



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Ave
Providence, RI 02908, Gage Hall, Room 200
Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

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

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Grey
Thomas Izzo
Michael Mello

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

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

Rhode Island College staff present:

Jack Warner, Interim President
Clark Green, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff
Sara Enright, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance

Jenifer Giroux, Vice President of Corporate Relations and Professional Studies
Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success
Carolynn Masters, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and other staff members

Community College of Rhode Island staff present:

Greg LaPointe, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer
Allyson Handley, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Amy Kacerik, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Amy Kempe, Executive Director, Marketing, Communications & External Affairs,
Newport County Campus Leader
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair David Caprio began by congratulating Council Member Marcy Reyes who was chosen by United Latinas to participate in a Volume 3 of a book called Extraordinary Latinas.

Council Member Reyes read an excerpt of the chapter she contributed to the book.

Chair Caprio then went on to acknowledge and congratulate both the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College women's basketball team.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of March 13, 2024.

On a motion made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of March 13, 2024.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the minutes

A. Minutes of the February 9, 2024, CPE Meeting.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 9, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 9, 2024, as presented.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Minutes of the February 14, 2024, CPE Meeting.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 14, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 14, 2024, as presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: Jeffery Williams

3. Report from the Commissioner

Chair Caprio asked if there were any question for Commissioner Shannon Gilkey regarding his report. There were none.

Commissioner Gilkey highlighted Secretary Cardona’s visit in late February to the Community College of Rhode Island, and recognized his team, the colleges, and state leadership for the successful meeting.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Council Member Lawrence Purtill reported that the committee has not met since the last Council meeting. Council Member Purtill notified the council of the new program proposal of African American/Africana Studies Degree at the Community College of Rhode Island regarding.

Council Member Reyes inquired about more information regarding the transfer pathways, and Vice President Greg LaPointe responded that they are under consideration.

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green reported that the Personnel Committee last met on February 22, 2024, and that further information will be provided during executive session.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the committee last met on February 29, 2024. During that meeting the committee discussed the Quarterly Review for the quarter ending on December 31, 2023.

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Community College of Rhode Island

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for Vice President LaPointe. There were none.

Vice President LaPointe thanked the Council Members who participated in the New England Commissioner of Higher Education (NECHE) visit in February. The Vice President shared the positive feedback that has been received and announced that the final report will be issued later this fall. Vice President LaPointe acknowledged the CCRI women's basketball team and their successful season this year. Finally, the Vice President highlighted the increase in enrollment at CCRI this spring semester.

B. Rhode Island College

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comment for President Jack Warner. There were none.

President Warner highlighted Rhode Island College's women's basketball team. The President also announced that the college's application activity for next fall has increased.

6. Action Item

A. Approval of Rhode Island College Honorary Degrees.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Rhode Island College Honorary Degrees, as presented.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B.** Approval of the new classification of Director, Financial Strategy and Planning Position at the Rhode Island Office of Postsecondary Education, 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 new classification of Director, Financial Strategy and Planning Position at the Rhode Island Office of Postsecondary Education, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Commissioner Gilkey, in response to a question from Council Member Jeffery Williams, gave a brief overview of the Director, Financial Strategy and Planning position.

7. Executive Session

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council enter 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 potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- C.** Discussion regarding the lease of real property for public purposes, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).
- D.** Discussion regarding the extension of the Interim President of the Community College of Rhode Island’s employment contract pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education 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 potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- C.** Discussion regarding the lease or real property for public purposes, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).
- D.** Discussion regarding the extension of the Interim President of the Community College of Rhode Island’s employment contract, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and
0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery
Williams.

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio noted that Interim President Costigan has been notified in writing of her right to have this discussion take place in Open Session, and that no objection to having this discussion take place in Executive Session has been received.

**The Council entered Executive Session at 6:00 PM.
The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:14 pm.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 13, 2024.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 13, 2024.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

8. Additional Action Item

- A.** Approval of the extension of the Interim President of the Community College of Rhode Island's employment contract, and authorization of the Council Chair.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the extension of the Interim President of the Community College of Rhode Island's employment contract and authorize the Council Chair to negotiate the terms of the extended contract with the Interim President as discussed in Executive Session.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B.** Approval and authorization of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner regarding non-council employees and the Council's Alternate Retirement Plans.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve and authorize the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to proceed regarding the non-council employees and the Council's Alternate Retirement Plans, as discussed.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- C.** Approval (conceptual) for the lease of real property in the Tower Center Project in Westerly, RI.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The additional Action Item 8(c) be postponed and continued to the next Council meeting.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio stated that the next Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on April 17, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the Community College of Rhode Island.

10. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting
on March 13, 2024.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and
0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery
Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.