



Enclosure 2
June 7, 2017

**Minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee of the
Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 2017 5:30 p.m.
University of Rhode Island
Green Hall - 35 Campus Avenue
Kingston, RI 02881**

The Finance/Facilities Committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at the University of Rhode Island, Green Hall, at 35 Campus Avenue, Kingston, RI. At 5:35 p.m., Chair Heather Crosby welcomed everyone and thanked the President and his staff for their hospitality and the excellent campus tour that had preceded the meeting. She then took roll call.

Present: Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

Absent: Michael Bernstein

Non Committee members in attendance: Council Chair Bill Foulkes, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED:	THAT	The Finance/Facilities Committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of April 5, 2017 as presented.
	VOTE:	Three members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, and Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAIN:	0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Facilities Committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education's March 1, 2017 Meeting.

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

VOTED: **THAT** *The Finance/Facilities Committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the minutes of the Finance/Facilities Committee meeting of March 1, 2017.*

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

YEAS: Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Crosby thanked Committee members for their attendance on a busy day and especially for those who made time to participate in the campus tour of the University. She also thanked the members of the President's staff once again for an excellent tour and all of the highlights of the campus that are involved in the tour's theme, centers of student activities. Chair Crosby noted that the place where the University has the need for greater capacity is in the area of on-campus housing for students. She was impressed with the tour of the dorm facilities visited and expressed her enthusiasm about the increase of capacity for students.

Chair Crosby also reminded the Committee of the discussion about the Upper College Road study that the Council funded via the Capital Improvement Plan. She reported that she had been involved in some meetings during the month of March that defined the scope of that project. In addition, she also reported that there had been some concern related to the selection of a consultant to provide that study. Members of the Capital Projects area of the University as well as OPC staff attended a meeting with officers of the RI Division of Purchases and a process was defined for that selection. The search for this consultant is underway. She will report the progress at the next meeting of the Committee.

Chair Crosby also indicated that this evening's discussion would also include an overview of the Dashboard project's progress to date so that Committee members may provide input into that information. She also reiterated her hope that this dashboard will be a "living document"

that may be changed and amended as the needs and interests of the Committee and Council determine.

4. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS.

4a) Discussion and consideration of dashboard projects with update on retreat data.

Dr. LaPanne presented the Committee members with a copy of the original "Dashboard" report that was provided to the full Council at its retreat on September 23, 2016. In addition, she provided each member with the most recent iteration of the report which reflects a number of changes suggested at prior meetings. Dr. LaPanne stated that most of the changes were in deference to the need for statistics that were readily available in national databases as these provide users of the dashboard with the opportunity for comparative analysis between each institution and its peers in other states. In addition, national databases also provide for specific and well known definitions of each term in order to assure that the reporting among the three institutions is parallel.

In the discussion following, the Committee members agreed that a number of the revenue breakouts should probably be pared down so that it highlights them at a higher level. Chair Crosby reiterated her interest in having some information related to cash issues at the institutions and perhaps asking for such information on a quarterly basis.

The Committee members also discussed the issues of remediation and its cost at the three institutions. The question of how to get a view of co-requisites was discussed. In addition, issues related to dual enrollment statistics were discussed as well. Committee members seemed to agree that it is of interest to understand how many of the course offerings are in career pathway or high wage/high demand areas. (The issue of definitions for both of these categories was also discussed.)

Committee members indicated that they would like to see some statistics on credit completion by freshmen each year in order to see the progress of institutional efforts to acculturate students to the full-time course load as 15 credits per semester in order to assure a timely graduation.

The Committee also expressed interest in reviewing fall retention rates broken out by ethnicity, veteran status, and remediation student retention. Additional suggestions were made and Dr. LaPanne will be researching for best source and/or best definitions to be applied for system wide reporting.

Because this was a discussion item only, no action was taken by the Committee.

4b.) Review and discussion of upcoming Bond Issuance for the University's White Horn Brook Student Residence Complex.

Dr. LaPanne reported that the University of Rhode Island will be seeking the approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education for an upcoming bond issuance that relates to the building of the White Horn Brook Apartments Project. This project was included in the Capital Improvement Plan by the University and received both the Council's and the Board's approval.

The University has a design for the White Horn Brook Apartment project by way of the use of one-time-only auxiliary funds and reports that approximately 70% of the construction documents are currently complete.

With an intended start of construction in August 2017, the University has obtained the approval of the proposed Public Financing Debt Management Act authorization from the Council at the December 7, 2016 meeting. To continue the process, the University will be requesting the approval of an RIHEBC application at the Council's next meeting of April 26 in order to begin the financing process. The final submission of this application to RIHEBC is subject to the Legislative approval of the final Public Financing Debt Management Act authorization and the subsequent Council approval of the final resolution for this financing at the July 26, 2017 Council meeting.

The University has requested that the Committee review and recommend the approval of this RIHEBC application by the full Council at its next meeting later this month.

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

VOTED: **THAT** *That the Finance and Facilities Committee recommends the attached RIHEBC application for approval by the Council at its meeting of April 26, 2017 in order to proceed on the financing process for the University's White Horn Brook Student Residence Complex.*

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

YEAS: Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

4c.) Review of actual to budget results for FY 2017 to date with discussion of the upcoming initiatives and other areas of focus for the upcoming capital and operating budget season.

Linda Barrett, Director of Budget and Financial Planning at the University, presented an update regarding the University projections of actual to budgeted expenditures for the current fiscal year as well as an overview of the initiatives at the University.

Mrs. Barrett's report of projected actual for FY 2017 indicated that the unrestricted budget is expected to end on target with some variances in other areas of operations. Federal Student Grants & Loans, for example, are anticipated to end at \$3.0m over allocation which is a result of additional parent loans made. Rhode Island Capital fund expenditures are over allocation by \$4.5m but represent the amount rolled over from the FY 2016 appropriation and, therefore, are ending on budget and fully spent. Mrs. Barrett noted no variances that were either unreconciled or unfunded.

She reported on the following URI initiatives with updates to the Council:

- 55 Faculty Initiative (FY 2016- FY 2019)
- Investment in Student Success: 10 Academic Advisors
- URI Website: create the best user experience: Hired 3 web content strategists
- IT Strategic Plan

Mrs. Barrett also pointed out the upcoming highlights in the University's Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2018. She reported on the progress of some of the ongoing projects including the Fire Safety Protection completion for the academic and administrative buildings, the electric utility substation replacement, and the vivarium which is expected to be complete in September 2018. In addition the continuation and progress on the following projects was reviewed:

- Gateway to URI
- Ranger Hall Renovation Phase I
- Upper College Road Multi-Use Development
- Fraternity Circle improvements
- College of Engineering Phase I
- White Horn Brook Apartments
- Energy Conservation Performance Contract Phase 2

All of these will appear as continuing items on the upcoming capital improvement plan that the Council will be reviewing in the fall.

President Dooley commented on the progress of the updated Campus Master Plan on which Vice President Abigail Rider is working. He indicated that five components of the plan are complete as of this date. President Dooley anticipates that the remainder of the plan will be complete within the upcoming twelve month period.

Among the questions to be asked and answered for the upcoming plan according to Dr. Dooley are how big will the University expect to grow in the upcoming 10 to 20 years as well as what will

the academic and the research priorities be for that corresponding time period. With those questions anticipated, the master plan will address the needs that those initiatives require.

Because this was a discussion item only, no action was taken by the Committee.

Chair Crosby thanked Dr. Dooley and Mrs. Barrett for their presentations and the opportunity to discuss matters related to the current year as well as the upcoming fiscal period.

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: **THAT** *The Finance/Facilities Committee of the Council on
Postsecondary Education adjourn its meeting.*

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.