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Melissa Sutherland, Ph.D., FAAN
Faculty Representative

Revaa Goyal '27
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2023 · 9:00 a.m. EDT**

**The University of Rhode Island
Avedisian Hall, Meeting Room 207
7 Greenhouse Road
Kingston, RI 02881**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting was held in person, with committee members participating remotely. Virtual public access to the meeting was available via the YouTube video platform and is available for viewing at <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>.

Committee Chair Neil Kerwin welcomed everyone to the June 15, 2023, meeting of the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees. He conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present. At 9:01 a.m., this meeting was called to order.

The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee members in attendance:

- Dr. Neil Kerwin (Committee Chair) (remote)
- Honorable Charles Fogarty (Committee Vice Chair) (remote)
- Dr. Melissa Sutherland (non-voting) (remote)
- Dr. Marc Parlange, President (ex officio, non-voting) (remote)

The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee member not in attendance:

- Mr. Richard Humphrey

"The University of Rhode Island occupies the traditional stomping ground of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic People. We honor and respect the enduring and continuing relationship between the indigenous people and this land by teaching and learning more about their history and present-day communities, and by becoming stewards of the land we, too, inhabit."

The University of Rhode Island President's Leadership Council members in attendance:

- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Interim Vice President for Research & Economic Development (remote)
- Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Dean, College of Business, Alfred J. Verrecchia-Hasbro Inc. Leadership Chair in Business, and former Chief Diversity Officer (remote)
- Dr. Barbara E. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (remote)

The University of Rhode Island staff members in attendance:

- Mr. Christian Cowan, Executive Director, URI Research Foundation (remote)
- Ms. Michelle Curreri, Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Dr. Brenton DeBoef, Dean, Graduate School (remote)
- Dr. Danielle Dennis, Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies (in person)
- Ms. Michelle Fontes, Assistant Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity (remote)
- Mr. Peter Harrington, Associate General Counsel (remote)
- Dr. Stephen Kogut, Professor, College of Pharmacy (remote)
- Dr. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success (remote)
- Ms. Lynn Owens, Associate Secretary to the Board of Trustees (in person)
- Ms. Shawn Marie Simmons, Executive Assistant (remote)
- Dr. Sara Sweetman, Associate Professor, Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies (remote)
- Dr. Anne Veeger, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Initiatives (remote)

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

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion to amend the order of the agenda to allow for Discussion Item 4.a. to be considered first.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED	THAT:	The Academic Affairs and Research Committee approve amending the order of the agenda to allow for Discussion Item 4.a. to be considered first.
	VOTE:	2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin
	NAYS:	0

ABSTAINS: 0

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the April 6, 2023, Meeting

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held April 6, 2023. ([Enclosure](#))

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee approve the minutes for the meeting held April 6, 2023.

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

4. DISCUSSION ITEM

- a. Review enrollment management activities, outcomes, and initial enrollment projections for 2023-24 academic year. (Informational)

- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success

Dr. Dean Libutti, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, provided a presentation on the status of fall enrollment. He noted that he will finalize today's preliminary figures for the Board of Trustees in October. ([Enclosure](#))

2. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

- a. Search Updates
- b. Current Academic Initiatives
- c. Academic Unit Action Plans Status Update
- d. New URI Online Graduate Programs
 - i. Master of Environmental Management
 - ii. Master of Professional Studies

iii. Master of Health Outcomes and Data Analytics

- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Anne Veeger, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Initiatives

Provost Wolfe reported on the continuing searches for three college dean positions with assistance from the search firm, Isaacson Miller. She discussed academic initiatives and provided an update on the progress of the academic unit action plans. She and Dr. Anne Veeger then described the three new online graduate programs, Master of Environmental Management, Master of Professional Studies, and Master of Health Outcomes and Data Analytics, which are part of the action items on this agenda. ([Enclosure](#))

3. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER

- Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Interim Vice President, Research and Economic Development
- Mr. Christian Cowan, Executive Director of the URI Research Foundation

Dr. Bethany Jenkins, Interim Vice President, Research and Economic Development, and Mr. Christian Cowan, Executive Director of the URI Research Foundation, presented an update on the work of the Division of Research and Economic Development and the URI Research Foundation. They discussed the restructuring of the National Science Foundation and how it will affect the direction and funding of research. Dr. Jenkins' presentation can be found [here](#). Mr. Cowan's presentation can be found [here](#).

4. DISCUSSION ITEM

- b. 2023 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 4.b.](#)

Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Dean, College of Business, Alfred J. Verrecchia-Hasbro Inc. Leadership Chair in Business, and former Chief Diversity Officer, presented the URI annual diversity report ([Enclosure](#)). Dr. Rogers introduced Michelle Fontes, the Assistant Vice President for Community, Equity and Diversity (CED). He also talked about resetting expectations for the Office of CED and taking action to produce more opportunity and innovation.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Review of the granting of tenure for University of Rhode Island faculty members, effective July 1, 2023, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure 5.a.](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin call for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the

granting of tenure, effective July 1, 2023, to the designated faculty members who have met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.a.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the granting of tenure, effective July 1, 2023, to the designated faculty members who have met the requirements for tenure at the University of Rhode Island, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.a.

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Review of amendments to the Academic Affairs and Research Committee Charter and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure 5.b.](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Committee Charter as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.b.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Committee Charter as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.b.

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- c. Review of amendments to the Academic Affairs and Research Committee Calendar and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure 5.c.](#)

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Committee Calendar as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.c.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Committee Calendar as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.c.

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- d. Review and approve legislation recommended by the Faculty Senate and the President: [Enclosure 5.d.](#)

- i. Closure of the URI Joint PhD in Education
- ii. New Master's Degree in Environmental Management
- iii. New Master's Degree in Professional Studies
- iv. New Master's Degree in Health Outcomes and Data Analytics
- v. New Master's Degree in Professional Studies
- vi. New Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Education

Dr. Anne Veeger explained each program change prior to the Committee taking action.

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Research Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees approve legislation recommended by the Faculty Senate and the President, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.d., specifically:

- i. Closure of the URI Joint PhD in Education
- ii. New Master's Degree in Environmental Management

- iii. New Master's Degree in Professional Studies
- iv. New Master's Degree in Health Outcomes and Data Analytics
- v. New Master's Degree in Professional Studies
- vi. New Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Education

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED THAT: The Academic Affairs and Research Committee of the URI Board of Trustees recommend that the Board of Trustees approve legislation recommended by the Faculty Senate and the President, as recommended and presented in Enclosure 5.d., specifically:

- i. Closure of the URI Joint PhD in Education
- ii. New Master's Degree in Environmental Management
- iii. New Master's Degree in Professional Studies
- iv. New Master's Degree in Health Outcomes and Data Analytics
- v. New Master's Degree in Professional Studies
- vi. New Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Education

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Kerwin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 15, 2023.

On a motion duly made by Charles Fogarty and seconded by Neil Kerwin, it was

VOTED: THAT: The URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee adjourn the meeting of June 15, 2023.

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Charles Fogarty, Neil Kerwin

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting is scheduled for September 2023.

Official