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Joe Formicola '69

Monica J. Ganes '94

Neil Kerwin, Ph.D. - M.A. '73

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

David J. Martirano '91

Joseph F. Matthews '80

Cortney M. Nicolato '01

Vahid Ownjazayeri

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01

Thomas Ryan '75

Ex Officio Members

Marc B. Parlange, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President

Michael Grey, *Chair*
R.I. Board of Education

David Caprio, *Chair*
R.I. Council on Postsecondary Education

Kristine M. Bovy, Ph.D.
Faculty Representative

Ryan Estus '26
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 · 11:00 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Meeting Room 106, Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center
45 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Cook, Chair

Board Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the October 1, 2025, special 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 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/>.

Interim Board Secretary Emily Diomandes conducted a roll call attendance and reported that a quorum of members was present. Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Margo Cook, Chair (remote)
- Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (remote)
- Maria Ducharme (remote)
- Joseph Formicola (remote)
- Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Matthew Lenz (remote) (arrived at 11:31 a.m.)
- Roby Luna (remote)
- David Martirano (remote)
- Joseph Matthews (remote)
- Cortney Nicolato (remote) (arrived at 11:18 a.m.)

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- Vahid Ownjazayeri (remote)
- Jay Placencia (remote)
- Tom Ryan (remote)
- Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)
- Kristine Bovy (faculty representative, non-voting) (remote)
- Ryan Estus (student representative, non-voting) (remote)

URI Board of Trustees members not participating:

- Michael Fascitelli
- Charles J. Fogarty
- Monica Garnes
- David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)
- 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 (remote)
- Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)
- Chelsea Berry, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (remote)
- Alyssa Boss, Vice President and General Counsel (remote)
- Lauren Broccoli Burgess, Executive Director, Legislative and Government Relations (remote)
- Kerry LaPlante, Dean, College of Pharmacy (remote)
- Patrick Vivier, Dean, College of Health Sciences (remote)
- Danny Willis, Dean, College of Nursing (remote)
- Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant, Office of the General Counsel (in person)
- Emily Diomandes, Deputy Chief of Staff and Interim Board Secretary (in person)
- Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

Guest in attendance:

- Paul Umbach, President, Tripp Umbach (remote)

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

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. Discussion regarding 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:**

Tripp Umbach Report

Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Maria Ducharme, 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 of the Tripp Umbach Report, as referenced on the posted agenda.

VOTE: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, 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 11:08 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

Trustees Lenz and Nicolato joined the meeting during the executive session. Trustee Ownjazayeri left the meeting during the executive session. Trustee Ryan left the meeting at the end of the executive session.

At 12:08 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 Joseph Formicola and seconded by Joseph Matthews, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board seal the minutes of the October 1, 2025, executive session.

VOTE: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. ADJOURN

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

VOTED: That the Board adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 12:08 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

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