



**Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes
RI Nursing Education Center Room 316
June 16, 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, Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee
Senator Thomas Izzo
Bishop Jeffery Williams

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

Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel
Christine Grele, Project Manager
Omar Reyes, Director of Adult Policies and Programs
Deanna Velletri, Specialist
Dr. Tammy Warner, Assistant Commissioner

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

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

Rhode Island College (RIC) participant:

Holly Shadoian, Vice Provost of Undergraduate 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 June 16, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee
accept the agenda for the meeting of June 16, 2022.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Approval of Minutes

a. January 19, 2022 Meeting

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee accept the minutes for the meeting of January 19, 2022.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

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

Chair Mello gave a brief overview of the agenda and welcomed committee members and guests. He introduced Tammy Vargas Warner to lead the discussion items presented on the agenda.

4. Discussion Items

a. CCRI Changes to General Education Curriculum

Rosemary Costigan reported on recent changes to CCRI's general education curriculum as vehicle to streamline transfer. She said that the core curriculum for colleges relates to outcomes; CCRI's outcomes are divided into four categories (Effective Communication, Critical Thinking, Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning, and Awareness of Oneself and the World), which are standard nationwide. She said that NECHE has strict guidelines related to assessment or core curricula. Tammy Warner noted that alignment is critical to transferability, as is faculty engagement and commitment. Tom Izzo said he would like to see physical fitness added in to the core requirements.

b. RIC Notices of Change

Holly Shadoian gave brief descriptions of the following changes –

i. Masters of Education in Reading

The revised hybrid program more closely aligns with the vision of the Feinstein School of Education. It is RIDE-approved and meets the requirements for certification as a Reading Specialist/Consultant Pre-K to Adult.

ii. Certificate in Vascular Interventional Radiography

Implementation of the VIR program will provide comprehensive clinical and didactic education for students allowing them to sit for the VIR national certification exam. It will also allow for currently licensed radiographers who have not yet completed a bachelor's degree, to complete all of the certification requirements and complete the BS degree.

iii. Major in Chemical Dependency and Addiction Studies

The change in name from Chemical Dependency and Addition Studies to Behavioral Health Studies better aligns with current government and clinical/professional nomenclature. In addition, the name change will help prospective students more easily and accurately understand the program, and graduates of the program will be identified as applicable to the wider range employment opportunities.

c. New Degree Completion Initiative: RI Reconnect

i. Early Education

Christine Grele gave an overview of the Early Child Care Education project, an interagency project to advancing early educators that includes the Governor's Office, the OPC, the Department of Human Services, RIDE, DLT and the Department of Health, and whose project outcomes include family support, strong pathways leading to credit attainment, support for childcare educators, curriculum development and wraparound support for educators and employers.

ii. EOHHS

Omar Reyes updated the committee on the Health Professional Equity Initiative, a partnership between the OPC and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, whose purpose is to strengthen home and community based health care service (HCBS) provider agencies by creating career pathways for professional advancement and by increasing diversity and equity and cultural and linguistic competence within the HCBS workforce and services.

iii. Reconnect to Finish

Reconnect to Finish is a free program offered by OPC to help adults obtain a

postsecondary degree or credential. The program includes Navigators who will provide individualized assessments and wraparound supports to address financial obstacles to completion. The kick-off event is scheduled for June 27, 2022, and will be attended by colleges and universities in Rhode Island and is expected to attract students who have stopped out before degree completion.

5. Action Items

- a. Approval of Recommendation to the Council regarding Initial Approval of a Proprietary School: Ch'i Lash The School RI

Tammy Warner reported that OPC staff have completed an extensive programmatic and financial review before presenting the application submitted by Ch'i Lash The School RI for approval. Since that time, she said, OPC learned of proposed legislation that would require eyelash technicians be licensed by the Department of Health and that applicants for licensure complete at least 50 hours of instruction from an approved school. Since the school recently received approval and began operating a similar program in Connecticut, a state that has recently signed into law a similar bill requiring licensure, Ch'i Lash stands ready to meet the requirements of the RI law should it pass.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee recommend to the Council on Postsecondary Education that it approve the application from Ch'i Lash The School RI to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

4. Next Meetings

July 27, 2022

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

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

Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee
June 16, 2022 Meeting

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee
adjourn the meeting of June 16, 2022.

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

YEAS: Michael Mello and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0