



THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2020–DECEMBER 2021

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WHO WE ARE

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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

Christopher Bove '23, student representative

Barbara Cottam, chair, R.I. Board of Education

Tim DeGiudice, chair, R.I. Council on
Postsecondary Education

Mayrai Gindy, faculty representative

OVERVIEW

Preparing for URI's Future

THE 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 of Rhode Island 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 of Rhode Island maintains unshakable commitments to academic freedom and expression, shared governance, diversity and inclusion, and active outreach to its many communities of interest. The University of Rhode Island also develops and maintains partnerships for mutual benefit with Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and other private higher education institutions.

THE 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

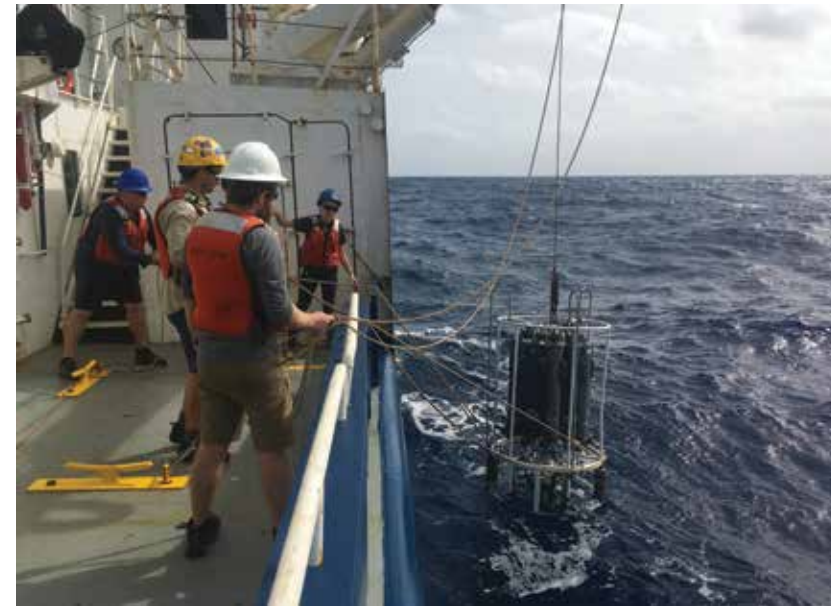
New University President

The selection process for the new University president was global, comprehensive, rigorous, and inclusive, involving every facet of the University community. The board organized town hall meetings with all University stakeholders and virtual open forums with presidential candidates. It conducted a totally virtual search and selected the 12th president of the University.

The board is proud of the open and thorough process that led to the hiring of President Marc Parlange, who has already begun strengthening and expanding the University's research mission, including a University-wide call to develop a culture of scholarship and service, which will improve collaboration and communication across colleges, disciplines, and departments. Even though he is in his early days as president, President Parlange is focusing on expanding URI's strengths in oceanography, agriculture, engineering, and the arts, along with the importance of student athletes. He is expected to deliver a new strategic plan in 2022 that will outline the University's vision over the next several years, which will be shared with you and Rhode Island leaders.

COVID-19 Operations and Response

As with other public boards, our work was conducted remotely and in accordance with executive orders during the pandemic. At every meeting, the trustees reviewed the University's response to the pandemic and supported its actions to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, faculty, and visitors to campus. The board praised the entire University community for its outstanding efforts during the pandemic, resulting in 95 percent vaccination rate and a continued very low positivity rate. Importantly, the University was able to manage its financial resources quite effectively throughout the crisis, and, unlike many other higher education institutions, URI has come through the pandemic quite well.



Ten-Year Strategic Plan

The University will engage the entire community and key constituencies in the development of a new University-wide, 10-year strategic plan (2022–2032) designed to create a vision for the future and what the University aspires to achieve. A University-wide Steering Committee will oversee the process, develop key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress of the goals, and analyze trends, challenges, and opportunities impacting the higher education landscape currently and into the future.

Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion at URI

The board is keenly interested in the advancement of social justice, equity, and inclusion at URI. In October 2020, the board heard from University leaders on one of URI's transformational goals for the 21st century—to build a community that values and embraces equity and diversity. At its January, June, and November board meetings, discussions focused specifically on this issue and how to continue to improve the environment at URI. At its November 2021 meeting, the board reviewed the results of the "University of Rhode Island Assessment of Climate for Learning, Living, and Working," URI's first Campus Climate Survey conducted in spring 2021. The report provides baseline data on diversity and inclusion and may be used to guide decision-making regarding policies and practices at URI to realize its commitment to an inclusive campus and to institute organizational structures that respond to the needs of its dynamic campus community.

Rhode Island's Blue Economy

The Board of Trustees sees tremendous opportunity in marshalling the research and economic development engines of the University to help drive and grow the Rhode Island economy.

URI has been especially engaged in providing the scientific and technical basis for renewable energy, fisheries and aquaculture, environmental quality, marine and coastal conservation, and management efforts in conjunction with stakeholders and Rhode Island government agencies. The University and the state of Rhode Island are investing millions of dollars in improvements at the Narragansett Bay Campus, home to URI's world-renowned Graduate School of Oceanography, to advance its efforts in ocean science.

Rhode Island Workforce Efforts

The board is focused on the University's investment in workforce development opportunities, including continuing education/certificate programs, professional development, the URI Online degree program, and 24/7 learning opportunities. Polaris MEP, a business unit of the URI Research Foundation, is a manufacturing industry partner for the Governor's Workforce Board providing competitive manufacturing business improvement programs to grow the state's manufacturing industry. Innovate@URI helps entrepreneurs and startups access the vast resources of the University to help grow their ideas and their business, with URI's Business Engagement Center serving as the front door to industry since 2013.

Voting Members

Stewards: Guiding URI Through a Critical Period



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.



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 the boards of 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.



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 president of CDMI Magellan Rx and serves as a member of the URI College of Pharmacy Advisory Council. Petrovas 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 and 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



Christopher Bove
Student representative

Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Christopher Bove '23 is a political science, communications, and history triple major at the University of Rhode Island. He is a member of the URI Student Senate from the at-large constituency and a member of the provost's Academic Affairs Diversity Task Force. Bove previously served as a member of the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and as the chair of the Rhode Island Student Advisory Council.



Barbara Cottam, chair
R.I. Board of Education

Barbara Cottam is executive vice president, Rhode Island market executive, and head of corporate affairs at Citizens Bank. She has corporate-wide responsibility for directing public affairs, corporate giving and marketing sponsorships, and corporate responsibility (ESG) throughout the company's commercial and retail banking footprint. In addition, she serves as chair of the Citizens Charitable Foundation; chair of the Rhode Island Board of Education; a member of the Rhode Island Commodores, a group of business and civic leaders appointed by the governor; and a board member of Crossroads Rhode Island and Hope Hospice.



Tim DelGiudice, chair
R.I. Council on Postsecondary Education

Tim DelGiudice is responsible for strategic relationships at Raytheon Missiles & Defense. Working closely with cross-functional teams, he is responsible for external relationships of strategic importance focused on achieving and expanding the multi-billion-dollar business's goals. DelGiudice serves as the chair of the Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance as well as the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium. He is also the chair of the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education. Before joining Raytheon in 2007, he was the deputy district director to U.S. Rep. James Langevin of Rhode Island for 10 years. DelGiudice holds a B.S. in leadership studies from Providence College.



Mayrai Gindy
Faculty representative

Term expires: Feb. 1, 2022

Mayrai Gindy is a professor and former chair of URI's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Her research focuses on structural health monitoring and non-destructive testing and assessment of highway bridges. Within her department, she has served as the undergraduate director, graduate director, and coordinator of FastTRAC5, the accelerated B.S./M.S. program. At the University level, she has been an active member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Joint Committee on Academic Planning, the Academic Program Review Committee, the Academic Affairs Diversity Task Force, the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee, the Graduate Council, and the Engineering Summer Academy for Young Women, among others. She has also held professional leadership positions, having served as president of the R.I. Professional Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

TRUSTEES WHOSE TERMS ARE EXPIRING OR HAVE EXPIRED

Karina Montilla Edmonds

Term expired Feb. 1, 2021

Vice chair, Academic Affairs and Research Committee

Vice chair, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee

Michael D. Fascitelli

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee

Member, Executive Committee

Member, Student Life and Athletics

Member, URI Presidential Search Committee

Charles J. Fogarty

Term expired Feb. 1, 2021

Member, Academic Affairs and Research Committee

Member, Governance Committee

Christine M. Heenan

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Chair, University Advancement and External Affairs Committee

Member, Executive Committee

Member, Finance and Facilities Committee

Member, URI Presidential Search Committee

Co-chair, URI Presidential Transition Committee

Richard S. Humphrey

(Appointed from a list submitted by the Speaker of the House)

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Member, Academic Affairs and Research Committee

Member, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee

Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Chair, Academic Affairs and Research Committee

Member, Executive Committee

Member, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee

Member, URI Presidential Search Committee

Member, URI Presidential Transition Committee

Matthew D. Lenz

(Appointed from a list submitted by the president of the Senate)

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Member, Academic Affairs and Research Committee

Member, Finance and Facilities Committee

Roby Luna

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Chair, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee

Member, Executive Committee

Member, Student Life and Athletics

Member, URI Presidential Search Committee

Cortney Nicolato

Term expired Feb. 1, 2021

Chair, Governance Committee

Former vice chair, Governance Committee

Member, Executive Committee

Member, University Advancement and External Affairs Committee

Member, URI Presidential Search Committee

Susan Petrovas

Term expired Feb. 1, 2021

Member, Academic Affairs and Research Committee

Member, Finance and Facilities Committee

Jay Placencia

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Vice chair, Governance Committee

Member, Student Life and Athletics Committee

Thomas M. Ryan

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Chair, Student Life and Athletics Committee

Former chair, Governance Committee

Member, Executive Committee

Member, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee

Chair, URI Presidential Search Committee

Co-chair, URI Presidential Transition Committee



EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Christopher Bove

Student representative

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Member, Institutional Risk and Compliance Committee

Member, Student Life and Athletics Committee

Mayrai Gindy

Faculty representative

Term expires Feb. 1, 2022

Member, Academic Affairs and Research Committee

Member, Governance Committee

Member, URI Presidential Search Committee

In accordance with the enabling legislation, the president of the University of Rhode Island will appoint one faculty member and one student member who shall be a full-time student in good standing at the University and who shall both serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity for a single two-year term.

Committees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMPENSATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Margo L. Cook, chair
Michael F. McNally, vice chair
Michael D. Fascitelli, member
Christine M. Heenan, member
Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, member
Roby Luna, member
Cortney M. Nicolato, member
Thomas M. Ryan, member

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, chair
Karina Montilla Edmonds, vice chair
Charles J. Fogarty, member
Richard S. Humphrey, member
Matthew D. Lenz, member
Mayrai Gindy, member
Susan Petrovas, member

FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Michael D. Fascitelli, chair
Vahid Ownjazayeri, vice chair
Christine M. Heenan, member
Matthew D. Lenz, member
David J. Martirano, member
Susan Petrovas, member
Armand E. Sabitoni, member

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Cortney M. Nicolato, chair
Yahaira "Jay" Placencia, vice chair
Barbara Cottam, member
Charles J. Fogarty, member
Mayrai Gindy, member
Michael F. McNally, member

INSTITUTIONAL RISK AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

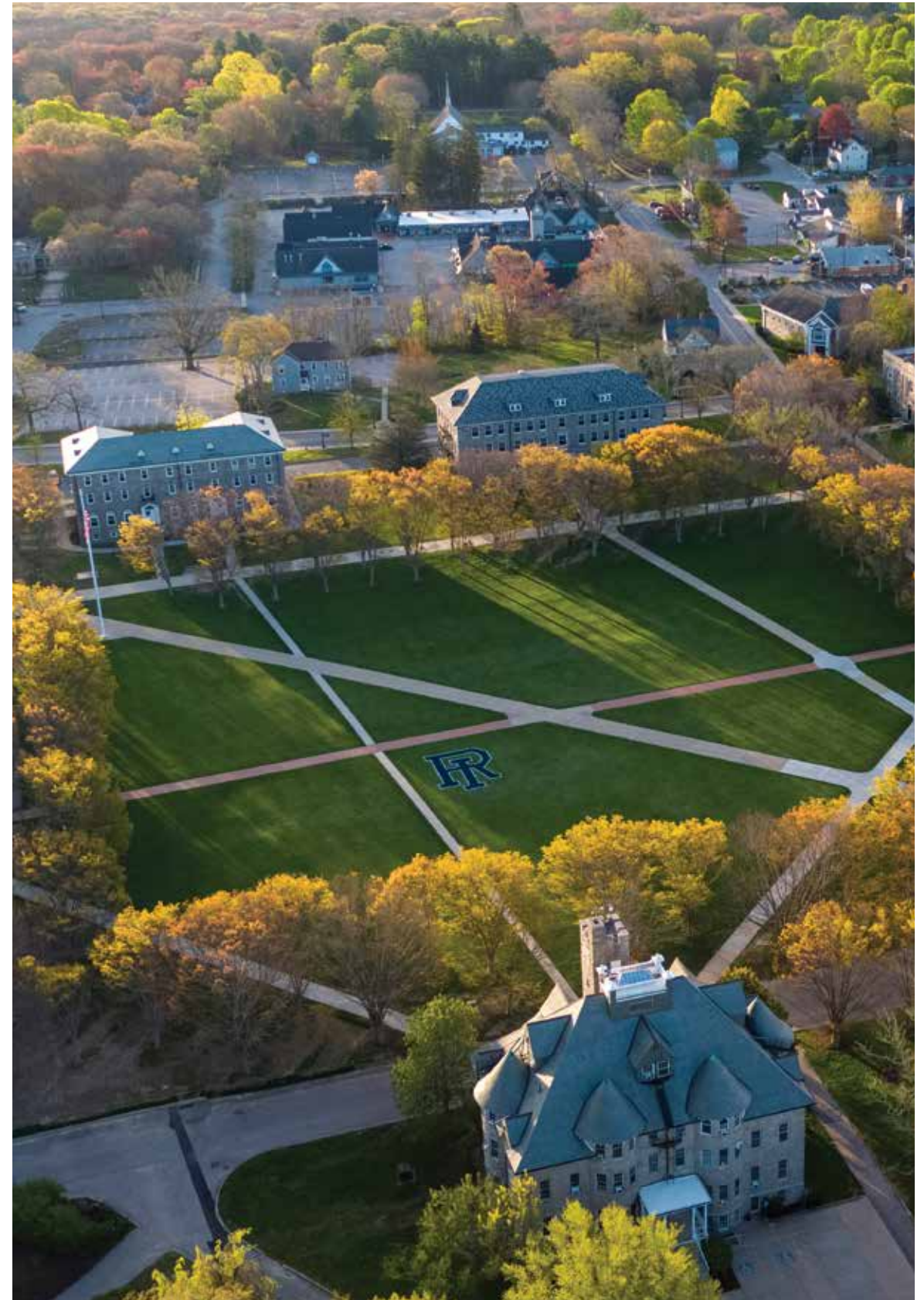
Roby Luna, chair
Karina Montilla Edmonds, vice chair
Christopher Bove, member
Tim DelGiudice, member
Richard S. Humphrey, member
Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, member
Thomas M. Ryan, member

STUDENT LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Thomas M. Ryan, chair
David J. Martirano, vice chair
Christopher Bove, member
Michael D. Fascitelli, member
Roby Luna, member
Michael F. McNally, member
Yahaira "Jay" Placencia, member

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Christine M. Heenan, chair
Armand E. Sabitoni, vice chair
Barbara Cottam, member
Tim DelGiudice, member
Cortney M. Nicolato, member
Vahid Ownjazayeri, member



THE
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URI is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of affirmative action.

12/2021 EXT PHOTOS: NORA LEWIS; SEAN MCVEIGH