



Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Wednesday, October 22, 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 5:40 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

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

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Rachelle Green
Michael Grey
Michael Mello

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Anne Marie Coleman, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Human Resources and Labor Relations
Jailene Colon, Administrative Assistant
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
Manyul Im, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jenifer Giroux, Vice President of Corporate Relations and Professional Studies
Cindy Kozil, Vice President for Student Success

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

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
Alix Odgen, Vice President of Institutional Equity, Human Resources, and
Organizational Development
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration and Finance

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair David Caprio began by sharing remarks on the late Dr. William Holland who served as the Postsecondary Commissioner from 1999-2002. On behalf of the Council, he sent his condolences to his family.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting on October 22, 2025.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on October 22, 2025.
	VOTE:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

2. Approval of the minutes

A. Minutes of the September 3, 2025, CPE Meeting.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on September 3, 2025.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes for the meeting on September 3, 2025
	VOTE:	4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.
	YEAS:	David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.
	NAYS:	0

ABSTAINS: Jeffery Williams

3. Reports from the Committee Chairs

A. Finance and Facilities Committee

Chair Dennis Duffy reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee last met on October 15, 2025. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed and approved the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2027; and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2026 for CCRI, RIC, and RIOPC. Also discussed and recommended for the Council's consideration was the Capital Improvement Plan for the Fiscal Year 2027-2032 for CCRI, RIC, and RIOPC.

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 met prior to the Council Meeting that evening on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. During the meeting, the committee met to discuss the following:

- Notification of application for approval to operate institution of higher education in RI
- Hope Scholarship report
- Notice of change regarding renaming the Computer Studies and Information Processing Department to the Department of Computer Science and Cybersecurity at CCRI _____

The Committee also approved the following:

- Operation of a proprietary school through online instruction, National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement – NIMAA
- The Recommendation to the Board of Education for approval of the Concurrent Enrollment Course List Offerings for the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

B. Personnel Committee

On behalf of Chair Rachelle Green, Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources and Labor Relations Anne Marie Coleman reported that the Personnel Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

C. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee last met on September 17, 2025. During the meeting, the committee discussed the following:

- Amendments to the Council on Postsecondary Education 403(b) Defined Contribution Plans and 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan to allow Roth deferrals for elective participant contributions
- TIAA annual Plan Sponsor Review.

- CAPTRUST provided their update on current industry matters and the Quarterly Investment Review for the quarter ending June 30, 2025. This review covered the following topics:
 - Industry and regulatory updates
 - Fiduciary Training
 - Plan Assets/Allocation
 - Market update and investment analysis
 - Fiduciary Document Review

4. Action Items

- A.** Approval of the new classification of Grants and Contracts Administrator at the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Grants and Contracts Administrator at the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B.** Approval of the new classification of Chief Strategy Officer at the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Chief Strategy Officer at the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- C. Approval of the new classification of Dean of Student Operational Excellence and Service Innovation at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Marcy Reyes, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Dean of Student Operational Excellence and Service Innovation at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- D. Approval of the reclassification of Research Associate/Data Analyst III to Assistant Director, RI Longitudinal Data System (RILDS) at the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Algieri and seconded by Michael Mello, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Research Associate/Data Analyst III to Assistant Director, RI Longitudinal Data System (RILDS) at the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E. Approval of the Rhode Island College FY2026 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Rhode Island College FY2026 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

F. Approval of the operation of a proprietary school (National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement - NIMAA) 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 Jeffery Williams and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve of the operation of a proprietary school (National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement - NIMAA) to provide distance learning courses to Rhode Island students, as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

G. Approval of the 2025-2026 Concurrent Course List Offerings as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the 2025-2026 Concurrent Course List Offerings as recommended by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

H. Approval of the update to the Community College of Rhode Island Mission Statement and creation of Vision Statement.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the update to the Community College of Rhode Island Mission Statement and creation of Vision Statement.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

I. Approval of the appointment of Anastasia Rodriguez as Vice President for Finance and Administration at Rhode Island College.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Anastasia Rodriguez as Vice President for Finance and Administration at Rhode Island College.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- J.** Approval of the new classification of Technical Assistance Specialist, Conflict Free Case Management at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Technical Assistance Specialist, Conflict Free Case Management at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- K.** Approval of the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2027, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2027 and recommendation for approval by the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

On a motion duly made by Marcy Reyes and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Tables of Organization for FY2027, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2027 and recommendation for approval by the Board of

Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- L. Approval of the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2027-2031 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

A motion to approve the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2027-2031 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee was then duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Jeffery Williams.

Council Member Duffy proposed adding a condition to the motion stating that a detailed business plan and feasibility analysis for CCRI's proposed Innovation Center must be provided in acceptable form before the project can be included in the state budget.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education amend the motion to approve the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2027-2031 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee to condition approval of CCRI's proposed Innovation Center upon the receipt of a detailed business plan and feasibility analysis before the project can be included in the state budget.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Duffy, Lawrence Purtill, Marcy

Reyes, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Thereafter, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's (RIC, CCRI, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner) Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2027-2031 and recommendation to the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee, subject to the approved amendment.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

5. 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).
 - i. Discussion of the RIC/AFT Faculty Adjunct Union, Local 1563 Tentative Agreement.
 - ii. Discussion of the AFT, Local 2012 Tentative Agreement.
- B. Discussion regarding the Annual Report on Litigation (all cases pending in the United States Federal Court and the Rhode Island State Courts¹, and the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- C. Discussion regarding potential litigation , pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams 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).

- i. Discussion of the RIC/AFT Faculty Adjunct Union, Local 1563 Tentative Agreement.
- ii. Discussion of the AFT, Local 2012 Tentative Agreement.

B. Discussion regarding the Annual Report on Litigation (all cases pending in the United States Federal Court and the Rhode Island State Courts², and the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

C. Discussion regarding potential litigation , pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 6:14 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 6:38 PM.

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on October 22, 2025.

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

¹ Moore v. RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, et al., (C.A. No. PC 2018-7522); Caldwell v. George Pearson, et al. (RIC), (C.A. No. PC2021-02609); Costa Companies, Inc. v. State of Rhode Island, et al. (RIC), (C.A. No. PC 2021-04947); Colafrancesco v. ThysennKrupp Elevator Corp., and Council on Postsecondary Education (CCRI), (C. A. No. PC 2018-6460); Arocho v. CCRI, et al., (C.A. No. KC 2023-0017); Coes v. CCRI, et al. (USDC Case 1:24-cv-00035-WES-LDA); Brotherton v. CCRI, (C.A. No. PC 2024-6790).

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 3, 2025.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. Additional Action Item

A. Ratification of the RIC/AFT Faculty Adjunct Union, Local 1563 Tentative Agreement.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Ratification of the RIC/AFT Faculty Adjunct Union, Local 1563 Tentative Agreement.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Ratification of the AFT, Local 2012 Tentative Agreement.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the AFT, Local 2012 Tentative Agreement.

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

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

NAYS: 0

