



Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

Rhode Island College

600 Mount Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908

Gaige Hall, Room 130

Meeting Minutes

Chair Michael Mello called this meeting to order at 4:45 pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education present:

Michael Mello, Chair

Lawrence Purtill

Council on Postsecondary Education absent:

Jeffery Williams

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

Rebecca Ryan, Director of Compliance and Student Protection

Jaime Wager, Program Specialist

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success

Manyul Im, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

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

Barbara J. Nauman, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee accept the agenda for the meeting of September 3, 2025.

On a motion made by Michael Mello and seconded by Lawrence Purtill it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

accept the agenda for the meeting on September 3, 2025.
VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello
NAYS: 0
ABSTAINS: 0

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Mello called for a motion that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on June 4, 2025.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Lawrence Purtill it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve the minutes that took place on June 4, 2025.
VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello
NAYS: 0
ABSTAINS: 0

3. Discussion Items -- None

4. Action Items

- a. Approval of the recommendation to the Council for its approval of the operation of a proprietary school (Ozga EMS)

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a recommendation to the Council for its approval of the operation of a proprietary school (Ozga EMS)
VOTE : 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello
NAYS: 0
ABSTAINS: 0

- b. Approval of the recommendation to the Council for its approval of the operation of a proprietary school (RI Allied Health & Safety Institute).

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a recommendation to the Council for its approval of the operation of a proprietary school (RI Allied Health & Safety Institute).

VOTE : 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- c. Approval of the recommendation to the Council for Non-SARA Approval for Claremont State University

Rebecca Ryan, Director of Compliance and Student Protection explained that Non-SARA Approval is a pathway allowing accredited, non-profit institutions to offer distance education across state lines without needing individual state permissions. Participating schools can enroll out-of-state students more easily.

Claremont State University meets the base eligibility to apply. Initial approval must go through the Council on Postsecondary Education, followed by annual renewals.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Micheal Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee approve a recommendation to the Council for its approval for Non-SARA Approval Claremont State University

VOTE : 2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. Next Meeting

Chair Mello announced that the next Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee meeting will be on October 1, 2025, at 4:30 PM.

6. Adjourn

Chair Mello called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED:	THAT	The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of September 3 rd , 2025
	VOTE:	2 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	Lawrence Purtill and Michael Mello
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.