



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, October 23, 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 5:50 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
Michael Grey
Thomas Izzo
Marcy Reyes
Jeffery Williams

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

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
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

Sara Enright, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance

Clark Green, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief of Staff

Adam Brusseau, Director of Budget and Financial Planning

Jenifer Giroux, Vice President of Corporate Relations and Professional Studies

Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success

Anastasia Rodriguez, Interim Controller, Division of Administration & Finance

Gabriela Torres, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

President Rosemary Costigan

Amy Kempe, Executive Director, Marketing, Communications & External Affairs,
Newport County Campus Leader

Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

Deb Zielinski, Assistant to the President

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of October 23, 2024.

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 on October 23, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the minutes

A. Minutes of the September 24, 2024, CPE Meeting.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on September 24, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Thomas Izzo, 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, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Michael Grey, Thomas Izzo, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Minutes of the September 25, 2024, CPE meeting

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on September 25, 2024.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on September 25, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Report from the Commissioner

Commissioner Gilkey briefed the Council on the search firm bid process for the upcoming Community College of Rhode Island Presidential search. He indicated that they would have a recommendation by Friday, November 8, 2024.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy, reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee last met on October 2, 2024, to review and approve the Capital Improvement Plans for the Rhode Island College, Community College, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner. Chair Duffy indicated that the Committee also met on October 16, 2024, to discuss and approve the unrestricted and restricted budget requests, tuitions, and fees for both colleges, as well as the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

Assistant Commissioner Greg Ebner reported that the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

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. Rhode Island College

President Jack Warner gave a brief overview on the residence and dining halls in addition to the increased enrollment at Rhode Island College. He followed by acknowledging Vice President of Student Success, Cindy Kozil and her staff, highlighting their effort in the revitalized campus student life. Lastly, President Warner updated the Council on several programs at RIC, including the 100 plus cybersecurity majors and 26 minors, 60 sports management, and 14 biotech programs.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

President Rosemary Costigan informed the Council on the Community College received their 10-year reaccreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). President Costigan announced the launch of the Advantage Program, which was funded through a philanthropic gift. The program included 22 students with a 97% retention rate.

6. Action Items

A. Approval of the new classification of Assistant Dean of Student Services 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 Assistant Dean of Student Services at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B.** Approval of the reclassification of General Counsel to General Counsel and AVP of Human Resources at the Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of General Counsel to General Counsel and AVP of Human Resources at the Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee

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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Before moving into Action Item 6C, Chair Caprio welcomed each president to give a brief overview on their proposed budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Each president presented their budget and CIP. Council Member Duffy indicated that the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting approved the current service level and the constrained level budgets which is responsive to the State House requests, but shared concerns about the adverse effects of the 7.5% constrained budget.

- C.** Approval of the public postsecondary education system’s (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2026, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2025 and recommendation for approval by the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system’s (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2026, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2025 and recommendation for approval by the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.

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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Following, Chair Duffy suggested that the Council submit a formal letter of concern regarding the constrained budget for the system submission at the November Board of Education meeting.

- D.** Approval of the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2030 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2030 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. Executive Session

Chair Caprio announced that there would be no executive session.

8. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio announced that the next Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on December 11, 2024.

9. Adjourn

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Wednesday, October 23, 2024

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, October 23, 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, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.