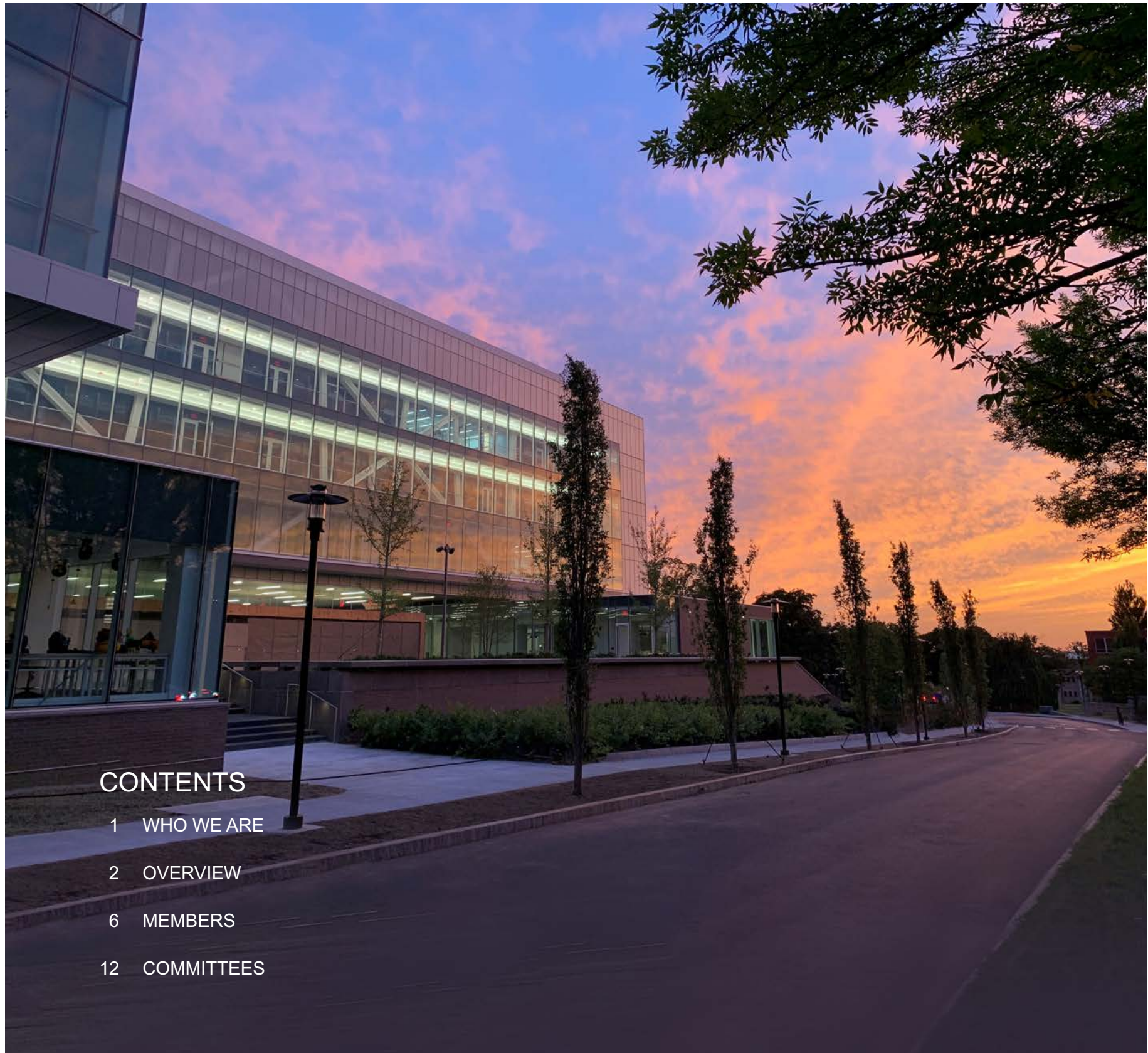




THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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## WHO WE ARE

### THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Margo L. Cook, C.F.A. '86, chair (Florida)

Michael F. McNally, M.B.A. '81, vice chair  
(Rhode Island)

Karina Montilla Edmonds '92 (California)

Michael D. Fascitelli '78, Hon. '08 (New York)

Charles J. Fogarty, M.P.A. '80 (Rhode Island)

Christine M. Heenan (Rhode Island)

Richard S. Humphrey (Rhode Island)

Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, M.A. '73 (Maryland)

Matthew D. Lenz '11 (Rhode Island)

Roby Luna '04 (Florida)

David J. Martirano '91 (Rhode Island)

Cortney M. Nicolato '01 (Rhode Island)

Vahid Ownjazayeri (Rhode Island)

Susan Petrovas '92 (Rhode Island)

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01 (Rhode Island)

Thomas M. Ryan '75, Hon. '99 (Rhode Island)

Armand E. Sabitoni '73 (Rhode Island)

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Marc B. Parlange, president, University of  
Rhode Island

Hannah Bachert '23, student representative

David Caprio, chair, R.I. Council on  
Postsecondary Education

Bethany Jenkins, faculty representative

# OVERVIEW

## Building the University of the Future

### UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

The University of Rhode Island is the state's flagship research university and the state's leading public institution of higher education.

As a land- and sea-grant institution with global reach, the University carries out its mission for the benefit of the people of Rhode Island, the United States, and the world. In all aspects of its work, the University maintains unshakable commitments to academic freedom and expression, shared governance, diversity and inclusion, and active outreach to its many communities of interest. The University also maintains partnerships for mutual benefit with the state's two other public institutions—Rhode Island College and Community College of Rhode Island—and other public, private, and nonprofit entities.

and sea-grant missions, institutional vision, and foundational values. The ideas in the plan are intended to unify the community, inspire new ideas and actions, and accelerate URI's exciting forward trajectory.

Development of the plan was led by a diverse steering committee comprised of faculty, staff, students, and community members, and incorporates input from hundreds of stakeholders across all URI campuses and the community. The plan focuses on four strategic priorities with action items and corresponding key performance indicators to track and measure the plan's progress. The four strategic priorities are, "broaden our impact," "enhance student achievement," "foster an inclusive culture," and "power the university of the future."

### UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is the University's governing body charged with oversight of critical academic and administrative issues, including appointing the University president, annually setting tuition rates, approving the budget, awarding degrees, and formally approving the awarding of tenure to faculty.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

#### Approved a new 10-year strategic plan

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the University's 10-year strategic plan, Focus URI. The plan outlines a strategic vision for the University of Rhode Island for the next decade—articulating the institution's aspirations and the actions that will be taken to achieve them.

The agile, dynamic plan will necessarily evolve, enabling the University to respond to changes in the state and world, while maintaining a firm commitment to its land-



### Advanced initiatives to drive Rhode Island's leadership in the Blue Economy

Under the board's leadership, in partnership with the General Assembly and the governor, and with the strong support of Rhode Island voters, the University passed Question 1 on the November ballot. The initiative provides a \$100 million general obligation bond to revitalize URI's Narragansett Bay Campus by improving outdated facilities and constructing new facilities to support research and educational programs, ensuring that the state of Rhode Island remains a global leader in the Blue Economy. The Blue Economy—which includes the defense industry, tourism, marine trades, fisheries, and offshore wind—is a critical driver of the state's economy, generating more than \$5 billion every year. By 2030, that total is projected to double. A modern URI Bay Campus will help create the innovative jobs critical to Rhode Island's future.

### Welcomed key academic and administrative leaders

The board welcomed the appointment of Barbara Wolfe as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Wolfe was appointed by President Parlange after an extensive national search and will work closely with stakeholders on advancing the University and implementing the 10-year strategic plan.

Wolfe is a successful scholar, researcher, and educator, who skillfully led the College of Nursing since joining the University in 2016. At the college, she built research strength and raised the level of federal research and training grant funding. She is an innovative academic administrator with a track record of success and led URI into the *U.S. News and World Report's* Top 50 rankings for master's nursing education. She is nationally respected in her field, holding leadership positions in several national associations.



**Celebrated the opening of the Talent Development Achievement House**

In January, the University opened the Talent Development Achievement House fulfilling an institutional goal of establishing a dedicated residence facility for Talent Development Scholars. URI's Talent Development—or TD—program recruits and serves Rhode Island high school graduates with college potential who come from historically disadvantaged backgrounds, a majority of whom are scholars of color. From its first class of 13 students in 1968 to the 1,100 current scholars and more than 4,000 alumni, TD has formed a community of accomplished individuals across the state and around the world.

**Approved new degree programs to meet the needs of Rhode Island**

The board approved several new degree programs in 2022 that meet the demands of students and the needs of the state and citizens of Rhode Island. The new programs include:

- A Bachelor of Science in early childhood education, PK-2, administered online and developed in conjunction with

the Community College of Rhode Island, that will give the incumbent workforce of early childhood educators accessible, high-quality, and meaningful pathways toward credential attainment, career advancement, and higher compensation.

- A Bachelor of Arts in world language education designed to meet changes in the Rhode Island Department of Education's credentials for world language instructors in PK-12. The new program ensures that URI graduates are certified to teach in Rhode Island at all levels of elementary, middle, and secondary education.
- A master's degree in data science offered through URI Online.
- A Bachelor of Science in nutrition within the College of Health Sciences.

**Approved record financial aid support for students**

Recognizing the inflationary pressures faced by students and families, the board approved an increase in institutional financial aid for undergraduate and graduate students to more than \$140 million—a record high for the University. The significant investment in URI students

and student success ensures that the University will remain among the most affordable flagship state universities in the Northeast.

**Made significant investments in the student-athlete experience**

The board approved strategic investments in intercollegiate athletics to enrich the overall student-athlete experience and leverage the considerable visibility athletics generates to enhance the national and global reputation of the University. In March, URI welcomed Archie Miller as men's basketball head coach. Miller joined the University after holding head coaching positions at Indiana University, of the Big Ten, and the University of Dayton. At Dayton, Miller built the Flyers into a perennial Atlantic 10 Conference power, making four NCAA tournament appearances in six seasons. The University also retained Tammi Reiss as women's basketball head coach. Reiss has reinvigorated the women's basketball program, leading the Rams to 20 wins in a season for the first time in 25 years and setting the program on a course for sustained success. And, the board approved the addition of women's lacrosse, adding important athletic opportunities for female students at the University.



**Endorsed the University's first land acknowledgment statement**

The University worked closely with the Narragansett Tribal Council on several initiatives, including a land acknowledgment. The acknowledgment represents months of important conversations between the University and members of the tribe, and it reads:

*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, now too, inhabit.*

Several additional programs are underway or in development to continue to strengthen the University's close partnership with the Narragansett Tribe and support and celebrate the tribe's culture and traditions.

**Formed new board committees to advance research and University facilities**

The board approved the creation of two new special ad hoc committees: the Sponsored Research Committee and the Real Estate Committee. These committees are designed to address specific needs of the University and accelerate progress in these priority areas.

**Contributed to important legislative changes**

Members of the board successfully testified in favor of legislation, including a bill that provides the board the flexibility to participate remotely in open public meetings of the board. The board extends its appreciation to the General Assembly for this key legislative decision that enables the University and board to nimbly and effectively address emerging needs and opportunities.

# Voting Members

## Stewards: Guiding URI Through a Critical Period



**Margo L. Cook**  
Chair  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2023

Margo L. Cook, C.F.A. '86, brings more than 30 years of executive leadership, operating, and investing experience in the asset management industry. The former president of Nuveen Advisory Services, she currently serves on several prominent private equity, venture capital, and hedge fund boards. Cook previously served on the executive and investment committees of the URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement board of directors. She is on the national board of the All Stars Project.



**Michael F. McNally**  
Vice chair  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2023

Michael F. McNally, M.B.A. '81, is the former president and CEO of Skanska USA, one of the largest construction/development companies in the United States. He served as a member of the URI President's Advisory Council and is a URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement trustee. He currently is on the board of directors at Granite Construction, Limbach Holdings, and Terracon Engineers. McNally was chair of the U.S. Green Building Council from 2016–2019. He also is a member of the Rhode Island Commerce board and the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission.



**Karina Montilla Edmonds**  
Term expired: Feb. 1, 2021

Karina Montilla Edmonds '92 is the global lead for Academies and University Alliances at SAP. Before joining SAP, she led university relations for Google Cloud and served as executive director for corporate partnerships at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). With more than 20 years in innovation, technology transfer, and commercialization, Edmonds has received numerous national recognitions and awards. Notably, she worked under President Barack Obama's administration as the first technology transfer coordinator at the U.S. Department of Energy and served as a member of the White House Speaker Bureau to promote STEM careers to women and girls. She earned her Ph.D. in aeronautics from Caltech and is a registered U.S. patent agent. Edmonds lives in Pasadena, Calif., and is a mother of three young ladies. She is passionate about life-learning, mentorship, cooking, dancing, and knitting and considers herself an eternal optimist.



**Michael D. Fascitelli**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Michael D. Fascitelli '78, Hon. '08, is the founder of MDF Capital LLC and co-founder and managing partner of Imperial Companies. He previously served as president and CEO of Vornado Realty Trust and president of Alexander's Inc. Fascitelli continues to serve as a trustee of Vornado Realty Trust. Prior to joining Vornado, he was a partner at Goldman Sachs & Co. Currently, he is a trustee of Invitation Homes; chair of the investment committee and board member of Cadre; and a board member at Child Mind Institute, the Rockefeller University, and the Urban Land Institute. He is a former commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Fascitelli holds an M.B.A., with highest distinction, from Harvard Business School and a B.S. in industrial engineering, summa cum laude, from the University of Rhode Island.



**Charles J. Fogarty**  
Term expired: Feb. 1, 2021

Charles J. Fogarty, M.P.A. '80, is a native Rhode Islander with a long history of public service. Following eight years as a member of the Rhode Island state Senate, he was elected lieutenant governor and served in that position from 1999–2007. In 2006, he was the Democratic nominee for governor. In addition to elective office, Fogarty has also served as a cabinet member in the administrations of two Rhode Island governors, first as director of the Department of Labor and Training and later as director of elderly affairs. Currently an adjunct professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at Johnson & Wales University, he teaches courses in American government, global ethics, and leadership studies.



**Christine M. Heenan**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Christine Heenan is senior partner and chief communications officer for Cambridge-based Flagship Pioneering, a life sciences platform company, and the founder of Clarendon Group, a communications strategy and social impact consulting firm. She previously served as senior vice president for global policy and advocacy at the Rockefeller Foundation, senior advisor at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and vice president of public affairs and communications for Harvard University. Heenan was a White House senior policy analyst and speechwriter for President Bill Clinton, focused primarily on health-care policy and women's empowerment. She has taught at Brown University and Harvard College and served as a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and an executive fellow at Harvard Business School. In addition to the URI board, she serves on the board of the David Rockefeller Fund, a New York-based philanthropic foundation.

The URI Board of Trustees consists of 17 members and is responsible for the buildings, employees, and property of the University. The board also approves the budget, the awarding of degrees, and the awarding of tenure to faculty.

*In accordance with the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Bylaws, Article 2.7 Vacancies, board members shall serve until a successor is appointed.*



**Richard S. Humphrey**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Richard S. Humphrey has served as Little Compton town solicitor for more than 30 years. He has been trying civil and criminal cases since 1983, focusing on serious drunk-driving cases, complex admiralty matters, construction litigation, municipal law, catastrophic injury claims, and areas involving professional ethics. Humphrey has previously served on the Judicial Tenure Commission and the Rhode Island Supreme Court Disciplinary Board. He also lectures on trial practice, ethics, police brutality, legal malpractice, defense, and municipal matters. Humphrey is appointed from the list submitted by the Rhode Island speaker of the House of Representatives.



**Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, M.A. '73, is president emeritus and a professor in the Department of Public Administration and Policy of the School of Public Affairs of American University. He received degrees from American University (B.A.), the University of Rhode Island (M.A., political science), and Johns Hopkins University (Ph.D., political science). He served as dean of American University's School of Public Affairs from 1988–1997, provost from 1997–2005, and acting president and then president of the university from 2005–2017 when he stepped down and returned to the faculty. A nationally recognized specialist in public policy and the regulatory process, Kerwin is actively engaged in research and periodically teaches courses in administrative process, policy implementation, and American government. He founded AU's Center for the Study of Rulemaking and is the original author and now co-author of *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*, now in its fifth edition.



**Matthew D. Lenz**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Matthew D. Lenz '11 is the director of state government affairs for the Entertainment Software Association. He previously served as director of state government affairs for the Toy Association, leading the group's legislative and regulatory efforts at the state level, on issues related to product safety, chemical regulation, and environmental sustainability across multiple states in the Northeast. Lenz previously served as senior policy advisor to R.I. Attorney General Peter Kilmartin. He is appointed from the list submitted by the president of the Senate.



**Roby Luna**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Roby Luna '04 is the president of Aretec Inc. and serves as a member of the URI College of Business Dean's Advisory Council. As a founding member of Aretec, he oversees the technical vision and stays attuned to the needs of the data science and cybersecurity industry, working to ensure the company meets or exceeds those needs. While at URI, he was a member of the Army Reserve and assisted a combat support hospital in Massachusetts. Luna received Washington SmartCEO's Executive Management Award in 2017 for his work on a strategic plan to develop big data software solutions with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.



**David J. Martirano**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2023

David J. Martirano '91 is the co-founder and managing partner of Point Judith Capital, which was officially rebranded as PJC nearly two decades later. PJC, an early-stage venture capital fund, is investing out of its fifth fund. Before PJC, Martirano co-founded Rex Capital Ventures, which invested internationally in early-stage companies. Before founding Rex, he worked at Cowen and Co. He currently sits on the Investment Committee for Lifespan, was previously a member of the URI College of Business Advisory Council, and was on the founding board of Year Up Providence. Martirano holds an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and a B.S. in business from the University of Rhode Island.



**Cortney M. Nicolato**  
Term expired: Feb. 1, 2021

Cortney M. Nicolato '01 is the president and CEO of United Way of Rhode Island, a nonprofit agency with more than 80 employees and an operating budget of \$19.2 million. United Way of Rhode Island invests in proven programs that address community issues to strengthen Rhode Island. Last year, it awarded \$6.5 million to 72 nonprofit agencies that support programs for childhood literacy, workforce development, and more. Before United Way, she held several high-level, national management positions, each building upon the effectiveness of her transformational leadership style. Most recently, Nicolato served as president and CEO of the Senior Source, the largest nonprofit agency for seniors in North Texas. Her previous experience also includes being senior advisor and director of new business initiatives at the National Center of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.



**Vahid Ownjazayeri**  
Term expires: Feb. 1, 2023

Vahid Ownjazayeri serves as chief growth and strategy officer at AECOM. Before serving as chief growth and strategy officer, he served as AECOM president of global infrastructure. Ownjazayeri was previously the executive vice president of the Shaw Group's environmental and infrastructure division as well as president of its commercial, state, and local division.



**Susan Petrovas**  
Term expired: Feb. 1, 2021

Susan Petrovas '92 is co-founder and past president of CDMI Magellan Rx and serves as a member of the URI College of Pharmacy Advisory Council. Susan began her career at United HealthCare as a clinical pharmacist and served as corporate director of Pharmacy Services for Oxford Health Plans in New York City. She co-founded the Managed Care Network before co-founding CDMI with her husband, George, in 2009. The Rhode Island-based medical and pharmacy management company was acquired by Magellan Health in 2014. She received URI's Distinguished Achievement Award in 2019. She is a trustee for the Preservation Society of Newport County.



**Yahaira "Jay" Placencia**  
*Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022*

Yahaira "Jay" Placencia '01 is senior vice president and private client advisor with Bank of America Private Bank. She is a member of the Rhode Island Commodores, serves on the Rhode Island Foundation Impact Investment Committee and the board of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce. Placencia is a trustee of the University of Rhode Island Foundation and is also a board member of the CCRI Foundation and Trinity Repertory Co.



**Thomas M. Ryan**  
*Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022*

Thomas M. Ryan '75, Hon. '99, is a former president and CEO of CVS and director of Five Below who currently works as operating partner of Advent International and director of PJT Partners Inc. A past chair of the URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement board of directors, Ryan is currently a member of the URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement Campaign Committee and the URI President's Advisory Council.



**Armand E. Sabitoni**  
*Term expires: Feb. 1, 2023*

Armand E. Sabitoni '73 is the general secretary-treasurer of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), a union representing more than 500,000 members across the United States and Canada. He became general secretary-treasurer, LIUNA's second-highest-ranking office, on May 1, 2001. He continues to serve as New England regional manager representing more than 60,000 members across the six New England states and New York. He also chairs several national and regional labor-management cooperation, health and safety, pension, and investment funds. Throughout his long career of service to LIUNA, Sabitoni has received numerous awards recognizing his outstanding leadership and his many contributions to improving the quality of life for working families throughout North America.

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS



**Marc B. Parlange**  
*President, University of Rhode Island*

Marc B. Parlange has previously held leadership, research, and faculty positions at Monash University, Australia; the University of British Columbia; the Swiss public research institute École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; Johns Hopkins University; and the University of California, Davis. An expert in environmental fluid mechanics, Parlange has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, and a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Meteorological Society, and the American Geophysical Union. He is the recipient of numerous academic awards and honors, including the American Meteorological Society's 2020 Hydrologic Sciences Medal. Parlange received his Master of Science degree and his doctorate from Cornell University and his Bachelor of Science degree from Griffith University in Australia.



**Hannah Bachert**  
*Student Representative*

Hannah Bachert '23, a student-athlete and member of the URI Women's Rowing team, is a communication studies major with a double minor in leadership studies and justice, law and society. She serves as the student representative for the URI Athletics Advisory Board and the Atlantic-10 representative for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She was appointed student representative for the Board of Trustees in April 2022. Previously, she interned as a teaching assistant for the University's iStand program, a bystander intervention program for sexual assault on college campuses. She also served as a community service officer for the Jamestown Police Department. She lives in Niskayuna, New York, with her parents, Debra and Andrew, and her older brother Ethan.



**David Caprio**  
*R.I. Council on Postsecondary Education*

David Caprio, attorney at law, has been in private practice in Rhode Island since 1994. He is a former Democratic member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, serving from 1999 to 2010, representing the towns of Narragansett and South Kingstown. He served two terms as a member of the Rhode Island Supreme Court Disciplinary Board and currently serves as chair of the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education. He produced the two-time Emmy Award-nominated television series *Caught in Providence* and is active in several civic and charitable organizations. He earned a bachelor's degree from Boston College and holds an M.B.A. from the University of Southern Europe and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School.



**Bethany Jenkins**  
*Faculty representative*

Bethany Jenkins is a professor of cell and molecular biology and oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. She also served URI as the director of the Biological and Environmental Sciences Graduate Program. She is the past chair and vice-chair of the Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry Scientific Steering Committee, a scientific body that coordinates and facilitates activities relevant to carbon cycle science, climate, and global change issues for the National Science Foundation and NASA. Jenkins was the recipient of the 2018 URI Advanced Career Faculty Research Award in life sciences, physical science, and engineering. She is a member of URI's Graduate Council, a past member of URI's Faculty Senate, and a past member of the URI Division of Research and Economic Development Research Advisory Committee. She holds a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of Oregon and earned her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College.

# Committees

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMPENSATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Margo L. Cook, chair  
Michael F. McNally, vice chair  
Karina Montilla Edmonds, member  
Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, member  
David J. Martirano, member  
Cortney M. Nicolato, member  
Vahid Ownjazayeri, member

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, chair  
Charles J. Fogarty, vice chair  
Karina Montilla Edmonds, member  
Christine M. Heenan, member  
Richard S. Humphrey, member  
Bethany Jenkins, member  
Susan Petrovas, member

## FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Vahid Ownjazayeri, chair  
Armand E. Sabitoni, vice chair  
Michael D. Fascitelli, member  
David J. Martirano, member  
Cortney M. Nicolato, member  
Susan Petrovas, member

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Cortney M. Nicolato, chair  
Yahaira "Jay" Placencia, vice chair  
David Caprio, member  
Charles J. Fogarty, member  
Christine M. Heenan, member  
Matthew D. Lenz, member

## INSTITUTIONAL RISK AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Karina Montilla Edmonds, chair  
Matthew D. Lenz, vice chair  
Hannah Bachert, member  
David Caprio, member  
Richard S. Humphrey, member  
Michael F. McNally, member  
Roby Luna, member

## STUDENT LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

David J. Martirano, chair  
Yahaira "Jay" Placencia, vice chair  
Hannah Bachert, member  
Roby Luna, member  
Thomas M. Ryan, member  
Armand E. Sabitoni, member

## AD HOC SPECIAL SPONSORED RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Thomas M. Ryan, chair  
Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, member  
Bethany Jenkins, member

## AD HOC SPECIAL REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Michael D. Fascitelli, chair  
Michael F. McNally, member  
Vahid Ownjazayeri, member





THE  
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