



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 5:30 PM**

**Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
350 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903
Room 306**

Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:35 PM and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education
Rachelle Green
Thomas Izzo
Michael Mello
Ana Duarte Spencer

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 Vargas Warner, Assistant Commissioner
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jill Olson-Crowley, Assistant to the Commissioner

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participant: Meghan Hughes, President

Rhode Island College (RIC) participant: Dr. Jack Warner

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of June 22, 2022.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of June 22, 2022.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.
	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 April 14, 2022.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on April 14, 2022, as presented.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

3. Report from the Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Chair Caprio thanked each Council member for their dedication and stated that he was looking forward to working together.

4. Report from the Commissioner

Commissioner Gilkey reviewed national trends in enrollment and state higher education finance. He shared that new data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center indicates that total enrollment for spring 2022 fell by 4.1 percent. Financial appropriations increased in 40 states and Washington, D.C., from 2020 to 2021. The increase in education appropriations per FTE can be attributed to three notable trends: Increasing state commitments to higher education funding; A sharp decline in FTE enrollment; and Generous federal stimulus funding.

Commissioner Gilkey provided updates from OPC including piloting a new strategy that recruits adults with some college and no degree back into one of our RI institutions of higher education. An Adult Drop-In Day is being held on Monday, June 27th. Construction is continuing on the higher education center in Woonsocket and is on track for completion this summer. OPC is collaborating with EOHHS on a healthcare workforce strategy.

5. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Zachary Saul, CFO at RIOPC, reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Michael Mello, Chair of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, provided an update to the Council regarding the committees last meeting. Chair Mello provided the following RIC notices of change:

- A. Master of Education in Reading
- B. Certificate in Vascular Interventional Radiography
- C. Major in Chemical Dependency & Addiction Studies

He indicated that these program changes at Rhode Island College that were reviewed by the committee include: a revised Master of Education in Reading; a new concentration (or Certificate) in Vascular Interventional Radiography; and a change in program name from Chemical Dependency & Addiction Studies to Behavioral Health Studies. These program changes, according to Chair Mello, were within the role and scope of the institution, and council approval is not required.

The Committee is also recommending for approval a proprietary school as an action item at the meeting as well. Thomas Izzo reported that there was also a presentation and discussion on work being done at CCRI regarding general eds.

C. Personnel Committee

Rachelle Green, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported that the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Zachary Saul, Chair of the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee, reported that the Committee has been very active over the past three weeks. He reported that the Council had previously elected to move to a Single Service Provider for plan administration. TIAA was the successful bidder for the Recordkeeper RFP that was issued for the Council for its Plans. The basic design of the Plans, including contribution rates, eligibility, and vesting requirements will remain the same, but the Plans will be transitioning to a single service provider and recordkeeper.

In addition, the members of the Joint Committee have received fiduciary training from CAPTRUST. Other major topics covered at the meetings include: Working on a transition timeline for implementation of the single record keeper; Group Annuity Contracts; Investment Policy Statement; Investment Menu Design; Mapping Strategy/Re-enrollment of participants' accounts; Fee Methodology for administrative services.

6. Reports from the Presidents

A. Rhode Island College

Dr. Jack Warner reported that to fully leverage Rhode Island College's strengths, it must become more Responsive, Innovative, and Collaborative. He shared that RIC will be developing an Innovation Center on campus which will be an "outward-facing" unit charged with developing innovations to support our students and the state in partnership with organizations in the community.

Enrollment continues to be a challenge. Undergraduate deposits are up 22% (+197) compared to last year, reversing a pattern of decline. Returning undergraduate registrations continue to lag, down 14% (-470). Graduate enrollment is positive 14% (+78). RIC anticipated a 9.5% decline in Fall 2022 enrollment compared to Fall 2021 (5,734 vs. 6,334). Currently, enrollment is projected slightly higher (5,886 vs. 6,334; supported by the gains in new undergraduate and graduate enrollment growth.

The FY2023 budget released by the House Finance Committee fully funded the Governor's operating budget request for Rhode Island College. This will fund the Governor's request for the development of a new Student Success Center on the RIC campus. It will also provide operating and capital support for the creation of a new Biotech program as well as added \$15 million to the voter-approved Clarke Science building renovation.

Program reviews will be underway at RIC. This will be an annual exercise and will inform faculty lines. Dr. Warner reported that the state of IT is suffering. People, processes, and technology are the focus to address the immediate issues.

Dr. Warner stated that a sense of urgency will be communicated to the campus community at the beginning of the new academic year, August 2022, about why deep change is needed for RIC to reduce threats and thrive.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

President Hughes reported The FY '23 budget approved by the House includes two material changes to CCRI's budget as presented in the Governor's original FY '23 proposal. It replaces the \$12 million GO bond request with \$12 million in additional RICAP funding to be available in FY 26 and shifted additional RICAP funding to later years to more accurately reflect the timing of the projects. It also increases general revenues by \$547,145 to fund four (4) FTE staff positions to support student success; stipends for certified nursing assistant students; and marketing and advertising to support the recruitment and training of certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, and registered nurses.

CCRI recognized the students who completed the P-TECH and Accelerate dual enrollment programs offered at CCRI. There were seven students from North Providence High School and one student from Rogers High School who earned their Associate degrees.

The Sixth Annual Raising Opportunities Benefit raised \$430,000. This was the most raised in the event's history in support of the college's Student Emergency Relief Fund, Comeback Scholarship, Nursing Opportunity Scholarship, Faculty Innovation Fellowship, and Coaching 4 Success Program.

President Hughes reported that the goal for the Summer Session enrollment was 5,300 students, an increase of 210 students, or 4%, as compared to Summer 2021. As of Monday, June 20, enrollment for summer was 5,377, or 4.5% higher as compared to the same date last year (5,144), with two weeks until the start of Summer Session 2. The fall term starts on August 31, and the college anticipates offering a condensed, "Late Start" semester starting on September 28. The college's fall enrollment goal is 12,500 students, representing a 4.5% increase over last year. With 73 days until the start of the fall semester, 6,890 students are enrolled, or 17.4% higher as compared to the same date last year (5,870).

7. Discussion item

A. Community College of Rhode Island Strategic Plan

President Hughes presented the 2022-2027 Community College of Rhode Island's Strategic Plan: A College Community in Action. Each goal has specific success measures, strategies, and tactical plans.

- Goal 1 is to drive student success, experience, and completion.
- Goal 2 is to expand partnerships and programs.
- Goal 3 is to strengthen institutional effectiveness.

8. Action Items

- A. Approval of the reclassification of Director, Career Education and Planning to Director, Career Services and Experiential Education at Community College of Rhode Island.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Director, Career Education and Planning to Director, Career Services and Experiential Education at Community College of Rhode Island as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Director, Career Education and Planning to Director, Career Services and Experiential Education at Community College of Rhode Island as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

- B. Approval of the appointment of Gregory LaPointe as Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Outcome Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Gregory LaPointe as Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Outcome Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the appointment of Gregory LaPointe as
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Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief
Outcome Officer at the Community College of
Rhode Island.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of the Awarding of Tenure at Rhode Island College.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve
awarding of tenure to Dr. Kara Misto.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve
the awarding of tenure to Dr. Kara Misto.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**D. Approval of the recommendation by the Academic Affairs and Student
Success Committee for Initial Approval of a Proprietary School: Ch'i Lash The
School RI.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve
the recommendation by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee for Initial
Approval of a Proprietary School: Ch'i Lash The School RI.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve
the recommendation by the Academic Affairs and

Student Success Committee for Initial Approval of
a Proprietary School: Ch'i Lash The School RI.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E. Approval of Retirement Plan Agreement with the University of Rhode
Island Board of Trustees and the indemnification of the members
serving on the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee on behalf of
the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education
approve the Retirement Plan Agreement with the University of Rhode Island
Board of Trustees and the indemnification of the members serving on the Joint
Alternate Retirement Plan Committee on behalf of the Council on Postsecondary
Education.

Chair Caprio called upon General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro for further
explanation. General Counsel Cavallaro provided background on the purpose of
the agreement and explained its provisions. He also explained the indemnification
language in the item and motion.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve
the Retirement Plan Agreement with the University
of Rhode Island Board of Trustees and the
indemnification of the members serving on the Joint
Alternate Retirement Plan Committee on behalf of
the Council on Postsecondary Education.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. Executive Session

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the following:

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into Executive Session for the following items:

A. Update on pending litigation - Felkner v. Rhode Island College, et al. (C.A. No. PC 2007-6702) and Mello v. Rhode Island College, et al. (C.A. No. PC 2020-06744), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

B. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

C. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

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

YEAS David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:20 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 8:06 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 22, 2022.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal

the minutes of the Executive Session held on
June 22, 2022.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

10. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio stated that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be on July 20, 2022, at RINEC at 5:30 PM.

11. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education
adjourn the meeting of June 22, 2022.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Barbara Cottam, Rachelle
Green, Thomas Izzo, and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.