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Melissa Sutherland, Ph.D., FAAN
Faculty Representative

Revaa Goyal '27
Student Representative

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Meeting Friday, November 3, 2023 · 9:00 a.m. EDT

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Margo Cook welcomed everyone to the November 3, 2023, meeting of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Board of Trustees and noted that the meeting was being held in person in Green Hall, 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.

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)
- Honorable Charles J. Fogarty, Jr. (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Formicola (in person)
- Dr. Neil Kerwin (remote)
- Mr. Matthew Lenz (in person)
- Mr. Joseph Matthews (remote)
- Ms. Cortney Nicolato (in person)
- Ms. Jay Placencia (remote)
- Mr. Thomas Ryan (in person)

URI Board of Trustees Meeting
November 3, 2023

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

URI Board of Trustees members not participating:

- Ms. Monica Garnes
- Mr. Richard Humphrey
- Mr. Roby Luna

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. Thorr Bjorn, Director, Athletics (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:

- Ms. Tracey Angell, Assistant Vice President, Strategic Procurement (remote)
- 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. Lauren Jensen, Associate General Counsel (in person)
- Chief Michael Jagoda, Director of Public Safety (in person)
- Dr. Kerry LaPlante, Dean, Pharmacy (in person)
- Dr. E. Paul Larrat, Pharmacy (in person)
- Ms. Kara Larsen, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management (remote)
- Ms. Katherine Kittredge, Associate Director, Campus Design (in person)
- Dr. Dan Moos, Assistant to the Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)

- Mr. John Poehlmann, Assistant Vice President, Financial Strategy and Planning (in person)
- Deputy Chief of Police Paul Ricci (in person)
- Dr. Sean Rogers, Dean, College of Business (in person)
- Mr. John Stringer, Executive Director, Institution Research (in person)

Invited Guest:

- Representative K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House (in person)

Open Forum Speaker:

- Dr. Jay Walsh, Executive Director, URI Chapter, American Association of University Professors (in person)

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

Chair Cook congratulated Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni who received the Rhode Island Institute for Labor Studies and Research Lifetime Achievement Award and thanked him for all he has done for labor over the years. She welcomed Rhode Island Board of Education chair, Michael Grey, to his first URI Board of Trustees meeting.

2. 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 URI and the American Association of University Professionals (AAUP) have maintained a contract for fifty-two years. As contracts have been strengthened, relationships have improved. He stressed that neither the union nor the Board (or its employees) can unilaterally alter terms and conditions of employment. Dr. Walsh noted that changes to existing policies impact terms and conditions of employment and must be collectively bargained. He added that attempts to raise the research profile of URI, changes to the standards for retention, promotion and tenure, and any impacts that incentive-based budgeting has on the work of faculty members are also explicitly connected to terms and conditions of employment and must be bargained. Dr. Walsh added that the AAUP is always willing to talk and looks forward to future conversations about issues the Board may be considering.

President Parlange presented his report prior to welcome remarks from Chair Cook and Speaker Shekarchi.

3. WELCOME REMARKS

Chair Cook welcomed Speaker of the House, K. Joseph Shekarchi to URI. She expressed her gratitude for the Speaker's support of URI as the flagship university of Rhode Island. She stated that he was one of the primary drivers of the 16% increase in state appropriations last year, \$20 million in funding for a new water supply treatment system (PFAS mitigation), and \$65.8 million for the athletics complex renewal. Chair Cook recognized the Speaker's support of the \$100 million Bay Campus Bond and Blue Economy

initiatives, along with life sciences initiatives at URI and within the state. She stated that URI would not be in the position that it is in without Speaker Shekarchi's guidance and investment in URI, creatively and financially.

President Parlange welcomed Speaker Shekarchi and thanked him for his support of URI.

Representative Shekarchi thanked Chair Cook, President Parlange and board members for their warm welcome. He stated that the Rhode Island General Assembly recognizes the economic benefits of supporting URI and has made strategic investments to help the university thrive and grow to become and remain a first-class institution. Speaker Shekarchi itemized the investments the state has made to URI recently, including paying back \$30 million in general obligation bonds on new URI facilities, significant increases to RICAP funding and structural adjustments to the state's operating budget. He encouraged the Board and the President to consider the state as a partner, and to leverage the state's support with alumni and businesses. Speaker Shekarchi encouraged URI to be part of the growth of biomedical opportunities in Rhode Island and to continue fostering relationships with local representatives and members of the General Assembly by inviting them to campus and participating in URI Day at the State House. He suggested that URI engage with the non-profit entity, Partnership for Rhode Island, for help in capturing federal grants. He concluded by saying his door is always open.

Vice Chair Armand Sabitoni thanked Speaker Shekarchi for his commitment to URI. He assured the Speaker that URI will continue to be a good partner with the state of Rhode Island.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. University Update
- b. Government Relations Update
- c. Budget Update

President Parlange presented an update on campus activities, state appropriations, the FY2025 budget request, government relations, the Hope Scholarship, and the campus master plan. His slides can be found [here](#). He welcomed Board of Education Chair Michael Grey to his first URI Board of Trustees meeting.

Campus updates included recognition of URI's new dean of the College of Pharmacy, Kerry LaPlante. The President highlighted a number of URI community events, including the State of the University address, recent theater productions, the guitar festival, Quad Fest (in conjunction with Day of Giving which broke one-day funding records), technical conferences, the Amanpour lecture, the second Langevin Symposium, and former Secretary Gorbea's meeting with students at the Women's Center. President Parlange remarked that the numerous campus vigils and gatherings organized recently emphasize the importance of maintaining an inclusive environment where everybody feels safe.

President Parlange announced that on December 16, 2023, URI will hold its first university-wide fall commencement. Spring Commencement is planned for May 17-19, 2024.

Regarding the FY2025 budget request, the President reported that the University met with state officials in the Office of Management and Budget to present its request for \$137.5 million in state appropriation,

\$16.3 million in RICAP FY25 Asset Protection, and an \$87.45 million General Obligation Bond request for a new Biomedical Life Sciences Building. President Parlange reviewed FY2024 enacted funding levels, and expressed his gratitude to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President and members of the General Assembly for the increased state appropriations funding. He spoke about the shift in setting and reporting tuition rates until February to be more in line with when URI's peers announce their tuition rates.

President Parlange reviewed URI's operating budget shortfall, the current service level, and efforts to balance the budget. He noted that the FY2025 State Appropriation request is aligned with the strategic initiatives of the Focus URI Strategic Plan, including broadening our impact by increasing life sciences faculty at URI, enhancing student achievement by increasing the number of academic advisors, fostering an inclusive culture by funding the Talent Development Program, National Guard tuition waivers and Tribal scholarships, and powering the University of the future by investing in IT modernization. He reviewed the asset protection request (RICAP-\$16.3 million) for necessary work planned for URI facilities, along with continued RICAP support of stormwater management. The President discussed URI's request for an \$87.45 million General Obligation Bond for a biomedical life science building to support the goals of the RI Life Sciences Hub, to support over 6,000 students currently studying life sciences, to advance research funding, and to improve wet lab space on campus to train the next generation of students. He reviewed the FY2025 legislative timeline and URI's planned efforts to advance its requests for funding.

President Parlange referred to the new Hope Scholarship and stressed the importance of students seeking higher education in the state of Rhode Island having a choice and an opportunity to go to the University of Rhode Island. He presented a slide illustrating the impact of the Hope Scholarship on URI. The President advocated for URI's inclusion in the Hope Scholarship as an eligible institution to ensure the success of all our students.

Concluding his report, the President celebrated Rhode Island being selected as a designated technology hub by the US Department of Commerce. He stated the area of focus is undersea vehicle technology. He spoke of plans to advance a new Campus Master Plan and the recently completed Student Housing and Residential Life Master Plan. Board members spoke of the urgency of building the biomedical life sciences building and asked if there are ways to accelerate the timeline. Chair Cook asked for a timeline from idea to build to understand the full process. Interim Vice President Abby Benson noted the state's purchasing requirements and offered to provide more details on schedule and phasing for the life sciences building and new undergraduate housing.

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Board Engagement

Chair Cook encouraged board members to be more present and engaged in activities at URI in addition to attending board meetings. She noted that Cortney Nicolato and Jay Placencia are working on metrics and goals for the Board, to be reviewed in February. Chair Cook stated that she hopes board members will become familiar faces at URI events and added that the trustees will learn more about the University by attending events on campus. She noted that participation provides a better, holistic view of why we do what we do as trustees. She pointed to the URI website and the BoardEffect portal as

resources to learn about campus events and reported that the board secretary is getting more active in reaching out to individual board members on events that may be of particular interest to them.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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)(3) for discussion regarding an assessment of information technology security, as it relates to the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices, and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7), as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds, and,

R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been noticed in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting. That person has been notified in writing that these discussions will happen in a session closed to the public.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and seconded by Matthew Lenz and Jay Placencia, 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)(3) for discussion regarding an assessment of information technology security, as it relates to the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices, and R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7), as it relates to the question of the investment of public funds, and

R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been noticed in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members Kerwin, Matthews, and Placencia, participating remotely, confirmed that no other person was present or able to hear the discussion at the remote location.

At 10:30 a.m., the Board entered executive session. Virtual public access was paused.

At 11:07 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
November 3, 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, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz,
Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri,
Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert
Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. **Housing and Residential Life Master Plan** [Enclosure](#)

Chair Cook introduced this important item as a critical need for URI. The Housing and Residential Life Master Plan was presented to the Finance and Facilities and Institutional Risk and Compliance Committees and the Student Life and Athletics Committee during their meetings in October. It was also reviewed in detail at the ad hoc special Real Estate Committee meeting. Chair Cook noted that there are some questions about the scope of the plan and some process issues to ensure that we will get the most qualified candidates through the Request for Qualifications process.

Interim Vice President Abby Benson presented the Housing and Residential Life Master Plan. The presentation can be found [here](#). She expressed her thanks for the feedback received from board members and recognized Vice President Reynolds and Assistant Vice President Cooley as partners in advancing this Master Plan.

Interim Vice President Benson provided a high-level summary of the recently completed Housing and Residential Life Master Plan, which was completed with the support of Scion Advisory Services and Cannon Design. The purpose of the Master Plan is to:

:

- Establish a vision for the future of URI Housing.
- Conduct a facilities condition assessment of all residential buildings.
- Provide a housing experience that aligns with student and family expectations and supports academic success.
- Create an actionable plan for URI Housing and Residence Life that is informed by institutional goals and is aligned with the Mission, Vision, and Organizational Values of Housing & Residential Life.
- Analyze the impact of the ideal program on financial performance. Base financial models on URI business plans and create a system-wide financial model for the proposed plan.

The plan outlines a 15-year path forward to provide net 703 assignable beds added to undergraduate inventory by Fall 2039, including 1,346 new beds financed by URI and 900 new beds financed through a P3, with 1,543 beds demolished.

Interim Vice President Benson noted that board members who have already reviewed the Master Plan have stated that the plan is not aggressive enough. She pointed out that on the slide entitled, “15-Year Summary: Undergraduate Bed Counts & Phasing”, the top number (estimated total cost) has been changed from what was listed on the presentation made to the committees. The previous slide included the cost for the parking garage; that number has been removed from today’s presentation. She stated that she is thankful for the feedback received so far from the Board.

Chair Cook stated that the Master Plan is squarely in the ad hoc special Real Estate Committee, where discussion is ongoing to make sure we are all comfortable with the scope, to explore funding options, and to look at the timing. Board members discussed the high need for updated housing and considered bidding options allowed through the state’s purchasing procedures. Interim Vice President Benson stated that URI will initially seek requests for qualifications (RFQ) to see which firms are interested in working with URI followed by a more detailed request for proposals (RFP) advertised. Board member Fascitelli noted that the university must look at the best way to finance construction of new student housing and look at its bond rating before deciding to self-fund or manage using a P3 opportunity. Interim Vice President Benson confirmed that the university is evaluating its funding options. Board member Ryan noted that the university will provide the Board a listing of schools that have used P3 opportunities to construct new campus facilities.

b. Safety & Security on campus [2023 Clery Report Presentation](#) [2023 Clery Report](#)

Michael Jagoda, Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety, joined by Deputy Chief of Police Paul Ricci, made a presentation to the Board on the 2023 Clery Report. The presentation can be found [here](#) and provides a high-level summary of the Clery Report, completed by Public Safety annually. The purpose of the Clery Report is to:

- Comply with Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act (“the Clery Act”)
- Report certain crimes (“Clery crimes” and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA))
- Inform about Community Policing and Outreach Events

The report provides a review of crimes reported to public safety as required by the Clery Act. It also outlines the activities undertaken by the Department of Public Safety to maintain the safety and security of all URI campuses.

Chief Jagoda noted that he is proud of the Public Safety Department at URI and recognized stakeholders for their great support, including the Office of the President, the Provost's Office, Interim Vice President Abby Benson, and Vice President Ellen Reynolds, among others. The Chief recognized Kelley Ryan, coordinator of violence prevention and advocacy services in Health Services within the Department of Student Services, for her great work supporting students through outreach and education.

Chief Jagoda spoke about the increase in antisemitic and LGBTQ+ community hate crimes nationwide. He reported that the Department of Public Safety collaborates directly with the Attorney General's office and its newly formed hate crime and civil rights unit. All officers have gone through comprehensive training and work cooperatively with the many multicultural organizations on campus. There were no reported hate crimes in 2022.

The Chief spoke about training available to campus security authorities through the coordinator of community outreach and education, as well as active shooter training, the Stop the Bleed national campaign to train bystanders, the Citizens Police Academy, and training of resident assistants, students, and staff. He highlighted the importance of community policing - partnering with the community to collaborate and problem solve – to build relationships, trust, and confidence. He noted that these partnerships have been successful in making URI a safe community for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Chair Cook thanked Chief Jagoda for the presentation and noted her appreciation for his approach and the results presented. Board members will be sent a link to the Department of Public Safety's safety preparedness video.

At 12:06 p.m., the Board recessed for lunch and returned to session at 12:25 p.m.

8. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Executive Committee/Compensation Subcommittee Report

- (i) Update – October 24, 2023, Joint Committee Meeting
- (ii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Comprehensive Presidential Performance Review Process – Update on steps associated with the process, and commencement of the process.

Chair Cook reported that the Executive Committee and the Compensation Subcommittee met on October 24th to talk about the comprehensive presidential performance review process. An announcement to the community about the comprehensive presidential review will be sent next week. A survey will be sent to about five hundred fifty people within six major stakeholder groups including the Board of Trustees (4%), state and federal leadership (3%), the administration and staff (13%), representative faculty (30%), students (44%), and alumni and external stakeholders (6%).

Board members received copies of the draft community announcement, the survey introduction letter, a listing of groups surveyed and the survey questions. Chair Cook noted that survey results will be compiled and shared with the Board. If the Board feels that there are comments that need further review, interviews may be scheduled.

Chair Cook reported that the University's Faculty Senate conducts its own presidential review, consistent with their policies. She has been invited to sit on that review committee.

b. Ad Hoc Special Real Estate Committee Report

(i) Update – October 30, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Michael Fascitelli reported on activity at the October 30, 2023, meeting of the ad hoc special Real Estate committee. He stated that the committee met in executive session to discuss property and housing opportunities where advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest. He added that the committee talked about the Housing and Residential Life Master Plan and heard an update from Interim Vice President Benson on the RI Agricultural Technologies project work and site plans for the Tomaquag Museum.

c. Finance and Facilities Committee Report

(i) Update – October 23, 2023, Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Institutional Risk and Compliance Committees

Committee Chair Vahid Ownjazayeri reported on activity considered by the Finance and Facilities Committee during the October 23, 2023, joint meeting. He noted that the joint committees reviewed the Housing and Residential Life Master Plan and agreed that the ad hoc special Real Estate Committee should take the lead on advancing the Plan.

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri noted that Board policy requires that transactions valued at \$5 million or more are brought to the Board for approval before a contract is signed. Going forward, when a contract is brought to the Committee for approval pursuant to this provision of the policy, the Committee will, as a matter of practice, recommend that the Board's approval of the contract include any necessary change orders up to 20% cumulatively, as long as the change orders do not materially impact the nature of the contract or the scope of services. Any change orders greater than that, or that will materially alter the nature of the contract, will have to go back to the Board. This new process will expedite university purchasing by allowing the president and administration to approve those change orders without going back to the Board.

(ii) DISCUSSION ITEM: Approvals Under the Delegation of Authority to the President Relating to Land and Property: An Easement Agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Narragansett Electric Company for an overhead and underground distribution system on the southerly side of South Ferry Road, Narragansett (Plats N-C, Lots 6B & 7). [Enclosure](#)

Committee Chair Ownjazayeri reported on an approval under the delegation of authority to the President to support site work at the Narragansett Bay Campus.

- (iii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of an Amendment to the Contract between the University of Rhode Island and Atlantic Control Systems. [Enclosure](#)

Following a brief overview by Interim Vice President Benson, Committee Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approve an amendment to the contract between the University of Rhode Island and Atlantic Control Systems, effective November 3, 2023, as presented in the enclosure.

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 approve an amendment to the contract between the University of Rhode Island and Atlantic Control Systems effective November 3, 2023, 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, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Contract between the University of Rhode Island and Nexgen Mechanical. [Enclosure](#)

Following a brief overview by Interim Vice President Benson, Committee Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the contract between the University of Rhode Island and Nexgen Mechanical effective August 17, 2023, as presented in the enclosure.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the contract between the University of Rhode Island and Nexgen Mechanical effective August 17, 2023, 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, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (v) ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Communications Site License Agreement between the University of Rhode Island and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a Rooftop Facility on Eddy Hall. [Enclosure](#)

Following a brief overview by Interim Vice President Benson, Committee Chair Ownjazayeri called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the request to execute a Communications Site License Agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless for a rooftop facility on Eddy Hall at the University of Rhode Island Kingston Campus, as presented in the enclosure.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the request to execute a Communications Site License Agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless for a rooftop facility on Eddy Hall at the University of Rhode Island Kingston Campus, 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, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

d. Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee Report

- (i) Update – October 23, 2023, Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Institutional Risk and Compliance Committees

Committee Vice Chair Matthew Lenz reported on items considered by the Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee during the October 23, 2023, joint meeting. He noted that the audited financial statements were reviewed at the committee meeting. Interim Vice President Benson reported to the Board that the University received a clean audit. She reviewed the high points of the audit as laid out in the executive summary included in the [enclosure](#).

- (ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the audited financial statements for the University of Rhode Island for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. [Enclosure](#)

Committee Vice Chair Lenz called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island's audited Financial Statements for FY 2023, as presented in the enclosure.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees approve the University of Rhode Island's audited Financial Statements for FY 2023, 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, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazyari, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

e. Academic Affairs and Research Committee Report

- (i) Update – October 26, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Neil Kerwin reported on activity considered by the Academic Affairs and Research Committee at its October 26, 2023, meeting. He stated that the Committee heard from the Chief Academic Officer and the Chief Research Officer.

Provost Wolfe announced the appointment of Kerry LaPlante, dean of the College of Pharmacy, following a thorough and competitive search. She said that the University is planning a Fall Commencement Ceremony on December 16, 2023, at the Ryan Center.

(ii) Fall Enrollment Report 2023 [Enclosure](#)

Associate Vice President Dean Libutti presented a report on Fall Enrollment 2023, which can be found [here](#).

Associate Vice President Libutti noted that URI received 25,391 applications this year. He reviewed Fall 2023 first-year undergraduate enrollment statistics, including in-state, out-of-state, and regional, along with transfer enrollment numbers. He said that URI works closely with CCRI on the development of their general education program and URI courses to ensure that we have a robust transfer program. URI continues to make improvements to the transfer portal.

Associate Vice President Libutti highlighted recruitment strengths, such as enhanced communication focused on families and onboarding, and cross-campus collaboration. He discussed recruitment challenges, such as triple residence halls, economic inflation, increased regional competition, tuition discounts, and free tuition offered through the RI Promise and RIC Hope scholarships. He presented a new slide listing the top 20 institutions where admitted students enrolled instead of URI.

Associate Vice President Libutti reviewed his slide illustrating how URI has changed over the past fifteen years in terms of race and ethnicity and highlighted the tremendous growth in our Latino and Hispanic population. Slides depicting enrollment by college and type of degree were explained. Another new slide showed enrollment by degree status and level over the past fifteen years.

Concluding his report, Associate Vice President Libutti spent time reviewing the anticipated impact of the new RIC Hope scholarship. He celebrated the state's investment in Rhode Island students and its public institutions but noted that the state should provide equal access to all programs. He highlighted URI's high retention and graduation rates and the numerous and varied majors available only at URI, many offering the highest paying jobs in the state. He stressed that the state should provide equal access to all programs so students can come to URI to become engineers or work in cell and molecular biology. When states provide free tuition in certain places, it changes the enrollment nature of institutions in what students major in, which can have an economic impact on the state. Board members discussed the immediate economic impact to URI if the Hope scholarship became available to Rhode Island students to attend URI, including the student housing shortage and the out-of-state student population.

(iii) 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 will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Fall 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 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 will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Fall 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 will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Fall 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, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- (iv) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the granting of tenure, effective January 1, 2024, to an incoming faculty member who has met the requirements for tenure at URI.

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective January 1, 2024, to an incoming faculty member who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in executive session.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective January 1, 2024, to an incoming faculty member who has met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and 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, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(v) ACTION ITEM: Approval of the awarding of honorary degrees for Commencement 2024.

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of honorary degrees to the recipients proposed by the Office of the President and the Nominating Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees approve the awarding of honorary degrees to the recipients proposed by the Office of the President and the Nominating Committee.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

f. Governance Committee Report

(i) Update – October 26, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Cortney Nicolato reported on activity considered by the Governance Committee at its October 26, 2023, meeting. She stated that the Committee discussed its annual report and will

be working with university officials to prepare a memo on Board activity to be delivered to the Governor in early 2024. Part of that memo will include a listing of members whose terms expire in February 2024, and their interest in being reappointed. Referencing Chair Cook's report on Board engagement, Committee Chair Nicolato noted that key performance indicators are being developed and will be shared at the February meeting. She called on Dr. Dan Moos, Assistant to the Vice President, Administration and Finance, who provided an overview of proposed amendments to the University's policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees.

- (ii) ACTION ITEM: Approval of Proposed Amendments to the University's Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees. [Enclosure](#)

Following Dr. Moos' update on the proposed policy amendments, Committee Chair Nicolato called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Awarding of Honorary Degrees, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.

On a motion duly made by Matthew Lenz and Neil Kerwin, and seconded by Jay Placencia, and hearing no discussion on the motion, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The URI Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to the URI Board of Trustees Policy on Awarding of Honorary Degrees, as recommended and presented in the enclosure.
	VOTE:	13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Joseph Matthews, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

Board member Charles Fogarty left the meeting prior to the vote.

g. Student Life and Athletics Committee Report

- (i) Update – October 25, 2023, Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Thomas Ryan chose to forego his report, as the two topics discussed at the October 25th Committee meeting, the Housing and Residential Life Master Plan and the 2023 Clery Report, were presented to the full board earlier in the day.

9. 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 minutes of the September 22, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. [Enclosure](#)

Chair Cook called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting.

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

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

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members Charles Fogarty and Joseph Matthews left the meeting prior to the vote.

Referring to the URI Foundation's annual report that was distributed to Board members, Chair Cook celebrated the fact that the Campaign has raised \$282 million towards the goal of \$300 million.

10. ADJOURN

Chair Cook called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Armand Sabitoni and Vahid Ownjazayeri, and seconded by Matthew Lenz, it was

VOTED: THAT The URI Board of Trustees adjourn the November 3, 2023, meeting.

VOTE: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Margo Cook, Maria Ducharme, Michael Fascitelli, Joseph Formicola, Neil Kerwin, Matthew Lenz, Cortney Nicolato, Vahid Ownjazayeri, Jay Placencia, Thomas Ryan, Armand Sabitoni, Robert Weygand

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Board members Charles Fogarty and Joseph Matthews left the meeting prior to the vote.

At 1:46 p.m., this meeting ended.

The next URI Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2024.

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