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Revaa Goyal '27  
*Student Representative*

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees  
Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting  
Friday, June 14, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. EDT**

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Committee Chair Tom Ryan welcomed everyone to the June 14, 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 8:30 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)
- The Honorable 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 Student Life and Athletics Committee Members not present:

- Mr. Michael Grey
- Mr. Roby Luna

URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting  
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URI Board of Trustees member participating:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair, URI Board of Trustees (remote)

URI President's Stewardship Council members in attendance:

- Ms. Abby Benson, Vice President for Administration and Finance (remote)
- Mr. Thorr Bjorn, Director of Athletics (in person)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (remote)
- Mr. Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities (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:

- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning and Real Estate Development (remote)
- Ms. Patricia Casey, Chief Business Officer, Athletics (in person)
- Ms. Michell Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (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)
- Mr. Garrett Waller, University Affiliate, Associate Athletic Director, Development, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (remote)

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

## 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### a. Minutes of the April 16, 2024, Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting. [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion  
and, on a motion duly made by Jay Placencia and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, and hearing no  
discussion, it was

VOTED:        THAT        The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee  
approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, 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. **Year-end review of metrics and key performance indicators, including academic progress of student-athletes, compliance with applicable regulations, and success in team individual competition.** [Enclosure](#)

*Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director*

Athletics Director Bjorn provided a high-level year-end summary which highlighted the following:

- Continued growth by student-athletes, attaining GPAs of 3.24 or higher and an 83% graduation rate.
- Student-athletes continuously enroll in diverse academic majors, and a high percentage of athletes make the Dean's list.
- Athletics continues to offer the maximum in scholarships allowed for athletes.
- Focusing on doubling the number of teams to win conference championships, recruiting and retaining quality coaches and athletes.
- Increasing athletes' student development, life skills, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) awareness.
- Increasing initiatives for student-athletes to increase their success in their sports and academically.
- Partnership with Coast to Coast to help manage and generate revenue for name, image, and likeness (NIL).
- Completion of the Soloviev practice facility, which has made a positive impact on student-athletes.
- Providing updates on the timeline for facilities projects, including Meade Stadium, track and field, baseball/softball/soccer fields, and the natatorium.
- Department financial information and implementing strategies to increase revenue for women's and men's basketball.

- b. **Athletics Facilities Update** [Enclosure](#)

*Thorr Bjorn, Athletics Director*

Athletics Director Bjorn provided the schedule for the completion of the Athletic Complex Renewal Project, including Meade Stadium and Slade Track and Field upgrades, highlighting the following:

- Procurement of designers
- Design development
- Permitting process with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
- Construction timetable:

- Meade Stadium anticipated completion – August 2027
- Slade Track and Field anticipated completion – June 2026

**c. Year-end review of student life goals and key performance indicators, including engagement, satisfaction, and academic progress as appropriate to department mission. [Enclosure](#)**

*Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President, Student Affairs*

Vice President Reynolds provided a high-level year-end review of the Division of Student Affairs. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Review of the departments within the Division, funding streams, and total budget.
- Shared the Division's Strategic Action Plan and Goals in support of the University's Strategic Plan.
- Student health and well-being updates, including data on health center visits, counseling center partnership with Telus Health to provide free and confidential access to mental health counseling 24/7.
- Continued success recruiting students from underserved populations for the Talent Development program. Continued success with GPAs and graduation rates for students in Talent Development, including a high percentage of students on the Dean's list.
- Information regarding the Center for Student Leadership and Development to help students advance their leadership skills and become leaders of student clubs and organizations.
- Updates on Campus Recreation as it contributes to students, staff, and faculty's health and well-being through memberships, club sports, and intramural teams. Club sports teams all had an average 3.3 or higher median GPA.
- Updates on Housing and Residential Life (HRL), including a student satisfaction survey and HRL's capital improvement plan to deliver up to 1,100 new undergraduate and graduate beds to campus.
- Dean of Students and Greek Life updates: Greek Life continues to make major strides in its philanthropic efforts, raising over \$300k for non-profit organizations.
- Conference Services executed 44 conference bookings bringing over 27,000 people to URI campuses and over \$700k in gross revenue.
- Dining Services customer satisfaction survey – 3,200 student respondents with 80 percent responding they were satisfied or very satisfied with Dining Services.
- Overview of Strategic Planning Committees within the Division.

### 3. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Ryan called for a motion and, on a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Jay Placencia, it was

VOTED:     THAT                      The URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee  
adjourn the meeting of June 14, 2024.

URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting  
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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 9:46 a.m.

**UPCOMING MEETING**

The next URI Board of Trustees Student Life and Athletics Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2024.