



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908, Gaige Hall, Room 200
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
Jeffery Williams
Gianna Rose, Student Member

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Michael Grey
Michael Mello
Marcy Reyes

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

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Clarke Green, Senior Advisor to the President & Chief of Staff
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 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
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration & Finance

Additional Attendees:

Steven Richard, Attorney- Nixon Peabody LLP

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair David Caprio provided a brief update on the ongoing Community College of Rhode Island presidential search and announced upcoming meeting dates for the CCRI Search Committee.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting on April 16, 2025, and without objection by moving item 5A, regarding Reports from the Presidents, to the start of the agenda.

On a motion made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

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| VOTED: | THAT | The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on April 16, 2025, and without objection by moving item 5, regarding Reports from the Presidents, to the start of the agenda. |
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| VOTE: | 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative. |
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| YEAS: | David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams. |
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| NAYS: | 0 |
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| ABSTAINS: | 0 |
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2. Approval of the minutes

A. Minutes of the March 19, 2025, CPE Meeting.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on March 19, 2025.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

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| VOTED: | THAT | The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes for the meeting on March 19, 2025 |
| | VOTE: | 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative. |
| | YEAS: | David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Lawrence Purtill. |
| | NAYS: | 0 |
| | ABSTAINS: | Jeffery Williams |

5. Reports from the Presidents

A. Rhode Island College

President Jack Warner yielded of his time to Roman Kavanaugh, current student at RIC, who spoke on behalf of the students and faculty regarding their concerns with the program closures.

B. Community College of Rhode Island

President Rosemary Costigan highlighted the community college's recent gold designation for acknowledgement as a military friendly school. She also commended CCRI faculty including Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Barbara Nauman, regarding creation of several culinary programs that are set to be presented to the Council later that evening.

3. Report from the Commissioner

Chair Caprio asked if there were any questions or comments for Commissioner Gilkey regarding his report. There were none.

4. Report from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee last met on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. At the meeting, the committee reviewed and recommended the two facilities agreements for CCRI and the Boys and Girls Club of Newport, as well as CCRI and the Rhode Island Hospital Education Foundation. Chair Duffy also reported that the committee met in executive session to discuss potential proposals for the leasing of properties for public purposes.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, Council Member Lawrence Purtill reported that the committee has not met since the last Council meeting. Council Member Purtill announced the following notices of change at CCRI:

- a. Creation of Culinary Craftsmanship- Associate in Arts
- b. Creation of Culinary Essentials- Certificate

President Costigan answered several questions from Council Members and gave a brief overview of the creation of the culinary programs.

C. Personnel Committee

Chair Rachelle Green of the Personnel Committee informed the Council that her report may be discussed later in executive session.

D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

6. Action Items

A. Approval of awarding tenure at Rhode Island College.

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

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| VOTED: | THAT | The Council on Postsecondary Education approval the awarding tenure at Rhode Island College to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gabriella Torres• Samuel Terrazas |
| | 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 Jeffery Williams. |
| | NAYS: | 0 |
| | ABSTAINS: | 0 |

B. Approval of awarding tenure at Rhode Island College.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

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| VOTED: | THAT | The Council on Postsecondary Education approve of awarding tenure at Rhode Island College: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alessandra Bazo Vienrich• Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo• James Geckler• Tim Henry |
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- Lisa Connelly

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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of the awarding of appropriate degrees, diplomas, and certificates to the graduates of the Rhode Island College'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 Rhode Island College'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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

D. Approval of the First Amendment to the Facilities Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County for the exclusive use and non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island Newport County Campus Building in Newport, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the First Amendment to the Facilities Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County for the exclusive use and non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island

Newport County Campus Building in Newport, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities 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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E.** Approval of the Facilities Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the RI Hospitality Education Foundation for the non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island Newport County Campus Building in Newport, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Facilities Use and License Agreement by and among the Community College of Rhode Island, its governing board, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, and the RI Hospitality Education Foundation for the non-exclusive use of space at the Community College of Rhode Island Newport County Campus Building in Newport, Rhode Island, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities 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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- F.** Approval of the reclassification of Director IT Customer Support and Quality Assurance to Executive Director Technology Services and Support 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 Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Director IT Customer Support and Quality Assurance to Executive Director Technology Services and Support 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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

G. Approval of the reclassification of Director Enterprise Applications to Executive Director Enterprise Services 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 Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Director Enterprise Applications to Executive Director Enterprise Services 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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

H. Approval of the new classification of Executive Vice President at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new

classification of Executive Vice President 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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Thomas Izzo inquired about the administrative structure in the institutions, specifically regarding the addition of administrators. Commissioner Gilkey responded that in his conversations with the Presidents, the goal for the institutions is to add versus replace staff. Additionally, the Commissioner indicated that he could provide a further analysis on this topic.

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).
- C.** Discussion regarding the matter of security and the public colleges, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(3).
- D.** Discussion regarding the appointment of a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1).
- E.** Discussion regarding the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education’s annual evaluation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Dennis Duffy, 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).

C. Discussion regarding the matter of security and the public colleges, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(3).

D. Discussion regarding the appointment of a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1).

E. Discussion regarding the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education's annual evaluation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio noted that the individuals to be discussed in Items 7(D) and (E) have been informed of their right to have this discussion take place in Open Session, and that no objection to proceeding in Executive Session has been received.

The Council entered Executive Session at 6:14 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 8:28 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on April 16, 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 April 16, 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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8. Additional Action Item

Approval of the appointment of a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Dr. Manyul Im as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College.

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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. Next Meeting

Chair Caprio announced that the next Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on June 18, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Community College of Rhode Island.

10. Adjourn

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, April 16, 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 Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.