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Kristine M. Bovy, Ph.D.
Faculty Representative

Ryan Estus '26
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, February 13, 2026 · 9:00 a.m. EST**

**The University of Rhode Island
Anchor 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 February 13, 2026, 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 9:02 a.m.

URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Margo Cook, Chair (remote)
- Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (remote)
- Maria Ducharme (remote)
- Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Charles J. Fogarty (remote)
- Joseph Formicola (remote)
- Monica Garnes (remote)
- Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Matthew Lenz (remote)
- Roby Luna (remote)
- David Martirano (remote)
- Joseph Matthews (in person)
- Cortney Nicolato (remote)
- Vahid Ownjazayeri (remote)
- Jay Placencia (remote)

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Meeting
February 13, 2026

- Tom Ryan (remote) (arrived at 9:15 a.m.)
- Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)
- David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)
- Kristine Bovy (faculty representative, non-voting) (remote)
- Ryan Estus (student representative, non-voting) (remote)

URI Board of Trustees member not participating:

- Michael Grey

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)
- Lauren Broccoli Burgess, Executive Director, Legislative and Government Relations (remote)
- Chelsea Berry, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (remote)
- Alyssa Boss, Vice President and General Counsel (remote)
- Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources (remote)
- Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development (remote)
- Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success (remote)
- Matthew McDonald, Vice President, Communications and Marketing (remote)
- Brittney Miles, Interim Athletics Director (remote)
- Markeisha Miner, Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity (remote)
- Dan Moos, Chief of Staff to the Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)
- Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, Student Affairs (remote)
- Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Sam Adams, Assistant Director, Emergency Management (remote)
- Christina DeCesare, Technician, Info Tech Services (in person)
- Emily Diomandes, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President and Interim Board Secretary (in person)
- Michael Jagoda, Assistant Vice President, Public Safety, Chief of Police (remote)
- Lauren Jensen, Deputy General Counsel (remote)
- Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

Guests:

- Amanda Cantrell, Deputy Director, Planning & Administrative Services, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (remote)
- Terrence Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (remote)
- Michael Ice, Investment Committee Chair, URI Foundation (remote)
- Adam Quinlan, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Enterprise Risk Management, URI Foundation (remote)
- 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.

Chair Cook congratulated Monica Garnes on her well-deserved promotion to President of the Atlanta Division of Kroger. She asked if there were any proposed amendments to the published agenda; none were presented.

2. OPEN FORUM

No one signed up to speak during the Open Forum.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Margo Cook, Board Chair

a. State Support for URI

Chair Cook reported that the University is progressing through budget season with strong support from state leadership, whose engagement continues to reinforce URI's strategic priorities. Significant momentum is visible in the campus master plan, highlighted by multiple recent and upcoming groundbreaking. Notably, the new student housing project—URI's first public-private partnership—will add approximately 900 undergraduate beds by 2028, alongside redevelopment of graduate housing. These investments strengthen the student experience and enhance URI's competitiveness. Chair Cook thanked Gilbane for their partnership in the state's first public-private partnership to invest in new student housing.

Chair Cook noted that URI continues to improve and innovate at the Narragansett Bay Campus. President Parlange will speak about investments at the campus during his report. Vice President Benson will bring a more developed campus plan to the Board in the spring.

b. Campus Security

Chair Cook stated that campus safety remains a top priority. In light of recent events at Brown University, the Board will review URI's security posture in executive session. She called for a moment of silence to reflect on the victims and the profound impact that the tragedy has had on everyone.

c. Endowment

Chair Cook noted that the Board will hear an overview from Michael Ice and Adam Quinlan on the University's endowment management to ensure all members have a clear understanding of performance, strategy, and stewardship.

d. Medical School

Chair Cook reported that the Board will discuss in executive session details related to the proposed public medical school at URI, including updates from Paul Umbach. She noted the work of the Special Legislative Commission, which unanimously endorsed continued development. She added that a vote of confidence on the Commission's work to date will follow in open session.

Concluding her report, Chair Cook noted that the University is advancing key elements of its long-term plan, with visible progress across facilities, safety, financial stewardship, and academic expansion.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Marc Parlange, President

a. Campus Updates

b. Strategic Plan: Priority 2

c. Narragansett Bay Campus Strategy – Preliminary Concepts

President Parlange welcomed everyone and presented slides [linked here](#). He reported that the University is strengthening its national profile; it secured a second consecutive #1 public university ranking from the *Wall Street Journal*, rose to #76 nationally, and advanced to #9 among public flagships, reflecting strong student outcomes and state investment.

The President recognized a major philanthropic gift from Mark and Sue Cruise for student-athlete programs and football facility upgrades. He spoke of community achievements including a national Leadership in Diversity & Inclusion Award for the Office of Community Equity and Diversity, national recognition for Professor Sarah Sweetman by the National Science Foundation, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peacemaker awardees, and statewide recognition for a URI landscape architecture capstone project. President Parlange referenced significant capital projects reshaping URI's campuses: the athletics complex renewal, a new 32,000 sq. ft. ocean research facility at the Narragansett Bay Campus, the \$99 million Fine Arts Center modernization, and a public-private partnership delivering 1,100 new residence hall beds.

President Parlange noted that the University celebrated its third and largest Fall '25 Commencement in December, with more than 550 graduates participating. He announced plans for Spring '26 Commencement and emphasized the importance of participation in support of the graduates. He noted that the University maintains strong engagement with local and state officials and recognized local legislators for their support. URI will host URI Day at the State House on March 26, 2026, strengthening visibility and advocacy. The President encouraged attendance at this impactful day.

President Parlange acknowledged Mark Antonucci, Vice President for Advancement and CEO of the URI Foundation, and credited him with expanding opportunities and accelerating progress. Fundraising commitments are on target, with a notable increase in cash gifts, which can be used immediately to support university needs. He noted the implementation of strategic, measurable fundraising goals across all academic and athletic units. Regarding alumni engagement, the President stated that URI aims to strengthen connections with its 70,000+ alumni living in Rhode Island, representing a major community asset.

President Parlange reported that the University is seeking \$166 million in general obligation bond funding for the construction of an Integrated Health Sciences Building adjacent to White Hall, designed to unite the Colleges of Health Sciences, Nursing, and Pharmacy and strengthen

preparation of Rhode Island's interdisciplinary health care workforce. He noted the Governor's \$105 million recommendation and emphasized the need for legislative and community support.

The President reviewed URI's operating budget requests. The University's FY2027 budget request reflects ongoing fiscal pressure driven by chronic underfunding of mandated cost-of-living adjustments, as well as unfunded strategic initiatives tied to student success, workforce development, and scholarship programs. Critical capital needs, including ADA compliance and repairs to aging facilities, also remain under-resourced. For the upcoming fiscal year, the University is requesting \$23.6 million in operating support, while the Governor has recommended \$4.2 million, leaving a substantial gap for legislative consideration. URI's request for \$10.2 million for strategic initiatives has not been included in the Governor's recommended budget.

President Parlange reported on the 20-month feasibility study exploring the establishment of a public medical school in Rhode Island to be based at the University of Rhode Island. The feasibility study concluded with unanimous support and strong participation. The initiative is now moving into Phase II, focused on developing a comprehensive business plan, with additional updates expected in June.

President Parlange highlighted continued development of the Bay Campus as a centerpiece for Rhode Island's blue economy and a leading hub in the Northeast. Recent and planned investments include the Ocean Robotics Laboratory (coming online FY27), expanded waterfront access with a pier for large research vessels, a planned small boats facility, a 100-meter wave/tow tank for ocean and naval engineering, an innovation hub to support company incubation, and potential future housing and conference facilities. Responding to trustee inquiry, Vice President Benson reported that operating costs for new facilities are included in the current service level budget request.

The President reported on current Strategic Plan Priority 2 data, including positive momentum in student achievement, strong athletic performance with conference championships and high team GPAs, steady growth in master's enrollment, and record-high Ph.D. enrollment. First-year retention has improved to 84 percent, progressing toward the 90 percent goal, and six-year graduation rates continue to rise for both Pell-eligible and non-Pell students, though achievement gaps remain.

Concluding his report, President Parlange shared findings from a newly completed economic impact report showing URI generates approximately \$2 billion annually in statewide economic impact, returning \$17.39 for every \$1 invested by the state—above national public university averages. Additionally, 70% of in-state graduates and 40% of out-of-state graduates remain in Rhode Island, reinforcing URI's role in workforce development and population stability. He said that URI plays an essential role in the State of Rhode Island.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. **Presentation by the RI Department of Environmental Management Regarding the Lease of a Portion of the W. Alton Jones Campus – Planned Use** [Enclosure](#)

Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Terrence Gray, Director, RI Department of Environmental Management

Vice President Benson updated the Board on the collaboration between the University and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to reopen and revitalize the W. Alton Jones Campus (WAJ). DEM was identified as the leading partner for the property, which has been inactive since 2020. Noting prior briefings to the Board in June and November, Benson reported that URI and DEM will appear before the State Properties Committee next week to seek final lease approval. Benson added that DEM Director Terry Gray has been actively engaging with URI leadership to explore academic collaborations at WAJ. She recognized DEM Deputy Director Amanda Cantrell and URI's planning and real estate development team for their work in advancing and finalizing the agreement.

Director Gray expressed appreciation for the partnership and emphasized the unique value of the property and the collaboration. He presented slides [linked here](#) highlighting DEM's plan to assume stewardship of the URI WAJ Campus and integrate it into its statewide natural resource management mission. The 2,800-acre property aligns closely with DEM's core functions in environmental protection, natural resources and agriculture, and complements the agency's management of more than 65,000 acres of public land. DEM intends to establish the campus as a Natural Resource Center and Environmental Education Hub, relocating key programs—particularly Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, and Agriculture—to the site and expanding opportunities for public access, recreation, and environmental learning. Initial capital investments by DEM of more than \$2 million will prepare office space, remediate and convert facilities for staff use, rehabilitate farm buildings, and improve wayfinding and trail connectivity.

Director Gray reported that a major focus is revitalizing the Woodvale Farm for agricultural use and potentially housing the state veterinarian program to support animal welfare operations. DEM anticipates initial staff occupancy by late April and plans to open the campus to the public once foundational improvements and staffing are in place.

Director Gray outlined plans to expand collaboration with URI faculty and researchers, pursue sublease opportunities with environmental partners—including a wildlife rehabilitation group and a future farm operator—and develop the campus as a hub for environmental education. The vision includes coordinated programming, fellowship and volunteer opportunities, and enhanced public access through trails, guided programs, and recreation.

Trustee Ryan inquired about the financial impact of the proposed arrangement on both URI and the state. Vice President Benson explained that DEM will assume responsibility for utilities, capital improvements, and facility maintenance under a detailed shared-services matrix, while also funding and implementing a forest management plan that URI has been unable to support. Although DEM will not pay rent, URI—currently spending about \$100,000 annually to maintain the property in caretaker status—expects a modest reduction in operating costs, along with approximately \$2 million in DEM-funded deferred maintenance and infrastructure improvements. For the state, consolidating DEM programs on campus avoids construction of

new office space for forestry, fish and wildlife, and agriculture operations, deferring a significant capital expense.

Trustees expressed excitement about the partnership and asked about a communications plan and the lease agreement. Director Gray reported that DEM and URI are planning a joint communications effort, announcing the partnership and asking people for their patience while DEM gets established on the property and sets up the management plan. The lease agreement is for 10 years with an option for renewal, and outlines review processes and governance structure.

Concluding the presentation, both parties described the agreement as a clear mutual benefit. Chair Cook expressed appreciation and interest in visiting the campus in the future.

b. Discussion of Proposed FY2027 Tuition and Mandatory Fees Rates [Enclosure](#)

Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success

Vice President Benson discussed the proposed tuition and mandatory fees for FY2027, and Housing, Dining, and other fees that make up the total cost of attendance. She noted that these other fees are set by the University rather than by the Board and are designed to be self-supporting. The total increase to proposed Housing and Dining charges is 2.6%.

The presentation ([linked here](#) and listed in the enclosure) includes details on proposed Mandatory Fee increases that amount to a total annual increase of \$68 or a 2.9% overall increase in fees.

Vice President Benson also discussed enrollment targets, which are used to help determine the proposed tuition rates. She noted enrollment opportunities and challenges, including new housing coming online in FY27 and the University's increased geographic reach as well as high loan rates faced by many parents and students, changes to federal borrowing limits, and tuition freezes undertaken by other schools.

After discussing assumptions and scenarios around the development of the proposed tuition and mandatory fees, Vice President Benson recommended that the Board approve a 3.5% tuition increase for in-state and 3.5% tuition increase for out-of-state students (along with the Mandatory Fee changes noted). These changes would increase the Total Cost of Attendance--\$994 for undergraduate students and \$1,738 for graduate students. Benson discussed the Total Cost of Attendance at peer institutions compared to URI, and reviewed opportunities and challenges of graduate enrollment.

Vice President Benson discussed new differential charges that will begin in AY2027 (Phase I) to offset operational costs of programs that have higher costs to deliver. She noted that many programs already charge program fees so only some of these differential charges are truly new. Four colleges will include differential charges starting in FY2027: Business, Engineering,

Nursing, and Pharmacy. These new fees apply only to incoming cohorts, not existing cohorts. Information regarding differential charges will be shared publicly this spring when acceptance information goes out to provide transparency for incoming students. In accordance with the URI Board of Trustees Tuition Policy, the President is delegated to approve differential charges.

Responding to trustee inquiries, Vice President Benson noted that differential charges will be phased in over several years resulting in new revenue and are similar to those charged by competing schools for higher cost, higher value degree programs.

Vice President Benson introduced changes to URI Online pricing that will create a tiered structure designed to improve affordability, enhance flexibility as markets shift, and support long-term growth, with projected online revenue increasing \$2.1 million in FY27 from the tiered structure. Responding to Trustee Ryan's question about expanding revenue, President Parlange emphasized that URI's most significant opportunities for future revenue growth lie in professional master's and online programs, which represent a growing strategic priority given constraint on undergraduate enrollment. To sustain momentum, Vice President McDonald noted that URI is expanding marketing and advertising efforts and has partnered with a national marketing agency to strengthen analytics. Vice President Benson reported that URI is investing in research, instructional support, technology infrastructure, and faculty development, with a primary focus on workforce-aligned graduate and professional programs that meet evolving employer and societal needs. Responding to Trustee Kerwin's inquiry about degree completion programs, Dean Libutti discussed the "Finish What You Started" program at URI.

c. Fundraising [Enclosure](#)

Mark Antonucci, Vice President for Advancement, URI, and CEO, URI Foundation

Vice President Antonucci provided an update on alumni engagement initiatives, highlighting a record increase in alumni involvement, with over 10,000 alumni actively engaged and strong attendance at events. The University has implemented a strategic, curated approach, including the biweekly Rams Connect newsletter reaching over 200,000 recipients, and the oral history project, which in its first week collected 1,400 alumni stories, 101 new donors, and hundreds of updated contact records, noting the importance of engaging alumni where they are. Homecoming attendance quadrupled from the previous year, and future events are being planned across Rhode Island and nationally to engage alumni in their communities, including partnerships with organizations throughout Rhode Island. These initiatives are positioned to increase alumni involvement and philanthropic support, while enhancing the University's visibility and impact. Vice President Antonucci encouraged board members to attend URI Day on March 26.

Vice President Antonucci also outlined ongoing fundraising efforts, emphasizing the role of deans in major gift initiatives through development workshops and stewardship training. International and corporate engagements were highlighted, including visits with the Nippon Foundation in Japan, Amazon and Microsoft in the U.S., and upcoming events with sports organizations in Florida. Responding to Trustee Bovy's inquiry about the oral history project,

Vice President Antonucci noted that the project will feed a digital archive and future publications, preserving alumni stories and strengthening long-term engagement. He noted that the digital archive will be shared and available in the library once completed.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

a. Discussion regarding collective bargaining, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(2):

(i) University of Rhode Island Maritime Professional Association – Local 2877A, RI Council 94, AFSME, AFL/CIO

Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources

b. Discussion regarding litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2):

(i) Fosu v. Univ. of R.I., et al. (USDC No. 1:21-cv-00279)

Alyssa Boss, Vice President and General Counsel

Lauren Jensen, Deputy General Counsel

c. Discussion regarding the 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):

(i) Physical Security Strategy

Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Michael Jagoda, Assistant Vice President, Public Safety, Chief of Police

d. 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) Review of recommendations made by the Special Legislative Commission to make a Comprehensive Study of Rhode Island's Healthcare Workforce related to Educating and Retaining Primary Care Physicians and Establishing a State Medical School at The University of Rhode Island

Marc Parlange, President

Paul Umbach, President, Tripp Umbach

(ii) Government Relations: 2026 Legislative Session

Lauren Broccoli Burgess, Executive Director, Legislative and Government Relations

(iii) Proprietary enrollment model discussion

Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success

- e. **Discussion regarding a matter related to or concerning a prospective business or industry locating in the state of Rhode Island when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the interest of the public, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(6), 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), specifically:**

(i) Endowment Management Update

Margo Cook, Board Chair

Michael Ice, Investment Committee Chair, URI Foundation

Adam Quinlan, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Enterprise Risk Management, URI Foundation

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

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

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion regarding collective bargaining with URI's Maritime Professional Association, and discussion of litigation, specifically, Fosv v. University of Rhode Island; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion related to physical security strategy; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a) (7) for review of the Special Legislative Commission's recommendations, Government Relations and the 2026 Legislative Session, and the proprietary enrollment model;

And, R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(6) and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(7) for discussion of endowment management, as referenced on the posted agenda.

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, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Trustee Matthew Lenz was not present for the vote.

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

At 11:15 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.
At 2:06 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 Charles Fogarty and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board seal the minutes of the February 13, 2026, 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

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Ratification of a Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the University of Rhode Island Maritime Professional Association – Local 2877A, RI Council 94, AFSME, AFL/CIO [Enclosure](#)**
Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources

Chair Cook called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Neil Kerwin and Roby Luna, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the University of Rhode Island Maritime Professional Association – Local 2877A, RI Council 94, AFSME, AFL/CIO, as presented in the enclosure.

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. URI Board of Trustees Vote of Confidence regarding recommendations made by the Special Legislative Commission to Make a Comprehensive Study of Rhode Island’s Healthcare Workforce Related to Educating and Retaining Primary Care Physicians and Establishing a State Medical School at the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)

Margo Cook, Board Chair

Chair Cook reviewed the proposed Vote of Confidence, as listed in the enclosure and displayed on screen during the meeting. She stated that the Vote of Confidence is an acknowledgement of the work of the Special Legislative Commission and also a statement that there is a lot more work to do around the financial implications.

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

VOTED: That the University of Rhode Island formally express its vote of confidence in the report entitled “Report of the Special Legislative Commission to Make a Comprehensive Study of Rhode Island’s Healthcare Workforce related to Educating and Retaining Primary Care Physicians and Establishing a State Medical School at the University of Rhode Island”, as presented in the enclosure.

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, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: Joseph Matthews (due to a conflict of interest)

c. Approval of the proposal to name the URI football practice field adjacent to the Ryan Center and Meade Stadium the “Mark S. Cruise ’81 ’84 Football Practice Field”. [Enclosure](#)

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

VOTED: That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the proposal to name the Football Practice Field at URI the “Mark S. Cruise ’81 ’84 Football Practice Field”, in recognition of the generous donation from Mark ’81 ’84 and Sue ’84 Cruise to the University, as presented in the enclosure and subject to legislative approval.

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

8. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

- (i) Update – February 2, 2026 Committee Meeting
Armand Sabitoni, Committee Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni reported on activity at the February 2, 2026, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. Discussion items included a review of Procurement Regulations and proposed amendments, a review of the Governor’s FY2027 recommended budget, and a discussion of proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for FY2027. Sabitoni noted that there will be a higher education bond in the November election to support URI’s integrated health building. The Governor is also recommending the elimination of the FTE cap for URI. Review of the RIHEBC Annual Report to bondholders and approvals under the delegation of authority were deferred to the April Committee meeting. The Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve the proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for FY2027, and a resolution on bond reimbursement.

- (ii) ACTION: Approval of FY2027 Tuition and Mandatory Fees Rates [Enclosure](#)
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Neil Kerwin, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

- VOTED: That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve a tuition increase of 3.5% for in-state students and 3.5% for out-of-state students and increase fee rates, as presented in the enclosure, representing a 2.9% increase in total fees.
- 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 a Resolution on Bond Reimbursement [Enclosure](#)
Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Neil Kerwin, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

- VOTED: That the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the University's declaration of its official intent pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations to use proceeds of tax-exempt bonds, issued by the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation, to reimburse the University for capital expenditures in connection with the following projects: 1) Utility Infrastructure Upgrade – Phase III; and 2) Repaving and Hardscape Improvements, paid prior to the issuance of such new bonds, if any, in an amount not greater than \$6,910,000. This declaration does not bind the University to make any expenditure, incur any indebtedness for new money projects, or to proceed with the new money projects.
- 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. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Report

- (i) Update – February 9, 2026, Committee Meeting
Roby Luna, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Luna reported on activity at the February 9, 2026, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee meeting. Discussion included a review of the University’s Non-Discrimination Plan, Compliance with Standards Governing the Conduct of Research, and an update on the single audit (not required this year) and NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures. The Committee reviewed the University’s Institutional Risk Register in executive session. The Committee took action to recommend that the Board approve amendments to its calendar, as listed under the Omnibus Vote.

c. Governance Committee Report

- (i) Update – February 9, 2026, Committee Meeting
Cortney Nicolato, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Nicolato reported on activity at the February 9, 2026, Governance Committee meeting. The Committee considered topics for the annual Board retreat (June 26) and discussed the Board’s annual self-assessment exercise and the upcoming URI Day at the State House on March 26. Committee Chair Nicolato encouraged all Board members to attend. She reminded trustees to complete URI’s cybersecurity training. As listed under the Omnibus Vote, the Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve amendments to the Policy on Sexual Misconduct and the University’s Procurement Regulations.

d. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

- (i) Update – February 10, 2026, Committee Meeting
Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Kerwin reported on activity at the February 10, 2026, Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting. The Committee heard a report from the Provost on the NECHE Accreditation process underway and this year’s Academic Summit, along with a report from Vice President Jenkins on URI’s grant portfolio and research activity. Provost Wolfe and Vice President Jenkins provided a recap of their presentations to the Committee.

Committee Chair Kerwin stated that the Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve action items 9.e., 9.f., and 9.g. as listed in the omnibus vote. No objections or questions were raised regarding these matters.

9. 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 November 7, 2025, Board Meeting. [Enclosure](#)

Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee recommended action item:

- b. Approval of amendments to the IRCC Calendar. [Enclosure](#)

Governance Committee recommended action:

- c. Approval of the revised *URI Board of Trustees Policy on Sexual Misconduct*. [Enclosure](#)
- d. Approval of the revised *URI Board of Trustees Procurement Regulations*. [Enclosure](#)

Academic Affairs and Research Committee recommended action:

- e. Approval of legislation from the Graduate Council #2025-2026-03C, College of Education organizational change to create a new degree opportunity, Doctorate of Education, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)
- f. Approval of legislation from the Faculty Senate Curriculum & Standards Committee Report #2025-2026-02C, College of Education organizational change to create a new degree opportunity, Bachelor of Arts, Learning and Education in Action, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)
- g. Approval of the granting of tenure effective March 1, 2026, to incoming Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Mary Elizabeth Meyerand, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island. [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 Monica Garnes and seconded by Roby Luna, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board approve agenda action items 9.a. through 9.g. 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

10. ADJOURN

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Chair Cook encouraged the trustees to participate in URI Day at the State House on March 26th.

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

VOTED: That the 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 2:33 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2026.