The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, September 26, 2025 · 9:00 a.m. EDT

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Cook, Chair

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the September 26, 2025, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and noted that the meeting was being held in person at the Higgins Welcome Center, 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 9:02 a.m.

URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Margo Cook, Chair (in person)
- Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (in person)
- Maria Ducharme (in person)
- Michael Fascitelli (in person)
- Charles J. Fogarty (in person)
- Joseph Formicola (in person)
- Monica Garnes (remote)
- Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Matthew Lenz (in person)
- Roby Luna (remote)
- David Martirano (in person)
- Joseph Matthews (in person) (arrived at 9:07 a.m.)
- Cortney Nicolato (in person)

- Vahid Ownjazayeri (in person)
- Jay Placencia (in person)
- Thomas Ryan (in person)
- Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Kristine Bovy (faculty representative, non-voting) (in person)
- Ryan Estus (student representative, non-voting) (in person)

URI Board of Trustees member not participating:

- Michael Grey (ex officio, non-voting)

URI President's Stewardship Council members in attendance:

- Mark Antonucci, Vice President for Advancement, URI, and CEO, URI Foundation (in person)
- Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance (in person)
- Chelsea Berry, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (in person)
- Thorr Bjorn, Vice President and Athletic Director (in person)
- Alyssa Boss, Vice President and General Counsel (in person)
- Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Group (in person)
- Michael Fitzpatrick, Jr., Director, Labor and Employee Relations (in person)
- Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources (in person)
- Jeanne Hruska, Senior Advisor to the Provost and Chief of Staff (in person)
- Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development (in person)
- Kerry LaPlante, Dean, College of Pharmacy (in person)
- Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success (in person)
- Matthew McDonald, Vice President, Communications and Marketing (in person)
- Markeisha Miner, Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity (in person)
- John Poehlmann, Assistant Vice President, Financial Strategy and Planning (in person)
- Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, Student Affairs (in person)
- John Stringer, Executive Director, Institutional Research (in person)
- Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate Development (in person)
- Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant, Office of the General Counsel (in person)
- Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Emily Diomandes, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President (in person)
- Kacey Light, Chief NCAA Compliance Officer (in person)
- Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Jay Walsh, Executive Director, URI/AAUP (in person)

Guests in attendance:

- Anne Cartwright, Husch Blackwell (remote)
- Paul Umbach, President, Tripp Umbach (remote)

Open Forum Speakers in attendance:

- Robert Marshall '77, Phi Gamma Delta House Corporate President (in person)

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

2. **OPEN FORUM**

Robert Marshall, President of the Gamma Delta house corporation, addressed the Board to express concern over a recent discovery that their chapter house is proposed to be relocated under the University's Comprehensive Campus Plan. Marshall highlighted long-standing contributions of the chapter and its alumni and asked the Board to review the plan with their concerns in mind, affirming the chapter's desire to remain in their current location.

3. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**
Margo Cook, Chair

a. **Recent URI Events**

University Engagement & Strategic Initiatives

Chair Cook shared updates on recent events and meetings she attended relevant to ongoing university priorities. She began by describing a productive session of the President's Stewardship Council, which includes senior administrators and faculty. Two key topics were discussed:

- Fundraising Innovation: Vice President Mark Antonucci presented strategies to rethink fundraising approaches. The discussion highlighted the growing collaboration between the University and its Foundation.
- Corporate Partnerships: The University is refining its approach to industry collaboration through a new team. Together, they are scaling corporate engagement, especially in life sciences and preparing for expansion at the Bay Campus:
    - Sandra Cano (outside-in): Brings community and small business experience to connect the University with external companies.
    - Pete Rumsey (inside-out): Leverages internal research strengths to align University capabilities with industry needs.

Bay Campus Opportunity

Chair Cook emphasized the strategic value of the Narragansett Bay Campus—over 200 acres of underdeveloped waterfront land. With growing interest from the state in maritime defense and industry partnerships, the University is poised to capitalize on this rare asset. A recent Commerce meeting reinforced state support for this initiative, urging the University to act decisively.

URI Foundation Updates

At the URI Foundation meeting, Sandy Parillo was recognized for revitalizing the Foundation's board. A major change was approved: renaming the organization from "URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement" to simply "URI Foundation," streamlining its identity and clarifying its sole purpose—to serve the University. This rebranding reflects Vice President Antonucci's influence and aligns with broader institutional goals.

Community Building

A joint reception at the President's house brought together University boards, reinforcing collaboration and resource-sharing. She praised the event as a powerful example of unity and strategic alignment.

b. Trustees in the News

Trustee Roby Luna was recently featured in a local publication for his innovative work integrating artificial intelligence into URI men's basketball. His company is developing tools to help coaches identify and evaluate talent more effectively using AI.

Trustee Mike Fascitelli was highlighted in *URI Magazine* in the article "More Than Hoops: An American Story," which celebrated individuals from the North Providence summer basketball league who have made significant contributions. The article shed light on Mike's background and impact.

Chair Cook thanked trustees for their continued efforts in supporting and engaging with the University community.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Marc Parlange, President

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

a. University Updates

President Parlange welcomed faculty and students back to campus for the fall semester and expressed appreciation to Vice President Antonucci and the URI Foundation for organizing a highly successful Homecoming Weekend, which saw record-breaking attendance and engagement from alumni, students, and families. He also recognized faculty excellence across the university, highlighting Professor Jason Jaacks for his acclaimed documentary work and his positive impact on students.

The University of Rhode Island celebrated the return of the research vessel *Endeavor* from its final voyage and looks forward to the arrival of the *Narragansett Dawn*. The President highlighted several major grants recently awarded, including a significant National Institute of Health grant supporting biomedical research and PhD training through a collaborative effort among the Health Sciences, Engineering, and Pharmacy departments. President Parlange participated in the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce luncheon with Chairman Jerome Powell, where he emphasized the vital role of American research universities and URI's contributions.

The President reported that fundraising efforts continue to show strong momentum, with goals raised to reflect increased donor confidence. Colleges and departments are steadily progressing toward their targets. The Rhodyville Block Party successfully raised over $13,000 through registrations, sponsorships, and gifts.

President Parlange noted that capital projects are advancing across campus. Construction of the Ocean Robotics Laboratory began in March 2024 and is expected to be completed by spring 2025. Renovations to the Fine Arts Center are underway, and events such as the 10th annual Guitar and Mandolin Festival are planned. Construction of new undergraduate housing is scheduled to begin in fall 2025 and open by fall 2027. The new track and field facility is also in progress, with plans to host Special Olympics, state championships, and A-10 events.

Strategic planning efforts have included over two dozen stakeholder listening sessions with faculty, staff, students, and trustees. These sessions informed the finalized 20-year Comprehensive Campus Plan, which focuses on sustainability, pedestrian-friendly design, campus safety, and the preservation of URI's natural beauty.

In terms of legislative and governance priorities, URI's 2026 agenda includes securing budget support and advancing Board of Trustees' enhancement legislation to strengthen governance practices. The University hosted Senator Lawson on the Narragansett Bay Campus to showcase its leadership in the blue economy. URI will also participate in the Senate Commission's public hearing on the feasibility of establishing a medical school, as well as the South County Ad Hoc Housing Coalition meeting on October 15. The President invited the trustees to the groundbreaking ceremony for the Outdoor Track on October 16.

President Parlange reported that enrollment continues to grow, with applications rising from 27,000 to 28,000. Strategic recruitment efforts have led to notable increases in applications from states such as California, Texas, and Virginia. The incoming class has an average GPA of approximately 3.7, with 31% of students having earned college credit prior to enrollment. Students hail from 42 states and 36 countries, and the class is composed of 62% female students, 28% identifying as diverse, 24% Pell-eligible, and 30% first-generation college students.

URI welcomed Ryan and Verrecchia Scholars, as well as 26 inaugural Helen Schilling and Francis Schilling Scholars. These scholarship programs continue to attract top-tier students nationally and foster leadership, mentorship, and academic excellence.

On the financial front, the President reported that URI is on track to implement a new budget model by July 1 of next year. This transition year is designed to support strategic growth and collaboration, aligning URI with practices common among leading R1 research universities. The Balanced Budget Initiative was launched to align spending with historical trends and strengthen the University's financial foundation. The initiative avoided broad cuts seen at peer institutions by taking a more strategic and thoughtful approach.

Community engagement remains a priority, with strong collaboration across deans, vice presidents, faculty, and staff. The President expressed appreciation for the Faculty Senate and shared governance efforts, particularly those led by Travis Williams.

URI is also developing its first-ever multi-year strategic financial plan, which will support sustainable decision-making across the institution. Key focus areas include tuition, enrollment, financial aid, research funding, and staffing costs. The university is transitioning from Excel to Workday ERP for more robust financial modeling, with updates to be presented to the Finance and Facilities Committee in October.

Concluding his report, the President celebrated faculty achievements, including five assistant professors receiving National Science Foundation CAREER Awards. Professor Sarah Kienle was recognized for her research on leopard seals in Antarctica, and a new physics faculty member was named a Simons Fellow—one of only five nationwide.

Board members discussed with the President URI's success in recruiting high-quality faculty across all colleges and disciplines, attributed to its rising reputation and strategic efforts to expand tenure-track positions. New faculty, both junior and senior, are choosing URI over top-ranked institutions, drawn by strong collegial support and leadership opportunities. This faculty excellence is reflected in increased research grants, impactful publications, and a growing startup culture on campus.

The discussion also addressed graduate retention, including the number of out-of-state students that remain in Rhode Island after graduation, contributing to the local workforce across various industries. The University is working to analyze this data more holistically, considering the tri-state region's economic dynamics and employer partnerships. Meredith Armstrong, the new career center director, has compiled detailed employment data by major and location, which will be shared with the trustees.

Additionally, trustees discussed gender demographics, observing that 62% of the incoming class is female. This trend mirrors national patterns across public research universities and raises broader questions about educational engagement among young men. The College of Education is exploring early intervention strategies, particularly in elementary education, to address these disparities.

Chair Cook thanked President Parlange for his report.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

a. 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

b. Discussion regarding potential litigation matters, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).
Marc Parlange, President
Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development

c. Discussion regarding 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:

(i) Tripp Umbach Report
Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

(ii) Research support from partner organizations
Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development

d. Discussion 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 interest of the public, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5), and discussion of 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), specifically:

(i) New University Housing *Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance*

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

VOTED: That the URI Board of Trustees convene into executive session pursuant to:

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1), for discussion of the President's performance goals for the upcoming year, where President Parlange has been notified that discussion of performance goals will be held in executive session and will participate in the discussion;

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

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7), for discussion of the Tripp Umbach Report and research support from partner organizations; and, R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) and (7) for discussion of New University Housing,

as referenced on the posted agenda.

VOTE: 16 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, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, 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 9:47 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 1:04 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 Maria Ducharme, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board seal the minutes of the September 26, 2025, executive session.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. 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 Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Michael Fascitelli, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board ratify presidential performance goals for the upcoming year, as discussed in executive session.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Appointment of Interim Board Secretary to the URI Board of Trustees. Enclosure
Margo Cook, Board Chair

Before appointing a new board secretary, trustees took time to honor current Board Secretary, Michelle Curreri, who is scheduled to retire on October 1. Michelle was praised for her instrumental role in establishing and shaping the Board since its inception in 2020, including navigating operations during COVID and supporting board logistics with exceptional responsiveness and care.

Board members expressed heartfelt appreciation for Michelle's guidance and leadership since the Board's inception, crediting her professionalism and warmth with setting a high standard for governance and operations.

In recognition of her nearly 40 years of dedicated service to the University of Rhode Island and the State of Rhode Island—including roles as Chief of Staff to two presidents—Michelle was honored with a commemorative brick on the campus quad, a formal proclamation, inclusion on the plaque of retiring trustees, and a card and flowers from the Board.

Michelle expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve and reflected on the meaningful relationships formed throughout her tenure.

President Parlange expressed appreciation for Michelle's service to the University and the Board of Trustees. He introduced Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, Emily Diomandes, highlighting her leadership in university operations and her trusted relationships across campus.

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

VOTED: That the Board appoint Deputy Chief of Staff to the President Emily Diomandes as Interim Board Secretary to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

c. **Approval of the Master Tentative Agreement between the URI Board of Trustees and the URI Physicians' Association/NEARI** Enclosure
Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources

Vice President Becky Hill reported on the master tentative agreement between the URI Board of Trustees and the URI Physicians Association/NEARI. The agreement includes a 3.25% compensation increase over the life of the contract, the introduction of personal time for physicians, and an increase in the professional development fund.

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

VOTED: That the Board approve the Master Tentative Agreement between the URI Board of Trustees and the URI Physicians' Association/NEARI, as presented.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

d. Approval of an extension of a Tuition Waiver for STUDENT – Exceptional Circumstance
Enclosure *Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources*

Vice President Hill introduced a request for a tuition waiver extension for a current student for academic years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027. The waiver supports her continued education following her parent's early retirement due to medical reasons.

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

VOTED: That the Board approve extending a tuition waiver for a current student for academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27, as presented.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Ad Hoc Special Real Estate Committee Report

(i) Update – September 11, 2025, Ad Hoc Special Real Estate Committee Meeting
Michael Fascitelli, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reported that the Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Campus Plan (CCP) during its September 11, 2025, meeting. He noted that the CCP outlines a flexible 20-year roadmap for university growth, addressing infrastructure, capital needs, academic expansion, housing and hospitality. He emphasized the need for strategic prioritization and funding, including potential public-private partnerships to advance key projects. Designed as a living document, it lays out a good vision for the campus and aims to enhance enrollment, reputation, and rankings.

(ii) ACTION: Approval of the 2025 Comprehensive Campus Plan. Enclosure
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Vice President Abby Benson thanked all those involved with the development of the Comprehensive Campus Plan. The CCP reflects input from a wide range of stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, trustees, and community members. The Vice President noted that there is a CCP website (https://uri.engage.sasaki.com/) containing valuable information on the CCP; the website includes an area for stakeholder input.

Vice President Benson noted that the CCP provides the framework that will guide the advancement of key campus projects, including new student housing, hotel and retail developments, and infrastructure upgrades. Focus of the CCP includes:

- **Scope**: A 20-year strategic framework addressing renovation, replacement, and construction of campus buildings.
- **Mobility & Accessibility**: Focus on improving campus navigation and connectivity across locations (Kingston, Bay Campus, Providence).
- **Housing**: Integrated with the Residential Life Master Plan to address urgent housing needs.
- **Bay Campus Development**: Identifies significant opportunities for growth based on available land and state investment.
- **Energy Strategy**: Includes an Energy Master Plan aligned with state emission goals and sustainability targets.
- **Financial Outlook**: Estimated implementation cost exceeds $5 billion, requiring phased execution and prioritization.
- **Next Steps**: A working group is developing a five-year implementation roadmap, evaluating funding sources including philanthropy and revenue strategies.

The Board's support was acknowledged as instrumental, and members were encouraged to approve the CCP and contribute to shaping its execution, especially in areas suited for philanthropic investment.

Vice Chair Sabitoni acknowledged the significant work completed since planning began, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing initiatives and needed infrastructure improvements amid changing business dynamics and resource constraints.

The conversation concluded with support for moving the plan forward and a call for continued strategic, prioritized focus and stakeholder engagement.

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

VOTED: That the Board approve the 2025 Comprehensive Campus Plan, as presented.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

(i) Update – September 15, 2025, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting
Vahid Ownjazayeri, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Vahid Ownjazayeri reported on activity at the September 15, 2025, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. Vice President Benson presented an overview of anticipated FY25 year-end financials. Initially projected as a $5.7M shortfall, updated figures now indicate a $1.5M surplus due to effective fiscal management and budget alignment with historical expenditures. He noted that the new budget model remains on track for FY27 implementation, with FY26 efforts focused on subvention and reserve management policy development. A long-range planning initiative is underway and will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri noted that committee members voted to recommend that the Board approve Items 8.e. through 8.h. on the Omnibus Vote, including: Acceptance of the Report on Approvals under the Delegation of Authority to the President Relating to Land and Property; and, Approval of Contracts in Excess of $5 Million; specifically, Hope Commons Renovations, Atlantic Controls Systems, Inc., and Performance Food Group. No objections were raised regarding these matters.

(ii) ACTION: Approval of the University of Rhode Island Total Budget Request for FY 2027.
Enclosure
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Vice President Benson highlighted several slides included in the enclosure, and summarized the University's total budget request for FY2027, emphasizing the general state appropriation for operational support. The University's total proposed budget is approximately $1.1 billion, with tuition and fees as the largest revenue source. The general appropriation request was highlighted in presentation slides, along with capital support (RICAP). Budget usage includes major allocations to salaries and wages, operating expenses, and financial aid (both internal and federally funded). Enrollment assumptions include a slight increase in undergraduate enrollment and flat graduate enrollment. A 3% tuition increase is assumed; final approval of tuition and fees is expected at the February 2026 Board meeting following review of October census data. A 2% increase in three mandatory student fees is proposed, pending consideration at the February meeting.

Vice President Benson referenced presentation slides which itemized the FY27 state general appropriation request, the current service level, and strategic initiatives included in the budget proposal. Strategic initiative requests include faculty investments (10 positions), academic advising support, Talent Development and scholarship waivers, and IT modernization (Workday ERP transition). The Anchor in Rhode Island merit scholarship, still in development, was listed but will not be submitted with the budget proposal. The Vice President noted that the FY27 budget proposal is in line with URI's Strategic Plan and the Governor's RI 2030 Plan.

The Vice President reported that URI exceeded its full-time equivalent (FTE) cap last year; a request to increase the baseline cap is included in this budget proposal to support growing student numbers and fee-supported auxiliary services.

Board members had no questions.

Committee Vice Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Michael Fascitelli and Charles Fogarty, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board approve the University's FY 2027 Total Budget Request as set forth in the enclosure, excluding the Anchor in Rhode Island Scholarship.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(iii) ACTION: Approval of Certain Documents Relative to the Development, Construction, and Financing of New University Housing. Enclosure
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Vice President Benson reported that the Board is being asked to approve two modifications to the ground lease for the public-private partnership (P3) student housing project originally approved in June 2025. The first modification entails the extension of the lease to satisfy bond insurer requirements, allowing three one-year extensions if financing challenges arise. The second modification is a reduction of graduate village beds from 220 to 200 to improve project viability, still representing an increase over current capacity.

Vice President Benson reviewed next steps. Total project cost is approximately $227 million, with the University contributing up to $2 million for infrastructure work that will be done on our behalf. Trustee Fascitelli noted that this public-private partnership can be a model for future campus development projects.

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri 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 Board approve changes to the June 27, 2025 Resolution approving the Project and authorizing each Authorized Officer to execute Development, Construction, and Financing of the two (2) new on-campus undergraduate student housing communities and one (1) on-campus graduate student and family housing community at the University of Rhode Island, and to execute documents and take actions, all as further described in the enclosed resolution.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

c. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – September 15, 2025, Committee Meeting
Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Kerwin reported on activity at the September 15, 2025, Committee meeting. He stated that the Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve action items 8.c. and 8.d. as listed in the omnibus vote, including: Approval of the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the

President at the conclusion of the Summer 2025 term; and Approval of the granting of tenure, effective August 25, 2025, to faculty member Patricia Cioe, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, College of Nursing. No objections or questions were raised regarding these matters.

Provost Wolfe provided a brief summary of items discussed during the Committee meeting (presentation slides linked here). Topics included enrollment highlights, the current focus of the Leadership Team on Federal Actions, leadership searches, and accreditation planning.

Vice President Jenkins provided a brief summary of items discussed during the Committee meeting (presentation slides linked here). The Vice President discussed FY25 research achievements, including a record number of proposals submitted by faculty. Vice President Jenkins reviewed research growth and funding success, early career faculty achievements, graduate training and interdisciplinary excellence, quantum science leadership and environmental research expansion, major research and innovation highlights, intellectual property and Tech Transfer initiatives, the URI Technology Showcase and commercialization momentum.

Board member Ryan celebrated the transformative impact of leadership changes, particularly in driving research growth and faculty engagement. Chair Cook recognized the URI Research Foundation as a vital facilitator of innovation and commercialization and encouraged further alignment of its identity and purpose with the University's mission.

Committee Chair Kerwin expressed support and appreciation for the efforts of the Provost and the Vice President, noting their resilience and meaningful results.

d. Student Life and Athletics Committee Report

(i) Update – September 18, 2025, Committee Meeting
Jay Placencia, Committee Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Jay Placencia reported on activity at the September 18, 2025, Committee meeting. The Committee heard from student-athlete Lily Stasaitis, MBA graduate student, coxswain on the rowing team and President of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. A video presentation showcasing upcoming athletic facility upgrades was displayed (and is linked here).

Thorr Bjorn, Vice President and Director of Athletics, provided a recap of his comprehensive report to the Committee, including highlights of academic excellence and athletic performance, updates on capital projects, NIL strategy and challenges, and NCAA governance and championship access. He referenced his detailed presentation to the Committee (linked here).

Vice President of Student Affairs, Ellen Reynolds, provided a recap of her comprehensive report to the Committee (linked here). She welcomed Trustee Ryan Estus to the Committee and recognized his leadership and campus involvement. Topics covered include a successful move-in for over 6,000 students, progress on new housing developments, a refreshed campus store under management of Follett Higher Education Group, the launch of the state's first

Collegiate Recovery Center, strong academic and athletic performance in club sports and Greek Life, and the Counseling Center's recent accreditation review supporting student mental health.

Committee Vice Chair Placencia expressed appreciation for the leadership of Vice Presidents Bjorn and Reynolds and the continued dedication to student success.

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 27, 2025, Board Meeting and Annual Retreat. Enclosure

Approval of the Annual Calendar:

b. Approval of the 2027 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 will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Summer 2025 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. Enclosure

d. Approval of the granting of tenure, effective August 25, 2025, to faculty member Patricia Cioe, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, College of Nursing, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island. Enclosure

Finance and Facilities Committee recommended action:

e. Acceptance of the Report on Approvals under the Delegation of Authority to the President Relating to Land and Property Enclosure

f. Approval of Contracts in Excess of $5 Million: Hope Commons Renovations Enclosure

g. Approval of Contracts in Excess of $5 Million: Atlantic Controls, Inc. Enclosure

h. Approval of Contracts in Excess of $5 Million: Performance Food Group 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. Board members had no questions.

Hearing none, Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Maria Ducharme and seconded by Joseph Matthews, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board approve agenda action items 8.a. through 8.h. as recommended and presented.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. ADJOURN

Chair Cook provided closing remarks. She noted that a special meeting of the Board will be scheduled next week to discuss the medical school feasibility study. There will be a public hearing at the State House on October 9, led by the special Senate Commission to review the Tripp Umbach feasibility report. Chair Cook emphasized the Bay Campus as a strategic asset with transformative potential for URI's future. She commended URI faculty for their resilience and dedication to student success amid challenging times, and the University community for efforts to improve URI's rankings and reputation. Trustee Nicolato praised the Harrington School's recent Rhode Island Survey Initiative (focused mainly on housing) for its impact on local advocacy and community insight.

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

VOTED: That the Board adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 16 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, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 2:45 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 7, 2025.