



**RI**

**Office of the  
Postsecondary  
Commissioner**

560 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 200  
Warwick, RI 02886-1304  
401-736-1100 | TDD: 401-734-9481  
www.riopc.edu

**Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner  
Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes  
RI Nursing Education Center Room 325  
December 14, 2022 4:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

Chair Michael Mello called this meeting to order at 4:35 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

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Rosemary Costigan, VP Academic Affairs  
Gregory LaPointe, Associate VP Impact & Institutional Effectiveness

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Cindy Kozil, Interim VP Student Success  
Carolynn Masters, Dean School of Nursing

**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 December 14, 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 December 14, 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**

**a. November 16, 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 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

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

Michael Mello welcomed committee members and participants.

**4. Discussion Items**

- a. RIC removal of Ethics and Society; History of Philosophy; and Knowledge and Reality Concentrations within the Philosophy BA program

Carolynn Masters reported that the program concentrations within the Philosophy BA program were created in 2020 to encourage enrollment growth in the discipline by allowing students more flexibility for completing requirements. Upon recent review of completion data, the current proposal to eliminate the concentrations provides greater flexibility than the specific concentrations, which better serves the current enrollment and retention landscape.

- b. RIC Elimination of Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Career and College Attainment

Carolynn Masters reported that the elimination of RIC's Career and College Attainment CUS is being eliminated due to lack of grant funding to support it. She also reported that the program has not been offered in the last three years due to lack of interest.

**5. Action Items**

- a. RIC Proposal for the Transition of Graduate Nursing Programs to Online Modality Using the “Hy-Flex” Model

Carolynn Masters reported that transitioning to a Hy-flex model for graduate nursing programs will allow students the option to participate in greater than 50% of courses remotely. This change is essential to the College’s priority to expand flexible online and adult learning options while improving equitable access to graduate nursing education and optimizing recruitment and retention efforts. She added that in-person lessons are recorded and accessible throughout the term which is another benefit to students.

It was requested that an update on the success of the programs with a hy-flex option be presented at a future AASSC 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 proposal for the Transition of Graduate Nursing Programs to Online Modality Using the “Hy-Flex” Model.

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, February 1, 2023
- b. Wednesday, March 1, 2023

## 7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 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 December 14, 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

