



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education**  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**Rhode Island College**  
**600 Mount Pleasant Ave**  
**Providence, RI 02908, Kauffman Center, Conference Room**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 8:54 am and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

**Council on Postsecondary Education members present:**

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education  
Dennis Duffy  
Rachelle Green  
Michael Grey  
Thomas Izzo  
Michael Mello  
Lawrence Purtill  
Ana Duarte Spencer (arrived at 9:09 a.m.)

**Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:**

Marcy Reyes  
Jeffery Williams

**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  
Jackie Xiong, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Special Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education

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

Rosemary Costigan, Interim President  
Allyson Handley, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Jennie Johnson, Vice President, Division of Workforce Partnerships

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

**Rhode Island College staff present:**

Jack Warner, Interim President  
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  
James Tweed, Dean of Enrollment Management

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of February 14, 2024.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of February 14, 2024.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

**2. Approval of the minutes**

**A. Minutes of the December 6, 2023, CPE Meeting.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on December 6, 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 December 6, 2023, as presented.
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VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**B. Minutes of the December 7, 2023, CPE Meeting.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on December 7, 2023.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on December 7, 2023, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**C. Minutes of the January 29, 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 January 29, 2024.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on January 29, 2024, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,  
Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and  
Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

**D. Minutes of the January 31, 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 January 31, 2024.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve  
the minutes of the meeting that took place  
on January 31, 2024, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,  
Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and  
Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

**E. Minutes of the February 2, 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 2, 2024.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve  
the minutes of the meeting that took place  
on February 2, 2024, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,  
Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and  
Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

### **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 the RI Reconnect Ribbon Cutting event that took place on February 7, 2024. He followed by thanking the colleges, and those who participated and attended the event.

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

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

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the committee was scheduled to meet last night but due to the snowstorm, the meeting will now be rescheduled.

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

Chair Michael Mello reported that the committee last met on January 31, 2024. During that meeting, the committee discussed the notices of change regarding the addition of the three new certificate programs at the Community College of Rhode Island. Chair Mello announced the three notices of change which included, Ecology and Environmental Biology- Aquatic Certificate, Ecology and Environmental Biology- Terrestrial Certificate, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate.

#### **C. Personnel Committee**

Chair Rachelle Green reported that there has been Personnel Committee activity since the last Council meeting, but it has solely taken place in executive session so she could not provide further information at that time.

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

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

### **5. Reports from the Presidents**

#### **A. Community College of Rhode Island**

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for President Rosemary Costigan. There were none.

President Costigan highlighted the upcoming NECHE visit scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 6<sup>th</sup> and thanked those who attended the recent NECHE mock visit.

#### **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 increase in enrollment and applications. President Warner acknowledged Ms. Cindy Cozil for her and her teams’ efforts in building community engagement throughout the campus.

**6. Action Item**

- A. Approval of the first amendment to the sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the use of office space and a conference room at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve of the first amendment to the sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for the use of office space and a conference room at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

**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 Commissioner of Postsecondary Education’s contract renewal, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

- D.** Discussion regarding the Rhode Island College Presidential Search Finalists and the appointment of the new president of Rhode Island College, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, 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 Commissioner of Postsecondary Education’s contract renewal, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).
  - D.** Discussion regarding the Rhode Island College Presidential Search Finalists and the appointment of the new president of Rhode Island College, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

VOTE:            7 members voted in the affirmative and  
0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:            David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,  
Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and  
Lawrence Purtill

NAYS :            0

ABSTAINS:      0

Chair Caprio noted that the individuals who will be discussed in items 7C and D have been notified in writing of their right to have these discussions take place in Open Session, and that no objection to having these discussions take place in Executive Session has been received.

**The Council entered Executive Session at 9:04 AM.  
The Council reconvened in Open Session at 11:12 AM.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on February 14, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on February 14, 2024.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8. Additional Action Item**

- A. Approval of the renewal of the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education’s employment contract and authorization of the Council Chair.

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

VOTED: THAT Approve of the renewal of the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education’s employment contract, as discussed in Executive Session, and the Council Chair to execute a new contract on behalf of the Council.. and authorize

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B. Approval of the appointment of the new president of Rhode Island College and authorization of the Council Chair.

Chair Caprio called upon Council Member Mello to make a motion.

Council Member Mello made a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Dr. Jack Warner as the new President of Rhode Island



College and authorize the Council Chair to negotiate an employment contract with the new President.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED:            THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Dr. Jack Warner as the new President of Rhode Island College and authorize the Council Chair to negotiate an employment contract with the new President.

VOTE:            7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:            David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS:      0

President Warner shared brief comments and thanked the Council.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Chair Caprio stated that the next Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on March 13, 2024, at 5:30 PM at Rhode Island College in the Kauffman Center.

## **10. 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 adjourn the meeting on February 14, 2024.

VOTE:            7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:            David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS: 0

**The meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.**