

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education
Finance & Facilities Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 2024



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Finance and Facilities Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
RI Nursing Education Center
Room 306
350 Eddy Street,
Providence, RI 02903
5:30 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Chair Dennis Duffy called the meeting to order at 5:44 pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Finance & Facilities Committee members present:

Dennis Duffy, Chair, Finance & Facilities Committee
Thomas Izzo
Marcy Reyes

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

Shannon Gilkey, Commissioner
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel
Anne Marie Coleman, Director Labor Relations
Jackie Xiong, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Council Liaison
Thomas Pearce, Director, Westerly Education Center
Jill Olson-Crowley, Director, Woonsocket Education Center
Charon Rose, Director, Workforce Strategy and Operations
Rachel Doyle, Director, Business Services

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Jack Warner, President
Sara Enright, Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance
Marianne Raimondo, Dean School of Business
Adam Brusseau, Director of Budget & Financial Planning

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Rosemary Costigan, Interim President
Richard Sullivan, Vice President of Administration and Finance

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Duffy called for a motion that the Finance & Facilities Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of April 10, 2024.

On a motion made by Marcy Reyes and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Finance and Facilities Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of April 10, 2024.
	VOTE:	3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Marcy Reyes
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the Minutes from November 29, 2023 Meeting

Chair Duffy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2023 meeting.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Finance and Facilities Committee accept the minutes for the meeting of November 29, 2023.
	VOTE:	3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Marcy Reyes
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

3. Discussion Items

A. Discussion regarding the Rhode Island College Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon President Jack Warner. President Warner provided an overview of the Rhode Island College Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, the cybersecurity industry, and the need to develop a degree and curriculum to meet the demand of RI businesses. He then introduced Dr. Marianne Raimondo, Dean of the School of Business to present the update on the Institute. Dr. Raimondo explained that the Institute is within the School of Business, and she will oversee the overall execution of the new institute. Former Congressman James Langevin has been named the Distinguished Chair and Executive Director of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies. Members of the committee were provided a copy of the Business Plan for the Institute and Dr. Raimondo provide a summary of the plan. Dr. Raimondo's presentation focused on the

College's opportunity to prepare students and professionals for jobs in the cybersecurity and artificial intelligence fields, initial program enrollments, an introduction of the team overseeing the Institute, the Key Milestones with a timeline, the Budget and Revenue Sources, and an update on the requested FY25 investment to transform Whipple Hall to become the location for the Institute.

There was discussion by the Committee members regarding the Institute. Committee members questioned the long-term sustainability of the Institute and the revenue sources needed in the future once the State's SFRF \$2.0 million investment was exhausted. President Warner and Dean Raimondo explained the State's appropriation would fund the institute for approximately three years and then funding would come from tuition revenue, fees and contracts, and grants.

B. Discussion regarding the Higher Education and Industry Centers and the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon OPC's Chief Financial Officer Zachary Saul. Mr. Saul provided the Committee with an overview of each education center under the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and then turned the presentation over to the Education Center Directors. Presentations were presented by the following; Tom Pearce, Director, Westerly Education Center; Jill Olson-Crowley, Director, Woonsocket Education Center; and Charon Rose, Director, Workforce Strategy & Operation presented for the Rhode Island Nursing Education Centers. The Directors provided a report on their respective Center's history, mission, utilization of their facilities, financial health, and long-term goals for sustainability.

There was discussion by the Committee members regarding the Education Centers. The Committee highlighted the high utilization of the Westerly Education Center and low utilization of the available space at the Woonsocket and Nursing Education Centers. Committee Member Izzo wanted to ensure that the Education Centers were not competing with the Institutions of Higher Education for workforce training and education programs. Commissioner Gilkey and the Center Directors provided clarification that OPC provides the facilities and infrastructure, and the schools provide the instruction. Chair Duffy was concerned with the utilization of the Nursing Education Center and inquired if the Community College would be interested in accessing the facilities to provide instruction. Committee Member Reyes inquired about the utilization of the Westerly Education Center and wanted to confirm if the Center is still be used for its original purpose. Commissioner Gilkey and Mr. Saul both explained that the Westerly Education Center is still operating consistent with its original mission and would provide Committee Member Reyes with more details about the history of the Education Center.

4. Action Items

- A.** Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the first amendment to the sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing council, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Central Falls School District for the use of facilities at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island.

On a motion duly made by Marcy Reyes and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for the approval of the first amendment to the sub-lease agreement by and between Rhode Island College, by and through its governing council, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Central Falls School District for the use of facilities at the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub located at 934 Dexter Street, Central Falls, Rhode Island.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and
0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Marcy Reyes

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the amendment to the lease agreement by and between the Rhode Island 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 lease of space, as indicated in the original lease agreement, dated March 15, 2023, at 116 High Street, Westerly, Rhode Island.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for the approval of the amendment to the lease agreement by and between the Rhode Island 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 lease of space, as indicated in the original lease agreement, dated March 15, 2023, at 116 High Street, Westerly, Rhode Island.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and
0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Marcy Reyes

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. Executive Session

Chair Duffy called for a motion that the Finance & Facilities Committee 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 the lease of real property for public purposes, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Finance and Facilities Committee 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 the lease of real property for public purposes, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).
VOTE:		3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
YEAS:		Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Marcy Reyes
NAYS:		0
ABSTAINS:		0

The Committee entered Executive Session at 7:43 PM.
The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 9:25 PM.

Chair Duffy called for a motion that the Finance & Facilities Committee seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on April 10, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Marcy Reyes and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Finance and Facilities Committee seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on April 10, 2024.
VOTE:		3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
YEAS:		Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Marcy Reyes
NAYS:		0
ABSTAINS:		0

6. Adjourn

Chair Duffy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

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VOTED:	THAT	The Finance and Facilities Committee adjourn the meeting of April 10, 2024.
	VOTE:	3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Marcy Reyes
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.