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*Student Representative*

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees  
Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 10:30 a.m. EDT**

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

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**

Committee Chair Tom Ryan welcomed everyone to the October 25, 2023, meeting of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee and noted that the meeting was being held in person with some board members participating remotely. Virtual access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform and is available for viewing at <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

Michelle Curreri, board secretary, conducted a formal roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m.

The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee members in attendance:

- Mr. Tom Ryan, Chair (remote)
- Mr. Armand Sabitoni (remote)
- Mr. Robert Weygand (remote)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)
- Ms. Revaa Goyal, Student Representative (non-voting) (remote)

URI Board of Trustees Committee Members not present:

- Mr. Michael Grey
- Mr. Roby Luna
- Ms. Jay Placencia, Committee Vice Chair

URI Board member in attendance:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Board Chair (remote)

URI President's Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Ms. Abby Benson, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance (remote)
- Ms. Chelsea Berry, Interim Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (remote)
- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director (remote)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President for Student Affairs (in person)
- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

URI Staff members in attendance:

- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate Development (remote)
- Mr. Michael Chalek, Captain, URI Public Safety (in person)
- Mr. Thomas Cooley, Assistant Vice President, Housing and Residential Life and Student Development (in person)
- Ms. Michell Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Mr. Michael Jagoda, Chief of Police, URI Public Safety (in person)
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Associate General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary, Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Carol Pegg, M.Ed., Executive Assistant II (remote)

URI Student in attendance:

- Mr. Ramez Rizk, URI Student Senate President (in person)

## 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### a. Minutes of the September 7, 2023 Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting. [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the Student Life and Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the September 7, 2023 meeting, of the Committee.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Robert Weygand, and hearing no discussion, it was

VOTED:        THAT            The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee  
approve the minutes of the September 7, 2023, meeting of the Committee.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative.

YEAS: Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

## 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Meet Thomas Cooley, Assistant Vice President, Housing and Residential Life and Student Development

Vice President Reynolds introduced Thomas Cooley and shared his impressive 20-year Housing and Residential Life experience from both private and public institutions of higher education that he brings to the University and the Department of Housing and Residential Life.

### b. Housing and Residential Life (HRL) Facilities and Master Plan Updates [Enclosure](#)

Interim Vice President Abby Benson, Vice President Ellen Reynolds, and Assistant Vice President Thomas Cooley provided a high-level summary of the Housing and Residential Life Master Plan, completed with the support of Scion Advisory Services. The presentation made to the committee can be found [here](#).

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Establishing a clear vision for the future of URI Housing and Residential Life (HRL)
- A full assessment of facilities of all residence halls (e.g., types and locations, and age of units)
- Address deferred maintenance and removal or replacement of buildings
- Provide a modern housing experience that aligns with student and familial expectations and supports student success
- Create an action plan for URI HRL that is aligned with the Mission, Vision, and Values of the department of HRL and the university
- Develop a feasible financial model for the proposed plan (new beds by URI vs. Public/Private Partnership)

Committee Chair Ryan asked for clarification on where the new residences would be built if not on the undeveloped land on the north side of campus. Interim Vice President Benson replied, as concurred by Vice President Reynolds and Assistant Vice President Cooley, that students preferred to live closer to the heart of campus. Committee member Robert Weygand asked what the parking replacement plan is due to the loss of parking spaces. It was shared that there will need to be an assessment to eventually plan for the parking loss resulting from the new facility.

Committee Chair Ryan also asked about the number of beds built by URI versus Private/Public Partnership (P3) and the reason the University isn't using more P3 builds. Interim Vice President Benson acknowledged that P3 usage was part of the initial conversation during the Master Study, but Rhode Island has not done a P3 agreement for Housing in Rhode Island, therefore, a conservative route is being taken with the option of revisiting that model. Board Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni requested information on other campuses around the country that have had successful contracts for P3s to build residence halls. Interim Vice President Benson indicated many schools have such relationships and she would provide that information to the committee.

Committee Chair Ryan asked if this could be a 10-year plan instead of a 15-year plan to grow occupancy sooner. Assistant Vice President Cooley answered that it comes down to University resources, including capital planning, finances, etc., that limit a more expeditious approach.

**c. Safety & Security on Campus [2023 Clery Report Enclosure](#)**

Chief Jagoda introduced Police Captain Michael Chalek, who co-presented a high-level summary of the Clery Report. The presentation to the committee can be found [here](#).

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Compliance with the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act which requires certain crimes to be reported (Clery Act)
- An overview of reportable Clery crimes
- An overview of Community Policing and Community Outreach
- Initiative partnerships with stakeholders
- Trainings offered to the URI Community

**d. Student Success and Student Achievement Spotlight:  
Introducing Student Senate President – Ramez Rizk**

Vice President Reynolds introduced Student Senate President Ramez Rizk to the committee. President Rizk shared his background about being an international student from Egypt and a 3rd-year Pharmacy student. He also shared initiatives that the Student Senate plans to implement under his leadership, such as a syllabus bank and a composting sustainability program. They have also increased their social media presence to raise awareness of the Student Senate. President Rizk also shared that he is very active in his Pharmacy program and started a pharmacovigilance club that promotes monitoring the safety of medications after they are launched into the market. He also shared that he mentors 1<sup>st</sup>-year students.

**4. ADJOURN**

Committee Chair Tom Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the October 25, 2023, meeting.

On a motion duly made by Robert Weygand and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, it was

VOTED:        THAT        The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee

adjourn the meeting of October 25, 2023.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative.

YEAS: Tom Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

### **UPCOMING MEETING**

The next URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2024.

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