

Council on Postsecondary Education State of Rhode Island

Policy Number

B-5

Policy Title

Collaboration in Public Higher Education Policy

Policy History

Adopted: 9/18/1997 (BR)

Amended:

Technical Revisions: 1/25/24 (OPC)

Legal Citation

R.I.G.L. § 16-59-4

Policy

A. Premise: The establishing legislation for the Council on Postsecondary Education, (CPE), assigns to it, as one of its powers and duties, the responsibility of formulating a broad policy to implement the goals and objectives established and adopted by the CPE. This ability to set policy provides the CPE with a major mechanism for bringing about change.

As resources available to support public higher education have diminished compared to the increased need for this support, the CPE is increasingly cognizant of the necessity of maximizing the return on all funds expended. One of the ways to increase the efficiency of the system of public higher education is to collaborate wherever possible. Although collaboration is not a new concept to the system, Rhode Island public higher education has, thus far, not capitalized on the potential strengths that could accrue if the system functioned more coherently. Having a CPE policy on collaboration is a way to promote a more cooperative working relationship between and among the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, (OPC), Rhode Island College, (RIC), and the Community College of Rhode Island, (CCRI).

For the purposes of this policy, collaboration is the process of bringing as much complementarity as is feasible and fruitful into the administrative and academic operations of the system of public higher education.

1. The reasons for seeking additional collaboration are that it affords
 - a. presentation of the system of public higher education, rather than in discrete parts
 - b. motivation for working together in all administrative and academic areas
 - c. reduction of unnecessary duplication
 - d. economies of scale in purchasing, leasing and licensing agreements
 - e. creation of a more user-friendly atmosphere, particularly for students dealing with more than one institution.

B. Principle: The CPE supports the general principle that OPC and the institutions of public higher education shall collectively strive to bring into the system of public higher education as

much collaboration as is possible, practical, and productive. More cohesion should be sought only in those areas where greater efficiency and simplification can be achieved. Collaboration should pervade all aspects of the operations: administrative, financial, academic, student services and development.

It is recognized that moving toward greater collaboration cannot be undertaken in all areas at the same time. But particularly when changes are contemplated, new initiatives are undertaken, or in instances where substantial opportunities exist, the potential of working together shall be considered. All applicable regulations of the CPE shall be revised to reflect an emphasis on collaboration.