



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 6:00 PM
Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
400 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903**

Meeting Minutes

Chair Timothy DelGiudice called this meeting to order at 6:07 PM, and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

Timothy DelGiudice, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education
Dennis Duffy
Rachelle Green
Thomas Izzo
Michael Mello
Mackenzie Raimond
Jeffery Williams

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
Amy Grzybowski, Executive Director, Westerly Education Center
Catherine McConnell, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Jill Olson-Crowley, Assistant to the Commissioner

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participant:
Rosemary Costigan, Vice President

Rhode Island College (RIC) participant:
Helen Tate, Provost

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 15, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 15, 2021.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

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 meetings that took place on October 13, 2021, and November 10, 2021, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meetings that took place on October 13, 2021, and November 10, 2021, as presented.

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, and Rachelle Green.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 3 Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Jeffery Williams.

3. Open Forum

Chair DelGiudice noted that individuals interested in providing public comment were encouraged to submit written comments to the Council, and indicated that no one had submitted written comments or signed up to speak during the Open Forum.

4. Reports from the Chairs

- A. Council on Postsecondary Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.**
- B. Board of Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national PK-20 education.**

Chair Cottam reported that the Council on Elementary Education voted last week to put out new high school graduation requirements for public comment sessions in the spring. The new requirements are in alignment with admissions requirements at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College as well as most colleges and universities. This is also a benefit to Community College of Rhode Island for student preparedness. The requirements are four years of math including algebra 1, algebra 2, and geometry as three of the four math requirements in financial literacy; and two years of a foreign language. Following the public comment, there will be a proposal before the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education to vote on new high school graduation requirements.

5. Report from the Commissioner

Commissioner Gilkey reported that notices of change were received from both Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. Community College of Rhode Island has added a Cloud Computing and Networking Technology Degree and a Network Software Certificate. Rhode Island College has added Revisions to the MAT in Secondary Education with a concentration in English Pedagogy or concentration in Mathematics Pedagogy Program and Revisions to the MAT in World Languages Education Pedagogy Program. These revisions are within the role and scope of both Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, therefore, Council approval is not required.

6. Report from the Presidents

Vice President Costigan reported on GEER Funding and Enrollment for the Community College of Rhode Island. They received 5.25 Million in federal funding from the Governor's emergency relief fund. A COVID recovery scholarship has been created for adult learners who are halfway to a degree or certificate and were not enrolled in any institution when the pandemic began. There are currently 186 adult learners that are enrolled through this last-dollar scholarship, and CCRI expects to award up to 810 scholarships.

The second population being targeted are high school graduates who never made it to college due to the pandemic. The scholarship will allow high school graduates to attend

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CCRI full time, much like the Rhode Island Promise Program, for which they would have been eligible had they enrolled right after graduation. Currently, 64 students have enrolled.

With funds still available, CCRI has sought a modification from the Governor's office to expand eligibility to 2021 high school graduates, as well as to allow both 2020 and 2021 high school graduates to enroll in the spring of 2022. If the modification is granted, the scholarship could support an additional 320 students.

The winter term or January Term at CCRI is December 28 – January 14, 2022. There are presently 614 students enrolled compared to 505 last year. Enrollment for Spring 2022 is 7327 students enrolled compared to 8310 last year at this time. CCRI continues to experience enrollment challenges due to the pandemic. Aggressive retention and recruitment outreach efforts are underway.

Provost Tate reported that GEER funding at Rhode Island College has been spent to help build infrastructure to better serve adult learners and to better align programs with their needs. RIC has six initiatives.

First, Emsi market analysis and alumni outcomes report will better align programs with workforce means. Emsi is preparing a Program Gap Analysis that will help identify market needs not currently being met or to which RIC is well suited to contribute. This report will help identify new program opportunities as well as opportunities for revisions to programs.

Second, RIC is currently running an older version of Blackboard with an outdated interface. To meet the needs of adult learners and grow its online programs, RIC needs to migrate to a more robust, modern Learning Management System. A cross-functional committee has been formed to finalize the LMS needs, issue an RFP, and select a vendor.

The third initiative is Professional Development for PLA and Adult Student Support. RIC has joined the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and is using the membership to support professional development in Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and best practices in adult learner support.

Fourth, RIC is reviewing its general education program and one of the stated outcomes is to serve transfer students with seamless mobility between regional institutions.

Fifth, an articulation working group has been created in conjunction with OPC for improving transfer. The GEER funding for this initiative will be used to support faculty in the work of updating outdated agreements and developing new agreements, and for expenses associated with articulation, such as renewing our TES membership and updating the system.

Sixth is marketing with a focus on the soft launch of the Social Services track of the

Bachelor of Professional Studies for January 2022.

As of 12/2/21: total enrollment is down 666 or 14.9% year-over-year (YOY). Undergraduate Enrollment is down 638 (3242 vs. 3880) or 16.4%. Graduate Enrollment is down 28 (549 vs. 577) or 4.8%. RIC's Spring 2022 enrollment goals are to maintain overall enrollment near 6000. Aggressive retention and recruitment outreach efforts are underway.

A question was asked about the goals set for each year, and Provost Tate responded that RIC is looking at different markets aside from traditional students, focusing on adult learners, students who began school but did not finish, and those seeking certificates as well as degrees. There was a suggestion that the Council look at an analysis of the data at the institutions, as well as a five-year strategy with an outlook to 10 years, based on population.

7. Reports from the Committee Chairs

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

Committee Chair Michael Mello shared that the committee has been very active. They have reviewed routine business that will come before the Council for action as well as working on longer-term planning projects. Dr. Warner is leading the committee through the seamless transfer process, as well as the planning for Prepare RI 2.0. Both are making progress.

B. Finance and Facilities Committee - Update on Committee Activity

Committee Chair Dennis Duffy shared that the committee is largely seasonal, including budgets and capital plans. Most recently, the committee reviewed financial statements and has favorable recommendations for the Council. The committee also looks at and makes recommendations on individual facility proposals.

8. Discussion Item

A. Discussion regarding Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner's Advisory Committee meetings and recommendations.

Commissioner Gilkey introduced this discussion topic and Catherine McConnell, OPC's Director of Strategic Initiatives presented the recommendations. Commissioner Gilkey shared that meetings were held with 39 local communities in which their attainment data was reviewed. Each community received a copy of their attainment dashboards. After these meetings an advisory committee of state leadership was formed over the summer of 2021. RIOPC partnered with the Hunt Institute, a nonprofit from North Carolina who donated their time to this project, and the National SHEEO organization to put together a group of state leaders, primarily those outside of the higher education community, to

understand what they thought about Rhode Island's postsecondary system.

Catherine McConnell shared takeaways from the meetings and the committee recommendations. Meeting One focused on Creating a More Prosperous Economy in Rhode Island. Meeting Two focused on Equity in Enrollment, Persistence, and Affordability. Meeting Three focused on Understanding the Needs of Today's Postsecondary Students. Three main themes for the recommendations centered around: Working to Eliminate Equity Gaps; Providing Direct Support for Students, and Removing Structural Policy Barriers.

The recommendations included:

Working to Eliminate Equity Gaps

1. Conduct primary research among postsecondary students to identify solutions to equity imbalances in the system and change policies to remove those barriers.
2. Provide guidance on how programs designed to help current postsecondary students complete their studies can adopt a fresh equity focus that will benefit students from under-resourced communities.
3. Develop strategies for connecting students and families from under-resourced communities with resources that could help them afford the wide range of costs associated with being a higher education student.
4. Study the implications of expanding eligibility for last dollar state-funded scholarship programs, such as for non-traditional students, part-time students, and students at 4-year institutions of higher education (IHEs), to advance equity goals.
5. Concentrate on enrolling BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), immigrant, low-income, youth in foster care, those formerly incarcerated, people with disabilities, and adults 25+ in workforce development programs that award postsecondary credentials, including Registered Apprenticeships.

Providing Direct Support for Students

6. Advocate for additional resources - including the expansion of the RI Reconnect program - to expand on-campus wraparound supports, advising, and counseling to provide students with what they need to complete their program of study.
7. Develop a library of resources, constantly updated, accessible to students enrolled in or contemplating academic and workforce training programs so they can address barriers that might interfere with program completion.
8. Invest in the people who help higher education students navigate the process of receiving support by providing them with meaningful professional development as well as access to clear information.

Removing Structural Policy Barriers

9. Advocate for predictable funding for Rhode Island's postsecondary system, including public and private institutions that require a state investment comparable to the rest of New England.
10. Develop a more robust longitudinal data system that aligns data from OPC, the

Rhode Island Department of Education, the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, and IHEs.

11. Correct systemic issues preventing the conversion of prior learning experiences and course completions toward degree and credential programs.

12. Work with K-12 leaders to increase resources and support shown to improve the transition between highschool and postsecondary settings to ensure all students are prepared for the rigor and experience.

13. Assess the needs of regional employers and implement workforce training programs statewide that will provide qualified, credentialed workers that articulate to credit at the state's IHEs.

9. Action Items

A. Approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education 2022 Meeting Schedule.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Council on Postsecondary Education 2022 Meeting Schedule.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Approval of the Awarding of Faculty Tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve The Awarding of Faculty Tenure at Community College of Rhode Island effective January 1, 2022, to Kathleen Holcomb, Library, Christine Lima, Biology, Janice Schmitz, Dental Health, and David Tennant, English.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- C. Approval of the new classification of Assistant Vice Provost for Online and Adult Education at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the System Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Assistant Vice Provost for Online and Adult Education at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the System Personnel Review Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- D. Approval of the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Nursing to Zvart Onanian at Rhode Island College.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Nursing to Zvart Onanian at Rhode Island College.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E. Approval of a naming of Rhode Island College's Student Athlete Success Center, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the naming of Rhode Island College's Student Athlete Success Center, in honor of Ann Cullen, and hereafter to be known as the Ann Cullen Student Athlete Success Center, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- F. Approval of the audited financial statements for Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner's Division of Higher Educational Assistance for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the audited financial statements for Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner's Division of Higher Educational Assistance for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members

voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- G. Approval of a facilities use agreement with Holy Trinity Parish for two (2) classroom and staff spaces at 1371 Park Avenue, Woonsocket, RI., as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the facilities use agreement with Holy Trinity Parish for two (2) classroom and staff spaces at 1371 Park Avenue, Woonsocket, RI., as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- H. Approval of a rental agreement with Ocean Community United Theater, Inc. for theater, auditorium, and multi-use spaces at 5 Canal Street, Westerly, RI., as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the rental agreement with Ocean Community United Theater, Inc. for theater, auditorium, and multi-use spaces at 5 Canal Street, Westerly, RI., as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- I. Approval of the Change of Ownership for St. Joseph Hospital School of Anesthesia for Nurses, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Change of Ownership for St. Joseph Hospital School of Anesthesia for Nurses, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- J. Approval of the Application from Tailor-Made Training, LLC., to Operate a Proprietary School in Rhode Island, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the application from Tailor-Made Training, LLC., to operate a proprietary school in Rhode Island, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

K. Approval of the Non-SARA application – Saybrook University, Pasadena, CA, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Non-SARA application – Saybrook University, Pasadena, CA, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

L. Approval of the Initial Approval of a Proprietary School – 911 Programs, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the initial approval of a proprietary school – 911 Programs, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis

Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

M. Approval of the Initial Approval of a Proprietary School – International CDL, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the initial approval of a proprietary school – International CDL, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

10. 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:

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).

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:28 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:50 PM.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 15, 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 December 15, 2021.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

11. Additional Action Items

A. Ratification of the PSA@RIC one-year contract extension with a 2.5% salary increase.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the PSA@RIC one-year contract extension with a 2.5% salary increase.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Ratification of the Local 2012 one-year contract extension with a 2.5% salary increase.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the Local 2012 one-year contract extension with a 2.5% salary increase.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Ratification of the RIC Adjunct one-year contract extension with a 2.5% salary increase.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the RIC Adjunct one-year contract extension with a 2.5% salary increase.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

