THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THINK BIG WE DO℠

Alumni Center, 73 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881 USA

Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*
Armand E. Sabitoni '73, *Vice Chair*
David E. Barrett '78
Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN - M.S. '96
Michael D. Fascitelli '78
Charles J. Fogarty M.P.A. '80
Joe Formicola '69
Monica J. Garnes '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 Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2026 · 9:00 a.m. EDT

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Cook, Board Chair

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the September 25, 2026, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and noted that the meeting was being held in person at the Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center, with some board members participating remotely via Zoom. 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 Emily Diomandes conducted a roll call attendance and reported that a quorum of members was present. Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Margo Cook, Chair (in person)
- Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (in person)
- David Barrett (in person)
- Maria Ducharme (remote)
- Michael Fascitelli (remote)
- Charles J. Fogarty (in person)
- Monica Garnes (remote)
- Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Roby Luna (remote)
- David Martirano (in person)
- Joseph Matthews (in person)
- Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Vahid Ownjazayeri (remote) (left meeting at 11:40 a.m.)
- Tom Ryan (in person)

OFFICIAL

- Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Michael Grey (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 members not participating:

- Jay Placencia
- Joseph Formicola
- Matthew Lenz

URI President's Stewardship Council members in attendance:

- Mark Antonucci, Vice President, URI Advancement, and CEO, URI Foundation (in person)
- Judy Beckman, Interim Dean, College of Business (in person)
- Abby Benson, Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance (in person)
- Lauren Broccoli Burgess, Executive Director, Legislative and Government Relations (in person)
- Chelsea Berry, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (in person)
- Alyssa Boss, Vice President and General Counsel (in person)
- Brenton DeBoef, Interim Vice President, Research and Economic Development (in person)
- Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources (in person)
- Jeanne Hruska, Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff to the Provost and Executive Vice President (in person)
- Brian Keith, University Librarian (in person)
- Kerry LaPlante, Dean, College of Pharmacy (in person)
- Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success (in person)
- Pat Lyons, Vice President and Director of Athletics (in person)
- Matthew McDonald, Vice President, Communications and Marketing (in person)
- Steven Mello, Vice Provost for Academic Resource Management (in person)
- Markeisha Miner, Vice President, Community, Equity, and Diversity (in person)
- Dan Moos, Chief of Staff to the Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance (in person)
- Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, Student Affairs (in person)
- Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant, Office of the General Counsel (in person)
- Christina DeCesare, Technician, Endpoint Support, ITS (in person)
- Emily Diomandes, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President and Board Secretary (in person)
- Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary, Board of Trustees (in person)
- Jay Walsh, Executive Director, URI/AAUP (in person)

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

OFFICIAL

Chair Cook asked if there were any proposed amendments to the agenda; none were presented.

2. OPEN FORUM

No one signed up to speak during the Open Forum.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Margo Cook, Board Chair

- **a.** Recent URI Events and Board Engagement
- **b.** Scheduling Updates for 2027
- **c.** Recognition of outgoing Trustee Kris Bovy

The Chair's Report included recognition of recent university accomplishments, promotion of upcoming campus activities, board engagement, and identification of several strategic issues for future Board discussion.

Chair Cook highlighted the recent opening of the Fine Arts building, recognizing the contributions of Board members, legislators, and others who supported the project, particularly the late Senate President Dominick Ruggerio and Howard and Mary Frank. She noted several upcoming University events, including the President's State of the University address (October 8th), the track and field ribbon cutting (October 21st), Fall 2026 Commencement (December 12th), and a range of academic and cultural programs.

The Chair recognized three trustees who are serving on important leadership search committees—for the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, the College of Business, and the founding dean of the School of Medicine—and emphasized the importance of their participation in selecting candidates for these critical positions. Chair Cook also expressed appreciation to faculty representative and departing trustee Kris Bovy for her service to the Board and her contributions to its committees.

Looking ahead, Chair Cook identified athletics and University real estate development as strategic topics for future Board consideration. She noted that the Board will engage in a broader discussion about the role and future direction of URI athletics in light of changes in collegiate athletics, including NIL, and its alignment with the University's mission and vision. Chair Cook also noted the importance of continued Board attention to University real estate development projects, given their potential to shape the University's future landscape.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Marc Parlange, President

- **a.** URI Community News and Updates
- **b.** Budget Review

President Parlange reported on recent activity at URI and presented slides linked here, including updates on student success, academic and research accomplishments, university leadership, enrollment, government relations, and major capital projects. He thanked Faculty Representative Kris Bovy for her service to the Board and reported that he has appointed Arun Shukla to serve as the next faculty representative.

The President highlighted expanded academic support through the Fanning Institute, the opening of the Fine Arts Center, expansion of clinical training space for students, continued research success—including a $4 million NSF grant—and international recognition of URI faculty. He also recognized several new academic and research leaders including Judy Beckman, interim dean of the College of Business, Brian Keith, University Librarian, Brenton DeBoef, interim vice president for research and economic development, and Pamela Swett, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

President Parlange recognized Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Wolfe for her leadership and contributions to URI. He highlighted her steady and thoughtful leadership since 2023 during a period of significant growth and transformation, including URI's achievement of Carnegie R1 status, increased research expenditures, and expanded doctoral enrollment. He noted her focus on student success, recruitment and development of academic leadership, support for faculty and academic programs, and significant investments in the academic experience, including the transformation of the Fine Arts Center. President Parlange expressed his appreciation for Provost Wolfe's partnership, advocacy, leadership, and friendship as she prepares to step down at the end of the academic year.

The President reported on undergraduate enrollment and admissions, including growth in applications, a strong incoming class, and continued enrollment of Talent Development scholars. He emphasized the geographic diversity of the student body and URI's efforts to expand its reach nationally. President Parlange celebrated the incoming scholars from Ryan, Verrecchia, Schilling and the inaugural Cook-Cohen class, recognizing the importance of these scholar programs in attracting the best and the brightest students to URI.

President Parlange provided an update on government relations and the University's broader institutional and capital-project priorities. He noted the importance of the upcoming election season and emphasized the University's continued engagement with state leaders and the General Assembly, particularly as URI advances the Integrated Health Building. He encouraged Board members to serve as ambassadors for the University and highlighted URI's economic impact, noting that each dollar of state investment generates approximately $17.39 in economic activity.

The President also highlighted the new outdoor track and field facility, which is already being heavily utilized by varsity athletes, club teams, and the community. He noted the strong positive response from student-athletes and coaches and acknowledged the Sherman family's support for the throwing area. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for October 21.

President Parlange described the current period as historic for URI in terms of capital investment and expressed appreciation to Rhode Island voters, the General Assembly, and state leadership for their support of University facilities. He highlighted the successful opening and activity at the Ocean Robotics facility and the renovated Fine Arts Center, as well as progress on the Biomedical Sciences Building, which will include the Ryan Institute and is anticipated for completion in 2029. He also noted significant progress on undergraduate housing and the track and field complex.

The President provided an update on the proposed medical school, noting that the initiative has entered Phase III of its feasibility and planning process, with $5 million in state funding committed for the current year and additional funding planned for the following two years. The University is recruiting a founding dean and a dedicated project director, while a core planning team led by Provost Barbara Wolfe and Patrick

OFFICIAL

Vivier is assessing the academic, faculty, facilities, clinical partnership, and other requirements for establishing a medical school. The President emphasized the potential to build on URI's existing strengths in nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, counseling, nutrition, and other health disciplines, while providing an interdisciplinary pathway for Rhode Island students and strengthening the University's role in health education and workforce development.

The President identified institutional and financial sustainability as a significant challenge, noting declining first-year student numbers, rising operating costs—including substantial increases in utilities—and the need to diversify the University's revenue base beyond undergraduate tuition. He highlighted opportunities to expand professional master's programs and growth in areas such as business, engineering, education, health sciences, oceanography, and pharmacy.

Concluding his report, President Parlange emphasized the importance of increased recurring state support for URI's operating budget, noting that this has been a longstanding challenge and that the University's role as a major research institution generates significant benefits for Rhode Island, including educating students, retaining talent in the state, supporting startups and businesses, and contributing to the state's workforce. The President also noted several important upcoming leadership searches, including the Provost, Research and Economic Development leadership, and the founding dean of the proposed medical school. He cited a strong start to the academic year and his confidence in the University's direction while acknowledging the financial and strategic work ahead.

Board members received a URI "By the Numbers" pocket guide along with the President's 2026 Focus Forward Report.

5. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. Fundraising Enclosure

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

Vice President Mark Antonucci provided an update on the URI Foundation's fundraising efforts and priorities, reviewing slides linked here. He reported continued momentum following a record $46.9 million raised in the prior year, with a current-year goal of $42 million in new gifts and commitments. The Vice President reported on the URI Foundation Organizational FY27 Focus and Priorities, including fundraising - strengthening college-level fundraising, expanding research support, establishing a pipeline for principal gifts of $5 million or more - increasing alumni engagement, upgrading the Foundation's fundraising technology, expanding the University's network of prospective donors and partners, and support of URI real estate and strategic initiatives.

Antonucci reported that the Foundation has raised $16 million during the first quarter of the fiscal year, representing 38% of its annual goal, with an emphasis on increasing cash received. He also highlighted efforts to increase alumni engagement, strengthen relationships throughout Rhode Island and beyond, and position the University for larger philanthropic opportunities. The Foundation is also working toward a sustainable annual fundraising pace of approximately $50 million, which would position the University for consideration of a future major capital campaign.

OFFICIAL

The Vice President highlighted recent successful alumni engagement events throughout the state and thanked URI's leadership and deans for participating.

In response to trustee inquiry, Vice President Antonucci addressed recent organizational changes and investments in fundraising capacity, including new leadership and development staff, expanded support for academic and athletic fundraising, and enhanced legal, human resources, and gift-planning capabilities. The Vice President emphasized the importance of building a consistent, college-based fundraising operation supported by the Foundation's leadership and the University's deans and senior administrators.

Trustee Martirano asked to see the Foundation's organizational chart.

6. 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, Board Chair

b. Discussion regarding President Parlange Retirement Account Contributions 401(a), pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1).
Margo Cook, Board Chair

c. Discussion pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2), and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) pertaining to the investment of public funds; specifically,

(i) Personnel-Related Costs and Budget Considerations
Abby Benson, Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance
Becky Hill, Vice President, Human Resources

d. Discussion regarding investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, either civil or criminal, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(4); specifically,

(i) Athletics Compliance Matter
Pat Lyons, Vice President and Athletics Director

e. 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); specifically,

(i) Development of Property on or around Campus
Abby Benson, Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance

OFFICIAL

f. Discussion regarding matters related to the question of 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) Government Relations Update and Strategic Planning
Lauren Broccoli Burgess, Executive Director, Legislative and Government Relations

(ii) URI Medical School Update – Leadership Search and Strategic Planning
Marc Parlange, President

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

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

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion regarding the President's performance goals for the upcoming year, and retirement account contributions; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) and 42-46-5(a)(7) for discussion of Personnel-Related Costs and Budget Considerations; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(4) for discussion of an Athletics Compliance Matter; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) for discussion of development of property on or around campus; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) for discussion of government relations and strategic planning, and medical school updates on leadership search and strategic planning; as referenced on the posted agenda.

President Parlange has been notified that his discussion items will take place in executive session.

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

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

OFFICIAL

ABSTAINS: 0

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

At 9:50 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

Trustee Ownjazayeri left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

At 12:05 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 Dave Barrett and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board seal the minutes of the September 25, 2026, executive session.

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

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. 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 Cortney Nicolato, 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: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

OFFICIAL

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Approval of Retirement Account Contributions 401(a) for President Parlange.
Margo Cook, Board Chair

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

VOTED: THAT the Board approve an increase in the University's annual contribution to the employer-paid supplemental retirement annuity plan currently in effect for President Parlange, effective in 2026, including an amendment to his employment agreement to reflect this change, as referenced in the confidential memo discussed in executive session.

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

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

(i) Update – September 14, 2026, Committee Meeting
Vahid Ownjazayeri, Committee Chair

Board and Committee Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee met on September 14, 2026 and reviewed the University's FY2026 year-end financial results, which reflected a $2.2 million shortfall in unrestricted funds, below the budgeted $3.8 million deficit. Contributing factors included higher-than-anticipated utility expenses and lower tuition revenue, partially offset by stronger online program revenues, increased interest income, and position management. Sabitoni noted that the Committee also received an overview of the university's new budget model, launched in the current fiscal year.

OFFICIAL

Vice Chair Sabitoni reported that an update on the University's Workday implementation indicated that the project remains on track, with an anticipated October 2027 launch. The Committee discussed potential risks associated with integration with the state's Workday system and the University's cautious approach to implementation.

Concluding his report, the Vice Chair noted that the Committee received informational reports on two facilities agreements executed under the President's delegated authority, involving office space for the Rhode Island Small Business Development Center in Newport and classroom use at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center. This report is listed under the Omnibus Vote.

(ii) ACTION ITEM: Consideration of the Finance and Facilities Committee recommendation to approve the University of Rhode Island Total Budget Request for FY 2028. Enclosure
Abby Benson, Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance

Senior Vice President Abby Benson presented the university's FY2028 budget request, outlining anticipated financial pressures, revenue and expense assumptions, and strategies to address the university's operating budget shortfall. The proposed request reflects an $8.1 million operating budget shortfall and $25.8 million in current service-level needs, including contractual obligations, compensation increases, utilities, insurance, student financial aid, and facility maintenance. The university is requesting a total of $146.8 million in state appropriations, including $7 million for the second year of medical school planning, which is presented separately from the university's operating budget. Benson noted that the University is not seeking funding for strategic initiatives in this budget cycle.

The presentation highlighted enrollment challenges and rising operating costs as key budget concerns. In response, the university is proposing a strategic increase in financial aid to improve student enrollment, while anticipating a 3% tuition increase and an overall 6% increase in student fees. Proposed fee increases include investments in student activities, fitness and wellness facilities, and phased funding for renovations to the Memorial Union and critical infrastructure at the Ryan Center. The Board will take formal action on tuition rates and student fees at its February 2027 meeting.

Benson also outlined the university's longer-term financial strategy, emphasizing enrollment growth, expanded academic and online programs, increased research and fundraising opportunities, and new revenue-generating partnerships. Additional efforts include careful staffing management, peer benchmarking, operational efficiencies, and modernization of business processes through the Workday implementation.

The Board discussed the importance of distinguishing medical school planning funds from the university's general state appropriation to ensure transparency and clarity in future budget presentations. Board and Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni confirmed that the Finance and Facilities Committee voted to recommend the FY2028 budget request for approval by the full Board.

Following discussion, Board and Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Tom Ryan and seconded by Dave Barrett, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

OFFICIAL

VOTED: That the Board approve the University of Rhode Island Total Budget Request for FY 2028, as presented in the enclosure.

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

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(iii) ACTION ITEM: Consideration of the Finance and Facilities Committee recommendation to approve an Amendment to the Bond Issuance Resolution approved on April 24, 2026, and February 13, 2026. Enclosure
Abby Benson, Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance

Senior Vice President Benson outlined the proposed amendment to previous resolutions allowing the university to explore alternative financing options, including borrowing through the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank in addition to the Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation, for the Utility Infrastructure Phase 3 project.

Board and Committee Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Tom Ryan and seconded by Joseph Matthews, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board approve the resolution amending the "April Resolution" and the "February Resolution" authorizing the borrowing through the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and the Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation for Utility Infrastructure Upgrade – Phase III, as presented in the enclosed Resolution.

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

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

OFFICIAL

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – September 16, 2026, Committee Meeting
Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Neil Kerwin reported that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee met on September 16, 2026 and received updates from the Chief Academic Officer on academic highlights, leadership searches, and enrollment challenges. The Chief Research Officer reviewed the university's research performance amid changes in the federal funding landscape. Despite national challenges, URI reported a modest increase in overall research funding and a 5% increase in federally sponsored projects, supported by its diversified research portfolio. Future opportunities include expanding defense-related research funding and corporate partnerships.

Additional updates included the publication of the URI AI Task Force's second annual report, the introduction of a new Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary and Applied Artificial Intelligence program, and progress on the university's NECHE reaccreditation process. The Board will receive further updates on reaccreditation as the university advances toward its self-study and site visit.

c. Student Life and Athletics Committee Report

(i) Update – September 17, 2026, Committee Meeting
Tom Ryan, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Tom Ryan reported that the Student Life and Athletics Committee met on September 17, 2026, and received updates on student experience, student success, and athletic achievement. Vice President Reynolds' report to the Committee highlighted a successful start to the academic year, with 5,500 students participating in move-in, expanded student engagement and wellness initiatives, and continued growth of the Rams Together for Recovery and Wellness Collegiate Recovery Program. The Committee also reviewed student satisfaction and support services, as well as significant investments in student facilities and housing.

Committee Chair Ryan noted that Vice President and Athletics Director Lyons' report to the Committee highlighted strong academic and competitive performance, including a 3.34 cumulative GPA among student-athletes and 17 Atlantic 10 championships since 2022. Updates also covered fundraising, capital projects, career development, and efforts to improve attendance and the game-day experience.

Committee Chair Ryan noted that the Committee discussed rising costs and budget pressures amid changes in college athletics, including NIL and NCAA developments. As a next step, Trustee Ryan and Vice President Lyons will develop a white paper and bring a strategic discussion to the Board regarding the future direction of URI Athletics and its financial and operational implications.

OFFICIAL

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 June 26, 2026, Board Retreat and Meeting. Enclosure

Approval of the Annual Calendar:

b. Approval of the 2028 Board of Trustees meeting calendar. Enclosure

Approval of the Appointment of Board Secretary:

c. Appointment of Board Secretary to the URI Board of Trustees. Enclosure

Finance and Facilities Committee recommended action:

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

Academic Affairs and Research Committee recommended action:

e. 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 the Summer 2026 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. Enclosure

f. Approval of the granting of tenure, effective November 29, 2026 to incoming Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship of the College of Health Sciences, Stephen Sheinkopf, Ph.D., who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island. Enclosure

g. Approval of legislation from the Faculty Senate, CASC Bill 25-26-CASC-08-C, College of Business organizational change to create a new degree opportunity, Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary & Applied Artificial Intelligence, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island. Enclosure

Before proceeding with the Omnibus Vote to approve the past meeting's minutes and committee-recommended action items, Chair Cook called the Board's attention to the 2028 meeting calendar and the formal appointment of Board Secretary Emily Diomandes. She noted that the Governance Committee will discuss at its next meeting a proposal to shift fall meeting scheduling beginning in 2027. Chair Cook then asked whether any

OFFICIAL

member had questions about, or wished to discuss, oppose, or remove any item listed for the Omnibus Vote for consideration and vote individually.

Hearing none, Chair Cook called for an omnibus motion, and on a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Cortney Nicolato and Maria Ducharme, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: That the Board approve agenda action items 9.a.-9.g. as recommended and presented.

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

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

10. ADJOURN

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

VOTED: That the Board adjourn the meeting.

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

YEAS: Dave Barrett, Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, David Martirano, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 12:58 p.m., this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2026.

OFFICIAL