



Members

Margo Cook '86, *Chair*

Armand E. Sabitoni '73, *Vice Chair*

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

Michael D. Fascitelli '78

Charles Fogarty M.P.A. '80

Joe Formicola '69

Monica J. Garnes '94

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

Matthew Lenz '11

Roby Luna '04

David Martirano '91

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

Reva Goyal '27
Student Representative

**The University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 · 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 optional for all faculty, staff, students,
and visitors attending this on-campus meeting.**

AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the February 7, 2024 Academic Affairs and Research
Committee Meeting [Enclosure 1.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.”

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

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

a. Updates on:

- (i) Coffee and Conversations**
- (ii) Academic Affairs Update**
- (iii) Committee and Task Force Updates**
- (iv) Personnel Update**
- (v) Honorary Degrees**
- (vi) 2024 Commencement**

3. REPORT OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER

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

a. Report on Activities, Metrics of Success, and Strategic Planning for the URI Research Foundation

b. Update on Division staffing

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Academic Affairs and Research Committee may seek to enter into executive session for the following item:

- a. Discussion regarding matters related to the question of the investment of public funds, which includes any investment plan or matter related thereto, where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(7); specifically,**

- Investment in potential programming**

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

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Annual Review of the Academic Affairs and Research Committee Charter
[Enclosure](#)

Dr. Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair

b. Annual Review of the Academic Affairs and Research Committee Calendar
[Enclosure](#)

Dr. Neil Kerwin, Committee Chair

6. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Approval of the awarding of posthumous academic degrees at Spring Commencement 2024, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.** [Enclosure](#)
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- b. **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 Spring 2024 term and who are approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.** [Enclosure](#)
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- c. **Approval of legislation from the Faculty Senate Curriculum & Standards Committee Report #2023-2024-07C, and the Graduate Council Report #2023-2024-10C, which have been approved by the faculty and president of the University of Rhode Island, and recommendation to the URI Board of Trustees.** [Enclosure](#)
 - (i) **Organizational Change: reducing the number of required upper division credits for BA degrees in the College of Arts & Sciences**
 - (ii) **New Program: MA in UX/UI Design in the College of Arts & Sciences**
Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

7. ADJOURN

The next URI Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for June, 2024.

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.