



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
350 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903, Room 308
Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Dennis Duffy
Rachelle Green
Mike Grey
Thomas Izzo
Michael Mello
Lawrence Purtill
Marcy Reyes
Ana Duarte Spencer
Jeffery Williams (Departs at 7:36 p.m.)

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
Gregory Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jackie Xiong, Assistant to the Commissioner, Special Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

President Jack Warner
Jenifer Giroux, Vice President of Corporate Relations and Professional Studies
Clark Green, Interim Vice President for College Advancement

Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success
Carolynn Masters, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and other staff members

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

President Rosemary Costigan and other staff members
Allyson Handley, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Amy Kempe, Executive Director, Marketing, Communications & External Affairs,
Newport County Campus Leader
Greg LaPointe, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer
Alix Ogden, Special Advisor to the President
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of October 18, 2023.

The motion made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green.

Chair Caprio then asked for a motion that the agenda for this meeting be amended to add Discussion Item 6B Onward We Learn – Discussion of FY2025 budget appropriation request.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education amend the agenda for the meeting on October 18, 2023 to add discussion Item 6B Onward We Learn – Discussion of FY2025 budget appropriation request.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

It was then:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on October 18, 2023, as amended.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

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 September 27, 2023.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on September 27, 2023.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: Jeffery Williams

3. Report from the Commissioner

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Commissioner's report.

Commissioner Gilkey gave a brief overview on his report regarding retention and federal policy update. Commissioner Gilkey also introduced Molly Cote, the newly appointed Chief Policy Officer at the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the committee last met on October 4, 2023, to review in detail both the colleges' and Office of Postsecondary Commissioner's

budget. Chair Duffy briefly discussed the overall discussion of the potential relocation of the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner. Lastly, Chair Duffy gave a brief overview of the presentation by Andrew Bramson regarding Onward We Learn.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Council Member Lawrence Purtill reported that the committee last met on October 4, 2023, to discuss low completion and low enrollment at the colleges. Council Member Purtill also informed the Council of Hope Scholarship updates.

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green reported that the committee last met on September 26, 2023. The majority of the meeting was held in executive session and therefore, Chair Green will not provide any further updates at this time.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Rhode Island College

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for President Warner.

President Jack Warner informed the Council of Vice President of Administration and Finance, Steven Nedder's, departure from Rhode Island College, and introduced newly appointed Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance, Sara Enright.

On a separate note, Chair Caprio congratulated President Warner on successful Hope Scholarship Bill Signing event held at Rhode Island College.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for President Costigan.

President Rosemary Costigan informed the Council on the new Dean position that will oversee the Academic Pathway, and the new Assistant Dean for Technology position.

6. Discussion Item

A. Discussion regarding a proposed amendment to the Council's Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures (S-18, P-18).

Chair Caprio called upon General Council Ronald Cavallaro to discuss the proposed amendment.

General Council Ronald Cavallaro briefed the Council on the proposed amendment to

the Council's Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures. He discussed the edits that were made to section 4 of the policy to create more consistent language throughout the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedure. General Council Cavallaro also informed the Council on the updates made to Article 11.

B. Onward We Learn – Discussion of FY2025 budget appropriation request.

Chair Caprio welcomed and called upon President and CEO of Onward We Learn, Mr. Andrew Bramson to discuss the proposed amendment.

President and CEO of Onward We Learn, Mr. Andrew Bramson, gave a brief presentation on the history and current progress of the program. Mr. Bramson concluded his presentation with a request for a one-time investment in the scholarship at Onward We Learn and answered several questions from Chair Caprio and Council Member Dennis Duffy regarding the scholarship.

Council Member Thomas Izzo complimented Mr. Bramson's presentation and commented that the program is of substantial value for students and the broader community.

Chair Caprio announced that he would like to fully support Mr. Bramson's efforts through the budget process.

Council Member Izzo and Rachelle Green also shared their support.

7. Action Items

- A.** Approval of the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and OPC) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2025, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2024 and recommendation for approval to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and OPC) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2025, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2024 and recommendation for approval to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and

OPC) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2025, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2024 and recommendation for approval to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio called upon President Warner to make brief comments.

President Warner shared his report and concern to his approach regarding Rhode Island College's 5% budget increase request in comparison to the Community College of Rhode Island's. President Warner also commented on the process of submitting budget requests.

Council Member Dennis Duffy indicated that institutions should always feel free to file a budget request that meets the needs of the college, to which Council Members Thomas Izzo and Jeffery Williams agreed.

Council Member Izzo and Commissioner Gilkey gave a brief overview of submitting and approval of a budget in response to Council Member Jeffery Williams' inquiry on budget process.

Council Member Duffy clarified that the Community College of Rhode Island's overall greater budget request was due to the projected addition of two new programs designed to address college readiness.

Council Member Marcy Reyes commented that the programs would benefit both colleges and was therefore decided by the committee to move forward with this recommendation.

Chair Caprio called upon President Rosemary Costigan to make brief comments.

President Costigan gave a brief overview of the Community College of Rhode Island budget proposal and answered questions related to developmental education.

Council Member Duffy announced that the budget request regarding the funding for the relocation of the Commissioner's office was put forth as a conditional recommendation, subject to resolution of an outstanding parking issue. Commissioner Gilkey then gave a brief update on the parking contract. Council Member Green inquired about the conditional recommendation to which Chair Caprio clarified the condition was included in the Finance Committee's recommendation.

Council Member Izzo shared his concerns with the relocation to the Shepard building based off previous experiences and knowledge.

B. Approval of the reclassification of Director, Human Resources to Executive Director of Labor and Personnel Relation at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Director of Human Resources to Executive Director of Labor and Personnel Relation at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Director of Human Resources to Executive Director of Labor and Personnel Relation at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of the new classification of and appointment of Alix Ogden as Vice President of Institutional Equity, Human Resources, and Organizational Development at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of and appointment of Alix Ogden as Vice President of Institutional Equity, Human Resources, and Organizational Development at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of and appointment of Alix Ogden as Vice President of Institutional Equity, Human Resources, and Organizational Development at the Community College of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

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 the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education’s contract renewal evaluation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

Chair Caprio also noted that regarding Item 8(C), Commissioner Gilkey has been informed in writing of his right to have this discussion take place in Open Session, and that no objection to proceeding in Executive Session has been received.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- 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 the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education's contract renewal evaluation, pursuant to R.I.G.L §42-46-5(a)(1).

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:08 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:56 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on October 18, 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 October 18, 2023.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio stated that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 5:30 PM at Rhode Island College.

10. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

