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**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Room 130, Higgins Welcome Center
45 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Committee Chair Tom Ryan welcomed everyone to the April 16, 2024, 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 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 9:01 a.m.

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

- Mr. Tom Ryan, Committee Chair (remote)
- Ms. Jay Placencia, Committee Vice Chair (remote)
- Mr. Armand Sabitoni (remote)
- Mr. Robert Weygand (remote)

URI Board of Trustees Committee members not present:

- Mr. Michael Grey
- Mr. Roby Luna
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non voting)
- Ms. Revaa Goyal, Student Representative (non-voting)

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URI Board of Trustees member participating:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Board Chair (remote)

URI President's Executive Council members in attendance:

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

URI Staff members in attendance:

- Dr. Daniel Graney, Dean of Students (remote – executive session only)
- Ms. Lauren Jensen, Associate General Counsel (remote)
- Ms. Kacey Light, Athletics Chief NCAA Compliance Officer (in person)
- Mr. Garrett Waller, University Affiliate, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary, Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Carol Pegg, M.Ed., Executive Assistant II (remote)

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the October 25, 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 URI Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Committee's October 25, 2023, meeting.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee approve the minutes of the October 25, 2023, meeting of the Committee.
	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Tom Ryan, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Athletics

Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director

i. Athletics Performance fall/winter sports

ii. Athletics Facilities Update

- Meade Stadium
- Outdoor Track
- Other Facilities

Athletics Director Bjorn introduced Garrett Waller and Kacey Light and proceeded with his presentation on Athletics. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Continued strong GPAs for athletes across many majors and strong representation on the Dean's list.
- Winning seasons for Men's Cross Country, Football, Men's Track and Field, and Women's Basketball.
- Increased Football revenue for the 2023/2024 season.
- Working to increase revenue for Men's and Women's Basketball through community outreach, fundraising, notable contest matchups, and a variety of other programs.
- Moving forward with several Athletic Complex upgrades and renovations, including Meade Stadium, Track and Field, Baseball, Softball, and Soccer complexes.
- Updates regarding Name, Image & Likeness (NIL). The independent collective focused on URI students is now operated by Coast-to-Coast Promotions, whose mission is to generate revenue for NIL opportunities.
- General concerns about the current NIL environment creating the possibility of illegitimate transactions, protections implemented by the NCAA, and current lawsuits the NCAA is facing.
- Introduction of a Football Champion Subdivision White Paper Concept that outlines athletics as being one portion of students' educational experience.

b. Annual Review of the Student Life and Athletics Committee Charter [Enclosure 2.b.](#)

Thomas Ryan, Committee Chair

No changes to the Student Life and Athletics Committee charter were presented.

c. Annual Review of the Student Life and Athletics Committee Calendar [Enclosure 2.c.](#)

Thomas Ryan, Committee Chair

No changes to the Student Life and Athletics Committee Calendar were presented.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Student Life and Athletics Committee may seek to enter into executive session for the following item:

- a. Discussion regarding potential or anticipated litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).
Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, Student Affairs

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the Student Life and Athletics Committee convene into executive session to discuss potential or anticipated litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).

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 convene into executive session to discuss potential or anticipated litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).

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

YEAS: Tom Ryan, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

All committee members participating via Webex confirmed that no other person was present and/or able to hear the Executive Session discussion at the remote location.

At 10:00 a.m., the Student Life and Athletics Committee convened into Executive Session. Kacey Light and Garrett Waller left the meeting.

At 10:21 a.m., the Student Life and Athletics Committee returned to Open Session.

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion that the Student Life and Athletics Committee seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on April 16, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Robert Weygand, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee seal the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on April 16, 2024.

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

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YEAS: Tom Ryan, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

4. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the April 16, 2024, meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee adjourn the meeting of April 16, 2024.

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

YEAS: Tom Ryan, Jay Placencia, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2024.