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**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2025 · 2:00 p.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
The Great Room, 2nd floor, Green Hall
35 Campus Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881**

**This meeting will be held in person and will use video conferencing.
To view the meeting remotely,
go to <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>
and select the meeting to watch.**

**Virtual access is being provided only as a convenience and is not an
official "location" where access to the meeting is guaranteed. Being
physically present at the meeting is the only way to guarantee
complete access to the meeting.**

AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the April 16, 2025 Academic Affairs and Research
Committee Meeting [Enclosure](#)**
Charles Fogarty, Committee Vice Chair

2. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER [Enclosure](#)
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice Presidente, Academic Affairs

- a. 2025 Commencement
b. Academic Highlights
c. Leadership Team for Federal Actions
d. Update on Searches and Feasibility Study for a possible URI medical
school
e. Accreditation**

3. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER

Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development

- a. Research highlights and excellence awards**
- b. Impacts to federal research**
- c. Update on national efforts regarding facilities and administrative (F & A) costs**

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Review enrollment management activities, outcomes, and initial enrollment projections for 2025-2026 academic year.**

Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

Dr. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success

- b. 2025 URI Annual Diversity Report, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 16-32-2.1. Diversity efforts and progress related to student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention at URI.**

[Enclosure](#)

Markeisha Miner, Vice President, Community, Equity, and Diversity

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee may seek to enter into executive session for the following item:

- a. Discussion regarding a matter related to the question of the investment of public funds, which includes any investment plan or matter related thereto, where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7); specifically,**
 - Research support from partner organizations**

Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development

6. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of the granting of tenure, effective July 1, 2025, to incoming dean of the College of Environment and Life Sciences, Dr. Jean VanderGheynst, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.**

[Enclosure](#)

Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

- b. Approval of the annual granting of tenure for University of Rhode Island faculty members, effective July 1, 2025, or as specified, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure](#)**

Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

- c. **Review and approve legislation from the Graduate Council #2024-2025-07C, College of Engineering organizational change to create a new degree program, Master of Engineering Management and Leadership (MEML), which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.** [Enclosure](#)
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
- d. **Review and approve legislation from the Graduate Council #2024-2025-08C, College of Arts and Sciences organizational change to create a new program, Ph.D. in Computational Social Science (CSS) Doctorate degree program, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.** [Enclosure](#)
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
- e. **Review and approve legislation from the Faculty Senate Curriculum & Standards Committee Report #2024-2025-09C, College of Arts and Sciences organizational change to create a new program, Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Arts and Humanities, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.** [Enclosure](#)
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
- f. **Approval of the awarding of a posthumous academic degree at Fall Commencement 2025, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.** [Enclosure](#)
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

7. ADJOURN

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2025.

The University of Rhode Island strives to provide inclusive access to events. If you need a reasonable accommodation or have a question about accessing a Board of Trustees' public meeting, please call (401) 874-4338 in advance of the meeting. For TTY, please call the R.I. Relay Service at 711. We encourage all individuals seeking an accommodation to reach out as early as possible in advance of the meeting as the University's ability to provide a requested accommodation may be impacted by the timing of the request.