



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education**  
Wednesday, June 18, 2025

**Community College of Rhode Island**  
**400 East Avenue**  
**Warwick, RI 02886, Room 4090**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

**Council on Postsecondary Education members present:**

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education  
Dennis Algiere  
Dennis Duffy  
Rachelle Green  
Lawrence Purtill  
Marcy Reyes  
Jeffery Williams  
Gianna Rose, Student Member

**Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:**

Michael Grey  
Michael Mello

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner  
Beth Bailey, Chief Communications Officer  
Megan Hamlin-Black, Director of Financial Strategy & Planning  
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel  
Anne Marie Coleman, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Human Resources and Labor Relations  
Jailene Colon, Administrative Assistant  
Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academics & Student Affairs  
Molly Kapstein Cote, Chief Policy Officer  
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer  
Jackie Xiong, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Liaison to the Council

**Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:**

President Jack Warner  
Kimberly Bright, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Shelia Flemming, Interim Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Margaret A Lynch-Gadaleta, General Counsel/Interim Assistant Vice President of

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Human Resources

Jenifer Giroux, Vice President of Corporate Relations and Professional Studies

Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success

**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

Greg LaPointe, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer

Barbara Nauman, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Additional Attendees:**

Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur, RIC faculty

Leslie A. Schuster, RIC faculty

Sylvia Liveda, RIC faculty

Danielle Hurowitz, RIC student

Todd Michael Borgerding, RIC faculty

Elisa Miller, RIC Faculty

Luisa M. Pimentel, CCRI alumni

Erin Papa, RIC faculty

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting on June 18, 2025.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on June 18, 2025.

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

YEAS:        David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

**2. Approval of the minutes**

A. Minutes of the June 4, 2025, CPE Meeting.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on June 4, 2025.

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

VOTED:      THAT              The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the  
minutes for the meeting on June 4, 2025

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

YEAS:              David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Lawrence  
Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:              0

ABSTAINS:      Rachelle Green

**B. Minutes of the June 6, 2025, CPE Meeting.**

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on June 6, 2025.

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

VOTED:      THAT              The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the  
minutes for the meeting on June 6, 2025

VOTE:              5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in  
the negative.

YEAS:              David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Lawrence  
Purtill, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:              0

ABSTAINS:      Rachelle Green and Marcy Reyes

**3. Open Forum**

Chair Caprio then announced that the Council will move into Open Forum.

Executive Assistant Jackie Xiong indicated that there were eight requests from the public to participate in Open Forum. Ms. Xiong first introduced Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur, RIC faculty and President of the RIC/AFT. Dr. Arthur addressed the program closures at RIC and urged the Council to deeply reconsider the suspensions.

Next, Leslie A. Schuster, RIC faculty, spoke on Gender and Women's Studies and support for LGBTQ+ inclusion. Dr. Schuster urged for the Council to prioritize student well-being and the broader value of the program over enrollment numbers.

Sylvia Liveda, Director of Portuguese at RIC was next to speak. Director Liveda expressed concern over the proposed closure of the Portuguese program. She also addressed the release of faculty leading to unjust direct consequences of program closures. Director Liveda urged the Council to reconsider the decision, emphasizing the program's importance to the state and its students.

Ms. Xiong called upon Danielle Hurowitz, a first-semester Gender Studies major at RIC. Hurowitz shared that the program was the reason they transferred to the college and further expressed disappointment over its suspension, noting widespread concern among students and alumni. Finally, they urged the Council to expand, not cut, opportunities for students to engage in this vital field of study.

Professor at RIC, Todd Michael Borgerding spoke next. He shared criticism on the process behind the program suspensions at RIC, citing a lack of clear definitions, inconsistent data usage, and limited faculty involvement. He described the review as rushed with flawed metrics and recommendations that could harm student interest and retention. He urged the Council to restart the process thoughtfully, emphasizing RIC's unique role in providing inclusive, high-quality education to all Rhode Islanders.

Ms. Xiong called upon Elisa Miller, professor at RIC, to speak next. Professor Miller criticized the enrollment thresholds used in RIC's program review process, arguing they are disproportionately high for a college of RIC's size and unfairly target smaller departments. She urged the Council and OPC to revise these thresholds to preserve academic diversity and equity.

Luisa M. Pimentel spoke next. The CCRI alumni and president of the Spanish Club urged the Council to stop the suspension of world language majors, especially French and Portuguese. They emphasized the global importance and relevance to Rhode Island's diverse communities.

Ms. Xiong called upon the last participant, Erin Papa, RIC faculty and director of the World Languages Education program. Director Papa opposed the suspension of French and Portuguese concentrations, emphasizing the program's critical role in preparing multilingual education. She noted that minors are insufficient for teacher certification and that RIC is the only public institution in Rhode Island offering a Portuguese major. She urged the Council to invest in and coordinate language education programs rather than eliminate them, highlighting their importance for equity, workforce readiness, and the state's multilingual needs.

Ms. Xiong announced that there were no further requests for open forum.

#### **4. Report from the Commissioner**

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

## **5. Reports 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 Chair Michael Mello, Council Member Lawrence Purtill reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee last met on June 2, 2025. During that meeting, the committee approved amendments to Council Policy A-6, the operation of a proprietary school (Joy CNA), and a Non-SARA approval for the California Institute of Integral Studies. Also discussed were the following notices of change:

- i. Notices of Program Changes at CCRI
  - a. Creation of Certificate in Mammography
  - b. Creation of AS (Business) – Business Administration, Hospitality and Tourism
- ii. Notices of Program Changes at RIC
  - a. Creation of Combined Secondary Education History/Social Studies Concentration
  - b. Creation of Certificate of Graduate Studies – Early Childhood leadership
  - c. Program Enrollment Suspension
    - 1) Art Education BFA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 2) Art Education MA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 3) Art History BA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 4) Concentration in Creative Writing in English MA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 5) Gender Studies BA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 6) Global Studies BA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 7) Concentration in Respiratory Therapy in Health Sciences BS, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 8) Concentration in Dental Hygiene in Health Sciences BS, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 9) Liberal Studies BA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 10) Concentration in Francophone Studies in the Modern Languages BA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 11) Concentration in French in the Modern Languages BA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 12) Concentration in Latin American Studies in the Modern Languages BA, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
    - 13) Concentration in Portuguese in the Modern Languages

BA in Portuguese, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

- 1) Music Education MED, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- 2) Elementary Education MED Early Childhood Education, Feinstein School for Education and Human Development
- 3) Concentration in General Science in the Secondary Education BA, Feinstein School for Education and Human Development
- 4) Technology Education BS both concentrations (Teaching and Applied Technology) Feinstein School for Education and Human Development
- 5) Concentration in French in World Languages BA, Feinstein School for Education and Human Development
- 6) Concentration in Portuguese in World Languages BA, Feinstein School for Education and Human Development

**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 Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee last met on June 3, 2025. During that meeting, CAPTRUST provided an update on the current industry matters and the Quarterly Investment Review. Chair Saul also reported that the committee approved two action items. The first was the replacement of the Vanguard Institutional Index I (VINIX) with the Vanguard Institutional Index Instl. Plus Fund (VHIX) due to meeting asset minimum. The second item was the approval of the of selection of the American Beacon Stephens Mid-Cap Gr R6 Fund (SFMRX) to replace the Blackrock Mid-Cap Growth Equity K Fund. Finally, the committee received an update regarding security in executive session.

**6. Reports from the Presidents**

**A. Community College of Rhode Island**

President Rosemary Costigan highlighted CCRI's commencement that took place on May 15, 2025. She also informed the Council that CCRI had been accepted into the Achieve the Dream cohort for community colleges.

**B. Rhode Island College**

President Jack Warner shared that RIC is on track to reach 6,500 students this fall, an enrollment goal he originally projected would take 5–6 years. He credited the progress to the Hope Scholarship, improved student retention, and more aggressive recruitment efforts.

**7. Action Items**

- A.** Approval of awarding tenure at CCRI.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the  
awarding tenure effective July 1, 2025, at the Community  
College of Rhode Island to:

- Kelly M. Delaney
- Andrew L. Goodman
- Walter O. Orellana
- Emmanuel Tsangaraski

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

YEAS:        David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle  
Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery  
Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

Council Member Jeffery Williams requested more information regarding the process of  
awarding tenure at the colleges. President Costigan informed the Council on the  
evaluation process which occurs every three years. She announced that once a fourth  
evaluation takes place at the 6<sup>th</sup> year, faculty become eligible for tenure.

**B. Approval awarding tenure at Rhode Island College.**

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the  
awarding tenure effective July 1, 2025, to Dr. Manyul Im at  
Rhode Island College.

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

YEAS:        David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle  
Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery  
Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

- C.** Approval of the new classification of Chief Marketing Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED:        THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Chief Marketing Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island, 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 Algieri, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS:      0

- D.** Approval of amendments to Council Policy A-6 (Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools), as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED:        THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the amendments to Council Policy A-6 (Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools), 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, Dennis Algieri, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:            0

ABSTAINS:      0

- E.** Approval of the operation of a proprietary school, Joy CNA, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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 the operation of a proprietary school, Joy CNA, 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, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

- F.** Approval, Non-SARA, for the California Institute of Integral Studies to provide distance learning courses to Rhode Island students, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approve, Non SARA, for the California Institute of Integral Studies to provide distance learning courses to Rhode Island students, 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, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

## **8. Executive Session**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council enter executive session for the following:

- A.** Discussion regarding the two Community College of Rhode Island Presidential Search Finalists and the appointment of the new president of the Community College of Rhode Island, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1).

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- B.** Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)
- i. Discussion of Tentative Agreement with CCRI Professional Staff Association NEARI/NEA.
  - ii. Discussion of Tentative Agreement with Rhode Island Driver’s Education Association, NEARI/NEA.
  - iii. Discussion of Tentative Agreement with Rhode Island College Professional Staff Association, AFT Local 3302.
- C.** Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- D.** Discussion regarding a potential lease of real property for public purposes, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(5).

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

- VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into Executive Session for the following:
- A.** Discussion regarding the two Community College of Rhode Island Presidential Search Finalists and the appointment of the new president of the Community College of Rhode Island, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1).
- B.** Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)
- i. Discussion of Tentative Agreement with CCRI Professional Staff Association NEARI/NEA.
  - ii. Discussion of Tentative Agreement with Rhode Island Driver’s Education Association, NEARI/NEA.
  - iii. Discussion of Tentative Agreement with Rhode Island College Professional Staff Association, AFT Local 3302.
- C.** Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- D.** Discussion regarding a potential lease of real property for public purposes, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(5).

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Chair Caprio noted that individuals to be discussed in Items 8A, Dr. Reber and Dr. Costigan, 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 6:30 AM.**  
**The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:59 PM.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 18, 2025.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 18, 2025.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**9. Additional Action Item**

**A. Ratification of the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Council and the Community College of Rhode Island Professional Staff Association NEARI/NEA.**

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Council and the Community

College of Rhode Island Professional Staff Association  
NEARI/NEA.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**B. Ratification of the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Council and Rhode Island Driver's Education Association, NEARI/NEA.**

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Council and Rhode Island Driver's Education Association, NEARI/NEA.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**C. Ratification of the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Council and Rhode Island College Professional Staff Association, AFT Local 3302.**

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Council and Rhode Island College Professional Staff Association, AFT Local 3302.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**D. Approval of a 3.5% across the board salary increase for all non-union non-classified Council employees.**

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve a 3.5% across the board salary increase for all non-union non-classified Council employees.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**C. Approval of the appointment of the new president of the Community College of Rhode Island and authorization of the Council Chair.**

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Rosemary Costigan as the new president of the Community College of Rhode Island and authorize the Council Chair to negotiate an employment agreement with Rosemary Costigan, as per the parameters discussed in Executive Session.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

President Costigan gave brief remarks thanking the Council, Search Committee, and colleagues and expressed looking forward to continuing working with the team.

Council Members Jeffery Williams and Rachelle Green gave brief remarks about President Costigan, as did President Warner.

#### **10. Adjourn**

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, June 18, 2025.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle  
Green, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery  
Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.