



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:30 PM**

**Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908 Alger 110**

Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:40 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
Michael Mello
Marcy Reyes
Ana Duarte Spencer

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, 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
Jackie Xiong, Administrative Assistant

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants: President Jack Warner, Steven Nedder, Vice President of Administration and Finance, Carolyn Masters, Interim Provost, and other staff members.

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants: President Meghan Hughes, Alix Ogden, Special Advisor to the President, Richard Sullivan, Vice President of Administration and Finance, and other staff members.

Chair David Caprio thanked President Warner and the staff of Rhode Island College for hosting the council meeting. Chair Caprio also acknowledged the accolades for both Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island.

He shared that Rhode Island College senior wrestler Nathan Lackman won the individual national championship at 165 pounds at the 2023 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championship. He also noted that Rhode Island College Women's Basketball Team captured their third straight Little East Conference Championship and secured an automatic bid into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division Three National Tournament, where they have advanced to the Final Four. This is the first time they have advanced to the final four in the program's history, and Head Women's Basketball Coach, Jenna Cosgrove was named the Region 2 coach of the year.

Chair Caprio also acknowledged the Community College of Rhode Island, Women's Basketball team which won its second consecutive Region 21 Championship to earn an automatic berth in the NJCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championships. Head Women's Basketball Coach, Doug Haynes was named NJCAA Division III Region 21 coach of the year.

Chair Caprio congratulated the coaches and athletes as well as the school administrators for these achievements and sent wishes for continued success on behalf of the Council.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of March 15, 2023

On a motion made by Michael Mello and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of March 15, 2023.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Mello, 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 February 15, 2023.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 15, 2023, as presented.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Mello, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

3. Report from the Commissioner

- A. FY 24 Budget Updates
- B. RIOPC Legislative Brief Updates
- C. Rhode Island College Presidential Search Committee Process Update
- D. Federal Updates

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 last met on March 10, 2023. At that meeting the Committee approved for recommendation to the Council the following items that are on tonight's agenda:

The Community College of Rhode Island FY 2023 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program; and the proposed lease agreement between the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC)/Council on Postsecondary Education and the Dixon Street Realty LLC for Classroom and CNA Lab Space at 116 High Street, Westerly, RI.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

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

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green reported that the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting and there was no report. Chair Green stated that a request for a proposal for the Rhode Island College Presidential Search process has been issued.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the Committee last met on March 9, 2023. At that meeting, TIAA provided a status update regarding the retirement plan implementation. CAPTRUST provided the Quarterly Investment Review for the quarter ending December 31, 2022. The next committee meeting will be on June 15, 2023.

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Community College of Rhode Island

1. Strategic Enrollment Management
2. Division of Workforce Partnerships Updates
3. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Organizational Development Updates
4. College News

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions for President Hughes regarding CCRI's report. Council Member Ana Duarte Spencer stated that she is pleased with the work being done by the Division of Workforce Partnerships.

B. Rhode Island College

1. Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub Update
2. Feinstein School of Education and Human Development Accreditation Visit Update
3. Recruitment Trends Update

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for President Warner regarding RIC's report. There were none. President Warner stated that there was a rally held for the Rhode Island College Women's Basketball team as they are competing in the final four. He also shared how proud they are of wrestler Nathan Lackman, who earned a national title, and several gymnasts who are competing for national titles.

6. Action Items

- A.** Approval of the Community College of Rhode Island's FY 23 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island's FY 23 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the
Community College of Rhode Island's FY 23 Voluntary
Retirement Incentive Program as recommended by the
Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael
Mello, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B.** Approval of the Community College of Rhode Island's New Classification of Director of Athletics, Recreation and Wellness as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island's New Classification of Director of Athletics, Recreation and Wellness as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve
Community College of Rhode Island's New Classification
of Director of Athletics, Recreation and Wellness as
recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael
Mello, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- C. Approval of the Community College of Rhode Island’s New Classification of Dean of Enrollment Management as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island’s New Classification of Dean of Enrollment Management as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island’s New Classification of Dean of Enrollment Management as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Mello, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

- D. Approval of Rhode Island College Honorary Degrees.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve Rhode Island College Honorary Degrees. Council Member Marcy Reyes commented that it is wonderful to grant honorary degrees and stated that she would like to have a future discussion about honorary degree protocols and perhaps consider those individuals who may not be tenured but have made significant contributions.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve Rhode Island College Honorary Degrees.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael

Mello, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E. Approval of the lease between the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC)/Council on Postsecondary Education and the Dixon Street Realty LLC for Classroom and CNA Lab Space at 116 High Street, Westerly, RI. as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the lease between the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC)/Council on Postsecondary Education and the Dixon Street Realty LLC for Classroom and CNA Lab Space at 116 High Street, Westerly, RI. as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the lease between the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC)/Council on Postsecondary Education and the Dixon Street Realty LLC for Classroom and CNA Lab Space at 116 High Street, Westerly, RI. as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Mello, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. Executive Session

- 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).

There was no Executive Session

8. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio stated that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be on April 19, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center.

9. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of March 15, 2023.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Mello, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.