



Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Armand E. Sabitoni '73, *Vice Chair*

Maria P. Ducharme, DNP, RN - M.S. '96

Michael D. Fascitelli '78

Charles J. Fogarty M.P.A. '80

Joe Formicola '69

Monica J. Ganes '94

Neil Kerwin, Ph.D. - M.A. '73

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

David J. Martirano '91

Joseph F. Matthews '80

Cortney M. Nicolato '01

Vahid Ownjazayeri

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01

Thomas Ryan '75

Ex Officio Members

Marc B. Parlange, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President

Michael Grey, *Chair*
R.I. Board of Education

David Caprio, *Chair*
*R.I. Council on Postsecondary
Education*

Kristine M. Bovy, Ph.D.
Faculty Representative

Ryan Estus '26
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 · 12:00 p.m. EST**

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

This meeting will be held in person and will use videoconferencing.

**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 THE MINUTES**
 - a. Minutes of the October 27, 2025, Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting. [Enclosure](#)**
- 2. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER [Enclosure](#)**
Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
 - a. New England Commission of Higher Education – NECHE Standards for Accreditation – effective July 1, 2026**
 - b. 2026 URI Academic Summit**

3. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER [Enclosure](#)

Bethany Jenkins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development

a. Update on URI's Grant Portfolio and Research Activity

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consideration of legislation from the Graduate Council #2025-2026-03C, College of Education organizational change to create a new degree opportunity, Doctorate of Education, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island; and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure](#)**

Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

- b. Consideration of legislation from the Faculty Senate Curriculum & Standards Committee Report #2025-2026-02C, College of Education organizational change to create a new degree opportunity, Bachelor of Arts, Learning and Education in Action, which has been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island; and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure](#)**

Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

- c. Consideration of the granting of tenure, effective March 1, 2026 to incoming Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Mary Elizabeth Meyerand, who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure](#)**

Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

5. ADJOURN

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026.

The University of Rhode Island strives to provide inclusive access to events. If you need 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 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.