

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, September 27, 2024 · 9:00 a.m. EDT**

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Cook, Chair

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the September 27, 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. Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair (in person)
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (in person)
- Ms. Maria Ducharme (in person)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (in person)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Formicola (in person)
- Ms. Monica Garnes (remote)
- Dr. Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (remote)
- Mr. Roby Luna (remote) (joined at 9:38 a.m.)
- Mr. David Martirano (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Matthews (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri (remote)

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- Ms. Jay Placencia (in person)
- Mr. Thomas Ryan (in person)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Mr. David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Dr. Melissa Sutherland (faculty representative, non-voting) (in person)
- Ms. Revaa Goyal (student representative, non-voting) (in person) (arrived at 10:10 a.m.)

URI Board of Trustees members not participating:

- Honorable Robert Weygand
- Mr. Michael Grey

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)
- Ms. Lauren Burgess, Executive Director, Legislative and Government Relations (in person)
- Mr. Gabriele Fariello, Chief Information Officer (remote)
- Ms. Jeanne Hruska, Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff, Provost's Office (in person)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, 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, Institutional Research (in person)
- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Dr. Kristine Bovy, incoming Faculty Representative (in person)
- 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)
- Mr. Michael Khalfayan, Chief Information Security Officer (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. Jay Walsh, URI Affiliate, AAUP (in person)

Invited Guests:

- Ms. Melissa Boyd-Colvin, Director, Center for Student Leadership Development (CSLD) (in person)
- Ms. Melissa Camba-Kelsay, Assistant Director, CSLD (in person)
- Ms. Alison Jackson Frasier, Coordinator, CSLD (in person)
- Ms. Alexa Potamianos, Graduate Assistant, CSLD (in person)
- Mr. Ryan Estes, '26, student (in person)
- Ms. Penny Spack, '27, student (in person)
- Mr. Quinn Lounsbury, '26, student (in person)
- Ms. Leetal Young, '25, student (in person)
- Mr. Raymond Carmadello, '27, student (in person)
- Ms. Jada Ives-Williams, '25, student (in person)
- Mr. Gavin Moffat, '26, student (in person)
- Ms. MacKenzie Fitzgerald, '25, student (in person)
- Ms. Argha Goswami, '25, Student Senate President (in person)
- Ms. Sanah Feroz, '25, Student Senate Vice President (in person)

Open Forum Speakers:

- Ms. Emily Crist (in person)
- Ms. Sonia Lojewski-Woodbine (remote)
- Mr. Anthony Burnett-Testa (remote)
- Dr. Jay Walsh, Executive Director, URI Chapter, American Association of University Professors (in person)

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

There were no proposed amendments to the agenda.

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](#).

Chair Cook noted that four people signed up to speak during open forum. Emily Critz, Sonia Lojewski-Woodbine, and Anthony Burnett-Testa provided public comment regarding the W. Alton Jones campus, encouraging the renewed use of the campus including the Whispering Pines Conference Center and the Environmental Education Center. They spoke about the value of providing learning experiences in the natural environment.

Dr. Jay Walsh reported to the Board that the faculty union is supportive of the proposed budget that the Board is considering today. He encouraged the Board to consider the human relationships and connections formed between faculty and students when discussing metrics to measure success.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Margo Cook, Chair

a. Outgoing Board Member Recognition

Chair Cook reported that Trustee Melissa Sutherland is now an associate dean of Undergraduate Programs in the College of Nursing. On behalf of the full Board, she congratulated Melissa on this next step in her career and thanked her for her practical and insightful contributions to the Board during her time as faculty representative.

President Parlange appointed Kristine Bovy to replace Melissa as faculty representative on the Board. Dr. Bovy is professor of anthropology specializing in bird bone analysis from shell midden sites in the Pacific Northwest. Kris joined the faculty at URI in 2006 and has served as the Chair of Sociology and Anthropology since fall 2019. She teaches archaeology and leads local heritage projects, such as the history of the URI campus land. She will replace Melissa on the Academic Affairs and Research Committee and the Finance and Facilities Committee. Her first Board meeting will be on November 8th.

b. Update on Community Activities

Chair Cook remarked about recent community activities on campus, including the Fine Arts Building beam signing event, President Parlange's State of the University event, the University of Rhode Island Foundation and Alumni Engagement (URIFAE) Campaign Celebration, and the upcoming October 3rd Narragansett Bay Progress Celebration. The construction of a new fine arts building addresses a strategic goal to build community and enhance the University's relationship with the Rhode Island community.

Chair Cook recognized URIFAE President Lil O'Rourke for her tremendous work and dedication to the University over the past eight years. Under President O'Rourke's leadership at the URIFAE, the University has made significant progress in fundraising, exceeding their initial goal and gaining momentum for future campaigns. As President O'Rourke is retiring, a search committee has been formed to find the next Foundation president.

Concluding her report, Chair Cook acknowledged that the University is on a good trajectory under the leadership of President Parlange.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Marc Parlange, President

President Parlange delivered his Report of the President, which can be found [here](#). He spoke about the following topics:

a. Community News

President Parlange spoke about summer events on campus, including a visit from the House Natural Resources Committee and the dedication of the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences Building in honor of Joseph and Ruby DeChristofaro. He recognized the Board's participation in many on-campus events.

The President thanked Vice President Ellen Reynolds and Associate Vice President Dean Libutti for their planning and management of a remarkably successful move-in weekend. He made note of the various campus activities that were organized to help students find their place on campus. He recognized Melissa Sutherland, welcomed Kris Bovy, noted the permanent status of Gabriele Fariello as chief information officer, and announced the hiring of Becky Hill as the University's inaugural chief Human Resources Officer.

The "Yes on 2" campaign promoting state higher education bond funding for a biomedical science building at URI is underway. He recognized the leadership of the State of Rhode Island for their support of impactful biomedical science work being done at URI. The University continues to strengthen its partnership with the state.

President Parlange thanked Vice President Matt McDonald for increasing URI signage at T.F. Green International Airport and the Amtrak station and thanked Executive Director Lauren Burgess for strengthening government relations and for gathering federal and state elected officials to participate in special events on campus. He noted the important federal earmark to enhance computational resources at URI, and the start of the medical school study commission to explore the feasibility of creating a public medical school in the state.

b. Fundraising

The President thanked Lil O'Rourke and her team for organizing such a momentous event last night. He was thrilled to hear from students and faculty on the campaign's impact. The University and the Foundation are planning new ways to continue to engage alumni.

c. Rankings

President Parlange celebrated the University's Wall Street Journal (WSJ) ranking as the #1 public university in New England (#12 public flagship in the U.S., #35 public university in the U.S., #84 ranked university overall in the U.S.). Noting that seventy percent of the rankings reflect student input, he praised the WSJ for putting value on things that URI consistently values, including their measurement of non-traditional standards to find out about the student

experience, measuring the earnings and debt of graduates and their success, and whether campus diversity reflects the community at large.

d. Budget

President Parlange displayed various slides explaining the FY 2026 Budget Request, including revenue for the current FY 2025 budget allocation and proposed revenue for the FY 2026 budget submission. He noted that general state appropriations are vitally important, as well as RICAP dollars to support the growth of the University and to address deferred maintenance.

The President reviewed anticipated FY 2026 expenses, with operating expenses and salary and wages being the largest costs. The FY 2026 State General Appropriation Request assumes a tuition increase of three percent. The President reviewed the current service levels outlined in the proposed budget, as well as strategic initiatives aligned with Focus URI Strategic Plan Priorities.

President Parlange reviewed the Enrollment Considerations slide, and spoke about factors impacting enrollment at URI, including competition from other states (free or reduced tuition programs) and the Rhode Island Hope (RIC) and Promise (CCRI) Scholarships. More information will be shared at the next Board meeting following completion of the census data.

Board members discussed the rationale for creating the Hope and Promise scholarships, their funding, and their impact on URI enrollment.

The President concluded his report by reviewing URI's future year budget operating strategy, including building healthy reserve balances, securing the necessary resources to sustain and grow the University, expanding research and new academic programs, and seeking to reduce administrative burden and expenses. He also provided a budget model update, a capital projects update, and a comprehensive campus plan update.

Board members discussed with President Parlange the University's efforts to capture and continue grant funding, diversification of revenue, and the importance of telling the URI story – an investment in URI is an investment in the future of Rhode Island. The President thanked the Board members for their continued support of URI.

Board member Vahid Ownjazayeri left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board may seek to enter into executive session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding an assessment of information technology security, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3), as it relates to the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices, and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion of potential litigation; specifically,**
- **Phishing Attacks**

Gabriele Fariello, Chief Information Officer

- b. Discussion with President Parlange regarding performance goals for the upcoming year, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1).**
Margo Cook, Chair
- c. Discussion and action related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5), and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7), as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, including:**
- **New University Housing**
 - **Approval of Preliminary Development Transaction for New University Housing P3 (Public Private Partnership)**
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance
- d. Discussion regarding a matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5-(a)(3), specifically:**
- **Regulation of Control and Use of URI Property**
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance
- e. Discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5), including:**
- **Use of W. Alton Jones Campus**
 - **Development of Property on or around Campus**
 - **URI Property Acquisition and Use Planning**
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance
- f. Discussion of matters related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7), specifically:**
- **Update on URI Campus Store**
Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, Student Affairs

Chair Cook called for a motion, and 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 convene into executive session pursuant to:

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3) 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 R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion of potential litigation; specifically, Phishing Attacks; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1), for discussion with President Parlange regarding performance goals for the upcoming year; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) for discussion and action related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest, and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7), as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, including: New University Housing and Approval of a Preliminary Development Transaction for New University Housing P3 (Public Private Partnership); and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion regarding a matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices; specifically, Regulation of Control and Use of URI Property; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) for discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest, including Use of W. Alton Jones Campus, Development of Property on or around Campus, and URI Property Acquisition and Use Planning; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) for discussion of matters related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, specifically, an Update on the URI Campus Store.

President Parlange has been notified that discussion regarding his performance goals will be conducted in 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, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, and Roby Luna, and others participating remotely, confirmed that no other person was present or able to hear the discussion at the remote location.

At 10:29 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused. Following a five-minute break, the executive session resumed.

At 12:41 p.m., the Board returned to open session after concluding its executive session and taking a brief lunch break. Virtual public access resumed.

Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Tom Ryan, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the September 27, 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, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Introduction of Student Senate Leadership

Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, Student Affairs

Vice President Ellen Reynolds presented these slides on [Student Senate Leadership](#). She introduced Student Senate President Argha Goswami and Student Senate Vice President Sanah Feroz.

Student Senate President Argha Goswami spoke about her background and journey to URI, her course of study, and initiatives for 2024-2025.

Student Senate Vice President Sanah Feroz spoke about her background, her course of study at URI, and initiatives for 2024-2025.

Board members asked Argha and Sanah about what brought them to URI, their experiences at URI, and their future plans. Chair Cook congratulated Argha and Sanah for taking time to make sure their voices were heard and thanked them for their presentations.

b. URI Center for Student Leadership Development

- **URI Leadership Institute**
- **Student Introductions**

Melissa Boyd-Colvin, Director, Center for Student Leadership Development (CSLD), presented a slide deck which can be found [here](#). She introduced staff members, including Assistant Director Melissa Camba-Kelsay, Coordinator Alison Jackson Frasier, and Graduate Assistant Alexa Potamianos. Director Boyd-Colvin reviewed the CSLD's mission and impact over the past 27 years, sharing highlights on the programs managed by the CSLD, including the academic minor in Leadership Studies, the Leadership Institute, the North Woods Challenge Course, and Strengths-based leadership development.

Director Boyd-Colvin introduced current student leaders, including Ryan Estes, Penny Spack, Quinn Lounsbury, Leetal Young, Raymond Carmadello, Jada Ives-Williams, Gavin Moffat, and MacKenzie Fitzgerald. The students shared their experiences at URI and spoke about the value and benefits of the URI Leadership Institute and other programs offered by the CSLD.

Board members engaged with the students and asked them how they learned about the Center for Student Leadership Development. The trustees encouraged the students to pursue internship opportunities. Trustee Nicolato stated that every year she speaks to students at a Leadership Studies class, and has found the students to be unbelievably impressive, with a genuine desire to make real change and transform their communities. Chair Cook encouraged collaboration between the CSLD and the trustees.

7. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Student Life and Athletics Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 11, 2024, Committee Meeting
Tom Ryan, Committee Chair

Because the September 11, 2024, meeting of the Student Life and Athletics Committee was canceled, Athletics Director Thorr Bjorn made his presentation to the Board. The presentation can be found [here](#). Board members discussed with Director Bjorn the

implications of the pending House vs. NCAA settlement, including payment of Name Image and Likeness (NIL) back damages, student benefits, and roster caps. The settlement primarily benefits power five football programs, with some additional benefits for men's and women's basketball. Roster caps will be implemented, potentially impacting private schools negatively, and universities will need to decide whether to opt in or opt out of providing internal funding for NIL programming. Committee Chair Ryan questioned how this will impact URI's NIL collective.

Director Bjorn reviewed men's and women's basketball ticket revenue (as requested by Board members at an earlier meeting), including comparisons with peer institutions and marketing initiatives.

David Caprio left the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

b. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 11, 2024, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting
Armand Sabitoni, Committee Vice Chair

Vice Chair Sabitoni provided an update on activity at the September 11, 2024, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. He reported on discussion items and noted that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the URI Total Budget Request for FY 2026, following Vice President Benson's full budget presentation. The budget request supports strategic initiatives and the four pillars of the University's Strategic Plan. Vice President Benson outlined to the Committee the assumptions used for developing the budget, including enrollment projections and tuition assumptions and discussed the impact of this year's FAFSA rollout which presented challenges. Preparation of the budget was impacted by the tuition reduction programs in Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey, which expanded their programs outside their states.

Committee Chair Sabitoni stated that Vice President Benson reminded the Committee that future revenues are expected to increase, particularly with respect to research, fundraising, and tuition. The Committee also talked about the real estate transactions approved under the President's delegation since the Committee's last meeting.

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

This item was not discussed.

- (iii) ACTION: Approval of the University of Rhode Island Total Budget Request for FY 2026.
[Enclosure](#)
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

As a reminder, last year the Board of Trustees shifted final approval of tuition and fees to the February meeting to make better informed decisions. The FY 2026 budget request assumes a baseline tuition increase of 3.0% and fee increase of 0.7%, which will be revisited in February.

Chair Cook called for a motion and, on a motion duly made by Joseph Formicola and seconded by David Martirano, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the University's FY 2026 Total Budget Request as set forth in the enclosure and as recommended and presented.

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

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Joseph Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Matthew Lenz was not visible on the Webex screen to vote for this item. Charles Fogarty left the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

c. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 16, 2024, Committee Meeting
Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Neil Kerwin provided an update on activity at the September 16, 2024, Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting. He called upon Provost Wolfe and Vice President Jenkins to report on Committee discussions.

Provost Wolfe reported that the Committee was provided with the AI Task Force final report, which identifies areas of opportunity for the University. She reported on the recent retirement of Anne Veeger and the appointment of Sue Adams to the position of Interim Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Initiatives. She reported on searches and the hiring of new faculty. Dr. Dean Libutti shared preliminary census data with the Board, noting that official enrollment data will be available at the next Board meeting.

Vice President Bethany Jenkins shared with the Board a few slides highlighting her report to the Committee. Her slides can be found [here](#). She reported on staffing updates, including the hiring of Dr. Amy Carroll, Interim AVP for Research Initiatives and Development, and Dr. Elizabeth Buchanan, AVP Research Administration. Her report included an update on recent research highlights, including growth in research awards over the past years.

Committee Chair Kerwin reported that the Committee began initial discussions to better understand the URI Research Foundation. He highlighted President Parlange's initiative to closely align both foundations with the University's mission, especially its research focus.

d. Executive Committee/Compensation Subcommittee Report

- (i) Update – September 18, 2024, Joint Committee Meeting
Margo Cook, Chair

Chair Cook reported on the September 18, 2024, joint meeting of the Executive Committee and its Compensation Subcommittee. She said that Committee members considered the President's performance goals for the upcoming year (in executive session); she noted that the full Board continued the discussion during today's executive session.

- (ii) ACTION: Ratification of presidential performance goals for the upcoming year.
Margo Cook, Board Chair

Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Tom Ryan, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees ratify presidential performance goals for the upcoming year, as discussed in executive session.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

e. Governance Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 18, 2024, Committee Meeting
Cortney Nicolato, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Cortney Nicolato reported on activity at the September 18, 2024, Governance Committee meeting, including delays in implementing Title IX updates. The most recent regulations were issued on April 19, 2024, and became effective on August 1, 2024. However, due to ongoing litigation, many states and institutions, including URI, must continue to follow the prior regulations. URI's current Policy on Sexual Misconduct and accompanying procedures from the 2020 regulations remain in effect.

Committee Chair Nicolato reported that the Governance Committee reviewed streamlining efforts made over the past few years and discussed opportunities to increase the Board's effectiveness and efficiency. She thanked General Counsel Boss for her comprehensive review of the various responsibilities of the Board. Streamlining opportunities include less committee meetings, standardizing the timing of meetings, and scheduling meetings a year in advance. Committee Chair Nicolato noted that the Governance Committee is focused on ways to optimize the trustees' time. More information will be provided as streamlining efforts are finalized.

f. Ad Hoc Special Real Estate Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 26, 2024, Ad Hoc Special Real Estate Committee Meeting
Michael Fascitelli, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reported on activity at the September 26, 2024, ad hoc special Real Estate Committee meeting, much of which was discussed during today's executive session. The Committee discussed housing, merchandising, the Alton Jones Campus, as well as the Comprehensive Master Plan which will be finalized and brought to the Board next year. Committee Chair Fascitelli noted that housing is critical, along with a place for students to gather outside of the classroom. Deferred maintenance continues to be a priority item.

8. OMNIBUS VOTE ON COMMITTEE-RELATED ACTION ITEMS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approval of the actions described below, as recommended by the referenced committees and presented in the referenced enclosures where applicable:

Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the June 28, 2024, Board Meeting, as presented. [Enclosure](#)

Approval of the Annual Calendar:

- b. Approval of the 2026 Board of Trustees meeting calendar. [Enclosure](#)

Academic Affairs and Research Committee recommended action:

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

Before proceeding with an Omnibus Vote to approve the past meeting's minutes, the 2026 meetings calendar, and the committee-recommended action item, Chair Cook asked if there were any action items listed in the Omnibus Vote for which any member had any questions or would like to discuss, oppose or remove from the Omnibus Vote to be voted on individually.

Hearing none, she called for an omnibus motion, and on a motion duly made by Tom Ryan and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve agenda action items 8.a. through 8.c. as recommended and presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Jay Placencia, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees adjourn the September 27, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 2:23 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2024.