



Enclosure 2a
April 26, 2017

Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Rhode Island College
Faculty Center Main Dining Room
Donovan Dining Center
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at Rhode Island College in 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: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

Absent: Michael Bernstein, Maria Chavez Blanco and Heather Crosby.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of March 8, 2017.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0
ABSTAINS 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a) Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's February 1, 2017 Meeting.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the minutes.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes for the meeting of February 1, 2017.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS	0

3. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEES

3a) Chair Bill Foulkes

Chair Foulkes welcomed everyone and thanked Rhode Island College for hosting the meeting. He noted that Commissioner Purcell could not attend this evening because Chair Foulkes had changed the date of the meeting. He thanked everyone for being flexible.

Chair Foulkes welcomed the guests from the International Yacht Restoration School to support Action Item 8a.

He congratulated URI on a successful event at the State House in celebration of the institution's 125th anniversary.

Chair Foulkes then gave an overview of the evening's agenda, which included updates on the RI Nursing Education Center and the Westerly Education Center. He also welcomed Kevin Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Staff at Rhode Island Office of the Governor, Gina Raimondo, who was invited to speak about the RI Promise Scholarship proposal. Chair Foulkes also asked the Presidents to discuss their initiatives regarding the Open Textbook Initiative.

3b) Chair Barbara Cottam

Chair Cottam began by congratulating Dr. Frank Sánchez on a successful inauguration event in mid-February.

She then recognized Jo Eva Gaines, who was recently awarded the 2017 Paul W. Crowley Award from the Rhode Island Association of School Superintendents. Ms. Gaines started her long career as a teacher in Newport and is now a member of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. At the recognition event, Chair Cottam gave remarks recognizing Ms. Gaines for her commitment to fighting for those who needed her voice the most.

4. OPEN FORUM

Chair Foulkes reported that no one signed up to speak at Open Forum.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

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

1) State Report Card: Young Invincibles

With Commissioner Purcell away, Dr. Robin McGill, Specialist in Public Information and Communications, gave an overview of two recent reports that compare Rhode Island to other states on higher education measures.

She began with the State Report Card report from the Young Invincibles Student Impact Project, which rated Rhode Island as one of 17 states to receive an F for overall support of higher education. She noted that the advocacy group's ratings were largely based on

state funding for higher education as compared with tuition rates and state aid for students. She indicated that the Governor's proposal for increasing investments in higher education would help bolster Rhode Island's ratings in future reports.

Dr. McGill turned to a second report recently published by US News & World report on the "Best States," in which states were rated on a number of education measures. Rhode Island was ranked #8 on the college readiness indicator, as measured by ACT scores, and #14 on the educational attainment indicator, but lower on other measures related to higher education.

Chair Foulkes asked Dr. McGill to address the discrepancy between the two reports, and Dr. McGill responded that they were focusing on different measures. The "Best States" report was encouraging of the progress RI is making, but it also suggested that more work is needed to improve graduation rates and student debt burden.

2) Nursing Education Center Status Update

Dr. Michael Walker-Jones, Assistant Commissioner for External Relations, gave the update on the progress of the RI Nursing Education Center. He thanked the representatives from RIC, URI, and OPC for their dedication to moving this initiative forward.

Regarding the construction, Dr. Walker-Jones noted that major construction on the interior is nearly complete, and they are now able to install finishes in several key areas. After the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) is issued, they will be able to take deliveries of equipment and begin installing IT and AV for the simulators. They expect that the building will be ready for staff in the early summer, and is on-track to open for students for the fall semester 2017.

Regarding staff, Dr. Walker-Jones indicated that the FY18 budget proposal includes 10 FTEs for the RI NEC within the OPC budget. The interview process for the Executive Director is ongoing, with the postings for the IT Director and the Simulation Director to follow shortly thereafter.

Mr. DelGiudice asked about the search process for RI NEC staff. Dr. Walker-Jones stated that there is a search committee of five people designated by the RI NEC Management Committee. Mr. DelGiudice then asked whether there was equal representation from RIC and URI on the search committee. Dr. Walker-Jones stated that the Management Committee is made up of the Nursing deans from both institutions, along with the CFOs from both institutions, and that they are responsible for ensuring equal representation on search committees.

Chair Foulkes asked whether there is still an opportunity for the Council members to tour the facility. Dr. Walker-Jones encouraged the Council members to take the tour. He suggested contacting himself or Vice President David Gingerella at RIC or Assistant Vice President Vern Wyman at URI.

3) Westerly Education Center Update

Ms. Amy Grzybowski, Executive Director of the Westerly Education Center, was pleased to report that the facility interiors for the Westerly Center are now complete.

They have a new business that has signed on which is Ivory Ella (Clothing Retailer) for employee training.

RI School of Design also has signed on to offer 3 courses in Spring 2017. They will be offering Introduction to painting with acrylics; Essentials of digital photography and Foundations of drawing.

At Electric Boat they have 5 classes in progress in pipe fitting and sheet metal. Two classes completed with a total of 202 anticipated students through May 29, 2017.

URI will be offering a customized leadership training in April 2017.

CCRI will be offering 10 classes for summer 2017; 24-25 classes for Fall 2017 and currently they have in progress 192 students in 14 classes at night.

URI Summer 2017 Semester Classes that will be offered are MCE 576 - Fracture Mechanics starting May 10, 2017 for 10 weeks and OCE 571 - Underwater Acoustics which will be starting June 12, 2017 for 10 weeks.

RIC Spring/Summer 2017 Classes that will be offered are Excel, PowerPoint & Professional Presentations, Introduction to Computers & Word, and Community Health Worker training, including job placement assistance.

They are also collaborating with local partners on grant applications to support workforce training opportunities, including a Real Jobs Rhode Island application.

They now have social media so please like them on Facebook for updates.

Chair Foulkes asked about whose responsibility it is to bring in the new businesses. Ms. Grzybowski answered that it falls within her duties.

Mr. DelGiudice asked whether those who completed the Electric Boat classes were current employees or incumbent employees. Ms. Grzybowski answered that they are current employees.

Chair Foulkes asked whether the Center was on track to be self-sustaining financially. Ms. Grzybowski confirmed that they are on track to break even this year.

6. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

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

President Frank Sánchez reported the following updates related to Rhode Island College:

Open Textbooks: President Sánchez noted that the Open Textbook initiative has saved the students approximately \$175,000 in cost. It is their goal over the next 24 months to save their students \$500,000.

PREP-RI Review: Following the RIDE review and recommendations of RIC's education programs, RIC has begun to establish an Advisory Council. This team will consist of distinguished RIC School of Education and Human Development alumni and local and national education experts. President Sánchez envisions the Advisory Council will offer a critical perspective, provide informed advice and guidance concerning the design of teacher preparation programs, and support and monitor progress. RIC has a tentative meeting scheduled with RIDE on March 23 to discuss goals and next steps for bringing a change mentor on board.

Strategic Planning Update: Listening events have been held throughout the campus focusing on the strategic pillars of the plan and will continue throughout the month of March. The next draft of the plan will be completed before the end of March and distributed once again for feedback. This next round will contain measures for success in each area.

Inauguration: President Sánchez then thanked everyone who attended the inauguration a couple of weeks ago. Beginning with an alumni brunch and a family day on campus February 12, Rhode Island College held inauguration festivities throughout the week leading up to the inauguration installation ceremony on February 17. The events each day focused on one of the President's strategic pillars: Learning Innovation, Student Success, Inclusive Excellence, Community Partnerships and Institutional Effectiveness.

The College celebrated learning innovation with RIC Talks: pop-up presentations around campus throughout the day. Of particular note was a panel discussion, Investments, Innovation and Workplace Skills for the 21st Century, which featured executives from CVS, the Rhode Island Foundation, Care New England Health System and Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

RIC also launched the President's Commission on Inclusive Excellence as part of the week, bringing together leaders from around the state who are doing important work in the areas of diversity, inclusion and equity to advise RIC and help the college build a stronger, more inclusive campus culture. President Sánchez and other Commission members then visited local elementary schools to read to students.

President Sánchez also has established the First-in-Family Fund to support the enrollment of freshmen students who are the first-in-family to attend college.

Black History Month: Several events took place in February to mark Black History Month at RIC, ranging from open classes dealing with issues such as racial justice and contemporary black theatre to screenings of films that document the lives of African American heroes like Dr. Charles Drew, who received acclaim as the inventor of the modern blood banking process.

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

President Meghan Hughes reported the following update on items related to the Community College of Rhode Island:

Strategic Planning: President Hughes noted starting this week, CCRI would begin engaging the college community in important conversations to create the college's next strategic plan. They have engaged the higher education firm of Paulien & Associates to help develop the plan, and they plan to have a draft in May for input ahead of the fall term. She stated that the project, chaired by Vice President Patten, will have five phases: Learning and Listening, Strategic Visioning, Community Conversations, Finalizing Goals, and Long-Term Success. The College will be working with Chair Foulkes to identify opportunities to engage the Council in the planning process. Dr. Hughes encouraged the Council to follow their process on their website. The link to the planning work sits directly on our home page.

College Leadership: President Hughes announced that Greg LaPointe has accepted the offer to join the college as the Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives. They also welcomed Dr. Lauren Nicholl who will be responsible for our dual and concurrent

enrollment programs. She noted that the College is seeking to fill other important positions in the coming months, including the Vice President for Workforce Development; Director of Institutional Equity; Dean of Business, Science, and Technology; and Dean of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences.

Student-centered initiatives:

- Open Educational Resources (OER) to save students money on course materials by using open textbooks and other educational resources. The Computer Sciences and Biology departments are piloting open educational resources. Dr. Costigan is working closely with the Deans to design an implementation plan that will significantly increase institution-wide use of OER and we look forward to reporting back to the Council as the plan takes shape.
- Guided Pathways to help organize a student's course of study in a manner designed to maximize efficiency to completion. The system involves close partnership between the advising and counseling wing and the academic wing of the institution. They have engaged the leading national expert, Dr. Rob Johnstone to support the design and implementation, with an anticipated launch of the first pathway in the fall of 2018 and full implementation over 3-5 years.
- Developmental Education Pilot: CCRI leadership and math faculty members are meeting with three K-12 school districts – Central Falls, Cumberland and Providence – to discuss a Math partnership. They plan to develop an approach for supporting high school students in getting ready for college-level mathematics and reduce the number of students requiring developmental coursework. They aim to have a pilot ready for fall 2017.
- Student Services Initiatives: Beginning next month all new CCRI students will have access to online orientation. Currently, only one-third of incoming students attend an in-person orientation session. By offering online versions to supplement face-to-face, they hope to engage many more students.
- Reverse Transfer: They are continuing their collaboration with OPC, RIC and URI on the launch of the statewide "Reverse Transfer" initiative. This program encourages eligible students who have cumulatively earned at least 60 college-level credits combined from CCRI, RIC and/or URI to earn their Associate Degree or certificate from CCRI.

President Hughes gave an update to the renovations to the Knight Campus. In this second phase of work, CCRI will upgrade heating, ventilation, and handicap

accessibility to make the structure compliant with state code. They are also installing new “lock and swipe” electronic key and door systems that require college ID for entrance. Representing an investment of \$2,785,312, this project increases the overall safety of the thousands of faculty, staff, students, and community members on campus.

Finally, President Hughes announced that CCRI will be hosting our “Raising Opportunities Benefit” on Friday, June 2. The Benefit will feature farm-to-table food, live music and dancing with one of the best bands in New England, Sugarbabies, Inc., and an “Opportunities Auction” where guests can support key programs, scholarships, and college initiatives.

Chair Foulkes inquired about the progress on the roof.

President Hughes reported that she took a walk on the roof and they are in good shape operating as usual.

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

Provost Don DeHayes reported the following update on items related to the University of Rhode Island:

On March 1, the University took over the rotunda and second floor of the State House to commemorate the 125th anniversary. In addition to festivities, the House of Representatives and The Senate recognized this important milestone and passed Resolutions commemorating the history and value of the university to the state.

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, in partnership with the University of Rhode Island (URI), announced that it will be soliciting proposals from experienced industry, academic, and research partners to create a transformative Innovation Campus. The Innovation Campus aims to commercialize the world leading research occurring in Rhode Island and position Rhode Island as a center of high value employment.

Provost DeHayes looked forward to the successful launch of the new interdisciplinary major in Criminology and Criminal Justice in the fall of 2017. They have 350 new applicants for this curriculum, with demand beyond that.

Provost DeHayes discussed the campus’s efforts to reduce the cost of textbooks and educational resources for students. URI has a task force on this initiative, comprised of staff and faculty from all of the colleges including the library and the campus bookstore. They have also found the online learning management system (LMS) called Sakai to be very effective. They now have 4000 classes using this system, which has saved money

on educational resources for students and the institution. He noted that another important component is the timely adoption of course materials. Encouraging faculty to submit textbook orders earlier allows the bookstore to reduce costs and provide alternative options for students, such as renting textbooks.

Chair Foulkes then took a moment to introduce Abigail Rider, who recently joined URI as the Vice President of Finance.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7a) Overview of the Governor's proposed expansion of the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program and discussion of OPC policy development support.

Kevin Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Staff at Rhode Island Office of the Governor, Gina Raimondo, thanked everyone for their invitation to speak about the initiative following his presentation at the Board of Education meeting on February 22, 2017.

Mr. Gallagher looked forward to legislative hearings on the proposal, beginning with House Finance on March 15, 2017, followed shortly thereafter by a hearing in Senate Finance.

Mr. Gallagher stressed the importance of investing in higher education to support prosperity for Rhode Islanders. The Governor has noted that since the recession in January 2010, the US has added 11,593,000 new jobs, but just 80,000 of those jobs were obtained from someone with a high diploma or less. She has also stressed that states with high economic growth have higher concentrations of college educated workers, which is what Rhode Island needs. In addition, he noted that research out of the White House found that every dollar invested in community colleges pays about \$6.80 worth of the return on that investment.

Mr. Gallagher addressed a particular concern that students may not value college as much if they do not pay tuition. He noted the Governor's comments at the State of the State that the hardest part of college should not be paying for it, and for too many of their students that is the hardest part right now. Moreover, students are required to work hard to earn and keep the proposed Promise. They have to stay in good academic standing and some of our programs within the institutions that is more than a 2.0 gpa requirement. They have to complete the FAFSA. At RIC and URI they will have to earn junior status, which means they will have to have earned 60 credits and declared a major and all the things we expect our students to do in their first and second years in order to be held eligible for the scholarship.

Senator Izzo expressed his approval for the proposal. When he was in high school he received a scholarship of \$250, which made a huge difference back in 1969. He also wanted to learn more about the details of implementation.

Mr. Gallagher responded that they have learned a number of valuable lessons from other states who have had rolled out similar programs, and that expert staff from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner have been deeply involved in developing implementation plans.

Mr. Duffy voiced his support, and he inquired about anticipated enrollment and capacity increases at the 3 institutions.

Mr. Gallagher stated that based on the figures for other states, they are projecting an immediate enrollment increase of 25%. He acknowledged that the most successful program increased enrollment about 20%, but that they wanted to make sure there would be enough funding to make the commitment.

He then turned the floor over to the Presidents to give their input in regard to capacity.

President Hughes stated that CCRI has spent a lot of time getting ready for this and it is a challenge that they cannot wait to have. CCRI will be the first to roll it out. As they discussed previously roughly 80% of their students fit this profile. If they double that and they intend to double that but these are rough numbers they are talking about approximately 3000 new students in September instead of approximately 1500 students.

Provost DeHayes stated that URI's enrollment has been growing over the past 4-5 years. As a result of that, they are expanding their faculty, and they are building more residence halls. The University is prepared for an increase in enrollment. He noted that there are three ways that enrollment will increase for them. Presumably, more students will apply. Secondly, even if more students do not apply, they fully expect our ability to yield the quality of students will go up. Right now they are in a very competitive market place. Some of the Rhode Island students might decide to stay here in Rhode Island. The third piece is retention, which has been URI's focus for the past 5 years. Provost DeHayes gives the Governor's staff a lot of credit because this program has a built in retention incentive for students which many of the other programs around the country do not offer.

Mr. DelGiudice expressed concern about the students that are graduating this year who are high school seniors who are making college decisions now, without knowing what the policy outcome will be. Provost DeHayes answered that May 1 is the decision deadline for URI, and that this year there is going to be some questions depending on when the General Assembly finishes up this work. He hoped that they get a signal

from the General Assembly early April to help students and families make informed decisions.

He also stated that the University of Rhode Island has always accepted any Rhode Island student that is successful academically, and they are proud to continue such a policy.

Ms. Green asked what is the Council's oversight and responsibilities will be. Mr. Gallagher answered that ultimately the responsibilities for overseeing the program and measuring its success rest with this group.

Chair Foulkes asked about how the funding will be distributed. Mr. Gallagher answered that the proposal is student-focused the same way that the K-12 funding formula. The money follows the student and the amount of state aid is based on their actual enrollments. He stressed that this will be a direct transfer from the state to the institutions and applied to students' accounts.

Regarding future funding for the program, Mr. Gallagher noted that the Governor's budget has to provide a five year outlook, and the budget for the next five years includes the funding for this program. There is always the risk that in economic downturns budget decisions get made for various reasons. His hope is by doing the universal program, by trying to build support, by tying it to the most crucial benchmarks that the institutions are working on which are enrollment, persistence and completion our hope is that this becomes as sacred as the K-12 funding formula, which was not cut during the recession.

Dr. Williams asked whether there was any data that would show that this program would reach students and families that would otherwise not go to college.

Mr. Gallagher answered that there is and there is a Kalamazoo, MI, model which is a scholarship that has been around for more than a decade. Research suggests that the knowledge that college tuition is covered has impacts for students all the way down to elementary and middle school, not just those in high school.

President Sánchez stated that there are a lot of families that would consider college but unless they are engaged they won't know about it. They had a meeting and it was over 125 students all asking questions in multiple languages about this plan. You have to get out there and campaign and hopefully we will see more on TV and hear more on the radio.

Dr. Williams asked whether they had considered setting an income threshold for the scholarship.

Mr. Gallagher answered that the scholarship as proposed would be available to everyone who is a Rhode Island resident and meets the eligibility criteria, which do not include income cut-offs.

Ms. Green stated that she is supportive of the proposal, and asked whose responsibility it will be to ensure the students stay academically eligible for this program.

Mr. Gallagher stated that it is something that the institutions already do for every student.

Provost DeHayes responded to Dr. Williams's question, and stressed the importance of retention. The number one reason students drop out of college is because they cannot afford to stay. Provost DeHayes stated that they believe with this scholarship, fewer students will drop out for financial reasons.

Chair Foulkes thanked Mr. Gallagher for his presentation and expressed his support for this transformative, game-changing policy.

8. ACTION ITEMS.

8a) Approval of a proposal from the International Yacht Restoration School to change their proprietary school's name and mission statement; and subject to these changes, to offer a certificate program in Digital Modeling and Fabrication.

Dr. Phyllis Harnick, Assistant Commissioner for Planning, presented an overview of the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS)'s request for Council approval to change the name of the school to the IYRS School of Technology & Trades; and also to approve a change to their mission statement to better reflect the training and programs offered to students; and finally to add a Certificate Program in Digital Modeling and Fabrication.

Dr. Harnick noted that IYRS is a private, non-profit proprietary school established in 1988, which initially offered certificate programs in Boatbuilding and Restoration. IYRS has experienced healthy enrollments and has grown in size, number and has added programs in Marine Systems and Composites Technology. They are proposing a new certificate program in Digital Modeling and Fabrication to meet the growing need for those trained in product design, CNC machining, and additive manufacturing. Dr. Harnick noted that graduates from this program would expect to find employment as patternmakers, CNC machine tool programmers and operators, and manufacturing production technicians.

Dr. Harnick noted that OPC planning and finance units reviewed the materials submitted by IYRS and is recommending approval. She indicated that IYRS representatives were present to answer any questions the Council may have.

Mr. DelGuidice asked about anticipated enrollment growth. Ms. Rebeka Mazzone, Chief Operations Officer at IYRS, answered that 100 students were currently enrolled and that they projected that with this new program, they aimed to increase enrollment to 175 in 5 years and to over 200 in 8 years.

Chair Foulkes asked whether the new program supported high-growth industry. Ms. Mazzone confirmed that it was.

Mr. DelGiudice asked about the statistics on employment of graduates. Ms. Mazzone stated that IYRS has a 78% graduation rate, with 86% employment upon graduation.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve IYRS' request to change its name and mission statement and to offer a certificate program in Digital Modeling and Fabrication, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

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

Ms. Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations, presented the following recommendations:

8b1) Approval of Title Change from Vice President of Student Affairs to Vice President of Student Success at Rhode Island College.

Ms. Coleman noted that Rhode Island College is changing the name of the Division of Student Affairs to the Division of Student Success, which requires a change of the job title to “Vice President for Student Success” from “Vice President to Student Affairs”. She noted that President Sánchez was present to answer any questions regarding this request for title change.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the title change from Vice President of Student Affairs to Vice President of Student Success at RIC.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8b2) Approval of Upgrade for Director of Security and Safety/Chief of Campus Police at Rhode Island College.

Ms. Coleman stated that Rhode Island College is requesting a classification upgrade for the Director of Security and Safety/Chief of Police to a pay grade of 15. After a review of similar positions at URI and CCRI, it has been determined that the RIC Director of Security and Safety is not properly graded. Ms. Coleman invited the Council to direct any questions to President Sánchez.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the upgrade for the Director of Security and Safety/Chief of Campus Police at RIC.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8b3) Approval of Reclassification from Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Engineering to Director of Physical Plant at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Ms. Coleman presented the request from the Community College of Rhode Island to reclassify the Position of Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Engineering to the Director of Physical Plant. The reason for this request is this position will oversee the daily operation of CCRI's facilities as well as food services. She invited the Council to direct any questions to President Hughes.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the reclassification from Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Engineering to Director of Physical Plant at CCRI.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8b4) Approval of New Classification for Associate Director of GSO/COE Ocean Exploration Program at the University of Rhode Island.

Ms. Coleman reviewed URI's request for a new classification for an Associate Director of the Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO)/ Center for Ocean Exploration (COE) Ocean Exploration program. She noted that the position would support major ocean exploration initiatives, including strengthening the interdisciplinary integration of oceans into university-wide academics, research, education and outreach; providing leadership in the establishment and operation of a Coastal and Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute; supporting fund-raising efforts for GSO and COE; and expanding undergraduate ocean exploration course opportunities. She invited the Council to direct any questions to Provost DeHayes.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the new classification for Associate Director of GSO/COE Ocean Exploration Program at URI.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8c) Approval of the annual reauthorization of RI-SARA institutions.

Dr. Michael Walker-Jones presented the reauthorization applications for the following institutions:

8c1). University of Rhode Island

Dr. Walker-Jones noted that URI was initially authorized as an RI-SARA institution at the Council meeting held on February 24, 2016, and that the University has submitted all necessary documents for its first annual reauthorization.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education renew the annual authorization for the University of Rhode Island to operate as an RI-SARA institution.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8c2) New England Institute of Technology

Dr. Walker-Jones noted that the New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) was initially authorized as an RI-SARA institution at the Council meeting held on April 14, 2016, and that NEIT has submitted all necessary documents for its first annual reauthorization.

Dr. Walker Jones also noted that at the next Council meeting, he planned to submit revisions to the Distance Learning Policy that would delegate the authority for

approving renewal applications to the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education. Chair Foulkes commented that he would support such an amendment.

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 renew the annual authorization for the New England Institute of Technology to operate as an RI-SARA institution.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8d) Approval of the awarding of Honorary Degrees by URI.

Chair Foulkes called the Council members' attention to the list of potential honorary degree recipients included in their meeting packets, and he then called for a motion to approve the names of individuals submitted by URI.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding of honorary degrees to the individuals selected by the University of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8e) Approval of RIC FY 18 Retirement Incentive Program.

Chair Foulkes invited President Sánchez to present this item. He explained that the proposed retirement incentive program would offer a onetime payment of 50% of pre-retirement salary and post-retirement health insurance benefits to eligible employees, similar to the CCRI plan approved at the previous Council meeting. As far as financial impact to the institution, he indicated that this program would present no additional budget considerations in FY 18, and that they anticipate budget savings beginning in FY 19.

Chair Foulkes asked Ms. Coleman whether the Commissioner's Office had reviewed the proposed plan, and she confirmed that it had been reviewed and had similar provisions to the CCRI plan.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the RIC FY 18 Retirement Incentive Plan as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a) The next meeting of the Finance/Facilities Committee for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, at 5:30 p.m. at the

University of Rhode Island, Green Hall, 35 Campus Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881. A campus tour begins at 3:00 p.m.

- b) The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. at the CCRI, Room 4090, Warwick, RI 02886.
- c) The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., at CCRI, Room 4090, Warwick, RI 02886.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 8, 2017.

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of March 8, 2017.
	VOTE:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Senator Thomas Izzo and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.