



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
Community College of Rhode Island
Knight Campus Room #4090
400 East Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Chair Timothy DelGiudice called this meeting to order at 5:30 PM, acknowledged that a quorum was present, and indicated that Rachelle Green would be arriving late.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

Timothy DelGiudice, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education
Dennis Duffy
Rachelle Green (arrived at 5:33 PM.)
Thomas Izzo
Michael Mello
Mackenzie Raimond

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Tammy Warner, Ph.D., Assistant Commissioner, Academic and Student Affairs
Susan Mansolillo, CFO
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Catherine McConnell, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Jill Olson-Crowley, Assistant to the Commissioner

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Meghan Hughes, Ph.D., President
Alix Ogden, Vice President of Administration and External Relations

Rhode Island College (RIC) participant:

Frank Sánchez, Ph.D., President

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of October 13, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of October 13, 2021.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on September 15, 2021, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on September 15, 2021, as presented.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

Chair DelGiudice stated that if there were no objections from the Council members, there would be a change in the order of the discussion items on the agenda, with Item 5 C being heard first due to the schedules of the CCRI presenters. No objections were raised.

3. Reports from the Chairs

A. Council on Postsecondary Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.

Chair DelGiudice announced that Sara Enright, Vice President of Student Affairs, would be leaving the Community College of Rhode Island. He thanked her for her outstanding work and commitment to the state, the school, and students.

B. Board of Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national PK-20 education.

Barbara Cottam reported that RIDE celebrated the best and brightest of teachers from all school districts at Waterfire. RIDE announced, with support of congressional delegation and in partnership with DCYF, that they are the recipients of a 9-million-dollar AWARE Grant that will expand youth mental health services. She also shared that there have been additional grants four (4) in total and that Rhode Island is the only state in the nation to receive all four (4) grants supporting youth. RIDE has also been asked to present at the National Center for Intensive Intervention and State Implementation Showcase. RIDE was the only New England State to participate in this project.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee - Update on Committee Activity

Committee Chair Dennis Duffy shared that the Finance and Facilities Committee met on September 21, 2021, with President Hughes, President Sanchez, and Commissioner Gilkey for an in-depth review of all budget-related items. The Finance and Facilities Committee unanimously approved a recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education to adopt the budget and capital improvement plans for the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, Community College of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island College.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee - Update on Committee Activity

Committee Chair Michael Mello shared that the committee met on September 21, 2021, and reviewed items that are part of the CPE meeting agenda. He highlighted that the meeting began with a review of academic and student-related Council policies which are one of several important pieces of the work the committee will undertake over the next several months. The next meeting will be on October 27, 2021.

C. Personnel Committee - Update on Committee Activity

Committee Chair Rachelle Green shared that the committee met in September and reviewed the scope of the committee work and the general responsibilities of the

committee. She shared that the committee is in the process of conducting President Sanchez's contract renewal evaluation. They will also be discussing the Commissioner's annual evaluation as well. The next meeting is on October 27, 2021.

5. Discussion Items

C. The Community College of Rhode Island - Discussion of the Recommended FY2023 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2023-2027).

President Hughes shared that the investment priorities for Community College of Rhode Island are: Investing in Advising; Expanding Online Offerings; Acquiring a College-wide CRM; and Supporting Faculty and Staff Professional Development, as well as a continued commitment to equity-focused investments across the college.

For FY23 the request is for 116.8 million dollars, 50.4 million in tuition and fees, which includes a 2.2% increase in State Appropriations. She indicated that this is the third lowest increase begin budgeted of all New England Schools.

D. Rhode Island College - Discussion of the Recommended FY2023 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2023-2027).

President Sanchez stated the strategic priorities for Rhode Island College include: **RIC** Compact: Career Ready Graduates for RI's Economy; Enrollment Management; New Student Populations and Online Education; and Academic Program Review.

For FY 2023 the request is for \$139.4 million, \$61 million in tuition and fees. The FY 23 budget includes a tuition increase of 2.2%, and 2.5% with tuition and fees combined.

President Sanchez stated that Rhode Island College is affordable in comparison to other schools and is 9% below the average of peer schools. He also shared that they are very excited about the Capital Improvement Plan that will be included as a bond question on the November 2022 ballot. In 2017 a feasibility study was done and another is underway.

B. Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner - Discussion of the Recommended FY2023 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2023-2027).

Commissioner Gilkey framed the RIOPC budget presentation by sharing the RIOPC statutory duties which include data analysis, reporting, and transparency; strategic planning; policy development; fiscal management; regulatory and administration; and policy recommendation and program implementation. He then discussed the importance of coordination as the economy has critical demands, and this means our postsecondary system must find scalable ways to keep pace with the state's needs while dealing with the state's population challenges.

The proposed work of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner involves investments in bodies of work, including:
College Readiness and Postsecondary Completion: \$491,615 and 4.5 additional FTEs;
Labor Market Alignment: \$107,380 and 1 additional FTE; Adult Reskilling/Upskilling: \$107,380 and 1 additional FTE; HE Finance and Efficiency: \$138,834 and 1 additional FTE
Institutional Services: \$310,476 and 1.5 additional FTEs; OPC Operations: \$894,521 and Capital Improvements include: a datacenter upgrade in Warwick and Westerly Education Center upgrades totaling 227,156. RIOPC's budget request is for \$42,755,858 with \$227,156 in Capital Improvements for a total of \$42,983,014.

A. Notice and discussion regarding the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee recommendation regarding, and the proposed amendment to Council Policy- S-3 Policy on Students with Disabilities.

Chair DelGiudice stated that pursuant to the Council's procedures for approving policies, this recommendation and amendment will be voted on at the next Council Meeting. He then called upon Committee Chair Michael Mello who shared that the committee engaged in a meaningful conversation about the proposed amendment to Council Policy S-3 Policy on Students with Disabilities. He then called upon Assistant Commissioner Tammy Warner who highlighted the process regarding the policy review. She shared that language had been reviewed and updated and that representatives from both institutions as well as OPC were all engaged in the process.

6. Action Items

A. Approval of the Postsecondary (OPC, CCRI, and RIC) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for FY 2023, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY 2022 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Postsecondary (OPC, CCRI, and RIC) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for FY 2023, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY 2022 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee, as presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the approve the Postsecondary (OPC, CCRI, and RIC) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for FY 2023, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY 2022 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and

Facilities Committee as presented.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy,
Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Approval of the Postsecondary (OPC, CCRI, and RIC) Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2023- 2027 and recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Committee.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Postsecondary (OPC, CCRI, and RIC) Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2023- 2027 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Committee, as presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the
approve the Postsecondary (OPC, CCRI, and RIC)
Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2023- 2027
and recommendation to the Board of Education, as
recommended by the Finance and Committee, as
presented.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy,
Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of Proposed Amendment to the Council's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures - Section XXIII (F).

Chair DelGiudice stated that pursuant to the Council's procedure for approving policies, the proposed amendment to the Council's Title IX Sexual Harassment policy and procedures was discussed at the meeting on September 15, 2021, and is an action item today. He called upon General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro who shared that the language on page 21 that was discussed at the September 15, 2021 meeting and provided to all

Council members for this meeting had been edited by Attorney Zayko and Council members Duffy and Green. He indicated that the edited language had also been provided to the Title IX Coordinators at the two institutions.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education Approve the Proposed Amendment to the Council's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures - Section XXIII (F) as presented.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education Approve the Proposed Amendment to the Council's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures - Section XXIII (F), as presented.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachele Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

D. Approval of a Naming Opportunity at RIC- School of Nursing, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee.

Chair DelGiudice invited President Sanchez from Rhode Island College to give a presentation about the proposed naming opportunity for the School of Nursing.

President Sanchez described the details behind a gift of \$3,000,000 from a local philanthropist in support of the overall educational advancement of nursing at RIC's School of Nursing, and for the benefit of Rhode Islanders. The gift establishes an endowed professorship in Nursing Simulation and supports an endowed scholarship for RIC nursing majors. Once vested, the funds will provide over \$125,000 annually to the school and students. The gift is in recognition of the donor's sister and the College desires to name the school after her. The name will appear any place the name of the School of Nursing is represented (i.e., letterhead, web page, signs, etc.).

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education Approve the naming of Rhode Island College's School of Nursing as the Zvart Onanian School of Nursing, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, and as presented.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education Approve the naming of Rhode Island College’s School of Nursing as the Zvart Onanian School of Nursing, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, and as presented.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

E. Approval of the new classification of Executive Director of Adult Education and Multi-Language Programs at Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the System Personnel Review 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 new classification of Executive Director of Adult Education and Multi-Language Programs at Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the System Personnel Review Committee, and as presented.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. Executive Session

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education enter Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education
October 13, 2021 Meeting

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 Annual Report on Litigation (all cases pending in the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Supreme and Superior Courts¹, and the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

YEAS Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:08 PM.

1. Mendonca, et al. v. Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2016-1418); Moore v. Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2018-7522); Cugini vs. University of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. WC 2008-0722); Karshis v. Gikas and the University of Rhode Island, (USDC No. 1:18-cv-00412); Casey v. 21st Century Fox America, Inc., et al. (C.A. No. PC 2019-0041); Moreino v. University of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. WC 2019-0166); Massucci v. University of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. WC 2019-0174); Licul v. Council on Postsecondary Education, et al., (USDC No. 1:19-cv-00244); Habeeb, et al. v. University of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2019-9694); Jean-Pierre v. University of Rhode Island, (C.A. No. KC 2020-0584); Navarro v. University of Rhode Island, (C.A. No. PC 2020-0441); Fitton v. University of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. WC 2020-0477); Vierra v. University of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. WC 2021-0273); Felkner v. Rhode Island College, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2007-6702); Caldwell v. Jason Anthony, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2019-9870); Jalloh, et al. v. Henry Barnard Laboratory School, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2019-0138); Jefferson v. Rhode Island College, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2019-5321); Thomas v. Rhode Island College, (C.A. No. PC 20-0124); Mello v. Rhode Island College, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2020-06744); Caldwell v. George Pearson, et al., (C.A. No. PC2021-02609); Costa Companies, Inc. v. State of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2021-04947); Parrillo v. Community College of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. 2014-2461); Billerbeck, et al. v. Community College of Rhode Island, et al., (C.A. No. KC 2018-1302); Colafrancesco v. Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp., and Council on Postsecondary Education, (C.A. No. PC 2018-6460); Lopes v. Board of Governors for Higher Education, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2018-8901); Eulalia Cordeiro v. CCRI, (C.A. No. NC 2019-0362); Heon v. CCRI, USDC, (No. 1:20-cv-00195).

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:44 PM.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on October 13, 2021.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on October 13, 2021.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cotta, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

8. Additional Action Items

- A. Ratification of a one-year extension to CCRIPSA collective bargaining agreement through 6/30/22.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of a one-year extension to the CRIPSA collective bargaining agreement through 6/30/22.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.
	NAYS:	0

- B. Ratification of a one-year extension to CCRIFA collective bargaining agreement through 6/30/22.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Ratification of a one-year extension to the CCRIFA collective bargaining agreement through 6/30/22.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

C. Approval of a 2.5% across the board salary increase for all non-union non-classified employees effective July 1, 2021.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve a 2.5% across the board salary increase for all non-union non-classified employees, effective July 1, 2021.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

9. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be **Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 5:30 PM.**

10. Adjourn

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education
October 13, 2021 Meeting

October 13, 2021.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis
Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael
Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM