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## The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting September 14, 2023, 2:30 p.m. EDT

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

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

To view the meeting remotely,  
go to <https://web.uri.edu/trustees/meetings/>  
and select the meeting to watch.

**Face coverings are now optional for all faculty, staff, students,  
and visitors attending this on-campus meeting.**

### AGENDA

#### 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the June 15, 2023, Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting [Enclosure 1.a.](#)

#### 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Review of the establishment and registration of a branch and/or other appropriate operational model under the laws of the Republic of Madagascar for the "The USAID Resilient Inclusive Abundance in Key Ecosystems (RIAKE) Madagascar Program" under the leadership and direction of URI's Coastal Resources Center.  
- Dr. Elin Torell, Coastal Resources Center, Director for International Programs. [Enclosure 2.a.](#)

*"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 is an equal opportunity employer committed to community, equity, and diversity and to the principles of affirmative action.*

**b. Review of proposed amendments to the URI Honorary Degree Policy. [Enclosure 2.b.](#)**

- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Dan Moos, Assistant to the Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance

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

- a. Early Fall Enrollment**
- b. New Leaders and Faculty**
- c. Global Update**
- d. Strategic Planning**
- e. Other Updates and Incentive Based Budgeting (IBB)**

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

**4. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER [Enclosure 4](#)**

- a. Review goals and outcomes of research, scholarship, and creative work of the faculty and economic development efforts and impacts of university partnerships, and initiatives.**
- b. Update on Activities of the Division of Research & Economic Development, Research & Economic Development, Research Metrics for the University, Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment.**

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

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. The Committee will ratify action taken at the June 28, 2023 Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting ([draft minutes linked here](#)), as that meeting was improperly noticed:**

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

- (i) Organizational Change: Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies to be renamed the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education. Proposal will dissolve the school of professional studies.

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

- b. Review 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, and recommendation for approval to the URI Board of Trustees. [Enclosure 5.b.](#)**

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

## **6. ADJOURN**

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023.

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