

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, July 12, 2023



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908, Room 200
Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:43 pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Dennis Duffy
Thomas Izzo
Lawrence Purtill
Ana Duarte Spencer
Rachelle Green
Marcy Reyes

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Mello
Jeffery Williams

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Anne Marie Coleman, Vice President of Labor Relations
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jackie Xiong, Assistant to the Commissioner, Special Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education
Jill Olson-Crowley

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

President Jack Warner

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Carolynn Masters, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Steven Nedder, Vice President of Administration and Finance
Clark Green, Interim Vice President for College Advancement, and other staff members

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Rosemary Costigan, Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of July 12, 2023. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Dennis Duffy.

Chair Caprio then asked for a motion that the agenda for this meeting be amended to delete the additional action item 9A.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education amend the agenda of the July 12, 2023 meeting to delete the Addition Action Item 9A.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio then called for a vote to accept the agenda for the meeting of July 12, 2023

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the amended agenda for the meeting on July 12, 2023

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

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 May 24, 2023.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on May 24, 2023, as presented.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Report from the Commissioner

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Commissioner's report. Commissioner Gilkey introduced Jill Olson-Crowley as the new the Director of the Woonsocket Education Center, Jackie Xiong as Assistant to the Commissioner and Council liaison, and welcomed the new Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Greg Ebner.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the committee will be meeting later this month to begin the process of reviewing the capital improvement plans of the various institutions and will make a recommendation back to the Council at its next meeting of the Council. He also requested that the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner propose and develop a set of metrics to review the financial positions of the different institutions on an interim basis over the course of each fiscal year consistent with metrics that are being used throughout higher education.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Council Member Lawrence Purtill reported on behalf of Chair Michael Mello that the committee last met on June 22, 2023. He gave Notices of Change to the Council

regarding the following:

- Notice of Change – RIC – Creation of BS in Sports Management and CUS in Interscholastic Athletic Administration
- Notice of Change – RIC – Elimination of the Secondary Education BA in Biology, Secondary Education BA in Chemistry, and Secondary Education BA in Physics
- Notice of Change – RIC – Creation of BS in Cybersecurity
- Notice of Change – RIC – Creation of new BPS concentration in Educational Foundations and CUS in Equity and Literacy

Council member Purtil shared that it is projected that over the next several years there'll be 95,000 job openings across the country in sports management. Lastly, he noted that the Scholastic League strongly supports offering undergraduate certificates and called upon President Jack Warner to elaborate.

President Warner provided an overview of changes to RIC's programs. President Warner shared his thanks to state investment, and Congressman Langevin for supporting Rhode Island College's efforts in their Cyber Security Center. President Warner shared that RIC's BPS program went from a pilot program with 13 students to now 63 students. Council member Purtil added that the creation of these new programs will attract new student-athletes and create more opportunities for better-paying jobs.

Council Member Izzo inquired if there were any discussions on the LEAs regarding the science program and the impact on staffing and what they require. President Warner stated that the science program gives LEAs flexibility in who they hire. Vice President Rosemary Costigan stated that the LEAs and school districts were involved and that through the Community College of Rhode Island's School of Education, discussions were moving in this direction. Council Member Marcy Reyes shared her excitement for Rhode Island College.

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green reported that the committee last met on July 11, 2023. During the Personnel Committee meeting, they discussed the process of the Commissioner's contract renewal evaluation. She anticipates that the Committee will be reporting back to the Council in executive session at the next meeting.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

General Council Ronald Cavallaro reported on behalf of Chair Zachary Saul that the committee last met on June 15, 2023. At that meeting, the committee received the quarterly investment review from CapTrust, which included quarterly information on the industry and regulatory trends, plan assets and allocation, market update and investment analysis, and the fiduciary training that the committee receives at each meeting. Also, at the meeting on June 15th, the committee discussed the review of the committee's mission and composition statement. General Council Cavallaro then introduced Jen Barker from CapTrust who will be updating the Council on t the

alternate retirement plan implementation later in this meeting.

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Rhode Island College

Chair Caprio congratulated President Warner on his accomplishments and welcomed the President to give a summary of the report. Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions for President Warner regarding RIC's report. President Warner thanked his senior leadership team. Commissioner Gilkey followed up by also thanking President Warner for his leadership and partnership over the last year.

Council Member Dennis Duffy shared his enthusiasm about RIC's elimination of structural deficits but was surprised to see the number of 46 additional vacancies through the retirement plan. Council Member Duffy inquired if that was more than what President Warner had expected, and how he would take action to fill these vacancies. President Warner responded that the RIC team will use metrics to evaluate faculty productivity, and student credit hours generated by the department. President Warner said they will also consider acquiring both full-time and adjunct faculty.

Council Member Reyes thanked President Warner and RIC's commitment to diversity and for creating opportunities for students of color. Council Member Reyes also shared her excitement to see that one of the commitments in the coming years will be the diversification of faculty and staff and asked the college to consider diversification at all levels of leadership.

Council Member Izzo inquired about the RIC Hope Scholarship versus Promise students and inquired about what types of discussions have taken place regarding eligibility and benefits. President Warner responded that this version of the bill does not make the Hope Scholarship available to transfer students and they must start at RIC as first-time, full-time students. Commissioner Gilkey responded that the Hope Scholarship is a three-year pilot and requires a data evaluation after the three years have been completed.

Student member Ana Duarte Spencer inquired about what is being done to recruit high school students, adult learners, and part-time students. President Warner responded that RIC operates a hub in Central Falls where they provide workforce training and hopes to build an infrastructure that taps into the market of adult learning and non-traditional student learning.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for Vice President Rosemary Costigan. Vice President Costigan commented that the Community College of Rhode Island's enrollment remains strong for fall and summer, with the Fresh Start Scholarship showing great promise. Vice President Costigan also spoke about the successful orientation that CCRI held and looked forward to a turnaround from the COVID cliff.

On behalf of the board, Chair Caprio thanked Vice President Costigan and shared his excitement to continue working with her.

6. Discussion Item

A. Discussion regarding the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education Alternate Retirement Plans implementation overview and update from CAPTRUST.

Chair Caprio introduced the discussion item and called upon General Counsel Ron Cavallaro to introduce the presenter, Jen Barker, from CAPTRUST. Ms. Barker provided the Council members with an overview of the Council's alternate retirement plans, and the defined contribution plans that are available to non-classified employees of the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Community College of Rhode Island, and the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner. Ms. Barker explained TIAA's role as the record keeper for the plans for both active and former employees, and its fees. She reviewed the creation, membership, and role of the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee. Ms. Barker stated that there was a new investment policy statement that has been approved, and explained the guidelines that were used to select and monitor investments for the plan. Ms. Barker reviewed the restructured investment menu with the Council and shared that the Committee will next be reviewing the plan and Committee documents like the Committee mission and composition statement.

B. Discussion regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College (No. 20-1199) and Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v University of North Carolina, ET AL. (No. 21-707) 600 U.S. (2023)

Chair Caprio called upon General Counsel Ron Cavallaro to provide a briefing on the US Supreme Court's recent decision on affirmative action. Chair Caprio inquired if the decision had any impact on previous or future admissions, or policies at Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island. General Counsel Cavallaro confirmed that the Court's decisions did not present an issue regarding admissions at RIC and CCRI.

General Counsel Cavallaro provided the Council with an overview of the Supreme Court's decision in the Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College and Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v the University of North Carolina cases.

Chair Caprio inquired about the impact it would have on the Council's responsibilities and/or the admissions policies. General Counsel Cavallaro responded that given this decision, a public higher education institution may not grant or deny a student admission based upon that student's race and explained that there is also the potential that this decision will be applied to other areas of public higher education outside of admissions.

Chair Caprio called upon Commissioner Gilkey to summarize the strategic plans and the policies that we have in our colleges to which he responded that the Council plans to look

at credential attainment to close the workforce gap and to ensure employers the credentials they need through higher education. The Commissioner emphasized the Council's commitment to equitable access and completion of a post-secondary credential and concluded that he didn't see the Supreme Court ruling having any practical impact on our commitment to equity.

Chair Caprio acknowledged both the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College for being proactive in their commitment to equity before the Supreme Court ruling. President Warner commented that RIC is an (HSI) Hispanic Serving Institution and has no problem attracting a very diverse population which also reflects the composition of the state. President Warner followed by acknowledging that RIC can improve in ways such as closing the gap between their white students and their students of color. President Warner stated that the educational attainment goal is not feasible without educating large numbers of students of color. To attain that goal, President Warner shared that he plans to introduce a comprehensive student success strategy that is aimed at all students and students at risk to ensure the proper support systems for student success.

Council Member Reyes inquired about how RIC will track the students who have been marginalized versus white students regarding closing the education attainment gap. Commissioner Gilkey responded by referencing the attainment dashboards which annually track all 39 communities in Rhode Island and said there will be a discussion at the upcoming Council retreat regarding the progress on those strategies on attainment goals, closing workforce gaps, and closing credential attainment gaps per population subgroup. President Warner and Vice President Costigan added that RIC and CCRI disaggregate all metrics by race and income to track progress in closing those gaps. Vice President Costigan commented about CCRI's early college programs and their impact on improving equitable outcomes and access to higher education. She also shared CCRI's investment in significant funds for the professional development of faculty. Council Member Reyes commends the annual report but requests a monthly understanding of the strategic initiatives.

7. Action Items

- A. Approval of the Proprietary School: Medical Device Sales Institute as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the Proprietary School: Medical Device Sales Institute as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Proprietary School: Medical Device Sales Institute as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B. Approval of the Non-SARA application of the University of Arizona Global Campus, Santa Barbara, CA as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Non-SARA application of the University of Arizona Global Campus, Santa Barbara, CA as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Non SARA application to the University of Arizona Global Campus, Santa Barbara, CA as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Izzo inquired about what steps are in place to document the earned credentials regarding the Non-SARA application. The Commissioner responded that the state data warehouse has not historically had the efficient infrastructure to track short-term credentials. Commissioner Gilkey followed, that with the governor's budget this year, the state's longitudinal data system and workforce data will now be under the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner which will allow more capacity to rethink and restructure data input.

- C. Approval of the Community College of Rhode Island's new classification of Director One Stop Student Services as recommended by the Personnel Review.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island's new classification of Director One Stop Student Services as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island's new classification of Director One Stop Student Services as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

D. Approval of the Community College of Rhode Island's new classification Director Community First as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island's new classification Director Community First as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island's new classification Director Community First as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. Executive Session

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council enter into Executive Session for the following:

- A. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- B. Discussion regarding Tentative Agreement with RIC Adjunct Faculty, Local 1563, 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).

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

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

- A. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- B. Discussion regarding Tentative Agreement with RIC Adjunct Faculty, Local 1563, 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, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:12 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:47 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on July 12, 2023.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on July 12, 2023.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. Additional Action Items

- A. Approval/Ratification of a tentative three-year collective bargaining agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Rhode Island College Faculty, Local 1563.

Additional Action Item 9A was deleted from the agenda by a motion and vote of the Council earlier in the meeting.

10. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio stated that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 5:30 PM at Rhode Island College.

11. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

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The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.