



Enclosure 2a  
February 1, 2017

## Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 5:30 p.m.  
Rhode Island College  
Faculty Center Main Dining Room  
Donovan Dining Center  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island, RI 02908

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at Rhode Island College at the Faculty Center Main Dining Room, Providence, Rhode Island. At 5:32 p.m. Chair William Foulkes welcomed everyone. He then asked for the roll to be taken, after which he declared a quorum present.

**Present:** Michael Bernstein, Maria Chavez Blanco, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby (arrived at 5:39 p.m.), Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Rachele Green (arrived at 5:42 p.m.), Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

**Absent:** Dennis Duffy

### 1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Foulkes entertained a motion to accept the agenda. On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	<b>THAT</b>	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 7, 2016.
	<b>VOTE:</b>	6 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:
	<b>YEAS:</b>	Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0  
ABSTAINS 0

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### 2) Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's November 9, 2016 Meeting.

On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Senator Izzo, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	<b>THAT</b>	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes for the meeting of November 9, 2016.
	<b>VOTE:</b>	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	<b>YEAS:</b>	Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
	<b>NAYS:</b>	0
	<b>ABSTAINS</b>	0

## 3. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEES

### 3a) Chair Bill Foulkes

Chair Foulkes welcomed the newest member to the Council, Maria Chavez Blanco, who is a student at the Community College of Rhode Island. The student representative to the Council rotates every two years, and each college has its turn, and it is now CCRI's turn. He thanked John Rainone, the outgoing student representative from RIC, for all his great work. He then introduced Maria Chavez Blanco.

Maria Chavez Blanco stated that she is a student at CCRI and finishing her general studies and will be transferring to URI to pursue a Human Development & Family Studies bachelor's degree. Her long term goal is to get her doctoral degree.

Chair Foulkes stated that tonight there is a lighter agenda. The Commissioner's Office is going to give a presentation on the year 1 report of the five-year strategic plan that was passed by the Council last fall.

### **3b) Chair Barbara Cottam**

Chair Cottam reported on a recent visit from the Secretary of Education, John King. He visited West Warwick High School and Providence Career & Technical Academy, where he was able to interact with the students. He praised Rhode Island for investing in two things: Computer Science & Career and Technical programs. They were fortunate to have him and highlight some of the work that they are doing in both of those fields already. The Governor also mentioned during the visit that both URI and RIC will be offering web development as a minor going forward.

## **4. OPEN FORUM**

Chair Foulkes reported that Andrew Bramson had signed up to speak at Open Forum.

Mr. Andrew Bramson, President and CEO of College Crusade, gave an overview on the Summer Melt program at RIC, following his presentation on CCRI at the previous Council meeting. There are 220 Crusaders at RIC, which is an increase from five years ago when they only had 60. These students are coming to Rhode Island College because they are #1 in access, affordability and success. These students also want to start at a four-year college versus attending CCRI then transferring to RIC, and they are coming to RIC because URI is becoming out of reach for them. It is not really about the tuition due to the talent development program, but more about the cost/difficulty of living on campus. This helps explain why the College Crusade is seeing an influx of students at RIC.

One of the challenges that the College Crusade is facing with regard to RIC is that a vast amount of the Crusaders are commuters and come on a bus in the morning and they are there all day. Mr. Bramson told the Council that there is demonstrated need to do more for these students. The College Crusade is in the process of discussing options with RIC for the college to provide spaces for the students whether its common space or a floor of dorm rooms converted to a day space. As a result, being at RIC all today presents significant challenges from a social connectedness perspective.

This is an issue that the College Crusade is seeing growing every year. If it is happening for the College Crusaders, he knows it is happening for the student population at large at RIC.

Mr. Bramson stated that URI and RIC are working hard to reinvent their respective approaches to Student Affairs. That will take money and investment, and that the College Crusade will look to be a strategic thought partner in that, but especially with regard to RIC at the College Crusade enrollment continues to grow.

## **5. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Purcell gave an update on the following:

### **5a) Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education:**

An introduction was made on the Westerly Education Center staff which is as follows: Amy Grzybowski, Executive Director; Beth Bailey, Marketing Director and Doug Tingle, Operations Coordinator.

Commissioner Purcell showed slides with pictures of the Center as it nears completion, and he then gave an overview of the curriculum to be offered.

URI has developed a customized leadership training curriculum for Electric Boat supervisors to be offered February 2017 - October 2017. For matriculating students, URI will offer OCE561 - Analysis of Oceanographic Data and MCE576 - Fracture Mechanics classes.

CCRI will offer 20 Spring Courses that were previously offered at Westerly High School. CCRI will also offer customized courses for Electric Boat beginning in January 2017 and running through May 2017. These courses are supported by workforce training funds from Rhode Island and Connecticut. In addition, CCRI will offer 2 workshops in Food Recertification Continuing Education, which are required by RI Department of Health for Food Safety Managers and Food Safety Manager Instructors.

RIC will also provide training at the Westerly Education Center for Community Health Worker Training in April.

Chair Foulkes asked for Amy Grzybowski, Executive Director to give a presentation to the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting in January.

### **5b) Notices of new programs and/or changes that were submitted and reviewed for notification to the Council:**

**1) Transfer of the Schmidt Labor Research Center to the College of Business for Administrative Purposes at the University of Rhode Island.**

Commissioner Purcell gave an overview of the program change. The Schmidt Labor Research Center (SLRC) was formerly housed within the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Continuing Education (ASFCCE). With the dissolution of the ASFCCE, the University proposes that the SLRC transfer to the College of Business Administration (CBA) for administrative purposes.

URI maintains that the transfer of the SLRC to the CBA makes both practical and philosophical sense because CBA faculty teach SLRC courses, and the CBA graduate curriculum aligns closely with the master's and certificates in Labor Relations and Human Resources.

### **5b2) Proposal for the Creation of an MA in Justice Studies at Rhode Island College.**

Commissioner Purcell gave an overview of the proposal for the new program. RIC is proposing to offer a Master of Arts degree in Justice Studies through the Sociology Department of the School of Arts and Sciences. For many years, RIC has offered a Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies that is now one of the college's largest undergraduate majors. This proposed program is designed for those interested in earning an advanced degree to support their employment in justice and social services fields, including social and human service agencies; law enforcement; and non-profit and non-governmental agencies focused on justice issues. This program would also prepare students for advanced graduate studies.

## **6. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS**

### **a) Rhode Island College - Update from last report and current events.**

Interim Vice President for Advancement President Clark Greene welcomed the Council to RIC and reported the following update on items related to Rhode Island College:

Vice President Greene passed along regrets from President Sanchez that due to a previous commitment he could not be in attendance. He was at a board meeting of the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals of which he is a board member. But more importantly, the intent of his trip is to arrange for the association to have RIC serve as a beta test site for their new service which is to perform a peer comprehensive review of college's student services. This is an intensive six-month process aimed at identifying RIC's student support strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Two items were highlighted from the President's Report, which is in the packets. Both come under the heading of RIC's effort strengthen itself through community partnerships.

This past week, RIC hosted a meeting with Secretary of State Gorbea, Mayor Elorza, Mayor Diossa, Providence Schools Superintendent, Council Chairman Foulkes and community representatives from the Rhode Island Foundation, the United Way, and the Latino Policy Institute to meet with Louis Calderone, President of the Hispanic Federation, the nation's premier Latino advocacy organization. Their successful programs include: Latino College Success Program, Workforce Development ABLE project, and the new DREAMers Scholarship Fund. They are considering partnering with several states on capacity building initiatives, including Rhode Island.

Much of their work focuses on College Success and workforce development, and they are looking to form partnerships with a handful of states to build education and workforce capacity. RIC will continue to work the Federation to establish a partnership in Rhode Island.

Also RIC hosted two days of meetings with Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Ken Wagner, staff from RIDE, representatives from the City of Central Falls, the Central Falls School district, and the RIC School of Education to discuss improvement strategies for the Central Falls school district, and how the RIC School for Education can best prepare teachers to drive this improvement. National experts in this discussion included Antonio Esquibel, Executive Director of Access and Opportunity, Graduation Readiness, Denver Public Schools; and Ivan Duran, Deputy Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District.

Given the momentum in Central Falls, there was real optimism toward transforming the district from one focused on high school graduation to one focused on college completion. A model has shown great results in similar districts. There was agreement afterward for RIC, RIDE and Central Falls to make an initial investment for continue planning.

Vice President Greene also announced that President Sanchez's Inauguration as the 10<sup>th</sup> President of Rhode Island College will be held on Friday February 17, 2017. There will be more details to follow.

**b) Community College of Rhode Island – Update from last report and current events.**

Vice President David Patten reported the following update on items related to the Community College of Rhode Island:

President Hughes is attending a meeting of the New England College Council this evening and sends her regrets.

After nearly forty years of service Dr. Peter Woodberry, CCRI's Dean of Business, Science, and Technology will retire at the end of December. He thanked him for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Renovations on the Chemistry and Biology labs at the Knight Campus in Warwick totaling \$1.6M have been completed. The project marked the first time these labs had been upgraded since the campus was constructed in the early 1970s. Next the College will renovate the Biology Labs where another \$1.6M investment will modernize the learning space with safer, ADA-compliant space, equipment and materials.

The Clinical Simulation Lab (aka, SIM LAB) was supported by a \$324,180 grant from the Champlin Foundations, which funded the new training materials and equipment, and a \$628,000 investment from the college to support infrastructure and construction. The new labs present real-life training situations to CCRI's Health Sciences students through high-fidelity mannequins that simulate medical emergencies. Housed in setting designed to mirror that of a "real-life" hospital setting, students can now practice the treatment of complex situations in real-time.

CCRI will launch a new "master schedule" for Spring 2017 enrollment. The new schedule eases the enrollment process and opens up more flexible course options for students. It has reduced scheduling conflicts and makes it more user friendly for students. That will also support student completion and persistence.

**c) University of Rhode Island - Update from last report and current events.**

Provost DeHayes provided the following update from the University, giving a brief overview of his written report:

He stated that President Dooley was traveling on the west coast for alumni fundraising event and from there would be traveling to China.

Provost DeHayes noted that the University of Rhode Island Police Department has added its first explosive-detecting dog, Officer Figaro. He emphasized that URI is the only university or college in the state and one of only three in New England to have a trained canine on the force that can detect bombs and bomb residue. The need to add this type of resource has emerged because the University growing reputation and image on the national and global stage has resulted in the University bringing more and more

high profile individuals to campus. In addition, sporting and entertainment events are attracting larger audiences. As an example, he mentioned the visit of Justice Sonia Sotomayor as URI's commencement speaker during spring 2016.

Governor Gina M. Raimondo and Health and Human Services Secretary Elizabeth Roberts announced on November 28 that Rhode Island has received \$129.7 million in federal funds that will better position the State to meet 21st-century healthcare workforce needs and demands. In partnership with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the funds will be used to implement Medicaid payment models that result in better health outcomes and better-quality care, and to strengthen the state's healthcare workforce pipeline.

Provost DeHayes explained an innovative strategy that leveraged the investment in health-related academic programs with the federal dollars to bring additional federal funds to the state without spending additional general revenue dollars. He noted that the effort to define and secure these funds was led largely by URI's new Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation, which part of the Academic Health Collaborative.

On behalf of the University of Rhode Island, Provost DeHayes congratulated retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn on his appointment by President-elect Donald Trump as national security advisor. A 1981 URI College of Business Administration graduate, Flynn has more than three decades of service at the highest levels of the U.S. intelligence community.

Provost DeHayes responded to a recent online report that was critical of the academic progress of URI student athletes. He noted that the article focused on the Academic Progress Rate (APR) and compared URI to other programs in the Atlantic 10 (A-10) conference, but ignored the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and also student athlete retention and grades. He noted that the A-10 conference is one of the top five conferences in APR, and therefore, it is not appropriate to simply rank programs by their APR because even programs in the bottom third relative to the others are still performing very well. For example, the URI Women's Tennis Team was ranked 10 out of 14 A-10 programs, but the overall cumulative team GPA was 3.61. He suggested that other measures might better highlight the academic success of URI student athletes. For example, this past year the graduation success rate of student athletes was 85%, which is higher than the average of all students. Furthermore, this year saw the highest numbers of student-athletes making the University's Dean's List at 42%, with only 1.6% of the student athletes on academic probation. While the NCAA does look at GPA and graduation success rate, the recent article did not consider this data.

Finally, Provost DeHayes invited the Council members to visit the Chemistry building, as a new piece of art was recently installed in the main lobby using the 1% of capital

funds reserved for art. The new installation presents a beautiful version of the periodic table that is attracting the attention of both art students and those studying chemistry as well.

Senator Izzo remarked that he is pleased to see this unique partnership with the health system, and that he hoped it would become a system-wide endeavor.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

### 7a) Presentation of the Annual Report of Postsecondary Education Strategic Plan

Dr. Robin McGill, Specialist in Public Information and Communications, presented the year 1 report on the Council's Strategic Plan for Postsecondary Education (2015-2020), which was passed in October 2015. She recognized that this year's report did not include performance funding metrics, as they were not approved until after data had been compiled, and she indicated that next year's report would incorporate those metrics.

Dr. McGill noted that the strategic plan identified four priorities for postsecondary education in Rhode Island:

- Higher Attainment
- Opportunities to Access and Afford College
- Prosperous Economy
- Effective Institutions

She then reviewed the targets and performance for each priority.

#### **Higher Attainment**

For the higher attainment priority, the targets set in the strategic plan were updated to reflect the Governor's recent commitment to reach 70% postsecondary attainment by 2025 (the original goal was 60% attainment by 2025).

Dr. McGill noted that degree completions went up for associate, bachelor's, and graduate/professional degrees, as did graduation rates at across the three institutions. Dr. Williams asked why the number of undergraduate certificates awarded declined while the other credentials awarded went up. Dr. McGill answered that this may be interpreted as a sign of an improving economy since as job prospects improve, students in this segment tend to go back into the workplace rather than complete credentials.

Chair Foulkes asked the institutional leaders to explain what interventions helped increase the graduation rates.

Provost DeHayes attributed the improvements in the URI graduation rates to the success of a number of initiatives, including the 15 to Finish program, Finish What You Started program, January term (J-term), and improved advising, among others. He also predicted that the figures would continue to go up.

Vice President Patten noted that at CCRI fewer students attend full-time, given work, personal commitments and socio-economic factors, and therefore standard measures of graduation rate at 2 and 3 years are not appropriate for the student population. He noted that student persistence is a better measure.

Ms. Crosby asked what the institutional leadership can do to encourage students to complete their degrees sooner. Provost DeHayes answered that students can take advantage of dual/concurrent enrollment programs to get credit before coming to URI, and after matriculating, they can take advantage of opportunities to get ahead, including taking courses during the J-term or the summer. Provost DeHayes also noted that graduation rates are an imperfect measure because they only include first-time, full-time students and do not account for students who transfer in or out.

Vice President Greene explained that improved graduation rates at RIC are the result of recent strategies that enable students to earn credit during the summer and January, as well as online. They have also introduced a meta-major program that encourages students to choose a major sooner and helps reduce the number of credits that don't apply to the major requirements. The new president also expects the RIC numbers to improve as they make improvements to advising and student services.

Dr. McGill also reviewed data on enrollments, retention, credits to completion, and the Prepare RI dual/concurrent enrollment program. Regarding Prepare RI, Senator Izzo requested that data on student performance be included in next year's report.

### **Opportunities to Access and Afford College**

Dr. McGill gave an overview of the targets for the second priority, which remain the same as last year. She noted that data is still under development for the targets on percentage of low-income students covered for the cost of tuition, fees, and books, and for percentage of students covered for 70% cost of attendance.

She highlighted data showing that the amount of unmet need per student has increased, along with debt of graduates at URI and RIC. The amount of state need-based aid increased with the RI Promise Scholarship and is expected to increase again next year with the participation of the private institutions.

### **Prosperous Economy**

Dr. McGill reviewed the targets for the Prosperous Economy priority, which deals with workforce development, and she mentioned that a new target is being developed for the number of recent graduates entering the state workforce because the original target of a 10% increase was met in year 1.

Before showing the system performance in high-demand, high-wage fields, Dr. McGill explained that a “high-demand” field corresponded to an occupation with more than 20 openings per year, and a “high-wage” field that corresponded to an occupation with median earnings of more than \$30,000 per year.

Dr. Williams asked how the \$30,000 figure was developed for “high-wage,” and expressed his concern that the figure was too low. Commissioner Purcell responded that the Department of Labor and Training helped draft this definition and that the Presidents had the opportunity to provide input as well. Chair Foulkes suggested that conversations should continue to determine what the appropriate annual salary for “high-wage” should be.

Dr. McGill reported that based on the definition used, total graduates in high-demand, high-wage fields went up in every degree category, except for associate degrees.

She reviewed data on employment of recent graduates in the RI workforce, as well as median wage of graduates from each of the institutions.

### **Effective Institutions**

Dr. McGill indicated that most of the performance for this priority was qualitative rather than quantitative and included measuring effectiveness through performance-based funding and the data warehouse and increased efficiencies through the creation of the Division of Higher Education Assistance and participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

Dr. McGill went through data from the State Higher Education Finance Report showing how the proportion of institutional revenue derived from appropriation went up as compared with the proportion of revenue derived from tuition. Senator Izzo commented that it was not clear how to interpret these figures, and he asked that this section be reconsidered for next year’s report.

**7b) Proposed Amendments to Distance Learning Policy.**

Dr. Michael Walker Jones gave an overview of the proposed amendments to the distance learning policy, which would be voted on at the next Council meeting in February. He indicated that technical clarifications were needed after one year of implementing distance learning authorization process to address the many queries arising from non-SARA institutions. These clarifications include setting forth a clear process for authorizing degree-granting, non-SARA, non-profit institutions, and developing a clear definition of what constitutes “operating” in RI for purposes of “distance learning.”

He noted that non-SARA institutions tend to be located in California, Massachusetts, and Florida, which do not currently have plans to join the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). To date, the Council has authorized three non-SARA institutions to operate distance learning activities in Rhode Island: Northeastern University (MA), University of Southern California (CA) and Regis College (MA), with Simmons College (MA) up for approval during this meeting.

**8. ACTION ITEMS.**

**8a) Approval of recommendations from the System Personnel Review Committee (SPRC):**

Commissioner Purcell presented the following positions.

**8a1) Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives (URI)**

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the new classification.

On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the new classification for Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives at URI.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator

Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8a2) Assistant Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives (URI)**

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the new classification.

On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Ms. Crosby, it was:

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the new classification for Assistant Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives at URI.

**VOTE:** 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8a3). Director, Institute for Education in Healthcare (RIC)**

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the new classification.

On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Ms. Green, it was:

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the new classification for Director, Institute for Education in Healthcare at RIC.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8b) Approval of a Non-Sara Application for Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts.**

Commissioner Purcell presented the application from Simmons College – Boston, Massachusetts seeking approval to operate in Rhode Island as a non-SARA, non-profit institution. He explained that if approved, Simmons College would be authorized to offer online courses and programs to Rhode Island residents. The institution has transmitted the appropriate application fee, which has been received by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Green and seconded by Ms. Crosby, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the application of Simmons College to operate distance learning activities in Rhode Island as a non-SARA, non-profit institution.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8c) Recommendation for Acceptance of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act Resolution required for the University's Energy Conservation Project - Phase III.**

Dr. Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Management, gave an overview of the recommendation regarding URI's energy conservation project which is now in its third phase after a successful completion of the prior two phases. In order to continue to completion, the project must have the necessary Council and State level approvals to secure financing in FY 2018 for the project's implementation.

Because this transaction would constitute a form of financing or guarantee beyond a single fiscal year, a Public Finance Debt Management Act Resolution must be approved by the General Assembly. With the Council's approval, this resolution would be placed on the list of legislation for review and passage during the 2017 session of the General Assembly.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Crosby and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education Council approve the resolution addressing the Public Corporation Debt Management Act issues related to the University's Energy Conservation Project - Phase III at the Kingston Campus for submission to the General Assembly for consideration.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8d) Recommendation for Acceptance of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act Resolution required for the University's White Horn Brook Apartments Project.**

Dr. LaPanne gave an overview of the recommendation regarding URI's plan to construct a new 500-unit apartment-style, six-story residence hall on the Kingston campus. In order to move forward, the project must have the necessary Council and State level approvals to secure financing in FY 2018 for the project's implementation.

As with the previous action item, because this transaction would constitute a form of financing or guarantee beyond a single fiscal year, a Public Finance Debt Management Act Resolution must be approved by the General Assembly. With the Council's approval, this resolution would be placed on the list of legislation for review and passage during the 2017 session of the General Assembly.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Crosby, it was:

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the resolution addressing the Public Corporation Debt Management Act issues related to the University's White Horn Brook Apartments Project at the Kingston Campus for submission to the General Assembly for consideration.

**VOTE:** 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**8e) Recommendation for Acceptance of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act Resolution required for the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center Project - Off-Site Parking Lease Authorization.**

Dr. LaPanne invited J. Vernon Wyman, Assistant Vice President of Business Services at the University of Rhode Island, to give an overview of the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center project and the need for Public Corporation Debt Management Act Resolution regarding off-site parking.

Vice President Wyman stated that they are approaching nine months to the opening of the Nursing Education Center. RIC and URI had engaged a consultant evaluate parking needs. An RFP has been developed to identify suitable off-site parking to supplement the parking facilities being built for the RI NEC.

Anticipating that Public Finance Debt Management Act Resolution may be required, he asked the Council to put forth a resolution to be approved by the General Assembly. He emphasized that given the project is nearing completion, securing off-site parking is of the utmost importance.

Senator Izzo expressed his concern that given the urgency of the request, there was little room to consider all the alternatives.

Vice President Wyman noted that the consultant had been engaged to consider the potential options and had identified a 700-space parking garage adjacent to the NEC that seemed very promising.

Responding to a question from Dr. Williams, Vice President Wyman stressed that additional parking was needed to accommodate the undergraduate and graduate students who would be coming to the facility, in addition to the faculty, staff, and visitors.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Crosby and seconded by Ms. Green, it was:

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the resolution addressing the Public Corporation Debt Management Act issues related to the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center Project – Off-site Parking Lease for submission to the General Assembly for consideration.

**VOTE:** 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator

Thomas Izzo, Rachele Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8f) Approval of a Lease Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Rhode Island Department of Administration.**

Commissioner Purcell presented the proposed lease agreement with the RI Department of Administration (DOA) for office space in the building owned by the Council on Postsecondary Education, located at 560 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, RI. The potential tenants would be the State Fire Marshal and the State Building Code Commissioner.

The initial term of the lease will be for a period of three (3) years beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with an option to renew for an additional three (3) year terms contingent upon successful renegotiation of the lease.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Crosby and seconded by Mr. DelGiudice, it was:

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Lease between the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Rhode Island Department of Administration for office spaces located in the building at 560 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, RI. Upon approval, the Lease will be brought to the State Properties Committee for its approval as required.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachele Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8g) Approval of Faculty Tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island.**

Chair Foulkes presented the following faculty member names received from President Meghan Hughes who is requesting approval for the granting of tenure effective January 1, 2017.

- Heather Townsend-Assistant Professor (Biology)
- Karin O'Rourke-Assistant Professor (Nursing)
- Keith Scally-Assistant Professor (Nursing)

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Ms. Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding of tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island to Heather Townsend, Karin O'Rourke, and Keith Scally, effective January 1, 2017.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:08 pm Chair Foulkes entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for:

9a) Discussion regarding President Dooley's contract renewal, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1).

9b) Discussion regarding a personnel matter at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1).

Chair Foulkes stated that the individuals involved in items 9a and 9b have been notified in writing of their right to have these discussions take place in Open Session, and no objection to proceeding in Executive Session has been received.

9c) Update and discussion of negotiations with the PTFU (Part-time Faculty Union) pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2).

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Ms. Crosby, it was:

<b>VOTED:</b>	<b>THAT</b>	The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into Executive Session for the following items:  a) Discussion regarding President Dooley's contract renewal, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1).  b) Discussion regarding a personnel matter at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1).  AND  c) Update and discussion of negotiations with the PTFU (Part-time Faculty Union) pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2).
	<b>VOTE:</b>	8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	<b>YEAS:</b>	Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
	<b>NAYS:</b>	0
	<b>ABSTAINS:</b>	0

All non-Council members in the audience were excused with the exception of:

- Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Council
- Jim Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education (excused for portions of the Executive Session)

**The Council reconvened in open session at 8:14 p.m. with the following members: Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.**

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Crosby and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was:

<b>VOTED:</b>	<b>THAT</b>	The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 7, 2016.
	<b>VOTE:</b>	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	<b>YEAS:</b>	Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
	<b>NAYS:</b>	0
	<b>ABSTAINS:</b>	0

Following the vote, Council members Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, and Senator Thomas Izzo rejoined the meeting.

## **10. Additional Action Items.**

**a) Authorization of the Chair regarding the negotiation/renewal of President Dooley's employment contract.**



NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

## 11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a) The next meeting of the Personnel and Finance/Facilities Committees for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, at 5:30 p.m. at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner at 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886.
- b) The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be held on Wednesday, February 1, at 5:30 p.m. at the CCRI, Room 4090, Warwick, RI 02886.
- c) The next full board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., at CCRI, Room 4090, Warwick, RI 02886.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Mr. DelGiudice and seconded by Senator Izzo, it was:

<b>VOTED:</b>	<b>THAT</b>	The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of December 7, 2016.
	<b>VOTE:</b>	8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	<b>YEAS:</b>	Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
	<b>NAYS:</b>	0
	<b>ABSTAINS:</b>	0

**The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**