



**Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 4, 2023

**Rhode Island Nursing Education Center**  
**350 Eddy Street**  
**Providence, RI 02903, room 325**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Michael Mello called this meeting to order at 4:30pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

**Council on Postsecondary Education members present:**

Michael Mello, Chair  
Lawrence Purtill

**Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:**

Jeffery Williams

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

Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner, Academics and Student Affairs  
Joseph Zornado, Senior Associate, Academics and Student Affairs

**Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:**

Carolynn Masters, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Cindy Kozil, Vice President of Student Success  
Sara Enright, Interim Director of Hope Scholarship

**Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:**

Greg LaPointe, Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer  
Amy Kacerik, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Student Success



- iv. The curriculum is responsive to the market, relevant and current.
- v. Student pathways keep students on track toward graduation.
- vi. Transferability cooperation with CCRI is a continued goal.
- vii. General Education requirements are under revision. RIC aims to reduce credits down to 40/41 and align with other schools.
- viii. Elimination (27 programs scheduled to be eliminated): 10 are not active. 14/17 of the remaining are on track for removal. Now working on the remaining 3 programs.
- ix. We have launched three new programs – all have at least 20 majors enrolled.
- x. Comment from Committee Chair Mello: Can we change the name of the report (Low Completion Report) to something like low enrollment programs? Greg Ebner stated that he would investigate a possible name change.
- xi. Comment (Greg LaPointe, VPSA and Chief Outcomes Officer, CCRI): Some areas that we could use help on:
  - (1) JAA in secondary education
  - (2) Creation of online Registered Nursing-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) program

#### 4. Action Items

- a. Approval of a recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the policy governing execution of the Hope Scholarship at Rhode Island College.
  - xii. Sara Enright (Interim Director of Hope Scholarship, RIC) presented an update on the Hope Scholarship. [Enclosure 2](#).
    - (1) Deviation from presentation for discussion on graduation rates, credit creep, and ensuring that majors can be completed in four years.
    - (2) Hope Scholarship Signing Ceremony at 1pm on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Murray Center Quad on RIC campus.
  - xiii. Cindy Kozil (VP of Student Success, RIC) reviewed the current operating policy for approval. [Enclosure 3](#).
    - (1) Comment: There may be small corrections to the policy as we go through the first year, but the main document is stable and follows closely the legislation creating the scholarship.
    - (2) Question (Mike Mello): How do students chose between two years of Promise at CCRI then two years of paid tuition at RIC versus 1<sup>st</sup> two years at RIC paying tuition then two years of Hope scholarship? General consensus is that different students would gain more benefit from the programs based upon several factors other than simply cost of tuition.

- (3) Question (Mike Mello and Lawrence Purtill): Should the state look more closely at the category of students (full Pell eligibility) who might attend CCRI under Promise but then face tuition at RIC that exceeds Pell support?

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

VOTED:        THAT            The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a recommendation to the Council for its approval of the policy governing execution of the Hope Scholarship at Rhode Island College.

VOTE:            2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:            Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello.

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS:      0

5. Next Meeting: September 13 at 4:30pm in RINEC Room 325

6. Adjourn

Chair Mello called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED:        THAT            The Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Success of the Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

VOTE:            2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:            Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello.

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS:      0

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

