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David J. Martirano '91
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Faculty Representative
Revaa Goyal '27
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, April 25, 2025 · 9:00 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Brookside South Residence Hall
40 W. Alumni Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Cook, Chair

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the April 25, 2025, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and noted that the meeting was being held in person at the Brookside South Residence Hall. Some Board members participated 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 9:02 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) (arrived at 9:07 a.m.)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Formicola (remote)
- Ms. Monica Garnes (in person)
- Dr. Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (in person)
- Mr. Roby Luna (remote)
- Mr. David Martirano (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Matthews (in person)

URI Board of Trustees Meeting
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- Ms. Jay Placencia (in person)
- Mr. Tom Ryan (remote)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Mr. David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting) (in person) (arrived at 9:16 a.m.)
- Dr. Kristine Bovy (faculty representative, non-voting) (in person)
- Ms. Revaa Goyal (student representative, non-voting) (in person)

URI Board of Trustees members not participating:

- Mr. Michael Grey
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri
- Honorable Robert Weygand

Incoming URI Board of Trustees student representative in attendance:

- Mr. Ryan Estus (in person)

URI President's Stewardship Council members in attendance:

- Dr. Mark Antonucci, Vice President for Advancement, URI, and CEO, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (in person)
- Ms. Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance (in person)
- Ms. Chelsea Berry, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (in person)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (in person)
- Mr. Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Group (in person)
- Mr. Gabriele Fariello, Chief Information Officer (remote)
- Ms. Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources (in person)
- Ms. Jeanne Hruska, Senior Advisor to the Provost and Chief of Staff (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)
- Mr. John Poehlmann, Assistant Vice President, Financial Strategy and Planning (in person)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, 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:

- Ms. Tracey Angell, Assistant Vice President, Procurement and Purchasing (remote)
- Ms. Katie Babula, Manager, A/V Systems, Info Tech Services (in person)
- Mr. Adam Capwell, Technician, Audio Visual, Info Tech Services (in person)
- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate Development (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

- Ms. Christina DeCesare, Endpoint support specialist (in person)
- Mr. Ethan Hicks, Senior Information Technologist, Info Tech Services (in person)
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Deputy General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Kacey Light, Chief NCAA Compliance Officer (in person)
- Ms. Brittney Miles, Associate Athletics Director, Internal Operations (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. James Xiong, Information Technologist, Info Tech Services (in person)

Open Forum Speakers in attendance:

- Ms. Ava Pereira (remote)
- Ms. Laura Lowe (in person)
- Ms. Carolyn Wren (in person)
- Mr. Anthony Burnett-Testa (remote)
- Ms. Brooke Satti Charles (remote)
- Mr. Ken Kraper (remote)
- Mr. Adam Lowe (in person)

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

There were no proposed amendments to the agenda.

2. TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SENATE PRESIDENT DOMINICK RUGGERIO

Rhode Island Senate President Dominick Ruggerio passed away on April 21, 2025.

Chair Cook paid tribute to the late Senator Dominick Ruggerio, noting his significant contributions to the state of Rhode Island and to the University of Rhode Island, including:

- He secured funding that helped URI build and renovate its buildings, which led to better learning environments for students.
- He supported research initiatives, which have led to leadership in marine and environmental sciences.
- He championed policies that increased financial aid and student support services, improving access to higher education for Rhode Island residents.
- His advocacy was the driving force behind the state's exploration of a medical school. Recognizing the critical issue of healthcare access in Rhode Island, he championed the creation of the Commission to help ensure meaningful solutions.

All those in attendance paused for a moment of silence to honor the late Senator Ruggerio.

Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni, URI President Marc Parlange, Board members Charles Fogarty and Matthew Lenz expressed their appreciation for the late senator's years of public service, honoring his memory and celebrating his accomplishments. They also expressed their condolences to the Ruggerio family.

3. 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 can be found via this [link](#).

Prior to the commencement of the Open Forum, where speakers had indicated their intention to discuss reopening the W. Alton Jones campus, Chair Cook asked that Vice President Benson provide an update on the university's recent efforts regarding the property. Vice President Benson reported that a task force had been established to evaluate viable uses for the W. Alton Jones campus. A request for information regarding proposed uses of the property was publicly advertised. Interested potential partners were invited to submit proposals that aligned with the university's mission, explaining how they could help URI be good stewards of the land and how their proposed use would enable the university to maintain its commitment to providing educational and research opportunities at the campus. Vice President Benson reported that the university is considering proposals from a state agency and a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting healthy living and education.

Ms. Ava Pereira, Ms. Laura Lowe, Ms. Carolyn Wren, Mr. Anthony Burnett-Testa, Ms. Brooke Satti Charles, Mr. Ken Kraper, and Mr. Adam Lowe shared their public comments regarding the W. Alton Jones campus, advocating for its renewed use of the Environmental Education Center. They shared their personal experiences and emphasized the significance of hands-on environmental education in fostering student learning within natural settings. Mr. Christopher Wren's support for the reopening of the W. Alton Jones campus was captured in a voicemail message on the morning of the Board meeting and will be maintained with Board records.

Chair Cook thanked the speakers who participated in the Open Forum. She emphasized the need for the university to strike a balance between the public's perspectives and the mission of URI when contemplating the continued use of the W. Alton Jones property.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Margo Cook, Chair

a. Introduction: Mark Antonucci, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer, University of Rhode Island Foundation and Alumni Engagement, and Vice President for Advancement, University of Rhode Island

Chair Cook introduced Mark Antonucci and provided background information on his career. She announced that Mark will be a member of the President's senior leadership team and a partner with President Parlange. Mark held the position of senior vice president for advancement and strategy at the Rutgers University Foundation, where he oversaw a significant increase in annual fundraising. During his tenure at Arizona State University, he contributed to a tripling of their annual fundraising performance.

The search committee was impressed by Mark's academic achievements, including holding both a master's and doctorate in education. The combination of his fundraising experience, alumni

engagement skills, and management and leadership style led the committee to believe that Mark will be a great leader for URI. Mark is a native of Rhode Island, passionate about education while also comprehending the business aspects of university management.

Chair Cook requested that the Board of Trustees learn more about the university's endowment. She emphasized the necessity for URI to identify strategies to augment revenue while maintaining its commitment to the mission of advancing the university.

Vice President Antonucci expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the next vice president of advancement for URI and chief executive officer of the URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement. He underscored the significance of effectively communicating URI's accomplishments to generate revenue through philanthropic, non-philanthropic, and other means. He acknowledged that URI's groundbreaking research presents an opportunity to enhance URI's reputation and influence within the state of Rhode Island.

Vice President Antonucci shared that the annual URI Day of Giving was a resounding success, raising \$1.29M. In conjunction with the Rhody Athletic Challenge last fall, URI raised over \$2.4M. He reported that all of our fundraising initiatives were successfully achieved, and the average gift to the University of Rhode Island this week exceeded \$300. Vice President Antonucci expressed his commitment to continuing URI's momentum and looks forward to meeting with the trustees individually over the coming months.

b. Recent URI Events

Chair Cook reported on URI Day at the State House, which was held on April 1, 2025. She acknowledged the high level of energy and enthusiasm exhibited during URI Day, commending numerous trustees for their attendance. This recent event highlighted the breadth of URI's reach, with many students, athletes, and leaders in attendance. Dozens of Rhode Island legislators and state leaders were also in attendance, including Tony Afonso from the Governor's office, Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, and many others. It was an inspiring day characterized by positive energy and relationship building.

Chair Cook commented that several trustees attend URI activities. She stressed the importance of attendance and the value of accessing valuable information. She asked Joe Matthews to share his experiences at recent URI events.

Board member Joseph Matthews reported attending the March 27th town hall meeting. He noted the presence of a full house of faculty, staff, and students. During this time of anxiety, he found it reassuring to hear from the administration regarding the university's values and mission, and that URI will navigate the challenges ahead with the best available resources.

Board member Matthews also attended the Inclusive Excellence Awards on April 10, 2025. This event honored undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the University who have demonstrated and promoted inclusion at URI in the areas of community leadership, teaching, and service. He reported that Board member Jay Placencia received the Lifetime Achievement Award and encouraged all board members to attend events on campus.

c. Recognition of Board Members

Chair Cook recognized Trustee Jay Placencia for receiving the Inclusive Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award during URI's 2025 Inclusive Excellence Awards Ceremony. She underscored the significance of volunteer work as trustees in ensuring the university's continued success and providing our students with an exceptional learning experience. She recognized Jay for her contributions to diversity and inclusiveness, highlighting her impactful role in the community.

Chair Cook recognized student representative Revaa Goyal for her two-year tenure on the Board. She highlighted Revaa's academic achievements, volunteer activities, work assignments and leadership roles. Chair Cook thanked Revaa for her service to the Board and extended her best wishes for her future endeavors.

President Parlange acknowledged Revaa's service as student representative over the past two years. He introduced Ryan Estus, a Class of 2026 student, who will assume the role of student representative in June. Ryan is a double major in Political Science and Public Relations, with a minor in Journalism and Leadership Studies. He has demonstrated his commitment to URI through various leadership positions, including the South Kingstown 300th anniversary celebration, orientation leadership, and membership in the pickleball club.

Chair Cook recognized Dr. Jen Riley, dean of URI's College of Arts and Sciences, for her appointment as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of New Hampshire. She expressed her appreciation for Jen's commitment to URI and wished her well in this new leadership opportunity.

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Marc Parlange, President

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

a. Community Updates

President Parlange acknowledged Dean Jen Riley and her appointment as provost to the University of New Hampshire. He expressed his gratitude for her leadership, which has contributed to the College of Arts and Sciences' reputation growth. Jen is lauded for her advocacy for faculty, program growth, and collaboration. He noted that she was very instrumental in the renewal of the Fine Arts Center. He wished her well in her new assignment.

President Parlange provided an update on the ongoing search for a new dean of the College of Environment and Life Sciences. The search for the new librarian is also progressing. He extended a warm welcome to Mark Antonucci and his family to URI and expressed his appreciation to Ryan Estus for accepting the position of student representative on the Board.

President Parlange provided a brief overview of recent community events held since the last Board meeting, including the Inclusive Excellence Awards, Biomechanics Day, Taricani Lecture, annual employee service milestone event, student research poster contest, and the New Student Welcome Days. He thanked everyone for their participation and enthusiasm during these events.

President Parlange celebrated a record-breaking 28,000 applications received this year and highlighted the outstanding incoming Schilling Scholars, Ryan Scholars, and Verrecchia Scholars. He reviewed the schedule of the Spring 2025 Commencement events and encouraged all board members to attend. He highlighted another successful URI Day at the State House and the reappointment of six board members.

President Parlange underscored the recent Town Hall meeting held in Edwards Hall, which fostered community engagement to address critical issues pertinent to the university. He noted that during the event, attendees were reminded of URI's values and principles, particularly the importance of academic freedom at the state's research university. The Leadership Team on Federal Actions is closely monitoring federal actions.

b. Government Relations Update

President Parlange reviewed a "Research University Ecosystem" slide, which showcased how research conducted at URI contributes to various sectors, such as technology, life sciences, healthcare, the blue economy, small businesses, and workforce development. He spoke about the world-renowned partnership between the National Science Foundation and US research universities, and the current retreat from that partnership.

President Parlange reviewed the total awards received by the URI Division of Research and Economic Development for FY2024 (\$165M). He stated that URI's budget is a little more than \$1 billion; of which about \$132M comes from federal research grants and \$110M comes from federal student aid. President Parlange and Vice President Bethany Jenkins stressed that federal actions have been quite impactful. In response to Board member inquiry about the potential reduction in Facilities and Administration rates (indirect costs), Vice President Jenkins noted that there have been a series of legal actions; changes are still being challenged in the courts.

A listing of awards received through the Division of Research and Economic Development by parent sponsors (federal agencies) was displayed and explained, highlighting the diversity of funding sources. The impact of recent federal actions is widespread, including the potential loss of high impact research and jobs, disruptions in life-saving medical advancements, threats to RI's economic development, disruption to workforce, threats to enrollment for RI students, and the loss of millions of dollars in federal research funding.

c. Strategic Plan Priority 1 Update

President Parlange talked about key performance indicators around Strategic Plan Priority 1: Broaden Our Impact - our commitment to both the state of Rhode Island, our land and sea grant mission, and our commitment to research. He reviewed baseline, current value, and 10-year targets for research expenditures and the percentage of journal publications that ranked in the top

10 percent of their field. He stated that the goals are ambitious, and we are heading in the right direction.

President Parlange briefed the Board on a new Carnegie Classification called “Student Access and Earnings Classification” and explained that the classification will measure student success and access to education. It recognizes colleges that improve access for low-income students, and it tracks whether graduates earn competitive wages relative to their region. The President presented a slide illustrating URI’s relationship with its peer schools using the new classification. He stressed the importance of access to quality education at URI for all Rhode Islanders and encouraged equal access for URI to the Hope and Promise scholarships.

6. STUDENT LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Update – April 15, 2025, Committee Meeting

Tom Ryan, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Tom Ryan welcomed Mark Antonucci to URI. He recognized Dr. Dean Libutti for his work with the University’s scholarship programs. He suggested that a few of the scholar reports be sent to the Board to highlight the work these students are accomplishing.

Committee Chair Ryan reported on activity at the April 15, 2025, Student Life and Athletics Committee meeting. He noted that the committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve calendar amendments as listed in the omnibus vote, item 10.b.

Brittney Miles, Associate Athletics Director, and Kacey Light, Chief NCAA Compliance Officer, provided an overview of information shared during the committee meeting, including a report of fall/winter sports performance and an athletics facilities update:

- Student-athletes continued to demonstrate academic growth, with an average GPA of 3.26 across 87 majors.
- Student-athletes enrolled in diverse academic majors, and a high percentage of athletes achieved Dean’s list recognition.
- Various sports programs achieved notable successes including:
 - Football won its first CAA title.
 - Women’s Track and Field won its first New England Title.
 - Men’s Track and Field won its second A-10 indoor championship and IC4A championship.
- Highlights of spring sports teams.
- Renderings of the new football stadium construction, baseball improvement plan, and track and field complex.
- NCAA updates regarding name, image and likeness payments (NIL), the proposed House Settlement establishing roster limits, and the impacts to URI.

In response to a question from Committee Chair Ryan, AAD Light explained the replacement of scholarship limits with roster limits and the impacts of this change on things like Olympic sports. Chair Cook asked about URI’s position and AAD Light responded that URI opted in to the terms of the House settlement, in part because it creates more freedom to provide NIL funding.

Dr. Ellen Reynolds provided an overview of information shared during the committee meeting, including the New University Housing (P3) Project, Dining Services facility updates, and Student Affairs updates:

- Student Affairs Capital Improvement Projects were reviewed, including:
 - New University Housing (NUH), which will bring over 1,100 new undergraduate and graduate beds to campus, currently in development with Gilbane Development.
 - Health Services renovations.
 - Campus Recreation's Tootell Aquatic Center Roof replacement and pool upgrades.
 - Dining Services renovations to Ram's Den and Mainfare Dining locations.
 - A new radio tower is being erected.
- Talent Development – a significant milestone of 5,000 graduates has been achieved since the program's inception.
- A. Robert Rainville Leadership Awards, renamed the Maureen McDermott Student Leadership Award, was awarded to MacKenzie Fitzgerald. During the committee meeting, MacKenzie shared highlights of her student involvement experiences that contributed to her overall success at the University of Rhode Island.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. **Discussion regarding a matter 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:**
 - (i) **Research support from partner organizations**
Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development
- b. **Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2), and a matter 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).**
Marc Parlange, President
Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
- c. **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), specifically:**
 - (i) **Update on New University Housing (P3)**
 - (ii) **Use of W. Alton Jones Campus**
 - (iii) **Development of Property on or around Campus**
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

- d. **Discussion pursuant to 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, specifically:**
- (i) **Update on Series 2018A and 2018B Bonds – Audit**
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance
- e. **Discussion regarding collective bargaining with all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2), including discussion of:**
- (i) **PSA/NEA/URI: Professional Staff Association**
(ii) **PTAA/URI: Professional Technical Administration Association**
(iii) **PTF: Part-Time Faculty**
(iv) **AAUP/URI: American Association of University Professors**
(v) **GAU/NEARI: URI Graduate Assistants United**
(vi) **Maritime Professional Association**
(vii) **URI Physicians Assoc/NEARI**
(viii) **ESP - URI/NEARI: Educational Support Professionals**
Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources

Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Monica Garnes and seconded by Tom Ryan, 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)(7) for discussion regarding a matter 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, Research support from partner organizations; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion regarding potential litigation and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) for matters related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest; 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 of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest, specifically, Update on New University Housing (P3), Use of W. Alton Jones Campus, and Development of Property on or around Campus; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) for discussion as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would

adversely affect the public interest, specifically, Update on Series 2018A and 2018B Bonds – Audit; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion regarding collective bargaining with all bargaining units, including:

PSA/NEA/URI: Professional Staff Association

PTAA/URI: Professional Technical Administration Association

PTF: Part-Time Faculty

AAUP/URI: American Association of University Professors

GAU/NEARI: URI Graduate Assistants United

Maritime Professional Association

URI Physicians Assoc/NEARI

ESP - URI/NEARI: Educational Support Professionals

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, Neil Kerwin, Monica Garnes, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni, Tom Ryan

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

All those participating remotely confirmed that no other persons were present or able to hear the discussion at the remote locations.

At 10:54 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

Board member Tom Ryan left the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Board member Roby Luna left the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

At 1:19 p.m., the Board returned to open session. Virtual public access resumed.

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

VOTED: That the Board seal the minutes of the April 25, 2025, executive session.

VOTE: 12 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, Matt Lenz, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Ad hoc special Real Estate Committee Report

- (i) Update – April 8, 2025, Ad hoc special Real Estate Committee Meeting
Michael Fascitelli, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reported on activity at the April 8, 2025, ad hoc special Real Estate Committee meeting, including three major initiatives; an updated master plan, new university housing, and a “third space” extended campus community.

Committee Chair Fascitelli reported that the Committee received an update from Sasaki Associates, Inc. on the Comprehensive Campus Plan (CCP). The University intends to present the draft CCP to the Board at the June 27, 2025, meeting with final approval anticipated for the September 2025 meeting. The CCP addresses both short- and long-term planning objectives and aligns with the Strategic Plan. It looks at how URI is using its buildings and where it should invest money. It evaluates the University’s 5-year Capital Improvement Plan and resource allocation over the next ten years.

Committee Chair Fascitelli announced that construction on new university housing is scheduled to begin in September under a public-private partnership. Progress updates will be shared with the Board as the project unfolds. Additionally, plans are advancing for the development of a “third space” on university property at Upper College Road.

Chair Cook expressed her appreciation for the committee’s contributions and excitement for the advancement of the university’s master plan, new student housing, and a mixed use “third space” development.

b. Governance Committee Report

- (i) Update – April 15, 2025, Governance Committee Meeting
Jay Placencia, Committee Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Jay Placencia reported on activity at the April 15, 2025 Governance Committee meeting, including:

- Board members expressed a desire for increased and timely communication regarding URI’s activities.

- On April 1st, Maria Ducharme, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano, and Jay Placencia were reappointed to the URI Board of Trustees. Committee Vice Chair Placencia thanked Board member Cortney Nicolato for her supportive testimony regarding the appointments. Additionally, Senator Gallo of the Education Committee commended the work being conducted at URI.
- Committee Vice Chair Placencia thanked Reeva Goyal for her service to the Board and welcomed Ryan Estus as the new student representative.
- Review of the annual Board retreat agenda: The Board will commence business matters on the morning of June 27th, followed by a board engagement exercise. Guest speaker Michael Ledford, President, Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC, will speak during the afternoon retreat. Events and dinner are scheduled for June 26th.
- Board of Trustees self-assessment responses have been compiled and will be discussed further at the annual retreat.
- During the retreat, board members will be asked to consider a more unified process for the Statement of Expectations, the Board goals and KPIs, and the self-assessments.
- Board members are asked to inform Board Secretary Michelle Curreri of their attendance at university events for board engagement purposes.
- Trustees were reminded that the RI Ethics Commission's annual financial disclosure statement is due today, April 25, 2025.
- The Committee also reviewed the committee's charter and calendar; no changes were identified.

Chair Cook emphasized the significance of engaging in a comprehensive and candid discussion regarding the Board's self-assessment. She urged the trustees to contribute their insights and suggestions during the annual retreat.

c. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – April 16, 2025, Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting *Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair*

Committee Chair Kerwin reported on activity at the April 16, 2025, Committee meeting. He stated that the Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve action items 10.c. and 10.d. as listed in the omnibus vote. The Committee also reviewed the committee's charter and calendar; no changes were identified.

Provost Wolfe provided a brief summary of her report to the Committee. Searches are underway for a university librarian and the dean of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences. Regarding enrollment, URI received a record number of applications this year, with deposit numbers exceeding 350 compared to this time two years ago.

The Provost reported that Tripp Umbach, the firm undertaking the medical school feasibility study, engaged in several key stakeholder meetings. From these interviews, Tripp Umbach identified attributes of URI that they perceived as supportive of a potential college of medicine, including URI's existing health care disciplines, its R1 status, and the university's existing relationships with healthcare stakeholders throughout the state. Tripp Umbach

detailed opportunities related to workforce development and retention, economic growth, improved healthcare access, particularly in primary care, and the potential for philanthropic and public funding to support a URI medical school. The study is ongoing, and a final report is anticipated in June.

Provost Wolfe noted that the committee reviewed key performance indicators for Strategic Priority 2, namely retention rates and graduation rates, degree conferrals, and the equity gap between Pell and non-Pell students. The Provost reported that URI is committed to its graduate programs and is not reducing graduate admissions in response to recent federal developments. Notably, new graduate programs will commence in the fall including a Master's in Public Health and an online Doctor of Nursing Practice.

Vice President Bethany Jenkins presented several slides which can be [found here](#). She provided an update on staffing related to key positions supporting research initiatives. Recognizing President Parlange and the Board for their investment in the Division of Research and its role in shaping the University of the future, Vice President Jenkins presented a graph illustrating federal grant terminations, categorized by agencies. Notably, since January, the University has not received any new National Institute of Health (NIH) awards. While URI's faculty and research community maintain a high submission rate, the federal slowdown is anticipated to impact award outcomes. URI continues to keep the spirits of the community high and its entrepreneurial spirit up, while looking at ways to do things differently.

Vice President Jenkins concluded her brief report by focusing on the significance of research at an R1 research university, including providing opportunities for undergraduate students, leveraging other private investments, and encouraging the pursuit of larger, more prestigious NIH grants to explore the latest scientific techniques and advancements.

Committee Chair Kerwin underscored the importance of humanizing the impact of federal cuts to research. He commended university leadership for the robust response to these federal changes.

d. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

- (i) Update – April 17, 2025, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting
Armand Sabitoni, Committee Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni reported on activity at the April 17, 2025, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. The Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve action items 10.e. through 10.g. as listed in the omnibus vote. The Committee also reviewed the committee's charter and calendar; no changes were identified.

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni noted that the committee heard reports on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY27 through FY31. Additionally, the Committee reviewed the status of RICAP funding and projected current fiscal year results.

- (ii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Approvals under the Delegation of Authority to the President Relating to Land and Property [Enclosure](#)
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

No discussion.

- (iii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Capital Improvement Plan FY2027-2031 [Enclosure](#)
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Vice President Benson stated that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is the university's five-year rolling plan which is submitted to the state annually. Standard practice includes an in-depth presentation of the CIP at the April committee meeting. Approval of the CIP is slated for the June committee and board meetings. Vice President Benson noted that this year's CIP includes a request for \$17.3M for asset protection for deferred maintenance and repairs in our buildings. There are several projects in the CIP this year that were asked for last year, but were not funded in the Governor's budget, including HVAC replacement for the Carothers Library, a significant chunk of money for building envelope improvements to address 15 leaking roofs, and funding for campus access control. Two new projects are proposed this year: replacement of the bulkhead at Allen Harbor and enabling projects for the potential mixed-use development on Upper College Road. Two buildings will need to come down to facilitate that development. Over \$2M is needed to renovate the spaces where the inhabitants of those buildings will be relocated on campus.

The Vice President reported that the CIP includes a proposed FY26 general obligation bond for an integrated health building, an expansion of White Hall. URI is considering a bond request for FY28 for the development of a student success center.

Vice President Benson reported that the committee also reviewed the projected current fiscal year results. URI currently has a budgeted operating shortfall of \$5.7M. The Vice President reported that at the end of February, projections show a shortfall of \$1.8M – better than anticipated based on the budget; this is being closely tracked. She noted that the committee heard an update around efforts to balance the budget in FY26. Given federal funding uncertainties, URI is working with every unit to look at an average of their last three years of actual spending and personnel to get a baseline to keep operations going as they are, with possible reductions to any budget that may not be critical in order to reduce operating shortfall and go into FY26 with a balanced budget. She noted her appreciation for the efforts of Assistant Vice President John Poehlmann, and the support of the President and the Provost as URI works through this very intense exercise. The Vice President added that this exercise will help with the new incentive-based budget model being partially implemented in FY26 and fully implemented in FY27. The new budget model allocates resources internally, helps to identify how to distribute funding, and hopefully incentivizes behavior in a positive way.

Vice President Benson gave a brief overview of the action items listed in the omnibus vote, including a contract extension with Oracle America for the university's current PeopleSoft ERP system (while plans for a new ERP system are finalized), approval to demolish several small buildings to make way for improvements at the Athletics Complex, and approval to

purchase property at 42 Upper College Road from the URIFAE using the university's reserve funding. Two of the buildings to be demolished are of historical significance. URI is working with the Rhode Island Office of Historic Preservation, who said that they do not object to the demolition, but they want URI to do an archival history of the buildings. The Vice President thanked Trustee Bovy for bringing this forward, as URI is very interested in documenting buildings that are of historic significance at the university.

9. ACTION ITEM

a. Approval of a 3% across-the-board salary increase for non-union, non-classified employees effective June 29, 2025.

Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources

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

VOTED: That the Board approve a 3% across-the-board salary increase for non-union, non-classified employees effective June 29, 2025.

VOTE: 12 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, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

10. 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 February 13, 2025, Board Meeting. [Enclosure](#)

Student Life and Athletics Committee recommended action:

- b. Approval of amendments to the Student Life and Athletics Committee 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 will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2025 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)
- d. Approval of the awarding of a posthumous academic degree at Spring Commencement 2025. [Enclosure](#)

Finance and Facilities Committee recommended action:

- e. Approval of Contracts in Excess of \$5 Million: Oracle America, Inc. [Enclosure](#)
- f. Approval of the Demolition of Certain Buildings; specifically, Buildings 5A, 5B, 5D at 5 West Alumni Avenue, 25B, 25C, 25D and Meade Stadium bleacher seating at 25 West Alumni Avenue on the Kingston Campus [Enclosure](#)
- g. Approval to Purchase 42 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI. [Enclosure](#)

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

Hearing none, Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board approve agenda action items 10.a. through 10.g. as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 12 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, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Cook thanked the trustees for their commitment to URI and Rhody Nation. She underscored that the board's role is to provide support to the university during both prosperous and challenging times. She

encouraged the trustees to actively share their ideas and suggestions, fostering innovative thinking. She emphasized URI's exceptional status as a great institution, offering unparalleled opportunities for students and producing the best students in the world. She stressed the need to think creatively, remain resilient, and remember our mission to continue to make a positive impact, advocating for our students with unwavering determination. She concluded by urging everyone to unite as a powerful force, recognizing that collective efforts and individual contributions can make a difference.

11. ADJOURN

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

VOTED: That the Board adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 12 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, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 1:56 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 27, 2025.