



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:43pm 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 enters at 5:46 p.m.
Thomas Izzo
Ana Duarte Spencer
Jeffery Williams

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Mello
Marcy Reyes
Lawrence Purtill

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

Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Anne Marie Coleman, Vice President of Labor Relations
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Gregory Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academics and Student Affairs
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jackie Xiong, Assistant to the Commissioner, Special Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education
Adrienne Pontbriand Administrative Assistant

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, December 6, 2023

President Jack Warner
Clark Green, Interim Vice President for College Advancement
Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success
Carolynn Masters, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and other staff members

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Greg LaPointe, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance
Jenny Johnson, Vice President of Division of Workforce Partnerships
Alix Ogden, Special Advisor to the President
Amy Kempe, Executive Director, Marketing, Communications & External Affairs,
Newport County Campus Leader

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of December 6, 2023.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 6, 2023.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.
	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 October 18, 2023.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on October 18, 2023, as presented.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members

voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Report from the Commissioner

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Commissioner's report. There were none.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the committee last met on November 29, 2023, to review the audited financial statements of the colleges and the Commissioner's office. At the meeting, the committee also discussed an amendment to the lease between the Council and the landlord of the nursing center regarding a change in the ownership structure.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Assistant Commissioner Greg Ebner stated that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee last met on November 15, 2023. During the meeting, the committee voted for the recommended approval of the Council's policy on the Hope scholarship. Assistant Commissioner Ebner shared that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for early January.

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green reported that the Personnel Committee has not met, though she and Co-Chair Williams of the Rhode Island College Search Committee has met several times. In addition, Chair Green shared that the committee is narrowing the applicants and continuing with the application process for the Search. Chair Green stated that she could not get into detail due to the confidential information involved.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul shared that the Committee has not met since their last meeting but will be meeting on December 14, 2023.

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Rhode Island College

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions for President Jack Warner regarding his report.

Council Member Jeffery Williams inquired about more information regarding enrollment management. President Warner informed the Council of multiple positive indicators of enrollment at the college including a 20% increase of participation at this year's Open House, an increase of spring applications, particularly among transfer students from CCRI, and a successful turnout at the RIC free day. Finally, the President shared that the Hope Scholarship continues to be an obvious benefit for the college as well.

Committee Member Ana Duarte Spencer inquired about data on the demographic of the students taking advantage of the Hope Scholarship to ensure that it is equitable. President Warner replied that he did not have the breakdown on the racial-ethnic distribution for the Hope Scholarship but would be happy to provide it at a later time.

Committee Member Thomas Izzo asked President Warner about a recent article regarding a baseball stadium on the college campus. President Warner informed the Council that there are plans for him to meet with the ball club as well as the Governor for this particular project and he will keep the Council informed with updates regarding the stadium going forward.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for Vice President Alix Ogden regarding the Community College of Rhode Island's Report.

Council Member Rachelle Green inquired about the Offshore Wind Safety Training Center. Vice President of Division of Workforce Partnerships, Jenny Johnson, answered on behalf of the Community College of Rhode Island explaining that this facility would be the first in the state to provide global wind organization-certified basic safety training. Vice President Johnson informed the Council that they are going through the audit process and aim to be fully certified by mid-January.

6. Action Items

A. Approval of the reclassification of and appointment of Tracy Karasinski as Dean of Community Standards at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the reclassification of and the appointment of Tracy Karasinski as Dean of Community Standards at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of and the appointment of Tracy Karasinski as Dean of Community Standards 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, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Williams inquired about the position to which Vice President Alix gave a brief overview of the position.

B. Approval of the reclassification of and appointment of Steven Rooney as Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation Operations at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the reclassification of and the appointment of Steven Rooney as Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation Operations at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve The reclassification of and the appointment of Steven Rooney as Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation Operations 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, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of the new classification of Distinguished Chair of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the new classification of Distinguished Chair of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Distinguished Chair of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College, 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, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Izzo requested a report of the business model for the program including the expectations and further insight. President Warner gave a brief overview and shared that he was happy to provide a report.

Council Member Duffy commented on the exceptionally wide salary range listed on the job description. Anne Marie Coleman informed the Council that the wide salary range was due to the three public institutions hiring at different rates.

D. Approval of the new classification of Program Manager of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the new classification of Program Manager of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Program Manager of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College, 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, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

E. Approval of the new classification of Assistant Director of Adult Programs and Student Success at Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the new classification of Assistant Director of Adult Programs and Student Success at Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Adult Programs and Student Success at Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary, 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, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

F. Approval of the new classification of Rhode Island Reconnect Operations and Data Coordinator at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the new classification of

Rhode Island Reconnect Operations and Data Coordinator at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Rhode Island Reconnect Operations and Data Coordinator at the Rhode Island Office Postsecondary, 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,
Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS : 0

G. Approval of the new classification of Educational Support Specialist at Rhode Island of the Office of Postsecondary Education, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the new classification of Educational Support Specialist at Rhode Island of the Office of Postsecondary Education, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Educational Support Specialist at Rhode Island of the Office of Post Secondary 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,
Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Committee Member Williams inquired about the process of determining salary, given

the wide range.

Vice President Alix Ogden responded that Human Resource typically determines a given salary based on the surrounding market, needs of the college, and challenges filling those needs.

President Warner followed by stating that generally there is a hiring range and depending on circumstances such as qualifications, the President of the college can get involved with determining a salary.

H. Approval of the new classification of Senior Facilitator of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Organizational Development at the Community College of Rhode Island, as a recommendation of the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the new classification of Senior Facilitator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Organizational Development at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Senior Facilitator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Organizational Development at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommendation of Personnel Review Committee.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS :	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

Vice President Ogden answered several questions from Council Member Williams and Green about the capacity plan of the Senior Facilitator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion position.

I. Approval of the new classification of Major Gifts Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the new classification of Major Gifts Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by

the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Major Gifts Officer 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, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

J. Approval of the Hope Scholarship Policy at Rhode Island College as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the Hope Scholarship Policy at Rhode Island College as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of the Hope Scholarship Policy at Rhode Island College 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, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

K. Approval of Proposed Amendment to the Council’s Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures (S-18, P-18) – Sections IV and XI.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the proposed amendment to the Council’s Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures (S-18, P-18) – Sections IV and XI.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the proposed amendment to the Council’s Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures (S-18, P-18)-Sections IV and XI
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

General Council Cavallaro answered several questions from Council Member Williams about the policy.

L. Approval of the Fourth Amendment to Lease between the Council and CV South Street Landing, LLC regarding the Nursing Education Center in Providence, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the Fourth Amendment to Lease the Council and CV South Street Landing, LLC regarding the Nursing Education Center in Providence, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Fourth Amendment to Lease the Council and CV South Street Landing, LLC regarding the Nursing Education Center in Providence, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and

0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Duffy gave a brief overview of the lease agreement.

M. Approval of the Facilities use and License Agreement, by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County for the exclusive use and non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island's Newport County Campus Building, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the Facilities use and License Agreement, by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County for the exclusive use and non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island's Newport County Campus Building, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Facilities use and License Agreement, by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County for the exclusive use and non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island's Newport County Campus Building, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Amy Kempe, Executive Director of Marketing, Communications & External Affairs, And Newport County Campus Leader of CCRI, gave a brief overview of the facilities use and license agreement of the exclusive use and non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island's Newport County Campus Building.

N. Approval of the audited financial statements for Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner's Division of Higher Education Assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to the Council on Postsecondary Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council approve the audited financial statements for Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner's Division of Higher Education Assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to the Council on Postsecondary Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the audited financial statements for Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Office of the Post Secondary Commissioner's Division of Higher Education Assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to the Council on Postsecondary Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

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 and pending litigation (*Murray v. CCRI et al.* (USDC (D. RI) 23-cv-00469), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- C. Discussion regarding the Annual Report on Litigation (all cases pending in the United States Federal Courts, the Rhode Island Supreme and Superior Courts¹, and the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights), 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 regarding **A.** Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2). **B.** Discussion regarding potential litigation and pending litigation (*Murray v. CCRI et al.* (USDC (D. RI) 23-cv-00469), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2). **C.** Discussion regarding the Annual Report on Litigation (all cases pending in the United States Federal Courts, the Rhode Island Supreme and Superior Courts¹, and the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights), 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, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Grey, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 6:41 PM

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:21PM

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 6, 2023.

¹ *Moore v. RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, et al.*, (C.A. No. PC 2018-7522); *Habeeb, et al. v. URI, et al.*, (C.A. No. PC 2019-9694); *Jean-Pierre v. URI*, (C.A. No. KC 2020-0584); *Fitton v. URI, et al.*, (C.A. No. WC 2020-0477); *Felkner v. RIC, et al.*, (C.A. No. PC 2007-6702; RI Supreme Court No. SU-2021-0267-A; US Supreme Court Case No. 23A); *Caldwell v. George Pearson, et al.* (RIC), (C.A. No. PC2021-02609); *Costa Companies, Inc. v. State of Rhode Island, et al.* (RIC) (C.A. No. PC 2021-04947); *Jacques v. Rhode Island College*, (C.A. No. No. PC 2023-04521); *Billerbeck, et al. v. CCRI, et al.*, (C.A. No. KC 2018-1302); *Colafrancesco v. Thysennkrupp Elevator Corp., and Council on Postsecondary Education* (CCRI), (C.A. No. PC 2018-6460); *Arocho v. CCRI, et al.*, (C.A. No. KC 2023-0017); *Caldwell v. Anthony, et al.*, (RIC) (C.A. No. PC 2019-9870; RI Supreme Court No. SU-2021-0268-A; US Supreme Court Case No. 23-116) .

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 6, 2023.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachell Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

8. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio stated that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be on January 3, 2024, at, 5:30 PM at the Community College of Rhode Island.

9. 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 of Tuesday, September 26, 2023.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM