



**Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Finance and Facilities Committee
Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

**Rhode Island Nursing Education Center
350 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903, Room 306
Meeting Minutes**

Chair Dennis Duffy called this meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Finance & Facilities Committee members present:

Dennis Duffy, Esq., Chair, Finance & Facilities Committee
Marcy Reyes

Council on Postsecondary Education members absent:

Dennis Algieri

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

Shannon Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Rachel Doyle, Director, Business Services
Jackie Xiong, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Liaison to the Council

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Jack Warner, President
Sara Enright, Interim Executive Vice President
Anastasia Rodriguez, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance
Kevin Fitta, Assistant Vice President, Administration
Adam Brusseau, Director, Budget and Financial Planning
Dirk Wallace, Assistant Director, Budget and Financial Planning

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Rosemary Costigan, President
Rich Sullivan, Vice President, Administration and Finance
Amy Kempe, Chief of Staff
Christopher Demers, Chief Financial Officer
Annmarie McMahon, Director, Budget and Financial Planning
David Snow, Director Facilities, Maintenance and Engineering

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Duffy asked for a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting on October 15, 2025.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee accept the agenda
for the meeting on October 15, 2025.

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. Minutes of the April 9, 2025, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting.

Chair Duffy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2025 meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the
minutes for the meeting on April 9, 2025

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Action Items

A. Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests and Table of Organization for FY2027; and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2026.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon representatives from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner's Office to present the FY2027 Operating Budget Request. Commissioner Shannon Gilkey provided the Committee with an update on the current environment of public higher education. He informed the Committee that OPC's FY2027 budget was developed in a manner to prioritize the continued investment in higher education and in response to the changes in the federal budget that will impact OPC and the institutions of higher education in Rhode Island.

Zachary Saul, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Committee with OPC's FY2027 Operating Budget Request. OPC's FY2027 Operating Service Level Budget request for all sources of funds is \$56.8 million; \$35.8 million General Revenue, \$5.4 million Federal Funds, \$11.8 million Restricted Receipts, and \$3.8 million Other Funds/Operating Transfers. The allocation of funding is \$18.5 million to fund operations and \$38.3 million as pass-through funding.

A total of \$35.8 million from general revenue is requested for the OPC unrestricted budget for FY2027. This budget includes \$5.7 million for operations for OPC and the RI Longitudinal Data System (RILDS). \$30.1 million for non-operating needs, including \$3.0 for dual enrollment, \$6.9 million for the Hope Scholarship, \$7.6 million for CCRI Promise Scholarship, \$6.5 million for Last Dollar (Promise 1.0) scholarship, \$5.5 million for occupancy cost of the RI Nursing Education Center, and \$0.6 million for Legislative Grants.

Chair Duffy inquired about the significant increase in the request for general revenue for operations when compared to the FY2026 appropriation. Mr. Saul explained that the increase is attributed to the request to reallocate the funding for RILDS due to the proposed loss of federal funding. OPC is requesting general revenue to provide the necessary funding to continue the operations of the RILDS and its ability to support the State and its statewide data initiatives. Commissioner Gilkey provided the Committee with a historical background of the federal funding that has been provided to states to manage their Longitudinal Data Systems.

Mr. Saul explained to the Committee that the budget instructions from the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) requested a Current Service Level Budget (CSL) Request and a Constrained Budget Request that contained a 7.5% reduction of general revenue based on the FY2027 OMB Target Base Budget. The result would be a \$403,731 reduction in general revenue. Committee members raised concerns about the impact of the Constrained Budget on the operations of OPC. Mr. Saul indicated that OPC was complying with the instructions but was not advocating for any of the proposed reductions in personnel or operating expenses that were presented.

Chair Duffy requested an update on OPC's Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Saul explained that the FY2027-FY20231 CIP for OPC is \$1.6 million (including FY2026). The CIP consists of two existing projects: \$1.0 million for the expansion of the Westerly Education Center (WEC) and \$0.6 million for the RI Nursing Education Center. OPC is requesting to revise the FY2026 funding and to allocate funding to FY2027-FY2029 of the WEC

expansion based on the revised project timelines. Updates on the construction of the Tower Street project for the WEC expansion will be provided to the Committee at a future meeting. He also informed the Committee that the projects for the RI Nursing Education Center are funded with Certificates of Participation specifically for the Nursing Education Center and its capital expenditures.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests and Table of Organization for FY2027; and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2026.

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- B.** Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- C. Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Community College of Rhode Island Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Table of Organization for FY2027; and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2026.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon President Rosemary Costigan to present the FY2027 Operating Budget Request for the Community College of Rhode Island.

President Costigan framed CCRI's budget request and its alignment with the Community College's strategic plan. The FY2027 Operating budget assumes approval for the FY2026 revised budget request. The FY2026 Revised Operating Request is seeking additional State appropriation of general revenue funding of \$338,511 to cover the negotiated COLAs and fringe benefits for the Board of Education employees and adjustment for changes in fringe benefit planning values provided by OMB that exceeded the planning values in the FY2026 Enacted Budget. The request will cover the State's share of CCRI's unrestricted revenue of 47.5%. CCRI will have to cover the balance with other revenue sources (tuition and fees, sales and services, or reserve funds).

For FY2027 CCRI presented a Current Service Level Budget Request and a Constrained Budget Request to comply with the instructions from OMB. CCRI is requesting an unrestricted budget of \$142.3 million for FY2027. This budget would be supported by \$66.1 million in state appropriations (exclusive of \$1.0 million in General Obligation debt service), \$63.9 million in tuition revenue, \$8.6 million in other institutional resources, and \$2.7 million from prior year fund balance surplus. President Costigan explained that the FY2027 OMB Targets did not account for the same targets or planning values that are being included in FY2027 Current Service Level Budget. The OMB State Appropriation Target included a \$692,711 increase in the base funding. This target provided additional funding for fringe benefit rate changes and modest increase for classified union employees' cost-of-living adjustment. It did not account for the full cost-of-living adjustments for CCRI's Board of Education Employees or statewide fringe benefit rate increases. The total funding needed to cover these expenditures, net of the OMB target, is \$3,445,241. CCRI's request for additional state funding is \$1,636,489. This represents the State's share of CCRI's unrestricted revenue of 47.5%.

CCRI is requesting a net tuition and fee increase of \$214, or 3.6% for FY2027. Full-time, in-state, tuition and mandatory fees will be \$6,082 (210 in tuition and \$4 in fees). CCRI will remain the fourth lowest tuition in New England.

President Costigan presented the FY2027 Constrained Budget for CCRI, in accordance with the OMB instructions, to reflect a 7.5% reduction of general revenue funding. The Constrained Budget for revenue in FY2027 to reflect the reduction from OMB would be \$139.0 million. The State appropriation would be \$61.1 million, a decrease of approximately \$5.0 million from the FY2027 CSL request. To achieve this target CCRI would need to raise tuition and fees to 5.5% over the FY2026 tuition and fee rates, reduce

operating expenses, and decrease its personnel costs. President Costigan emphasized that this reduction would have an adverse impact on the Community College's ability to operate.

There was an extended discussion among the committee members regarding the impact of the Constrained Budget.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Community College of Rhode Island Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Table of Organization for FY2027; and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2026.

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

D. Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Community College of Rhode Island FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon President Rosemary Costigan to present the FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan for the Community College of Rhode Island.

The Community College of Rhode Island Capital Improvement Plan for FY2027-FY2031 is \$251.4 million (including FY2026). The projects are \$19.7 for Asset Protection, \$10.0 million for the Lincoln Campus Renewal, \$41.2 million for Phase I Modernization, \$49.3 million Phase II-IV Modernization, \$19.0 million for Data, Cabling, and Power Infrastructure, and \$2.2 million for ADA Accessibility Projects.

Request for general obligation bond funding of \$110.0 million; 2026 - \$65.0 million for the Workforce Innovation Center; 2028 – \$30.0 million for the Health Science Education Center; and \$15.0 million for the Warwick Learning Commons.

President Costigan explained the 2026 General Obligation Bond for the Workforce Innovation Center would provide funding for a new facility to serve as a regional hub for career and technical education. Training will focus on high-demand sectors (healthcare,

advanced manufacturing, information technology, construction trades, and renewable energy.

Chair Duffy and Committee Member Reyes requested more information about the project. Both committee members raised concerns about the need for the Workforce Innovation Center and inquired if a business plan and feasibility study had been prepared for this project. CCRI had commissioned a feasibility study that provided justification for new construction versus renovation of an existing structure.

After an extended discussion, the Committee determined that a business plan and feasibility study for the Workforce Innovation Center will be required to be submitted to the Council as part of their consideration and approval of the FY2027 Operating Budget Request.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Community College of Rhode Island FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E. Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Rhode Island College Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Table of Organization for FY2027; and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2026.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon President Jack Warner to present the FY2027 Operating Budget Request for Rhode Island College.

President Warner explained the FY2027 Operating Budget Request for Rhode Island College continues to prioritize investments that are supportive of the goals outlined in the College's strategic plan. The College is focused on improving student outcomes and performance, investing in faculty and staff, and modernizing the operational practices and core systems of RIC.

President Warner noted that enrollment trends are moving in a positive direction. Total headcount for Fall 2024 was 6,158, 6.8% increase; Fall 2025 is 6,647, 7.9% increase; and Fall 2026 is forecasted to be 6,746, 1.5% increase. President Warner indicated that the

Hope Scholarship has help to stabilize enrollment at the College and is making the bachelor's degree an affordable option for Rhode Island residents.

For the FY2026 Revised Operating Request RIC is not seeking additional State appropriation of general revenue funding to cover the negotiated COLAs and fringe benefits, adjustment for changes in fringe benefit planning values, and other operating expenses. RIC is anticipating \$3.4 million in additional tuition and fee revenue over the FY2026 Enacted Budget. This revenue will be used to fund the increase in expenses for FY2026.

For FY2027 RIC presented a Current Service Level Budget Request and a Constrained Budget Request to comply with the request from OMB. The FY2027 Current Service Level Budget request is \$165.5 million. This budget would be supported by \$72.8 million in State appropriations (exclusive of \$9.2 million in General Obligation debt service), \$78.9 million in tuition and fee revenue, and \$4.6 million in other institutional resources. The FY207 State appropriation represents an increase of \$2.1 million or 2.9% over the FY2026 Revised Budget. This will cover the increases for the collective bargaining units, fringe/healthcare benefit cost increases, and inflationary impacts on operating expenses. This increase will minimize the increase in tuition and fees. Tuition and Fees for in-state students will increase 3.5% to \$12,123 (\$414 increase over FY2026). The FY2027 tuition of \$12,123 is still below the FY2026 rates of regional peers before any of these schools release their FY2027 tuition rates.

President Warner provided an update on the Auxiliary Enterprises. Residency Hall occupancy has increased. RIC is projecting a balanced budget for FY2026 and FY2027. Due to the increase in residence hall occupancy the Donovan Dining fund is projected to have a moderate surplus in FY2026 and FY2027. The Student Union had deficit in FY2025. With careful management of expenses, the Student Union is protecting a modest surplus for FY2026 and FY2027 RIC is incrementally increasing the fees over multiple budget years and the projected growth in enrollment is anticipated to reduce or eliminate the deficit.

President Warner presented the FY2027 Constrained Budget for RIC, in accordance with the OMB instructions, to reflect a 7.5% reduction of general revenue funding. The Constrained Budget for revenue in FY2027 to reflect the reduction from OMB would be \$159.6 million. The State appropriation would be \$65.9 million, a decrease of \$6.9 million from the FY2027 CSL request. To achieve this target RIC would need to raise tuition and fees 7.5% over the FY2026 tuition and fee rates, reduce operating expenses, and decrease its personnel costs. President Warner emphasized that a reduction of this size would have an adverse impact on the College's ability to operate and would significantly undermine enrollment. This reduction would be a setback to the gains the College has experienced over the past two years.

There was an extended discussion among the committee members regarding the impact of the Constrained Budget.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Rhode Island College Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates, and Table of Organization for FY2027; and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY2026.

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

F. Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Rhode Island College FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon President Jack Warner to present the FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

The Rhode Island College Capital Improvement Plan for FY2027-FY2031 is \$348.9 million (including FY2026). The projects are \$73.5 million for Whipple Hall renovations, \$44.7 for Asset Protection, \$41.8 million for Infrastructure Modernization, \$3.2 million for Phase III Clark Science Modernization, and \$2.7 million Phase II Horace Mann Renovations.

Request for general obligation bond funding of \$163.0 million; 2026 - \$78.0 million for the Student Success & Career Readiness Center at Adams Library; 2028 – \$85.0 million for the Fogarty Life Sciences Building.

Request for auxiliary revenue bond funding of \$20.0 million for Residential Life & Housing improvements.

Chair Duffy inquired about the Student Success and Career Readiness Center. He inquired if this was different than the project that was previously approved. President Warner explained that project was approved by the Council but did not receive funding in the FY2026 Enacted Budget. The project was modified to expand the College's central library to serve as a centralized location for student supports, offering academic advising, career services, tutoring, and other essential resources to assist students.

Committee members inquired about the residential life renovations and how the College would be funding the debt service. President Warner explained that these renovations are

critical to enhancing the student experience and building a connection for students to the campus. The funding would be available because existing debt will be retired and that funding would be used to cover the debt service for the proposed bonds.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Rhode Island College FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

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

YEAS: Dennis Algieri and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

G. Approval of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Rhode Island College FY2026 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

Chair Duffy introduced the item and called upon President Jack Warner to present the Rhode Island College FY2026 Voluntary Incentive Program.

President Warner explained the College is requesting approval to offer a voluntary retirement incentive to faculty and non-classified staff participating in the Council on Postsecondary Education 403(b) Retirement Plan. Offering this program allows the College to recognize the long-term service of their employees and provide them financial flexibility to retire. The program is anticipated to generate savings for RIC in FY2027 and FY2028. The College will also be able to strategically rehire staff that support the initiatives of the College. Committee Member Reyes inquired how the College will fund the program. President Warner indicated that the expenses for the program will be recognized in FY2026 and will be funded with operational savings, increased tuition revenue, or reserve funding. The total cost of the program will be dependent on the number of eligible employees that elect to participate.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee approve of the recommendation to the Council on Postsecondary Education for its approval of the Rhode Island College FY2026 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

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

the negative.

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

4. Adjourn

Chair Duffy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

VOTED: THAT The Finance and Facilities Committee adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

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

YEAS: Dennis Duffy and Marcy Reyes.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.