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**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees  
Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Meeting  
Monday, February 9, 2026 · 9:00 a.m. EST**

**The University of Rhode Island  
Beagle Board Room, The Alumni Center  
73 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881**

**OFFICIAL OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee meeting was held in person, with committee members participating remotely. Virtual public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube livestream and is available for viewing at <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Chair Roby Luna welcomed members of the Committee and asked for a roll call. Noting that a quorum of members of the Committee was present, the meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee members in attendance:

- Roby Luna, Committee Chair (remote)
- Matthew Lenz, Committee Vice Chair (remote)
- Joseph Formicola (remote)
- David Martirano (remote)
- Marc Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)
- Ryan Estus (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)

The URI Board of Trustees Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee members not in attendance:

- David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting)
- Michael Grey (ex officio, non-voting)

Board Chair Margo Cook and Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni also participated remotely.

URI Board of Trustees Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee meeting  
February 9, 2026

URI President's Executive Council members in attendance:

- Mark Antonucci, Vice President for Advancement and CEO, URI Foundation (remote)
- Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)
- Alyssa Boss, Vice President and General Counsel (remote)
- Bethany Jenkins, Vice President for Research and Economic Development (remote)
- Matthew McDonald, Vice President, Communications and Marketing (remote)
- Brittney Miles, Interim Director of Athletics (remote)
- Markeisha Miner, Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity (remote)
- Ellen Reynolds, Vice President for Student Affairs (remote)
- Barbara E. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Elizabeth Buchanan, Associate Vice President for Research Administration (remote)
- Patricia Casey, Associate Athletic Director, Chief Business Officer (remote)
- Emily Diomandes, Deputy Chief of Staff, President's Office and Interim Board Secretary (in person)
- Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President Enterprise Risk Management (remote)
- Angela Miller, Assistant Vice President for Financial Operations and Controller (remote)
- Daniel Moos, Chief of Staff to the Vice President for Administration and Finance (remote)
- Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary, Board of Trustees (in person)
- Dorca P. Smalley, Director of The Office of Equal Opportunity (remote)

Invited Guests:

- Katie Davis, Partner, James Moore & Co. (remote)
- Mike Johns, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) (remote)
- Shane Metzler, Director, James Moore & Co. (remote)
- Beth West, Manager, James Moore & Co. (remote)

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

Committee Chair Luna asked if there were any proposed amendments to the published agenda. There were none.

## 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### a. Minutes of the October 28 2025, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee meeting. [Enclosure](#)

Committee Chair Luna called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting of the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee.

On a motion duly made by Joseph Formicola and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: That the Committee approve the minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting.

VOTES: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.  
YEAS: Joseph Formicola, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0

## 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Review of the University's Non-Discrimination Plan [Enclosure](#)

*Abby Benson, Vice President for Administration and Finance*

*Dorca Smalley, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity*

Abby Benson, Vice President for Administration and Finance, introduced Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President for Enterprise Risk Management, and Dorca P. Smalley, Director of The Office of Equal Opportunity. Dorca P. Smalley provided a presentation on the University's Non-Discrimination Plan. This presentation included a discussion of various Executive Orders affecting the administration of non-discrimination plans and highlighted the University's current Non-Discrimination Plan (previously titled Affirmative Action Plan), which included a review of workforce representation, and applicants engaged in FY2024.

Director Smalley noted that as a result of the President's Executive Order 14173 ("Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity") and the revocation of Executive Order 11246 ("Equal Employment Opportunity") the University is no longer required to submit a federal Affirmative Action Plan, though it is still required by state law to submit what is now titled a Non-Discrimination Plan to the State of Rhode Island. Federal Affirmative Action requirements remain in place for individuals with disabilities. In addition, the University has changed the footer on all University letterhead (removing references to affirmative action), updated all procurement and vendor forms to reflect the new guidelines, and updated the equal opportunity statement that is included in all job postings as well as posted updates on the Office of Equal Opportunity's webpage.

Director Smalley discussed the current Non-Discrimination Plan, and, upon questions from the Committee, noted that there are no changes to how demographic data is collected, only in how it is reported. In answer to committee member questions, Vice President and General Counsel Alyssa Boss updated the committee on the legal challenge to Executive Order 14173 and implications of the recent 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision. She noted that executive orders direct agencies to carry out policies and that, ultimately, challenges to particular agency actions will be contested in court. She also spoke briefly about related cases and trends in enforcement activity. Additionally, upon questions from the Committee, Director Smalley noted that the University has not changed any hiring practices, which remain in compliance, but has shifted its approach to outreach.

### b. Review of Compliance with Standards Governing the Conduct of Research [Enclosure](#)

*Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development*

*Elizabeth Buchanan, Associate Vice President, Research Administration*

Bethany Jenkins, Vice President for Research and Economic Development introduced Elizabeth Buchanan, Associate Vice President for Research Administration. Elizabeth Buchanan provided a presentation on the current state of research compliance, particularly with respect to the ongoing changes in federal funding and executive orders that affect federal support.

The presentation focused on the growing number of (and increased rate of publication of) federal policies and regulations, now exacerbated by a constantly changing landscape of new regulations, sometimes in conflict with older ones. In response to the shift in federal regulations regarding research support, Associate Vice President Buchanan noted that the University has 1) implemented changes relative to Uniform Guidance; 2) completed new policies on Research Misconduct and Conflict of Interest in Research; and 3) provided enhanced Research Security, Civil Rights, and Export Control training. She also discussed impacts on the University over the past year, including the termination of USAID grants, DEI-related grant terminations (and subsequent appeals), proposed cuts to F&A rates, DOGE financial reviews, and changing Terms and Conditions on grants (that require significant additional efforts by Research and Economic Development staff to track these changes). She also noted the University's robust response to these changes through the development of the Leadership Team on Federal Actions, the establishment of operational working groups to track changes to grants, and the creation of a dedicated communication channel within Research and Economic Development to gather information from faculty as changes occur.

The Committee commended the Research and Economic Development team on the dedication and hard work necessary to manage this shifting landscape. Buchanan noted that the unexpected work (and additional workload) has shown her the resilience of the Research team and that of the research community across campus.

**c. Update on NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures and Single Audit [Enclosure](#)**

*Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance*

*Mike Johns, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP*

*Beth West, James Moore & Co.*

Vice President Benson introduced Mike Johns, Principal of the University's outside audit firm, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Mike Johns provided a short presentation on the University's Single Audit, noting that for the current year the University was not required to complete a Single Audit. He reminded the Committee that the University is included in the state's Single Audit Report and the programs to be audited are selected by the state, not the University. The state auditors did not select any University programs for audit for FY25.

Vice President Benson then introduced Katie Davis, Partner with James Moore & Co., the firm completing the University's review of the NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP). Davis provided a brief overview of James Moore & Co. and their experience working with universities on similar engagements. She also described how a review of the AUP differs from a financial audit. She noted that there were no findings from their review.

In questions from the Committee, Katie Davis noted that the NCAA determines the AUP (not the audit firm). She also noted that the AUP has been in place for quite some time, and while the procedures have

remained consistent, the categories have been updated because of the nature of an increasingly complex college athletics landscape.

### 3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**The Committee may seek to enter into Executive Session for the following item:**

- a. Discussion regarding the University’s Institutional Risk Register, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) as it relates to potential litigation; R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3) as it relates to the matter of security; and, R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest.**

*Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance*

*Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management*

Committee Chair Luna called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: That the Committee convene into executive session for discussion regarding the University’s Institutional Risk Register, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) as it relates to potential litigation; R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(3) as it relates to the matter of security; and, R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7) as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest.

VOTES: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Joseph Formicola, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Attendees participating remotely confirmed that no other persons were present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote locations.

At 10:05 a.m., the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee entered Executive Session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 10:26 a.m., the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee ended Executive Session and returned to Open Session. Virtual public access resumed.

Committee Chair Luna called for a motion to seal the executive session minutes. On a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Matthew Lenz, and with no discussion, it was

VOTED: That the Committee seal the minutes of the Committee’s Executive Session.

VOTES: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Joseph Formicola, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

#### 4. ACTION ITEM

**a. Annual Review and Consideration of amendments to the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Charter and Calendar, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure](#)**

*Abby Benson, Vice President, Administration and Finance*

Vice President Benson presented the proposed changes to the IRCC calendar as found in the enclosure, notably; moving both the review and approval of changes to the committee charter and/or calendar to a single meeting (January) and providing the new title for the Non-Discrimination Plan (formerly the Affirmative Action Plan).

Committee Chair Luna called for a motion, and on a motion duly made by Joseph Formicola and seconded by David Martirano, and hearing no discussion it was

VOTED: To recommend that the Board approve amendments to the IRCC Committee calendar, as presented in the enclosure.

VOTES: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Joseph Formicola, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

#### 5. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Luna called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion duly made by David Martirano and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: That the Committee adjourn the meeting.

VOTES: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Joseph Formicola, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, David Martirano

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

The next meeting of the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee is scheduled for June 16, 2026.