



RI

**Office of the
Postsecondary
Commissioner**

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**Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting**

RINEC Room 325

April 5, 2023

MINUTES

Chair Michael Mello called this meeting to order at 4:40 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:

Shannon Gilkey, Commissioner
Christine Grele, Grant/Interdepartmental Project Manager
Deanna Velletri, Specialist

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Rosemary Costigan, VP Academic Affairs
Amy Kacerik, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Gregory LaPointe, Associate VP Impact & Institutional Effectiveness

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Cindy Kozil, Interim Vice President for Student Success
Carolynn Masters, Interim Provost/VP Academic Affairs

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 April 5, 2023.

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 April 5, 2023.

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. February 1, 2023 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 February 1, 2023.

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. Discussion Items

a. Rhode Island College notices

In an effort to make RIC's programs more relevant to today's market demands, Interim Provost Carolyn Masters said that a recent and ongoing review will streamline concentrations, and eliminate low-enrolled majors and excess credits.

The new program in Biotechnology uses mostly existing courses and comes with significant state funding to implement. The changes are driven by student population, market demand and the result of focus-group discussions with local employers. Faculty disciplines are broadened or retooled as needed. Retiring faculty positions are geared toward needed specializations.

The following notices of change were submitted:

- i. Revisions within the Communication Department
 - a. Elimination of Journalism and Public Relations & Advertising Concentrations
 - b. BA in Media Communication to BA in Media Communication and Advertising
 - c. Creation of BA in Strategic Communication and a Strategic Communication concentration within the Bachelor of Professional Studies
 - d. Creation of a Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Conflict and Crisis Communication
- ii. Elimination of Concentrations within the BS in Community and Public Health Promotion
 - a. Health and Aging
 - b. Health and Promotion
 - c. Women's Health
- iii. Elimination of Chemistry BA and BS concentrations in Environmental Chemistry
- iv. Creation of BS in Biotechnology



- b. GEER-funded early child care education career pathways - implementation phase and first outcomes

Christine Grele OPC said the grant, which ends in September 2023, is now focusing on implementation. She said the work was led by an interagency team and stakeholder groups that identified the following gaps in the early child care education career pathways project: articulation/prior learning, access and equity, completion/supports, and data, and discussed pathways developed to address these gaps.

The four major areas of work in pathway development and support that we funded in the first year are-

- The CCRI ELL contextualized learning pathway for family childcare providers uses a I BEST model.
- RIC is developing a competency-based certificate program that is moving through final approvals
- CCRI reviewed opportunities to award credit for professional development and identified two new areas to offer standardized credit award
- Provided support for TEACH scholars and their employers.

Also, through RI Reconnect we have supported members of the workforce who are in training or a college program.

New work in development will support implementation work at each institution.

- Approval and implementation of the CCRI stand credit awards
- Funds to URI to support enrollment and provide tuition for the fall semester
- Leadership trainings contextualized for early childhood specific needs.
- RIC implementation, if approvals align with the grant calendar.
- Launching a short recruitment campaign that complements efforts at each institution.
- Use DataSpark to create a 10-year report on early childhood program completion and enrollment linked to employment data.
- And identify how we can further reduce costs for current and new early childhood students at least to September 2023 when the grant cycle ends.

- c. CCRI discussion on emotional and well-being supports, caseload advising model and transfers destinations

Greg LaPointe presented details of CCRI's commitment to student success, particularly in the areas of well-being supports, caseload advising and transfer. He said the request for services has sky-rocketed and the need for funding is significant. Current funding by the Governor's FY24 budget of \$225K. In addition, a \$1M in GEER funding request was submitted in along with an additional request of \$163K for two additional advisors.



Highlights of his presentation are below.

Emotional and Well-Being Supports

- 15 professional counselors who are licensed and/or have a Masters in Clinical Counseling
- MY SSP: 24/7 via App, telephone and Web
- Starfish: student well-being concern alert/flag
- Office of Community and Social Resources Benefits Hub
 - Utility assistance
 - Emergency funding
 - Financial coaching
 - Enrollment in public benefits
 - Homeless prevention and housing navigation
 - Connection to additional community resources
- Basic Needs Assessment for new and continuing students
- Front-line Student Affairs staff training in mental health first aid

Caseload Advising Model

- Proactive caseload management
 - Low mid-term grades
 - Critical times for outreach
 - Follow-up to outreach
 - Monitoring and documentation
 - In-person and virtual support
 - Technology-enabled

Transfer Destinations

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • URI: | After graduation: 34% | Before graduation: 18% |
| • RIC: | After graduation: 36% | Before graduation: 19% |
| • Other: | After graduation: 30% | Before graduation: 63% |

5. Action Items

- a. Approval of a recommendation to the Council for its approval of a Non-SARA application: Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a recommendation to the Council for its approval of a Non-SARA application: Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0



- b. Approval of a recommendation to the Council for its approval of a Non-SARA application:
Southern California University of Health Sciences, Whittier, CA

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a
recommendation to the Council for its approval of a Non-SARA application:
Southern California University of Health Sciences, Whittier, CA

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- c. Approval of a recommendation to the Council for its approval of a proprietary school: Scott
Anthony Barber Academy

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a
recommendation to the Council for its approval of a proprietary school: Scott
Anthony Barber Academy

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Michael Mello and Larry Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- d. Approval of a recommendation to the Council for its approval of amendments to the Policy for
Articulation and Transfer between Public Institutions of Higher Education in Rhode Island (S-6.0)

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Mike Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a
recommendation to the Council for its approval of amendments to the Policy for
Articulation and Transfer between Public Institutions of Higher Education in
Rhode Island (S-6.0)

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 Meeting

- Wednesday, June 7, 2023

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.