



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Community College of Rhode Island
400 East Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886, Room 4090
Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:49 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
Thomas Izzo
Marcy Reyes
Jeffery Williams

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Grey
Michael Mello
Lawrence Purtill
Ana Duarte Spencer

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Beth Bailey, Chief Communications Officer
Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academic and Student Affairs
Molly Cote, Chief Policy Officer
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Jackie Xiong, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

President Jack Warner
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

Sam Terrazas, Dean, School of Social Work

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

President Rosemary Costigan
Amy Kacerik, Associate Vice President 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
Alix Ogden, Special Advisor to the President
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of August 21, 2024.

On a motion made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on August 21, 2024
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the minutes

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

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on July 9, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on August 21, 2024
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: Rachelle Green

3. Report from the Commissioner

Commissioner Gilkey gave a brief overview of his report including his update regarding the discussion on policy work going forward.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy, reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee last met on July 26, 2024. The Committee met with personnel from the Tower Street Community Center Board of Directors regarding a proposal for a potential lease arrangement at the Tower City Community Center. Chair Duffy also announced that the Committee met prior to that evening's Council meeting on August 21, 2024, to review and recommend the Council adopt four communication facilities leases.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Assistant Commissioner Greg Ebner reported that the Committee last met on July 31, 2024. The Committee met to discuss CCRI's notice of change regarding the creation of Photography Certificate, the Rhode Island Hope Scholarship, and to approve the proposed changes to Policy S10.

C. Personnel Committee

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

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

Council Member Thomas Izzo thanked the Presidents for their reports and shared his concerns regarding CCRI's expected flat enrollment in early college programs and a slight decrease in part-time enrollment, attributing this to increased competition from private colleges. Council Member Izzo and Rachelle Green emphasized the importance for an investigation into the scope of the statute.

President Rosemary Costigan announced that CCRI had traditionally relied on full time dual enrollment as a key revenue strategy and highlighted the increase of competition with private institutions now entering the market.

In response, Commissioner Gilkey proposed to present a memo to the Council to provide more information on the statute.

B. Rhode Island College

Chair Caprio began by complimenting President Warner for hosting a successful Welcome Breakfast which he attended with other fellow Council Members at the Rhode Island College.

President Jack Warner followed by thanking the Council for their support and attendance.

President Warner then introduced Sam Terrazas, the newly appointed Dean of School of Social Work. He then briefed the Council on RIC's enrollment update and specifically, the impact of the Hope Scholarship.

Council Member Marcy Reyes inquired about potential changes in trends and behavior between students transferring from CCRI to RIC. President Warner responded that transfer applications and enrollments were significantly up, many of which were transfer students from CCRI. President Costigan followed by recognizing Vice President Greg LaPointe and his team for the JAA enrollment front.

Finally, President Warner announced that he is currently working with Assistant Commissioner Ebner and the Academics and Student Affairs team on housing arrangements for CCRI students at the RIC campus.

6. Action Items

A. Approval of the new classification of the Director of Academic Operations and Policy at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of the Director of Academic Operations and Policy 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Approval of the reclassification of Assistant Director Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity to Associate Director Civil Right and Title IX at the Community College

of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Assistant Director Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity to Associate Director Civil Right and Title IX 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of the new classification of Manager of Human Resources Information Systems at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Manager of Human Resources Information Systems 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

D. Approval of the proposed amendments to the Policy S-10, on Athletics, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

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VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the proposed amendments to the Policy S-10, on Athletics, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

E. Approval of revocation of Policy P-12, Activation of Military Reservists, Non-Classified Employees, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee in 2013.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the revocation of Policy P-12, Activation of Military Reservists, Non-Classified Employees, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee in 2013.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

F. Approval of the Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Newport County (Newport) Campus, 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 Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Newport

County (Newport) Campus, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- G.** Approval of the Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Knight (Warwick) Campus, 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 Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Knight (Warwick) Campus, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- H.** Approval of the Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Liston (Providence) Campus, 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 Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Liston

(Providence) Campus, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- I.** Approval of the Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Flanagan (Lincoln) Campus, 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 Communications Facilities Lease and Access Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education, CCRI, and OSHEAN, Inc. for the Flanagan (Lincoln) Campus, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- J.** Approval of the first one-year renewal term for the lease agreement dated March 15, 2023, as amended, by and between the 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 use of the facilities at 116 High Street, Westerly, RI 02891, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the first one-year renewal term for the lease agreement

dated March 15, 2023, as amended, by and between the 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 use of the facilities at 116 High Street, Westerly, RI 02891, 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, Marcy Reyes, 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, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

On a motion duly made by Marcy Reyes 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).
- C. Discussion regarding the lease or real property for public purposes, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**The Council entered Executive Session at 6:17 PM.
The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:01 PM.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on August 21, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on August 21, 2024.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio announced that the next Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on September 24, 2024, at 5:30 PM at Rhode Island College.

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 Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.