



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education**  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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

Chair David Caprio called this meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

**Council on Postsecondary Education members present:**

David Caprio, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education  
Dennis Algieri  
Dennis Duffy  
Michael Grey  
Lawrence Purtill  
Marcy Reyes (entered at 5:45 p.m.)  
Jeffery Williams (entered at 6:06 p.m.)  
Gianna Rose, Student Member

**Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:**

Rachelle Green  
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  
Greg Ebner, Assistant Commissioner of Academics and Student Affairs  
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 Caprio began by offering remarks expressing sympathy and support to the Providence and Brown University community following the recent acts of violence impacting its campus followed by a moment of silence.

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting on January 14, 2026.

A motion was made by Dennis Algiere and seconded by Lawrence Purtill that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on January 14, 2026.

Chair Caprio then asked for a motion to amend the agenda to move Action Items 6G and 6H after Action Item 6B.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education accept to amend the agenda to move Action Items 6G and 6H after Action Item 6B.

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

YEAS:        David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

Chair Caprio asked for a vote to approve the agenda as amended, and it was:.

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting on January 14, 2026 as amended.

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

YEAS:        David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey,

and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

## **2. Approval of the minutes**

### **A. Minutes of the October 22, 2025, CPE Meeting.**

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on October 22, 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 October 22, 2025.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS:

### **B. Minutes of the October 23, 2025 Council Retreat.**

Chair Caprio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2025 Council Retreat.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes for the meeting on October 23, 2025.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS:

## **3. Report from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Shannon Gilkey gave a brief introduction to new RIOPC staff member, Catherine McConnell, who joined the team as Chief Strategy Officer.

#### **4. 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, Assistant Commissioner Greg Ebner reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee last met on January 7, 2026. During the meeting, the committee met to discuss the following:

- i. Notices of Program Change at CCRI
  - a. Creation of Associate in Arts, Community Planning
  - b. Creation of a Certificate, Community Planning
- ii. Notices of New Joint Admission Agreements at CCRI
  - a. Fine Arts Transfer, Music Education – B.M. (URI)
  - b. Mathematics Transfer, Data Science – B.S. (RIC)

##### **C. 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.

##### **D. Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee**

Chair Zachary Saul reported that the Joint Alternate Retirement Plan Committee last met on December 2, 2025. During the meeting, the committee received an update from CAPTRUST on current industry matters and the Quarterly Investment Review for the quarter ending on September 30, 2025. The review covered the following topics: industry and regulatory updates, Fiduciary Training, Plan Assets/Allocation, market update and investment analysis, and Fiduciary Document Review.

#### **5. Reports from the Presidents**

##### **A. Community College of Rhode Island**

President Rosemary Costigan reported that December was a highly productive month for workforce, highlighting several meetings with 3 separate international groups regarding workforce and program development. She noted that these visits reflected valuable international recognition of the system's work. Additionally, President Costigan announced that 120 nursing students were graduating that evening.

##### **B. Rhode Island College**

President Jack Warner highlighted the positive impact from the Hope Scholarship, with four-year graduation rates increasing from a pre-Hope baseline of approximately 22% to 25% for the 2020 cohort and 29% for the 2021 cohort. These gains occurred despite minimal academic interventions, suggesting that the financial support provided by the

scholarship played a significant role in improving student retention and on-time completion.

Chair Caprio commended both Presidents on receiving recognition at the State of the State. Commissioner Gilkey further congratulated the Presidents and highlighted the accomplishments achieved under their leadership, noting increases in enrollment, completion, and retention rates.

## **6. Action Items**

- A.** Approval of the reclassification of Dean, Career and Technical Education, Early College, and Community Partnerships to AVP Career, Technical and Continuing Education at the Community College of Rhode Island, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Dean, Career and Technical Education, Early College, and Community Partnerships to AVP Career, Technical and Continuing Education 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 Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

- B.** Approval of the new classification of Executive Vice President at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the new classification of Executive Vice President at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

YEAS:        David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- G.** Approval of the appointment of the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED:      THAT      The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Greg LaPointe as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

YEAS:      David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS:      0

ABSTAINS:      0

- H.** Approval of the appointment of Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED:      THAT      The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the appointment of Dr. Marianne Raimondo as Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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

YEAS:      David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS:      0

ABSTAINS:      0

President Warner gave brief remarks congratulating Dr. Raimondo on her new position at the Community College.

- C.** Approval of the reclassification of Chief of Staff to Senior Advisor to the President at the Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the reclassification of Chief of Staff to Senior Advisor to the President at the 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 Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

- D.** Approval of the new classification of Director of Emergency Management at Rhode Island College, as recommended by the Personnel Review Committee.

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

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approve of the new classification of Director of Emergency Management 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 Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:   0

- E.** Approval of the amendment to Council Policy S-12 (Joint Admissions Agreement), 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 the amendment to Council Policy S-12 (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 Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**F. Approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education 2026 meeting schedule, including committee schedule.**

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Council on Postsecondary Education 2026 meeting schedule, including committee schedule.

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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, Lawrence Purtill, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**7. Executive Session**

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

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

**B.** Discussion regarding security at CCRI and RIC, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(3).

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

**B.** Discussion regarding security at CCRI and RIC, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(3).



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

YEAS: David Caprio, Dennis Algiere, Dennis Duffy, Mike Grey, Lawrence Purtill, Jeffrey Williams, and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**The Council entered Executive Session at 5:55 PM.**

**The Council reconvened in Open Session at 6:58 PM.**

Chair Caprio called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on January 14, 2026.

On a motion duly made by Denis Algiere and seconded by Mike Grey, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on January 14, 2026.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8. Next Meeting**

Chair Caprio announced the next Council on Postsecondary Education meeting will be on February 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Rhode Island College.

**9. Adjourn**

Chair Caprio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

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

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

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Wednesday, January 14, 2026

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.