



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education**  
Tuesday, September 24, 2024

**Rhode Island College**  
**600 Mount Pleasant Avenue**  
**Providence, RI 02908, Alger Hall, Room 100**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

**Council on Postsecondary Education members present:**

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education  
Rachelle Green  
Michael Grey  
Thomas Izzo  
Michael Mello  
Lawrence Purtill  
Marcy Reyes  
Ana Duarte Spencer (entered at 6:03 p.m.)

**Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:**

Dennis Duffy  
Jeffery Williams

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner  
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel  
Anne Marie Coleman, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Human Resources and Labor Relations  
Beth Bailey, Chief Communications Officer  
Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academic and Student Affairs  
Molly Cote, Esq., 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

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Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success  
Sheila Flemming, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Margaret Lynch-Gadaleta, General Counsel/Interim Assistant Vice President of Human Resources  
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  
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

Before calling for a motion to accept the agenda, Chair David Caprio called upon President Jack Warner share some words regarding the passing of Thomas J. Rockett. President Warner shared some kind words of the passing of his friend and colleague.

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of September 24, 2024.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on September 24, 2024
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

**2. Approval of the minutes**

**A. Minutes of the August 21, 2024, CPE Meeting.**

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on August 21, 2024.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the
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agenda for the meeting on August 21, 2024

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**3. Report from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Gilkey gave a brief overview of his report including the utilization report of each Education Center.

**4. Report from the Committee Chairs**

**A. Finance and Facilities Committee**

Chief Financial Officer, Zachary Saul, reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee last met on September 5, 2024. Mr. Saul indicated that at the meeting, a discussion was held in executive session regarding the investment of public funds.

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

Assistant Commissioner Greg Ebner reported that the Committee last met on September 11, 2024. The committee met to discuss the Promise Scholarship and the recommended proposals to Policy A4 (Regulations Governing Academic Changes in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education).

**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 last met on September 12, 2024. The committee received the quarterly investment review from CapTrust, as well as an update from TIAA.

**5. Reports from the Presidents**

**A. Rhode Island College**

President Warner gave a brief update on enrollment, campus activity, and housing.

Council Member Thomas Izzo asked the President about the college's pilot program for youth aging out of the DCYF foster care. President Warner responded that the college has built an infrastructure of staff and currently have nine youth participating in the program.

**B. Community College of Rhode Island**

President Rosemary Costigan gave a brief update on enrollment, the two-million-dollar anonymous gift, and highlighted the college's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**6. Action Items**

- A.** Approval of the proposed change to Policy A4: Regulations Governing Academic Changes in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED:        THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approve proposed change to Policy A4: Regulations Governing Academic Changes in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

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

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 Rachelle Green and seconded by Mike Grey, 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: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS : 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**The Council entered Executive Session at 6:03 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 September 24, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 24, 2024.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8. Next Meeting**

The Council Retreat will be held on September 25, 2024, at 8:30 AM at Rhode Island College. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of Postsecondary Education will be held on October 23, 2024, 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 Thomas Izzo and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.