

Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Armand E. Sabitoni '73, *Vice Chair*

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Michael D. Fascitelli '78

Charles Fogarty M.P.A. '80

Joe Formicola '69

Monica J. Garnes '94

Richard S. Humphrey

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

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

Joseph F. Matthews '80

Cortney M. Nicolato '01

Vahid Ownjazayeri

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01

Thomas Ryan '75

Robert A. Weygand '71, '76, M.A. '09, M.P.A. '10

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

Melissa Sutherland, Ph.D., FAAN
Faculty Representative

Revaa Goyal '27
Student Representative

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Meeting Friday, September 22, 2023 · 9:00 a.m. EDT

The University of Rhode Island The Hope Room · Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center 45 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the September 22, 2023, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees 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/>.

Board secretary Michelle Curreri conducted a roll call attendance and reported that a quorum of members was present. Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

The URI Board of Trustees members in attendance:

- Ms. Margo Cook, Chair (in person)
- Mr. Armand E. Sabitoni, Vice Chair (in person)
- Ms. Maria Ducharme (in person)
- Mr. Michael Fascitelli (in person) (arrived 9:06 a.m.)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Formicola (in person)
- Ms. Monica Garnes (in person)
- Dr. Neil Kerwin (in person)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (remote)
- Mr. Roby Luna (remote)
- Mr. Joseph Matthews (in person)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (in person)

URI Board of Trustees Meeting
September 22, 2023

- Mr. Thomas Ryan (in person)
- Honorable Robert A. Weygand (in person)
- Dr. Marc B. Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Mr. David Caprio (ex officio, non-voting) (in person)
- Dr. Melissa Sutherland (non-voting) (in person)
- Ms. Revaa Goyal (non-voting) (in person)

URI Board of Trustees members not participating:

- Mr. Richard Humphrey
- Mr. Vahid Ownjazayeri
- Mr. Michael Grey

URI President's Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Ms. Abby Benson, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance (in person)
- Ms. Chelsea Berry, Interim Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff (in person)
- Mr. Thor Bjorn, Director, Athletics (in person)
- Ms. Alyssa Boss, General Counsel (in person)
- Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources (in person)
- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Interim Vice President, Research and Economic Development (in person)
- Dr. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success (in person)
- Mr. Matthew McDonald, Vice President, Communications and Marketing (in person)
- Ms. Elizabeth Breul O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement (in person)
- Dr. Ellen Reynolds, Vice President for Student Affairs (in person)
- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person)

URI staff members in attendance:

- Dr. Paula Bontempi, Dean, Graduate School of Oceanography (in person)
- Ms. Lauren Burgess, Director, Legislative and Government Relations (in person)
- Mr. Karl Calvo, Assistant Vice President, Facilities (in person)
- Mr. Ryan Carrillo, Director, Planning & Real Estate Development (in person)
- Ms. Robin Cawley, Legal Assistant (in person)
- Mr. Tom Cooley, Assistant Vice President, Housing and Residential Life and Student Development (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Fontes, Assistant Vice President, Community, Equity, and Diversity (in person)
- Ms. Sarah Gaines, Marine Research Associate, Coastal Resources Center (in person)
- Dr. E. Paul Larrat, Dean, Pharmacy (in person)
- Ms. Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management (in person)
- Ms. Kacey Light, Chief NCAA Compliance Officer, Athletics (in person)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

- Mr. John Poehlmann, Assistant Vice President, Financial Strategy and Planning (in person)
- Ms. Lisa Primiano, Assistant Director, Coastal Resources Center (remote)
- Dr. Sean Rogers, Dean, College of Business (in person)
- Dr. John Stringer, Executive Director, Institution Research (in person)

Invited Guests:

- Governor Dan McKee, State of Rhode Island (in person)
- Mr. Craig Dwyer, Manager of Appointments, Office of the Governor (in person)
- Ms. Kelly Marullo, paralegal, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter (remote)
- Ms. Vinita Bahri-Mehra, Esq., Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter (remote)

Open Forum Speaker:

- Dr. Jay Walsh, Executive Director, URI Chapter, American Association of University Professors

Chair Cook acknowledged that the University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional homeland of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People.

2. WELCOME REMARKS

The Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Governor, State of Rhode Island

Chair Cook welcomed Governor McKee to the URI Board of Trustees meeting. She expressed the Board's gratitude for the Governor's support of the state's flagship university. She noted that after 50 years of disinvestment, URI saw a 16% increase in funding last year, including \$105.4 million in state appropriation for the University's operating budget, an increase of \$14.1 million over FY23, \$68.5 million in funding for improvements to URI's athletics facilities and \$20 million in funding for a new water supply treatment system (PFAS mitigation).

Governor McKee thanked the Chair for the invitation and the opportunity to attend today's meeting. He recognized the Board members for their leadership and commitment to the University and commended them on their selection of Marc Parlange as president of the University.

Noting that education is key to the state's long-term economic viability, Governor McKee spoke of the Learn365RI initiative to open up learning centers around the state, in partnership with municipalities, colleges and universities, and the business community, with the goal of improving student learning outcomes.

Governor McKee remarked that the state is investing in projects like the URI Narragansett Bay Campus that have long-term economic benefits to the state. He encouraged board members to familiarize themselves with the "Rhode Island 2030 Plan", a working document including preliminary recommendations for propelling Rhode Island into the next decade with strength. He noted that URI is a big part of that Plan.

The Governor thanked members of the Board and University staff on behalf of the people of the State of Rhode Island.

Board members asked how the Board can help the Governor in communicating his goals. Governor McKee asked that Board members understand and embrace the goals for Rhode Island. He encouraged the trustees' continued investment in higher education to drive excellence into the University.

Vice Chair Sabitoni thanked the Governor for attending the meeting and for his support of URI. He commended him on his education program, the time he has taken to understand how URI can give back to Rhode Island, and the relationships he has forged with the Board and President Parlange. He thanked him for the strong, smart, dedicated trustees that he has appointed to the Board.

President Parlange thanked Governor McKee for his continued support of the state's flagship university. He also recognized state and local leaders and the citizens of the state for their support. The President stated that URI is happy to be a part of Learn365RI through the College of Education.

3. OPEN FORUM

Jay Walsh, Ph.D., Executive Director, URI Chapter, American Association of University Professors, registered to speak in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Walsh addressed the Board, noting that the union is supportive of the proposed budget the Board is considering today. He encouraged the Board members to support the workers who are supporting the students who are supporting the state.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board may seek to enter into executive session for the following items:

- a. Discussion of President Parlange's annual self-assessment, performance review and goals pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1).**
- b. Discussion regarding President Parlange's employment agreement and compensation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(1).**
- c. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).**
- d. Discussion regarding pending litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) including:**
 - (i) Burt and Thomson v. Board of Trustees of the University of Rhode Island (1st Cir. No. 23-1188 and 23-1192) (Consolidated), and;**
 - (ii) Louis Kwame Fosu v. The University of Rhode Island, University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees, David M. Dooley, President, The University of Rhode Island, Donald DeHayes,**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Jeannette E. Riley, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, C.A. No. 21-279-JJM-PAS (U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island).

- e. Discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5), including Student Housing and URI Campuses.**

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees convene into executive session pursuant to:

R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion of President Parlange's annual self-assessment, performance review and goals and discussion regarding President Parlange's employment agreement and compensation; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion regarding potential and pending litigation, specifically the consolidated Burt and Thomson case and the Fosu case; and,

R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) for discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property, including student housing and URI campuses.

The President has been notified in writing that these discussions will happen in a session closed to the public.

On a motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees convene into executive session pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion of President Parlange's annual self-assessment, performance review and goals and discussion regarding President Parlange's employment agreement and compensation; and, R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) for discussion regarding potential and pending litigation, specifically the consolidated Burt and Thomson case and the Fosu case; and, R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) for discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property, including student housing and URI campuses.
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VOTE:	15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted
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in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members Luna and Lenz, participating remotely, confirmed that no other person was present or able to hear the discussion at the remote location. The President will be excused from a portion of the executive session while the Board Chair conveys the Compensation Subcommittee's annual performance review results to the full Board for discussion.

At 9:28 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 11:54 a.m., the Board returned to open session. Virtual public access resumed.

Chair Cook called for a motion to seal the executive session minutes.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Michael Fascitelli, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees seal the minutes of the September 22, 2023 executive session.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board member Lenz was not present for the vote.

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Report on recent President's Stewardship Council

Chair Cook reported that she recently attended the President's Stewardship Council meeting. She was struck by the topics covered by the President and his leadership team, including where resources are allocated, how programs should be funded, and how to transform the University to be the best it can be. She noted the importance of designing a program to attract the best to come to URI. She highlighted the University's Honors Colloquium, the Talent Development Program, and the University College for Academic Success as great examples of how to change the culture of the University.

Chair Cook encouraged President Parlange to bring those programs in front of the Board as they are developing.

6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. Updates from the start of the semester

President Parlange's report included updates on community news, rankings, fundraising, the budget, and the strategic plan. His report can be found [here](#).

Highlights of community news included URI's engagement with the Johnnycake Center to expand learning opportunities funded through the Governor's Learn365RI initiative, this summer's shark camp, the Pharmaceutical Development Institute's biotech bootcamp, the undergraduate research symposium, the on-campus farmers' market, URI's participation in the Power the Future United Way event, URI's participation in the Summer World University Games in China, URI grad Aimee Couto's naming as RI's Teacher of the Year, and nine URI alums honored for their efforts in the workplace and community at Providence Business News' 40 under Forty event.

President Parlange showcased URI faculty, including Dr. Jamie Ross' work on microplastics, Dr. Laura Meyerson's work on invasive species, and Dr. Brad Weatherby's research work.

He reported that URI had a wonderful move-in day and welcomed a lot of international students and faculty.

b. Rankings

President Parlange announced the recent US News and World Report rankings for URI:

- National Universities: Ranked 151 (from 182) Top 35% (from 42%)
- Public Schools: Ranked 80 (out of 227) Top 35%

President Parlange reported that the ranking criteria was more academic this year, based on the exact items URI is highlighting in its Strategic Plan KPIs, including quality publications and the success of our students.

The President noted that URI is headed in a good direction. In terms of global rankings, there is work to do to strengthen the University.

Lil O'Rourke, President, URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement, reported that URI's capital campaign has raised \$287 million towards the goal of \$300 million. She highlighted the upcoming URI Day of Giving on October 5th and encouraged the Board to remain engaged in fundraising efforts.

c. University budget overview and highlights

President Parlange thanked the Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House for the partnership developed with URI and the 16% increase in funding for FY2024. He presented the highlights of the proposed FY2025 budget request. Interim Vice President Benson made a presentation on the proposed budget later in the meeting.

The President highlighted the University's new Strategic Investment Initiative. He noted that twenty-eight proposals are being funded to generate funds or realize cost savings. President Parlange added that this leads to and builds towards an incentive-based budget model (IBB). This IBB model is transformational for URI; it shifts thinking to support a more thriving university and provides for better financial stability and diversified revenue streams. The President reported that Assistant Vice President Poelhmann will work with the college deans to develop the concept of "One University", rewarding innovation and entrepreneurship. Promoting transparency, the IBB model will pull the university together, to work together responsibly and to be accountable at all levels.

President Parlange discussed the FocusURI Strategic Plan, the key performance indicators (KPIs) and the dashboard that will be used to measure success of the Strategic Plan.

Executive Director John Stringer reported that, as part of the Strategic Plan, KPIs - various potential metrics to measure success of the Strategic Plan – have been formulated. Work on the dashboard is still in progress as measurement tools are developed. Most KPIs will be updated on an annual basis.

President Parlange reviewed the capital projects being funded by the voters and the state, including the Narragansett Bay Campus Phase I project and renewal of the athletics complex at the Kingston campus. He expressed his gratitude to the voters of the State of Rhode Island and the state for funding Phase II projects at the Narragansett Bay Campus.

At the conclusion of his report, the President addressed comments from Board members about the Strategic Plan and its KPIs, including diversity indexes, online masters' programs, measuring improvements to facilities, measuring the institutional health of URI, and the ambitiousness of the Strategic Plan.

Board member Matt Lenz left the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

7. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Executive Committee/Compensation Subcommittee Report

(i) Update – September 13, 2023, Joint Committee Meeting

Chair Cook reported that during the September 13th joint meeting, the subcommittee conducted the president's annual performance review and discussed goals for the upcoming year. The Board also considered performance goals in executive session today. An amendment to President Parlange's employment agreement was reviewed and includes an annual bonus for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 – action is called for on these items. Additionally, committee members reviewed proposed amendments to the Executive Committee and Compensation Subcommittee charters and calendars and implemented a more specific timeline around the President's performance review. The committee and subcommittee recommend that the Board approve the amendments as presented in the enclosures listed in the omnibus vote.

(ii) ACTION ITEM: Ratification of presidential performance goals for the upcoming year.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees ratify the presidential performance goals for the upcoming year, as presented in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Jay Placencia, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees ratify the presidential performance goals for the upcoming year, as presented in executive session.
	VOTE:	14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

(iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of an amendment to the employment agreement with President Parlange.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve an amendment to the employment agreement with President Parlange as presented in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Robert Weygand, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve an amendment to the employment agreement with President Parlange as presented in executive session.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of an annual bonus to President Parlange for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Chair Cook called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees replace the 457(f) benefit and approve an annual bonus of \$60,000 to President Parlange for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, as discussed in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Cortney Nicolato, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees replace the 457(f) benefit and approve an annual bonus of \$60,000 to President Parlange for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, as discussed in executive session.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(v) DISCUSSION ITEM: Comprehensive Presidential Performance Review Process – Steps associated with the process, and commencement of the process.

Chair Cook introduced the Comprehensive Presidential Performance Review Process, as outlined in the Policy on Presidential Performance Review (found [here](#)).

For public notification, Chair Cook stated that it is the policy of the URI Board of Trustees to conduct a comprehensive presidential performance review prior to the President's contract renewal. The purpose of the comprehensive review is:

- to examine the effectiveness of the relationship between the President and the Board of Trustees in the discharge of their respective and collective governance responsibilities;
- to obtain feedback from key constituents on the progress of the President in achieving institutional priorities, and;
- to reaffirm the partnership between the President and the Board of Trustees.

President Parlange's employment contract expires in June 2024. The comprehensive presidential performance review will begin nine months before contract renewal.

The criteria for evaluation and information responsive to those criteria will be based on:

- the President's self-assessment of progress towards goals mutually set by the Board of Trustees and the President – including those articulated in the University's strategic plan;
- all previous reviews, including annual reviews, and;
- qualitative interview data gathered from various constituent groups.

Steps associated with the review process include:

- The Board Chair and the President will inform the University community of the commencement of the review process describing the purpose, scope and procedures associated with the review.
- A survey will be sent to significant constituencies and stakeholders.
- The Board Chair and the Vice Chair, along with Compensation Subcommittee members and other board members, will conduct interviews with key constituents.
- Results of the review, including recommendations, will be synthesized for the Board of Trustees.
- The Board Chair will review the results with the full Board of Trustees in executive session from which the President will be excused.
- The Board Chair will meet with the President to share the results of the review.
- At that time, the Board Chair will also convey to the President any recommendations or specific requests and expectations associated with the review, which will be memorialized as an amendment to the President's annual performance goals.
- The notification period should take place approximately six (6) months prior to the expiration of the President's contract (December/January time frame).
- The Board Chair will issue a final communication to the University community announcing the completion of the review process.

b. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

(i) Update – September 14, 2023, Committee Meeting

Vice Chair Sabitoni reported on activity at the September 14, 2023, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. He stated that the committee discussed various financial matters and new construction of undergraduate and graduate housing.

- (ii) **ACTION ITEM: Approval of the renaming of the URI Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences to The Joseph '56 and Ruby DeChristofaro Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences.** [Enclosure](#)

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the proposal to rename the Center for Biotechnology and Life Science (Center) at URI to the *Joseph '56 and Ruby DeChristofaro Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences* in recognition of the DeChristofaro family's generous donation to the university, as presented in the enclosure.

On a motion duly made by Joseph Formicola and seconded by Neil Kerwin, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees approve the proposal to rename the Center for Biotechnology and Life Science (Center) at URI to the <i>Joseph '56 and Ruby DeChristofaro Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences</i> in recognition of the DeChristofaro family's generous donation to the university, as presented in the enclosure.
	VOTE:	14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

- (iii) **ACTION ITEM: Approval of the University of Rhode Island Total Budget Request for FY 2025.** [Enclosure](#)

Vice Chair Sabitoni called upon Interim Vice President Abby Benson to present to the Board the proposed budget for FY 2025, as detailed in the enclosure.

Interim Vice President Benson reiterated the President's thanks to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President for their support which resulted in an overall 16% increase to URI's operating budget. She reported that the funding allows URI to begin to execute on the

vision as outlined in the Focus URI Strategic Plan, including investments/reallocations within Research and Economic Development, Human Resources, Communications & Marketing, Information Technology Services, faculty, and elevated financial and administrative resources in support of IBB implementation.

Interim Vice President Benson reviewed the historic budget process and introduced a proposed change to URI's budget approval process. At this meeting, the Board will consider the "all funds" budget, including an appropriation request and "baseline" tuition and fee assumptions in accordance with the State's Office of Management and Budget guidelines. Actual tuition and fees scenarios will be presented for formal approval by the Board at the February meeting. Interim Vice President Benson noted that this shift allows the University to make a better-informed recommendation to the Board about what the tuition and fees should be, based on more information about enrollment projections and the competitive landscape.

Interim Vice President Benson reviewed the tuition and fees assumptions and the revenues and expenses included in the FY 2025 budget package. She reviewed the breakdown of state operating appropriations.

Chair Cook recommended that the proposed rates for tuition and fees be distributed to the Board members in advance of the February meeting to allow for a wholesome discussion.

Vice Chair Sabitoni called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island FY2025 Total Budget Request as set forth in the enclosure and as recommended and presented, and that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the shifting of final approval of tuition and fees to the February 2024 meeting, and annually to the February Board of Trustees meetings thereafter.

On a motion duly made by Robert Weygand and seconded by Neil Kerwin, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island FY2025 Total Budget Request as set forth in the enclosure and as recommended and presented, and that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve the shifting of final approval of tuition and fees to the February 2024 meeting, and annually to the February Board of Trustees meetings thereafter.
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VOTE:	14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
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YEAS:	Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand
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NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

c. Governance Committee Report

(i) Update – September 18, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Nicolato reported on activity at the September 18, 2023, Governance Committee meeting. She thanked Board members for participating in the mentorship program in support of the Board's eight new trustees. The Governance Committee reviewed at its meeting the onboarding process, orientation materials, the BoardEffect portal, and heard from several new members about their onboarding experience. Committee members reviewed the recent Board composition survey, the results of the board retreat, and the creation of goals. Several policies were discussed for planned action at an upcoming meeting.

Committee Chair Nicolato congratulated Board member Maria Ducharme, who is this year's recipient of the URI College of Nursing Dean's Award and will be honored at the upcoming Distinguished Achievement Awards Ceremony in October.

d. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Report

(i) Update – September 13, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Luna reported on activity at the September 13, 2023, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee meeting. He reported that the committee received an update on the Fiscal Year 2023 external audit, which is being finalized for presentation to the committee in October. The committee heard from Dorca Paulino-Smalley, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, who provided an overview of URI's affirmative action in employment. Committee Chair Luna called upon Assistant Vice President Kara Larsen, who provided a summary of the discussion.

Sarah Gaines, Marine Research Associate, Coastal Resources Center, provided an overview of the anticipated receipt of a 13 million dollar award to URI from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the USAID Madagascar RIAKE (Resilient Inclusive Abundance in Key Ecosystems) Program. The Program will require URI to set up a branch or other operational model in country.

- (ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the full resolution set forth in the Enclosure through which the Board, in summary, is approving the establishment and registration of a branch and/or other appropriate model under the laws of the Republic of Madagascar, in the name of "University of Rhode Island", or such other appropriate name, and authorizes, the President of the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Marc Parlange, or his designee(s), to undertake the execution and submission of all documents, instruments, applications, authorizations and designations that may be required by the applicable governmental authorities**

and agencies in the Republic of Madagascar, and to take any and all other actions necessary and/or appropriate for the establishment, registration and operations of a branch and/or other appropriate operational model under the laws of the Republic of Madagascar, and for the efficient and effective conduct of “The USAID Resilient Inclusive Abundance in Key Ecosystems (RIAKE) Madagascar Program”, under the leadership and direction of the University’s Coastal Resources Center. [Enclosure](#)

Committee Chair Luna called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the full resolution set forth in the Enclosure through which the Board, in summary, is approving the establishment and registration of a branch and/or other appropriate model under the laws of the Republic of Madagascar, in the name of “University of Rhode Island”, or such other appropriate name, and authorizes, the President of the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Marc Parlange, or his designee(s), to undertake the execution and submission of all documents, instruments, applications, authorizations and designations that may be required by the applicable governmental authorities and agencies in the Republic of Madagascar, and to take any and all other actions necessary and/or appropriate for the establishment, registration and operations of a branch and/or other appropriate operational model under the laws of the Republic of Madagascar, and for the efficient and effective conduct of “The USAID Resilient Inclusive Abundance in Key Ecosystems (RIAKE) Madagascar Program”, under the leadership and direction of the University’s Coastal Resources Center, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Thomas Ryan, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT

The URI Board of Trustees approve the full resolution set forth in the Enclosure through which the Board, in summary, is approving the establishment and registration of a branch and/or other appropriate model under the laws of the Republic of Madagascar, in the name of “University of Rhode Island”, or such other appropriate name, and authorizes, the President of the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Marc Parlange, or his designee(s), to undertake the execution and submission of all documents, instruments, applications, authorizations and designations that may be required by the applicable governmental authorities and agencies in the Republic of Madagascar, and to take any and all other actions necessary and/or appropriate for the establishment, registration and operations of a branch and/or other appropriate operational model under the laws of the Republic of Madagascar, and for the efficient and effective conduct of “The USAID Resilient Inclusive Abundance in Key Ecosystems (RIAKE) Madagascar Program”, under the leadership and direction of the University’s Coastal Resources Center, as presented.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

e. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

(i) Update – September 14, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Kerwin reported on activity at the September 14, 2023 Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting. He noted that the committee also reviewed the Madagascar presentation. Provost Wolfe provided a brief overview ([linked here](#)) of early fall enrollment statistics, new leaders and faculty, global updates on study abroad participation and URI's international student population, and action plans associated with the Strategic Plan.

Interim Vice President Bethany Jenkins provided a brief overview of the Annual Report on Research presentation ([linked here](#)) made to the Academic Affairs and Research Committee. She reviewed the mission of the Division of Research and Economic Development and stressed the importance of research as a key piece of experiential learning for not only URI's graduate students but for early career undergraduate students.

Interim Vice President Jenkins provided a summary of research awards received to date, how that revenue is partitioned amongst agencies and colleges, and how URI compares to its peer schools in terms of research funding. She spoke about the good return on investment of seed funding and reviewed how expenditures fuel publication output. Interim Vice President Jenkins outlined the relationship between URI's Division of Research and Economic Development and the URI Research Foundation. She highlighted incredible faculty and students working on research at the University, including the work being done at the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience. She spoke briefly about intellectual property and the division's work around business engagement and the business development center.

Board members discussed efforts to grow post-award support, including utilizing strategic investments to add more human resource capabilities centrally in the division, improving communication within the divisions, and expanding localized support.

Committee Chair Kerwin reported that he and Provost Wolfe have been talking about instructional effectiveness in student success. He noted that the Committee will be spending more time on this in the future.

- (ii) **ACTION ITEM: Approval of the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Summer 2023 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island. [Enclosure](#)**

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Summer 2023 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Jay Placencia, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and honors to be conferred by the President to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Summer 2023 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

f. Student Life and Athletics Committee Report

- (i) Update – September 7, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Ryan reported on activity at the September 7, 2023, Student Life and Athletics Committee meeting. He noted that part of the committee's responsibility is to make sure URI is

following all federal and state NCAA rules and regulations. The committee discussed the student-athletes' transfer portal, Name-Image-and-Likeness (NIL) in college athletics, and the upcoming changes to the student-athletic holistic model.

Athletics Director Thorr Bjorn provided a brief overview of the presentation made to the committee ([linked here](#)). He pointed out that forty-five percent of student-athletes that enter the transfer portal do not find a home. Director Bjorn explained that his department is now tracking those student-athletes that transferred from URI. He noted that URI is now recruiting differently because of recent changes to the transfer portal rules.

Director Bjorn spoke about NIL, highlighting ways that URI is allowed to generate revenue to provide resources for student-athletes, including entrepreneurship opportunities, the Rhode to Excellence Collective, and Opendorse. He outlined what is allowed and not allowed in terms of institutional involvement. Director Bjorn noted that educating the student-athletes about NIL is essential.

Director Bjorn reviewed the benefit changes the NCAA has made to the Holistic Student-Athlete Model that will take effect on August 1, 2024. Listed on a presentation slide are the new responsibilities every institution will have for its student-athletes. These responsibilities will have budgetary impacts. The University is looking into making sure that URI is providing services for its student-athletes.

8. OMNIBUS VOTE ON COMMITTEE-RELATED ACTION ITEMS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approval of the actions described below, as recommended by the referenced committees and presented in the referenced enclosures where applicable:

- a. Approval of amendments to the Executive Committee Charter and Calendar. [Enclosure](#)
- b. Approval of amendments to the Compensation Subcommittee Charter and Calendar. [Enclosure](#)
- c. Approval of the 2025 URI Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar. [Enclosure](#)
- d. Approval of Minutes of the Jun 29, 2023, Board Meeting and Retreat. [Enclosure](#)

Chair Cook called for an omnibus motion to approve agenda action items 8.a., 8.b., 8.c., and 8.d. as recommended and presented in the enclosures.

On an omnibus motion duly made by Cortney Nicolato and seconded by Armand Sabitoni, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve agenda action items 8.a., 8.b., 8.c. and 8.d., as recommended and

presented.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Cook listed upcoming University events open for Board participation:

- October 5th: URI Day of Giving
- October 10th: President Parlange's State of the University Address
- October 17th: Langevin Symposium Series
Polarization of Politics in America: Finding the Center
- October 21st: 2023 Distinguished Achievement Awards Ceremony

9. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Ryan and seconded by Charles Fogarty, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees adjourn the September 22, 2023, meeting.

VOTE: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Charles Fogarty, Joe Formicola, Monica Garnes, Neil Kerwin, Roby Luna, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

At 2:17 p.m., this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2023.