



**Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023

**Rhode Island Nursing Education Center**  
**350 Eddy Street**  
**Providence, RI 02903, room 112**  
**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

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

Carolynn Masters, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Cindy Kozil, Vice President of Student Success

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

Allyson Handley, Interim Provost  
Greg LaPointe, Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda ([Enclosure 1](#))**

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of November 15, 2003.

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

VOTED:      THAT              The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee  
   accept the agenda for the meeting on November 15, 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

## **2. Approval of the Minutes ([Enclosure 2](#))**

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on October 4, 2023.

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 the minutes of the meeting that took place on  
   October 13, 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

## **3. Discussion Items**

- a. None

## **4. Action Items**

- a. Approval of a recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) for its approval of the CPE Policy on the Hope Scholarship ([Enclosure 3](#))
  - i. Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner for Academics and Student Affairs, presented the proposed CPE Policy on the Hope Scholarship.
    - (1) The proposed CPE policy is required by the legislation creating

- the Hope Scholarship (RIGL 16-112).
- (2) The proposed CPE policy closely aligns with the legislation creating the scholarship. In some places, the policy adds information about resources or points of contact. It also expands the reporting requirements to allow for improved assessment of performance indicators.
  - (3) The proposed CPE policy also aligns with the Rhode Island College Hope Scholarship Policy Handbook, recommended for approval at the October 4, 2023 meeting of the AASSC.
  - (4) The proposed CPE policy has been reviewed by staff and leadership at Rhode Island College who are responsible for execution of scholarship. OPC attained approval of the policy from those parties as part of the drafting process.
  - (5) In response to a question from Lawrence Purtill, Greg Ebner explained that unforeseen circumstances not addressed in the policy would be adjudicated by the Commissioner.
  - (6) Cindy Kozil reported that RIC had spent approximately \$2.36 million on the scholarship to this point.
  - (7) In response to Chairman Mello's questions, RIC personnel provided the following answers:
    1. RIC expects up to 400 Hope Scholarship students in the 2024-2025 school year.
    2. The maximum expenditure of the Hope Scholarship is \$400 million per year

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 Council policy governing execution of the Hope Scholarship.

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: December 13 at 4:30pm in RINEC Room 325

6. Adjourn

Chair Mello called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education  
Friday, December 29, 2023

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, November 15, 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 5:00 PM.