



**Minutes of the
Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting and Retreat**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Central Falls Workforce Development Hub
934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, RI 02863**

Chair Timothy DelGiudice called this meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present. He thanked President Sanchez for his hospitality.

Present: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams. Dennis Duffy arrived at 9:12 a.m.

Absent: Student representative Jay Rumas was not present.

President Sanchez thanked the Council for their support of Rhode Island College's cooperative effort with the City of Central Falls to purchase and take over the facility now known as the Central Falls Workforce Development Hub. A brief PowerPoint highlighted the efforts of the Central Falls/Rhode Island College Collective, a group of business, educational, healthcare, and governmental leaders working towards a shared vision to create an economic, educational, and health-centered engine for the residents of Central Falls and the Blackstone Valley community. President Sanchez envisions the facility as a regional leader serving New England's multi-lingual community. Opportunities at the Hub include continuing study certificate programs, English as a Second Language Intensive (non-credit) programs, and professional development and job training programs.

President Sanchez invited the Council members to the January 28, 2020 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Central Falls Workforce Development Hub.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to accept the agenda as presented.

On a motion made by Michael Mello and seconded by Marianne Monte, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of January 8, 2020, as presented.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of December 4, 2019 Meeting

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Marianne Monte, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the meeting held on December 4, 2019.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Report from the Commissioner

Chair DelGiudice chose to dispense with the reports from the Chair and the Commissioner.

4. Action Items

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

President Meghan Hughes asked the Council to consider awarding faculty tenure to Melanie Soter and James Austin, both library employees.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the awarding of faculty tenure to Melanie Soter and James Austin effective January 1, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Marianne Monte and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the Awarding of faculty tenure to Melanie Soter and James Austin effective January 1, 2020.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Approval of recommendations from the System Personnel Review Committee (SPRC).

Chair DelGiudice confirmed with Anne Marie Coleman that there were no abnormalities arising from the System Personnel Review Committee's analysis that needed the attention of the Council.

- (1) Establishment of new classification, Director of Guided Pathways, at the Community College of Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee to establish the position of Director of Guided Pathways at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee to establish the position of Director of Guided Pathways at the Community College of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy,

Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(2) Upgrade of Associate Director, Health Services, at the University of Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee to upgrade the position of Associate Director of Health Services at the University of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee to upgrade of the position of Associate Director of Health Services at the University of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(3) New Classification of Applications Administrator and Functional Analyst, at the University of Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the new classification of the position of Applications Administrator and Functional Analyst at the University of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of the System Personnel Review

Committee regarding the new classification of the position of Applications Administrator and Functional Analyst at the University of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(4) Upgrade of Associate Director, Budget and Financial Planning, at the University of Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee to upgrade the position of Associate Director, Budget and Financial Planning at the University of Rhode Island, from pay grade 16 to pay grade 17.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee to upgrade the position of Associate Director, Budget and Financial Planning at the University of Rhode Island, from pay grade 16 to pay grade 17.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

(5) Reclassification of Budget Specialist III, Financial Analysis to the Assistant Director, Budget and Financial Planning at the University of Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the reclassification of the position of Budget Specialist III, Financial Analysis to Assistant Director, Budget and Financial Planning at the University of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the reclassification of the position of Budget Specialist III, Financial Analysis to Assistant Director, Budget and Financial Planning at the University of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of the awarding of Honorary Degrees by the University of Rhode Island

President Dooley stated he thinks the Council will agree that this year's nominees are a very distinguished group and that URI looks forward to welcoming them to the commencement.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the awarding of Honorary Degrees by the University of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the Awarding of Honorary Degrees by the University of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy,

Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

D. Approval of ground lease to Rhode Island Ag Technologies, LLC for real property located at Peckham Farm at URI

Abigail Rider, URI Vice President for Administration and Finance, presented information regarding the proposed ground lease between Rhode Island Ag Technologies, LLC (RIAT) and URI for real property located at Peckham Farm at URI. She spoke of the Innovation Campus Bond, which includes \$4 million awarded to RIAT to build an AgTech Park on URI's Peckham Farm. Approximately 35 acres will be the site of an Agricultural Innovation Center used for greenhouse vegetable cultivation, mushroom cultivation, seed development, and plant and fungus genomic research.

Chair DelGiudice noted that the Council should solely consider the ground lease, nothing more. The ground lease sets forth the terms, based on the commitments RIAT has made to the University, under which RIAT may occupy the land at Peckham Farm.

Abigail Rider reviewed the finer points of the grant agreement between RIAT and the RI Commerce Corporation and the collaboration agreement between URI, URI Ventures and RIAT. Key terms of the ground lease were itemized; the ground lease takes effect only when all agreements are executed. The risks and mitigations of the agreements were outlined. RIAT expects to enhance the university's reputation as a land-grant research institution as well as produce major economic benefits for the state of Rhode Island.

President Dooley, Abigail Rider and Pete Rumsey, Director of the Rhode Island Innovation Campus, responded to inquiries from Council members.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the ground lease to Rhode Island Ag Technologies, LLC for real property located at Peckham Farm at URI.

On a motion duly made by Marianne Monte and seconded by Rachelle Green and Barbara Mullen, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the ground lease to Rhode Island Ag Technologies, LLC for real property located at Peckham Farm at URI.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Dennis Duffy was absent for the vote.

- E. Approval of lease amendment and extension of lease between the University of Rhode Island and the Independence Square Foundation for Building III, 25 West Independence Way, Kingston, RI

Chair DelGiudice stated that this is an annual renewal and adjustment of the business park lease for the building in front of the Ryan Center.

Ryan Carrillo, Director of Planning and Real Estate Development at URI, explained the details of this agenda item to the Council members.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the lease amendment and extension of the lease between the University of Rhode Island and the Independence Square Foundation for space at 25 Independence Way in Kingston, RI, as presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the lease amendment and extension of the lease between the University of Rhode Island and the Independence Square Foundation for space at 25 Independence Way in Kingston, RI.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Dennis Duffy was absent for the vote.

5. Executive Session

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to enter Executive Session for the following items:

- A. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)
- B. Discussion regarding the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5)
- C. Discussion regarding a personnel matter at RIOPC, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1)

Chair DelGiudice stated for the record that the individuals to be discussed in Item 5(c) have been notified in writing of their right to have this discussion take place in open session and that no objection to proceeding in executive session has been received.

On a motion duly made by Barbara Mullen and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

- VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education enter Executive Session for the following items:
- A. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)
 - B. Discussion regarding the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5)
 - C. Discussion regarding a personnel matter at RIOPC, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1)

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachel Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 9:57 a.m. All non-Council members in attendance were excused, with the exception of:

Ron Cavallaro, Acting Commissioner of Postsecondary Education
Anne Marie Coleman, RIOPC Director of Labor Relations
Susan Mansolillo, RIOPC Chief Financial Officer (Agenda Item 5A only)
Lynn Owens, RIOPC Assistant to the Commissioner
Meghan Hughes, CCRI President
Frank Sanchez, RIC President
David Dooley, URI President (Agenda Items 5A and 5B only)
Abigail Rider, URI Vice President for Administration and Finance (Agenda Items 5A and 5B only)
Lynne Barry Dolan (Agenda Item 5A only)
Michael Richal, TIAA (Agenda Item 5A only)
Dave Iden, TIAA (Agenda Item 5A only)

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 12:00 p.m.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Greene and seconded by Barbara Mullen, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on January 8, 2020.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Michael Mello left the meeting at 10:49 a.m., prior to the end of the Executive Session.

6. Additional Action Items

- A. Approval of allocation option for TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account for 2019 and going forward.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to continue consideration of this item to the March 18, 2020 meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education agreed to continue consideration of this item to the March 18, 2020 meeting.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

RETREAT

7. Discussion Items:

- A. Mission/scope of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
- B. Council Meeting Structure/Format going forward
- C. 2020 Council Priorities

Chair DelGiudice presented a PowerPoint to the Council, outlining the history and mission of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). Legislated powers and duties of the Commissioner, the Council, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner were itemized. The current structure of CPE monthly agendas are generally reactionary to meet legislative and policy mandates.

Chair DelGiudice asserted that the foundation of the CPE's approach in 2020 and beyond will prioritize student success, academic offerings, financial health, and strategic partnerships at RIC and CCRI. The Council discussed organizational options to best execute the CPE's approach. Options included leveraging subcommittees and focusing CPE meetings on one institution at a time, having one quarterly meeting at each institution, over one or two days, or holding meetings structured around institutional-focused subcommittees.

Council members focused their discussion on CPE's fiduciary responsibility to serve and support RIC and CCRI and its contribution to the state educational system.

Marianne Monte left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

8. Upcoming Meeting

- A. The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for March 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.; the location is to be determined.

9. Adjourn

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Barbara Mullen, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of January 8, 2020.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachel Green, Thomas Izzo, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.