



Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
350 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903, Room 325
Meeting Minutes

Chair Michael Mello called this meeting to order at 4:30 pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education Present:

Mike Mello, Chair
Lawrence Purtill

Council on Postsecondary Education Absent:

Jeffery Williams

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

Gregory Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academic Student and Success
Jailene Colon, Administrative Assistant

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success
Shelia Fleming, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Greg LaPointe, Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer
Barbara J. Nauman, Interim VP of Academic Affairs
Amy Kacerik, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic and Student Success Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of September 11, 2024.

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

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee accept the agenda for the meeting on September 11, 2024.

VOTE : 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Approval of the Minutes ([Enclosure 2](#))

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on July 31, 2024.

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

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve the minutes that took place on July 31, 2024.

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Discussion Items

- a. Promise Scholarship Annual Report (Community College of Rhode Island) ([Enclosure 3](#))
 - i. Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer, Greg LaPointe, presented the annual report on CCRI's Promise Scholarship. Vice President LaPointe began his presentation by highlighting Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Amy Kacerik's, contributions as a panelist at the College Promise National Convening in Boston this year, as well as her work in Tennessee, where she discussed the evolution of the Promise Scholarship, and related ongoing initiatives.
 - ii. Vice President LaPointe reported that the Promise Scholarship had two legislative goals: 1. Increase enrollment and 2. Increase the number of students completing degrees. He discussed enrollment trends, noting that prior to the implementation of the Promise program, enrollment was low, reaching

its peak in 2019. Although enrollment dropped during the pandemic, it is now on the rise again.

- iii. Chair Mello inquired whether CCRI could ever reach its peak enrollment number from 2019, which was approximately 2,500. In response, Mr. LaPointe affirmed that the Community College of Rhode Island's value proposition is strong and expressed confidence that CCRI can return to that peak enrollment level.
- iv. Mr. LaPointe continued his report by addressing graduation rates. The most recent two-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time students at CCRI is 18%, a significant increase compared to the historical rate of 4%. Additionally, 25% of students have graduated within three years, compared to the historical three-year graduation rate of 15%.
- v. Mr. LaPointe also reported an increase in the enrollment of students of color, as well as a 63% retention rate for last year's cohort, based on Fall 2023 data.

4. Action Items

- a. Approval of the recommendation to the Council for its approval of the proposed amendments to the Council's Regulations Governing Academic Changes in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education (A4) ([Enclosure 4](#))
 - i. Dr. Gregory Ebner provided a brief presentation on the proposed amendments to the Council's Regulations Governing Academic Changes in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education (A4) policy. He began by offering historical context. Dr. Ebner explained that if any proposed changes made by presidents fall within the approved role and scope of their institution, the president can implement the change without Council approval. He further clarified that Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education must currently undergo three categories of review to make an academic change: Full Review, Abbreviated Review, and Notice of Change. The proposed policy reduces these steps to two: Notice of Change and Full Review, with Full Review applicable only to changes that are outside the approved role and scope of the institution.
 - ii. Dr. Ebner also highlighted the University of Rhode Island's departure from the Council on Postsecondary Education's oversight by noting their absence from the proposed A4 policy.

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

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a recommendation to the Council for its approval of the proposed amendments to the Council's Regulations Governing

Academic Changes in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education (A4).

VOTE: 2 members in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. Next Meeting

Chair Mello announced that the next Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee meeting will be held on November 20th, 2024, at 4:30 PM

6. Adjourn

Chair Mello called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Success of the Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, July 31, 2024

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Micheal Mello and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM