



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 5:30 PM

**Community College of Rhode Island
400 East Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886 Room 4090**

Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:36 PM and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Dennis Duffy
Rachelle Green
Thomas Izzo
Jeffery Williams

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Ana Duarte Spencer

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Anne Marie Coleman, Vice President of Labor Relations
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Amy Grzybowski, Assistant Commissioner
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jill Olson-Crowley, Assistant to the Commissioner, Special Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants: President Meghan Hughes, Rosemary Costigan, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Alix Ogden, Vice President of Administration and External Relations, David Rawlinson, Controller, Amy Kempe, Director of Marketing and Communications, and other staff members.

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants: President Jack Warner, Steven Nedder, Vice President

of Administration and Finance, Clark Green, Interim VP for College Advancement and Executive Director of the RIC Foundation, and other staff members.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of December 7, 2022.

On a motion made by Rachelle Green and Seconded by Thomas Izzo it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 7, 2022.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on November 9, 2022.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on November 9, 2022, as presented.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

3. Report from the Commissioner

- A. Strategies for Learning Loss and College Readiness/Completion
- B. Applied Connections between Education and Work
- C. Federal Updates impacting Higher Education
- D. Rhode Island Reconnect Update for Refugees

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Commissioner's report. There were none.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the Committee last met on November 30, 2022. At that meeting the Committee approved the following items for recommendation to the Council at tonight's meeting:

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 Education Assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

The proposed sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the use of office space and a conference room at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island.

The proposed Facility Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the exclusive use of office space and non-exclusive use of the conference room at the Community College of Rhode Island Newport County Campus Building located at One John H. Chaffee Boulevard, Newport, Rhode Island.

The privatization of the Community College of Rhode Island Bookstore.

The Rhode Island College FY 2023 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

- 1. Notice of proposed revisions/amendments to the Council's Proprietary School Regulations as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Commissioner Gilkey provided the Committee report. He stated that during the November 16, 2022, meeting, the AASSC members, along with institutional representatives, heard from Assistant Commissioner Tammy Warner that a consensus was reached among institutional representatives about the process to review and revise academic and student-related OPC

policies.

He stated that the Committee also heard from Rhode Island College Dean, Jeannine Dingus-Eason, regarding a proposal for a pilot program at RIC to eliminate the test score (SAT, ACT, or PRAXIS) requirement portion of the teacher certification program admissions process. The Committee expressed support for the pilot program and approved its recommendation for action by the Council and further by the Board of Education.

Commissioner Gilkey also shared that Committee members thoroughly reviewed proposed changes to the proprietary school regulations and approved a recommendation to move the changes forward to the Council for their review and approval. He stated that he is providing this notice of these revisions/amendments to the proprietary school regulations, which can be seen in the Enclosure that is attached to the meeting agenda. As per the Council's procedures, these revisions/amendments will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

There was a discussion on the Committee report. Council member Dennis Duffy stated that he had concerns regarding the proposed pilot program at RIC to eliminate the test score (SAT, ACT, or PRAXIS) requirement portion of the teacher certification program. Member Duffy stated that he felt that this was lowering standards and that it is counterintuitive to lower teachers' requirements. Member Duffy stated that he does not feel RIC has a compelling case to remove this long-standing requirement. Member Duffy also stated that he was not comfortable making this change without further analysis.

President Warner added details on the test preparation programs, explaining that many students do not have access to resources to help them raise scores. He stated that there is a dispute in the literature about the efficacy of the test. Member Duffy stated that he would rather focus on raising performance not reducing requirements.

Council member Thomas Izzo stated that he felt the memo from Rhode Island College was complex and he believed that this is opening the gate to allow individuals to enter the program. He stated that he did not believe that removing the requirement would make it easier for individuals to exit the program, as they will have to meet all the academic requirements of the program. Member Izzo stated that changing a requirement is not lowering a standard. It is applying them differently to accommodate students.

Council member Jeffery Williams indicated that he related to the students who do not have access to test prep resources, as this was him when he was in school. He stated that he did not feel that this was lowering of standards, but rather eliminating a barrier.

Commissioner Shannon Gilkey read a statement of support from Committee member Lawrence Purtill. Council member Rachelle Green inquired about the Board of Education oversight. General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro indicated that the Rhode Island Department of Education (and the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education) has authority over teacher certification programs.

C. Personnel Committee

There was no report submitted as the Committee hasn't met since the last Council meeting.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul shared that the Committee last met on October 21, 2022. At that meeting, TIAA provided the Committee with a status update regarding the transition implementation. The presentation offered an overview of the services that TIAA will provide for the implementation, key milestones, and notifications/communication to the other vendors and plan participants. CAPTRUST provided the quarterly performance review of the plan.

The Committee approved the transfer of assets and re-direction of contributions from Voya to TIAA/Age-appropriate Lifecycle funds. They also approved the re-direction of contributions from AIG and Met Life to TIAA/Age-appropriate funds and a second notification to plan participants. The Committee will continue to provide updates on the timeline for the implementation of the new plan administration with TIAA. The next meeting will be on December 16, 2023.

5. Reports from the Presidents

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments on the Presidents reports from CCRI and RIC. Member Duffy inquired about the RIC Free Day. President Warner stated that they received 803 applicants.

6. Action Items

- A. Approval of 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 Education Assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, as recommended by the Finance & Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council 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 Education Assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Council member Dennis Duffy shared that this was the first year with this auditing group and explained the State requires that you must change auditing groups every few years. He stated that the Committee was pleased with their performance

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

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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 Education Assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B. Approval of the proposed sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the use of office space and a conference room at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the proposed sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the use of office space and a conference room at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the proposed sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the use of office space and a conference room at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members

voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- C. Approval of the proposed Facility Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the exclusive use of office space and non-exclusive use of the conference room at the Community College of Rhode Island Newport County Campus Building located at One John H. Chaffee Boulevard, Newport, Rhode Island as recommended by the Finance & Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the proposed Facility Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the exclusive use of office space and non-exclusive use of the conference room at the Community College of Rhode Island Newport County Campus Building located at One John H. Chaffee Boulevard, Newport, Rhode Island 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 proposed Facility Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the exclusive use of office space and non-exclusive use of the conference room at the Community College of Rhode Island Newport County Campus Building located at One John H. Chaffee Boulevard, Newport, Rhode Island as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- D. Approval of the privatization of the Community College of Rhode Island Bookstore as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the privatization of the Community College of Rhode Island Bookstore as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee. Chair Caprio inquired about the status of the current employees of the bookstore. David Rawlinson, Controller, at CCRI stated that all employees had been relocated and no jobs had been lost.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education
approve the privatization of the Community College of
Rhode Island Bookstore as recommended by the Finance
and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E. Approval of the Rhode Island College FY 2023 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Rhode Island College FY 2023 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education
approve the Rhode Island College FY 2023 Voluntary
Retirement Incentive Program as recommended by the
Finance and Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members

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voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- F. Approval of the Rhode Island College Admissions Pilot for the Teacher Certification Program as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that The Council on Postsecondary Education approve a recommendation of support for the Rhode Island College Admissions Pilot for the teacher certification program as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve a recommendation of support for the Rhode Island College Admissions Pilot for the Teacher Certification Program as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: Dennis Duffy

- G. Approval of the awarding of tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding of tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island effective January 1, 2023, to Jon Benson - Biology Department; Justine Egan-Kunicki - Psychology Department; Kevin D. Fontaine - Psychology Department; and Rachel Nichols – Mathematics Department

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education
approve awarding of tenure at the Community College of
Rhode Island effective January 1, 2023, to
Jon Benson - Biology Department; Justine Egan-Kunicki –
Psychology Department; Kevin D. Fontaine - Psychology
Department; and Rachel Nichols – Mathematics
Department.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

H. Approval of the appointment of Richard Sullivan as the Vice President
of Administration and Finance at the Community College of Rhode
Island.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the
appointment of Richard Sullivan as the Vice President of Administration and Finance at
the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education
approve

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

I. Approval of the reclassification of Simulation Specialist to Senior Simulations
Specialist at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center as recommended by the

Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Simulation Specialist to Senior Simulations Specialist at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education
approve reclassification of Simulation Specialist to Senior
Simulations Specialist at the Rhode Island Nursing
Education Center as recommended by the
Personnel Review Committee.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. Executive Session

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council enter into executive session for the following:

- 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).
- C. Discussion or consideration regarding the lease of real property for public purposes- 116 High Street, Westerly, RI, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Rachelle Green, 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).
- C. Discussion or consideration regarding the lease of real property for public purposes- 116 High Street, Westerly, RI, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 6:29 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 6:37 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 7, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 7, 2022.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. Additional Action Items

- A. Approval (conceptual) /authorization to proceed with discussions/negotiations regarding the short-term lease of property at 116 High Street, Westerly, RI.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education conceptually approve and authorize the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to proceed with

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discussions/negotiations regarding the short-term lease of property at 116 High Street in Westerly, RI.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education conceptually approve and authorize the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to proceed with discussions/negotiations regarding the short-term lease of property at 116 High Street in Westerly, RI.

 VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

 YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

 NAYS: 0

 ABSTAINS: 0

B. Ratification of the three-year collective bargaining agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and Local 2012, AFT.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the three-year collective bargaining agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and Local 2012, AFT.

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 three-year collective bargaining agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and Local 2012, AFT.

 VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

 YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

 NAYS: 0

 ABSTAINS: 0

9. Next Meeting

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Chair Caprio stated that the next meeting of the council on Postsecondary Education will be on January 4th at 5:30 PM at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center. He also stated that the meetings for 2023 are also listed on your agenda and calendar invitations have been sent for the year.

10. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of
December 7, 2022.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0
members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle
Green, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.