



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Community College of Rhode Island
400 East Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886, Room 4090
Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:36 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
Michael Grey
Michael Mello (entered at 5:44 p.m.)
Lawrence Purtill
Marcy Reyes
Ana Duarte Spencer

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Thomas Izzo
Jeffery Williams

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jackie Xiong, Assistant to the Commissioner, Special Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education
Jill Olson-Crowley

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
James Tweed, Dean of Enrollment Management

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

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

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio gave opening remarks about the Community College of Rhode Island Opening Day Convocation and shared the pleasure of introducing Interim President, Dr. Rosemary Costigan.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of September 26, 2023.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on September 26, 2023.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Michael Mello, 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 August 23, 2023.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on August 23, 2023, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Michael Mello, 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.

Council Member Rachelle Green had an inquiry regarding artificial intelligence based on the Commissioner's report on federal policy updates. Commissioner Gilkey responded that AI will be looked into further to determine how it can support faculty and students at the colleges.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the committee has not met since July 26, 2023, but confirmed that the committee will meet the following week to discuss the Capital Improvement Plan.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Council Member Lawrence Purtill reported that the committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green reported that the committee last met on September 25, 2023. Chair Green would provide an update to the Council during the executive session.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the committee last met on September 6, 2023. At the meeting, Chair Saul reported that the committee received their quarterly investment review from CapTrust which covered the industry trends, regulatory analysis, and fiduciary training.

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Rhode Island College

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

Chair Caprio followed by welcoming President Jack Warner to share further insight on the article in the Boston Globe regarding Rhode Island College admissions. President Warner indicated that he was very pleased with the Fall enrollment and thanked his Enrollment Management Division at RIC. President Warner also credited the Hope Scholarship for the rise in enrollment.

Commissioner Gilkey congratulated President Warner and the RIC team for their success.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

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

Chair Caprio followed by welcoming President Costigan to share some words. President Costigan stated that on September 14, 2023, the Community College of Rhode Island announced that the institution had received a five-million-dollar gift from Bally's that will be used to serve in scholarships. President Costigan further indicated that the institution very much looks forward to its partnership with Bally's.

Chair Caprio congratulated President Costigan and the CCRI team.

Council Member Dennis Duffy asked for more detail on how CCRI will use the funds. President Costigan confirmed that the funds will be used to support both current and new students with a portion going to scholarships and program development and indicated that she envisions great possibilities over the next five years.

Commissioner Gilkey congratulated President Costigan and the CCRI Leadership Team.

6. Action Items

- A.** Approval of the awarding of a Posthumous Degree at Rhode Island College.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the awarding of a Posthumous Degree at Rhode Island College to Mr. Lewis Haswell.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding of a Posthumous Degree at Rhode Island College to Mr. Lewis Haswell.

 VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

 NAYS: 0

 ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio welcomed President Warner to share a few words.

President Warner shared that he was more than happy and willing to honor the late Mr. Lewis Haswell, who was a student at the college, with the Posthumous Degree from Rhode Island College.

- B.** Approval of the new classification of Director of Adult Programs and Student Success at Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Director of Adult Programs and Student Success at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Marcy Reyes and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Director of Adult Programs and Student Success at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

 VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

 YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,

Michael Grey, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, and
Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- C.** Approval of the new classification of Director of Compliance and Student Protection at Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Director of Compliance and Student Protection at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Director of Compliance and Student Protection at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and
0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Rachelle Green inquired about the funding stream for the Director of Compliance and Student Protection position, to which Commissioner Gilkey called upon Mr. Zachary Saul to clarify. Mr. Saul confirmed that this Director position will oversee the series of positions that are funded by a one-time grant.

- D.** Approval of the new classification of Assistant to the Provost at Rhode Island College as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Assistant to the Provost at Rhode Island College 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 new classification of Assistant to the Provost at Rhode Island College as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. Executive Session

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council enter into Executive Session for the following:

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

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

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

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

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio noted that the Commissioner had been notified in writing of his right to have this discussion take place in Open Session, and that no objection to proceeding in Executive Session had been received.

The Council entered Executive Session at 5:57 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 6:45 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 26, 2023.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 26, 2023.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. Additional Action Items

A. Approval of, and authorization to the Personnel Committee regarding, the renewal of the Commissioner's contract.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the renewal of the Commissioner's contract and authorize the Personnel Committee to proceed with the renewal process and to negotiate a new contract with the Commissioner, pursuant to the parameters discussed in the Executive Session.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the renewal of the Commissioner's contract and authorize the Personnel Committee to proceed with the renewal process and to negotiate a new contract with the Commissioner, Pursuant to the parameters discussed in the Executive Session.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Michael Grey, 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 October 18, 2023, at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center, room 306 at 5:30 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Marcy Reyes and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting
of Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and
0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.