



RI

**Office of the
Postsecondary
Commissioner**

560 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 200
Warwick, RI 02886-1304
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www.riopc.edu

**Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes
RI Nursing Education Center Room 325
November 16, 2022 4:30 PM**

MINUTES

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

Committee members present:

Michael Mello, Chair
Lawrence Purtill

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

Deanna Velletri, Specialist
Dr. Tammy Warner, Assistant Commissioner

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Gregory LaPointe, Associate VP Impact & Institutional Effectiveness

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Cindy Kozil, Interim VP Student Success
Jeannine Dingus-Eason, Dean Feinstein School of Education & Human Dev

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of November 16, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of November 16, 2022.

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

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Approval of Minutes

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a. October 5, 2022 Meeting

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee accept the minutes for the meeting of October 5, 2022.

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

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Report from the Chair of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Michael Mello welcomed committee members and participants.

4. Discussion Items

a. Priority list of CPE policy revisions during FY23

Tammy Warner reported that her meeting with RIC and CCRI regarding prioritization of the list of OPC policies to be revised resulted in a consensus of the expectations surrounding the process to revise, realizing that one policy may require 4-5 months to move from discussion to final CPE approval. She added that it is possible for two policies (one academic and one student) be under campus review simultaneously, however in this instance, OPC review and approval may require additional time.

b. Recommendation to CPE regarding RIC teacher certification program admissions

Jeannine Dingus-Eason presented her proposal for a pilot program to eliminate the SAT, ACT or PRAXIS Core as a measure of academic readiness while raising the GPA requirement from 2.75 to 3.0 (those students with a GPA between 2.75 and 3.0 would be required to complete math and literacy basic skills modules under a provisional admission). She said the RIDE test-based admissions policy directly impacts the state's teacher pipeline and particularly deters students of color and low-income students from entering the field. She presented data to overwhelmingly support the proposal including those that were compiled from an unintended pilot created as a result of the pandemic where a group of students were admitted without SAT scores who persisted in teacher



preparation programs, met academic expectations and earned passing scores on PRAXIS content exams.

Tammy Warner said the pilot is a step in the right direction, adding that eventually she would like to see the secondary admissions process eliminated as it too creates an unnecessary barrier.

In terms of next steps, Tammy said that the CPE does not have the authority to take action on such a matter but it can be presented to them for their review and recommendation to the full Board of Education. She suggested that committee members simultaneously send letters of support for the pilot to the Commissioner to do so. She asked that RIC refine its proposal to be presented to the Council (perhaps in time to move it to the February 2023 full Board meeting).

5. Action Items

a. Approval of recommendation to CPE regarding RIC teacher certification program admissions

Regarding the discussion above, in terms of next steps, Tammy said that the CPE does not have the authority to take action on such a matter but it can be presented to them for their review and recommendation to the full Board of Education. She suggested that committee members simultaneously send letters of support for the pilot to the Commissioner to do so. She asked that RIC refine its proposal to be presented to the Council (perhaps in time to move it to the February 2023 full Board meeting).

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee recommends to the CPE that it support RIC's proposed admissions pilot program and recommend approval by the Board of Education.

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

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Approval of recommendation to CPE regarding revisions to proprietary

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school regulations

Deanna Velletri reported that minor clarification issues were recommended from the campus and incorporated into the regulations since the last meeting. The final document is ready for CPE approval, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a recommendation to the CPE regarding approval of revisions to Proprietary School regulations.

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

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. Next Meetings

- a. Wednesday, December 14, 2022
- b. Wednesday, February 1, 2023

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

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

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee adjourn the meeting of November 16, 2022.

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

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0