



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
350 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903, Room 306
Meeting Minutes

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:35 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
Lawrence Purtill
Marcy Reyes
Gianna Rose, Student Member

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Grey
Michael Mello
Jeffery Williams

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Beth Bailey, Chief Communications Officer
Melanie Bowdish, RILDS Director
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Anne Marie Coleman, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Human Resources and Labor Relations
Jailene Colon, Part-Time Administrative Assistant
Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academic and Student Affairs
Jessica Key, Assistant Commissioner of Workforce and Executive Director of the Rhode Island Higher Education & Industry Centers
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
Margaret A Lynch-Gadaleta, General Counsel/Interim Assistant Vice President of Human Resources

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

President Rosemary Costigan
Amy Kacerik, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Amy Kempe, Senior Advisor to the President & Chief of Staff, Marketing and Communications
Barbara Nauman, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Alix Ogden, Vice President of Institutional Equity, HR & Organization Development
John Renza, Associate Vice President of Workforce Partnerships
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

Additional Attendees:

Steven Richard, Attorney- Nixon Peabody LLP

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of March 19, 2025.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on March 19, 2025.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the minutes

A. Minutes of the February 12, 2025, CPE Meeting.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 12, 2025.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the
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minutes for the meeting on February 12, 2025

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Report from the Commissioner

Commissioner Shannon Gilkey introduced and welcomed Melanie Bowdish, the newly appointed Director of the Rhode Island Longitudinal Data System at RIOPC.

3. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy, reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, Assistant Commissioner Greg Ebner reported that committee met prior to the Council Meeting that night, on March 19, 2025. At the meeting, the Committee discussed the following notices of change at CCRI:

- a. Creation of Certificate: Pathway to Cyber Readiness
- b. Revision of Degree Program: Applied Engineer

The Committee also voted to recommend approval of the amendments to Council Policies S-12, S-12a, S-12b, and S-12c on the Joint Admissions Agreement, as well as the amendments to the Council Policy S-6 on Articulation and Transfer Between Public IHEs.

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green reported that the Personnel Committee met prior to that evening's Council Meeting on March 19, 2025. The Committee discussed the Commissioner's evaluation in executive session.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee last met on March 12, 2025. At the meeting, the Committee received the December 31, 2024, quarterly update from CAP Trust. The Committee also discussed issues regarding security in executive session.

4. Reports from the Presidents

A. Rhode Island College

President Jack Warner updated the Council on RIC's spring enrollment and student retention.

Council Member Thomas Izzo inquired about the incentive of the Hope Scholarship as it relates to enrollment. President Warner responded that the Hope Scholarship has impacted the students and the number of credits they are taking, increasing the likelihood of graduating within the anticipated four years.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

President Rosemary Costigan congratulated the CCRI women's basketball team that won their conference division. She then introduced Interim Associate Vice President for Workforce Partnerships, John Renza, highlighted the culinary kick-off event, and discussed the 4% increase in enrollment at the college.

5. Action Items

- A.** Approval of the new classification of Executive Director, Office of Apprenticeships at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Executive Director, Office of Apprenticeships 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, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B.** Approval of the Community College of Rhode Island FY2025 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve of the Community College of Rhode Island FY2025 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of the new classification of Manager, Labor and Employee Relations at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Manager, Labor and Employee Relations 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, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

D. Approval of the new classification of Manager, Talent Acquisition and Retention at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Manager, Talent Acquisition and Retention 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, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E.** Approval of the new classification of Manager, Employee Benefits at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Manager, Employee Benefits 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, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- F.** Approval of the new classification of Strategic Initiatives and Operations Manager (RILDS), as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Strategic Initiatives and Operations Manager (RILDS), 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, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- G.** Approval of the awarding of appropriate degrees, diplomas, and certificates to the graduates of the Community College of Rhode Island's Class of 2025.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding of appropriate degrees, diplomas, and certificates to the graduates of the Community College of Rhode Island's Class of 2025.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo,
Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

H. Approval of the amendments to Council Policies S-12, S-12a, S-12b, and S-12c (Joint Admissions Agreement), as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the amendments to Council Policies S-12, S-12a, S-12b, and S-12c (Joint Admissions Agreement), 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,
Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- I. Approval of the amendments to Council Policy S-6 (Articulation and Transfer Between Public IHEs), as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the amendments to Council Policy S-6 (Articulation and Transfer Between Public IHEs), 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, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

J. Approval of an Amendment to the Council's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures (P-17, S-10 Section VIII(D), Exhibit B).

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Amendment to the Council's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures (P-17, S-10 Section VIII(D), Exhibit B).

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

K. Approval of Rhode Island College Honorary Degrees.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Rhode Island College Honorary Degrees

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

6. 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 Marcy Reyes, 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: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in
the negative.

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas
Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 5:56 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:03 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 19, 2025.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes
of the Executive Session held on March 19, 2025.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas
Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio announced that the next Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on April 16, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Rhode Island College.

8. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, March 19, 2025.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.