



**Special Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education**  
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

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

Council Member Michael Grey, at the request of Chair Caprio, called this meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

**Council on Postsecondary Education members present:**

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education **entered at 6:26 p.m.**  
Rachelle Green  
Michael Grey  
Thomas Izzo  
Lawrence Purtill  
Jeffery Williams

**Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:**

Dennis Duffy  
Michael Mello  
Marcy Reyes  
Ana Duarte Spencer

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

Shannon Gilkey, Commissioner  
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel  
Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources Labor Relations  
Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academics and Student Affairs  
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, President

Kimberly Bright, Executive Director Strategic Initiatives  
Sara Enright, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Jenifer Giroux, Vice President of Corporate Relations and Professional Studies  
Praveena Gullapalli, Associate Professor  
Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success  
Carolynn Masters, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
James Tweed, Dean of Enrollment Management

**Community College of Rhode Island staff present:**

Rosemary Costigan, Interim President  
Greg LaPointe, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer  
Amy Kacerik, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs  
Amy Kempe, Executive Director, Marketing, Communications & External Affairs,  
Newport County Campus Leader  
Barbara Nauman, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs  
Alix Ogden, Vice President Institutional Equity, Human Resources, & OD  
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

**Other Attendees:**

Kara DiPaola, Assistant Director Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Coordinator (CCRI)  
Ashely Ruderman, Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator (RIC)  
Kristine Zayko, Senior Counsel (Husch Blackwell)

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Council Member Michael Grey asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of June 26, 2024.

A motion was then made by Jeffery Willaims and seconded by Rachelle Green.

Council Member Grey then asked to have a motion that the agenda for the meeting be amended to remove Action Item 7D and to add the following notices of change to Rhode Island College's academic programs to Item 4B:

- i. Creation of Certification of Undergrad Study in Cyber Security
- ii. Revision of the Med Program in Advance Studies of Teaching and Learning
- iii. Creation of Public Policy BA Program
- iv. Change of Modality for RN to BSN Program
- v. Creation of a School Nurse Teacher Certificate of Graduate Studies
- vi. Elimination of Health Ed BS/Creation of Health and Phys Ed BS

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education amend the agenda to remove Action Item 7D and add the following notices of change to Rhode Island College's academic Programs to Item 4B:

- i.     Creation of Certification of Undergrad Study in Cyber Security
- ii.    Revision of the Med Program in Advance Studies of Teaching and Learning
- iii.   Creation of Public Policy BA Program
- iv.    Change of Modality for RN to BSN Program
- v.     Creation of a School Nurse Teacher Certificate of Graduate Studies
- vi.    Elimination of Health Ed BS/Creation of Health and Phys Ed BS

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

YEAS:        Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Grey announced that the motion to amend the agenda was approved.

It was then,  
VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of June 26, 2024, as amended.

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

YEAS:        Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

## **2. Approval of the minutes**

### **A. Minutes of the May 15, 2024, CPE Meeting.**

Council Member Grey called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on May 15, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:            THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on May 15, 2024, as presented.

VOTE:            4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:            Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS: Jeffery Williams

## **3. Report from the Commissioner**

Council Member Grey asked if there were any questions for Commissioner Shannon Gilkey regarding his report. There were none.

Commissioner Gilkey gave a brief overview of his FAFSA update, the legislative and budget summary for 2024, and the Federal Policy Update.

## **4. Report from the Committee Chair**

### **A. Finance and Facilities Committee**

Chief Financial Officer, Zachary Saul reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee have not met since the last Council meeting.

### **B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee**

Committee Member Lawrence Purtill announced that the Committee last met on June 24, 2024, to discuss the program changes at Rhode Island College and the Promise Scholarship. Regarding the Promise Scholarship, Committee Member Purtill announced that the Committee voted to change the 12 credit per semester requirement to 24 credits per year.

Assistant Commissioner Ebner informed the Council in detail on the following notices of change at Rhode Island College:

- i. Creation of Certification of Undergrad Study in Cyber Security
- ii. Revision of the Med Program in Advance Studies of Teaching and Learning
- iii. Creation of Public Policy BA Program
- iv. Change of Modality for RN to BSN Program
- v. Creation of a School Nurse Teacher Certificate of Graduate Studies
- vi. Elimination of Health Ed BS/Creation of Health and Phys Ed BS

Council Member Thomas Izzo inquired about the viability of the existing programs as a result of the new additions mentioned, to which Assistant Commissioner Ebner clarified that the new programs do not replace any programs that were eliminated or put on suspension.

### **C. Personnel Committee**

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

### **D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee**

Chair of the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan, Zachary Saul, reported that the committee last met on May 23, 2024, where they received the quarterly update and investment review as of March 31, 2024, fiduciary training, industry and regulatory trend and document retention.

## **5. Reports from the Presidents A. Community College of Rhode Island**

Council Member Grey asked if there were any questions for President Costigan regarding her report.

Council Member Izzo inquired about the articulation between the Cyber Security Program and the Community College of Rhode Island. President Rosemary Costigan responded that RIC and leaders from the Community College's Cyber Security Program have been working closely on this matter. President Costigan informed the Council that CCRI currently offers a certificate and an associate degree and are working to build pathways towards a bachelor's degree at RIC.

President Costigan also addressed her update on enrollment in her report, flagging that CCRI is down by 6% in enrollment due to various factors such as FAFSA and the competitive environment.

## **B. Rhode Island College**

Council Member Grey asked if there were any questions for President Warner regarding his report.

President Warner announced the update on RIC's enrollment trends, admitting over 680 applications than the previous year.

To follow, Commissioner Gilkey thanked CCRI and RIC for their participation for the Degree Completion Day.

## **6. Discussion Items**

- A.** Proposed new Council on Postsecondary Education 2024 Title IX Sex Discrimination Policy and Procedure
- B.** Proposed Amendments to Council on Postsecondary Education Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures (S17 and P17)
- C.** Proposed new Council on Postsecondary Education Pregnancy Policy

Council Member Grey welcomed Chief Policy Officer Molly Cote to present on Discussion Items A, B, and C.

Chief Policy Officer Cote began her presentation by introducing our consultant from Husch Blackwell, Attorney Kristine Zayko, who joined virtually. She then thanked other members of the internal and external team who worked on the proposed new Title IX policies. Ms. Cote informed the Council of the new regulation requirements were announced by the Department of Education in April. The new mandate would include providing a greater clarity regarding the meaning of sex-based harassment and the scope of sex discrimination. She indicated that some implementations were to be considered mandatory under the regulations, however, some were to be left to the discretionary of the institutions. The implementation date for the new policy would be August 1, 2024, as confirmed by Cote.

General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro informed the Council that the items discussed at this meeting were the discussion/ notice phase of the policy approval process and would be voted on at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Zayko informed the Council that the policy and did not differ drastically in scope or process and is closely aligned with the existing Title IX policy.

Council Member Grey thanked Ms. Zayko and inquired about the revision and/or amendment process of the policy. Ms. Cote responded that the Council would be able to make amendments in future. General Counsel Cavallaro added that in order to make an amendment, the Council would follow this same approval process.

## **7. Action Items**

- A.** Approval of awarding tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island effective July 1, 2024, to Svetlana Stavisky.

Council Member Grey asked for a motion to approve Item 7 A.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by David Caprio, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island effective July 1, 2024, to Svetlana Stavisky.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**B. Approval of the Rhode Island College Strategic Compass.**

Council Member Grey asked for a motion to approve Item 7 B.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Rhode Island College Strategic Compass.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives, Kimberly Bright, and Associate Professor, Praveena Gullpalli, gave a brief presentation on the Rhode Island College Strategic Compass.

**C. Approval of the reclassification of Senior Facilitator, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Organizational Development to Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.**

Council Member Grey asked for a motion to approve Item 7 C.

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

VOTED:            THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approve reclassification of Senior Facilitator, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Organizational Development to Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

YEAS:            David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS :            0

ABSTAINS: 0

- ~~D. Approval of Approval of the amendment to the lease agreement by and between the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, by and through its governing council, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education and J & C Luzzi Homes, LLC for the lease of space, as indicated in the original lease agreement dated March 15, 2023, at 116 High Street, Westerly, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.~~

Council Member Grey announced that Action Item 7D was deleted from the agenda by the earlier vote of the Council.

- E. Approval of the proposed amendments to the RI Promise Scholarship Program Policies and Procedures (S-19), as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Council Member Grey asked for a motion to approve Item 7E.

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

VOTED:            THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approve proposed amendments to the RI Promise Scholarship Program Policies and Procedures (S-19), as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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



YEAS: David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey,  
Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery  
Williams.

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### **8. Executive Session**

Council Member Grey 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).

On a motion duly made by David Caprio and seconded by Rachelle Green, 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).

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey,  
Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery  
Williams.

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**The Council entered Executive Session at 7:00 PM.**

**The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:48 PM.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 26, 2024.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 26, 2024.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### 9. Next Meeting

Council Member Grey stated that the next regular scheduled Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on August 21, 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 June 26, 2024.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.**