



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education Wednesday, January 4, 2023 5:30 PM

**Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
350 Eddy St Providence, RI 02903**

Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:36 PM and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Dennis Duffy
Rachelle Green
Thomas Izzo
Lawrence Purtill
Marcy Reyes
Ana Duarte Spencer

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Mello and Jeffery Williams

Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (RIOPC) staff present:

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Anne Marie Coleman, Vice President of Labor Relations
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jill Olson-Crowley, Assistant to the Commissioner, Special Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants: Rosemary Costigan, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Alix Ogden, Vice President of Administration and External Relations

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants: President Jack Warner, Steven Nedder, Vice President

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of Administration and Finance, Clark Green, Interim VP for College Advancement and Executive Director of the RIC Foundation, Carolyn Masters, Interim Provost, and other staff members.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of January 4, 2023

On a motion made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of January 4, 2023.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on December 7, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on December 7, 2022, as presented.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

3. Report from the Commissioner

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Commissioner's report. There were none.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting and there was no report.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Commissioner Gilkey provided the report on behalf of chair Michael Mello. He reported that during the December 14, 2022 meeting, the AASSC members along with institutional representatives, heard from Rhode Island College School of Nursing Dean Carolynn Masters regarding several program changes. RIC has removed three concentrations within their Philosophy BA program: Ethics and Society; History of Philosophy; and Knowledge and Reality. The Career and College Attainment Certificate of Undergraduate Study has also been eliminated. Programs that were discontinued or eliminated did not have any students enrolled or have a planned path to ensure student completion. These notices of change from RIC were linked to the meeting agenda.

At that meeting, Dean Masters also reported on RIC's proposal for the transition of graduate nursing programs to the "Hy-Flex" model which will allow students the option of participating in classes remotely. The move to a more flexible online model will improve equitable access to graduate nursing education and optimize recruitment and retention efforts for the College. Committee members approved a recommendation to move this forward to the CPE for their review and approval and tonight's meeting.

Council member Lawrence Purtill inquired if any students were impacted by the program changes. President Warner indicated that they were not. Council member Marcy Reyes inquired if a cost analysis had been completed and President Warner indicated that the low enrollment warranted them being removed. Council member Thomas Izzo inquired about the Hy-Flex model and Dean Masters stated that this decision was derived based on the adult learners who are part of this graduate program.

C. Personnel Committee

Chari Rachelle Green reported that the Committee met on December 21, 2022 and had a discussion in Executive Session regarding its annual review of Rhode Island College Interim President Jack Warner. The members of the Personnel Committee may discuss its review with the full Council in Executive Session at tonight's meeting.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul shared that the Committee last met on December 16, 2022. The Committee discussed the following items:

TIAA provided the Committee with a status update regarding the transition of the retirement plan implementation. The presentation offered an overview of the services that TIAA will provide for the implementation, key milestones, status of documents (record keeper agreement and custodial agreements), and notifications/communications to the other vendors and plan participants.

CAPTRUST provided an update on the AIG Contracts and reviewed their Quarterly Reporting Template for the Committee.

Chair Saul stated that the Committee will continue to provide updates on the timeline for implementation of the new plan administration with TIAA. Council member Rachelle Green inquired if items that were part of the Committee would still come before the Council. General Counsel Cavallaro explained that some items do come before the Council and that some are under the authority granted to the Committee. Chair Saul stated that the next Committee meeting will be on March 9, 2023.

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Community College of Rhode Island

- 1. Enrollment Update**
- 2. Governance Update**
- 3. Student Affairs Update**

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions for Vice President Rosemary Costigan regarding President Hughes' report on enrollment, governance, and student affairs updates. Council member Marcy Reyes commended the selections into leadership roles. Council member Rachelle Green stated she was happy to see increases in winter enrollment and inquired about what was driving it. Vice President Costigan stated that with more visibility the winter semester is more well-known, and students are being encouraged to stay on track and take advantage of these opportunities.

B. Rhode Island College

- 1. Six Month Progress Update**

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments on the report from President Warner regarding RIC's six month progress update. Council member Dennis Duffy commended RIC for more aggressive recruiting. Member Duffy also urged that the interim positions get turned into permanent positions soon. President Warner introduced former Dean of Nursing, Carolyn Masters, who is now the Interim Provost at RIC.

6. Discussion Item

A. Rhode Island College Presidential Search

Commissioner Gilkey shared the search roles. The Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education makes all presidential hiring decisions regarding Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island. He stated that a Presidential Search Committee is an appointed body of the Council and will conduct some of the work of the presidential search on behalf of the Council. Those activities may include but are not limited to meeting with the search firm; reviewing candidates; participating in interviews; and recommending finalists to the Council for its consideration.

Commissioner Gilkey stated that the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, the administrative arm of the Council, will facilitate an Advisory Committee. This will be a broader group of constituents and stakeholders in the RIC community including faculty, students, union representatives, alumni, etc. The purpose of the Advisory Committee will be to provide additional context and perspective for the opportunities and challenges facing RIC and the type of leadership necessary for the college.

The timeline was shared through January 2024. Council member Dennis Duffy asked when Council members would be meeting with candidates. Commissioner Gilkey stated that it would be during the November 2023 meeting. Council member Marcy Reyes inquired about the search and advisory committees, specifically the number of appointments to each. General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro stated that the Chair of the Council appoints the committees and would be making those determinations.

7. Action Items

A. Approval of the appointment of Jennie Johnson as Vice President of Workforce Partnerships at CCRI.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the appointment of Jennie Johnson as Vice President of Workforce Partnerships at CCRI.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Jennie Johnson as Vice President of Workforce Partnerships at CCRI.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio asked for comment from Vice President Rosemary Costigan. VP Costigan shared that she was as very happy to put forth this nomination. She shared that Jennie has a long history of work experience and experience developing relationships. She stated that her experience with government and workforce will be a great asset to CCRI. Jennie Johnson thanked the Council and stated as a lifelong Rhode Islander and graduate of both CCRI and RIC she was very passionate about everything happening in higher education and excited about this opportunity.

B. Approval of a proposal from Rhode Island College for the transition of Graduate Nursing Programs to Online Modality using the Hy-Flex Model, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the proposal from Rhode Island College for the transition of Graduate Nursing Programs to Online Modality using the Hy-Flex Model, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the proposal from Rhode Island College for the transition of Graduate Nursing Programs to Online Modality using the Hy-Flex Model, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of Revisions/Amendments to the Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the revisions/amendments to the Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the revisions/amendments to the Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

8. Executive Session

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council enter into executive session for the following:

- A. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- B. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- C. Discussion regarding RIC President Warner’s annual evaluation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).
- D. Discussion regarding an extension of RIC President Warner’s employment agreement with the Council, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into Executive Session for the following items:
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- A. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- B. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- C. Discussion regarding RIC President Warner’s annual evaluation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).
- D. Discussion regarding an extension of RIC President Warner’s employment agreement with the Council, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42- 46-5(a)(1).

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio stated that President Warner had been notified in writing of his right to have the discussions in Items 8 C and D held in Open Session, and no objection to proceeding in Executive Session has been **received**.

The Council entered Executive Session at 6:12 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 6:59 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on January 4, 2023.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on January 4, 2023.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. Additional Action Items

A. Ratification of the three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Council on Postsecondary Education and Drivers' Education Association

Chair Caprio announced that Item 9A was being withdrawn as an additional action item for this meeting.

B. Approval of an extension of RIC President Warner's employment agreement with the Council.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve an extension of RIC President Warner's employment agreement with the Council from 7/1/23 to 6/30/24 or to the effective date of the hiring of a new Rhode Island College president, whichever is first to occur.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve an extension of RIC President Warner's employment agreement with the Council from 7/1/23 to 6/30/24 or to the effective date of the hiring of a new Rhode Island College president, whichever is first to occur.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

10. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio stated that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be on February 15, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Community College of Rhode Island.

11. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of January 4, 2022.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.