI Research Foundation

Interim Vice President Bethany Jenkins provided an overview of her presentation to the committee, which can be found [here](#). She stated that URI is very much on track with its research expenditures, reflective of the research work being done through the division. She highlighted new hires in response to the President's initiative to bolster research including

the addition of new grant specialists, research concierges, and a chief business officer. She distributed the latest edition of Momentum magazine to the Board members.

Interim Vice President Jenkins reviewed the URI Research Foundation (URIRF), which was created in 2007 by the General Assembly for the purposes of the development of scientific research, technology, commercialization of intellectual property, and such other purposes as may be necessary to develop, promote, and enhance scientific research and technology at the University of Rhode Island. She outlined the status of certain activities between the University and the URIRF, particularly around intellectual property. She also spoke about the URIRF business units identified as URI Ventures, 401 Tech Bridge, and Polaris MEP.

Trustee Ryan noted that he is happy that resources have grown in the division. He asked about the synergistic effect of the URIRF with URI and asked how the relationship has benefitted URI over the last seventeen years. Interim Vice President Jenkins stressed the importance of alignment between the work of the URIRF and URI's strategic priorities.

Board members asked for more information on the URIRF's organization and funding, the IP portfolio, commercialization, and revenues, to better understand the relationship between the URIRF and URI. Vice Chair Sabitoni asked for a copy of the enabling legislation. Committee Vice Chair Fogarty asked that statistics about revenues and investments be prepared for the June or September meeting.

Board member Thomas Ryan left the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

(iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the awarding of posthumous academic degrees at Spring Commencement 2024. [Enclosure](#)

Committee Vice Chair Fogarty called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Maria Ducharme and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of posthumous academic degrees to the students listed below for the Spring 2024 Commencement, as presented in the enclosure:

- College of the Environment & Life Sciences: Mrs. Grace Campanella
- College of Health Sciences: Mr. Steven Drabik

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2024 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)

Committee Vice Chair Fogarty called for a motion and, 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 approve the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2024 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (v) ACTION ITEM: Approval of legislation from the Faculty Senate Curriculum & Standards Committee Report #2023-2024-07C, and the Graduate Council Report #2023-2024-10C, which have been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)

- Organizational Change: reducing the number of required upper division credits for BA degrees in the College of Arts & Sciences
- New Program: MA in UX/UI Design in the College of Arts & Sciences

Committee Vice Chair Fogarty called for a motion and, on a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees THAT the URI Board of Trustees approve an

organizational change reducing the number of required upper division credits for BA degrees in the College of Arts & Sciences, and approve the creation of a new MA program in UX/UI Design in the College of Arts & Sciences, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

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

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

NAYS: 0

The Student Life and Athletics Committee Report was moved up on the agenda and considered here.

e. Student Life and Athletics Committee Report

(i) Update – April 16, 2024, Committee Meeting

Committee Vice Chair Jay Placencia reported on activity at the April 16, 2024, meeting of the Committee. She noted that there were no action items. The committee calendar and charter were reviewed. She reported that Athletics Director Thorr Bjorn provided an update on Athletics performance for fall and winter sports, and an update on Athletics facilities, including the Meade Stadium, the outdoor track, and other facilities.

Board members Jay Placencia and Robert Weygand left the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

At 12:17 p.m., the Board of Trustees took a brief recess.

At 12:44 p.m., the Board of Trustees returned to open session.

b. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Report

(i) Update – April 4, 2024, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Roby Luna reported on activity at the April 4, 2024, meeting. The Committee discussed proposed changes to the Committee charter and calendar. There were no action items. While in executive session, the Committee discussed three items:

- An update from the Interim Chief Information Officer and the Chief Information Security Officer on cybersecurity issues, including an update on external audit IT management observations. The University is making good progress on addressing the observations.
- An overview of the University's risk register, including how the register is developed and scored, noting that many of the risks outlined in the register are common to higher education.

- An overview of the University’s insurance coverage, and discussion of concerns related to renewals of specific insurance coverage.

c. Governance Committee Report

(i) Update – April 8, 2024, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Cortney Nicolato provided an update on activity at the April 8, 2024, Governance Committee meeting. She noted that during the meeting, President Parlange announced that he has reappointed student representative Revaa Goyal to serve as a trustee for another year. Committee Chair Nicolato reported that the Board goals and key performance indicators were further defined at the meeting. The Board retreat activities were discussed at the committee meeting, including activities and the annual self-assessment exercise to evaluate trustee effectiveness. Committee Chair Nicolato reminded Board members to complete their annual financial disclosure statements with the RI Ethics Commission.

(ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the policy on “Employee Recruitment, Selection and Hiring” [Enclosure](#)

Assistant Vice President Anne Marie Coleman reported that this Employee Recruitment, Selection and Hiring Policy is a comprehensive update and consolidation of existing policies related to the recruitment, selection and hiring of all faculty, non-classified and classified staff. This work was performed with the input and collaboration of faculty and staff representatives from across the University.

Committee Chair Nicolato noted that the Governance Committee reviewed the draft policy on February 7, 2024, and voted on April 8, 2024, to recommend that the URI Board of Trustees approve the policy. She added that the Committee is looking at how it can be most effective in reviewing and approving policies. She noted that, going forward, the review and approval process will not require going twice to the Committee.

Committee Chair Nicolato called for a motion and, on a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Maria Ducharme, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the policy on “Employee Recruitment, Selection, and Hiring” as presented in the enclosure.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

- a. Ratification of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the URI Professional Staff Association 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.

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion, an on a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by David Martirano, 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 the URI Professional Staff Association 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: Armand Sabitoni, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Ratification of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the URI Marine Professional Association 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.

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Monica Garnes 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 the URI Marine Professional Association 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: Armand Sabitoni, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion to adjourn the April 26, 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 April 26, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 12:54 p.m., this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2024.