



Enclosure 2a
October 25, 2017

**Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting
Wednesday, September 27, 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, September 27, 2017, at Rhode Island College at the Faculty Center Main Dining Room, Providence, Rhode Island. At 5:34 p.m. Chair William Foulkes welcomed everyone. He then asked for the roll to be taken, after which he declared a quorum present.

Present: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, and Mariela Lucaj (arrived at 5:58 p.m.).

Absent: Heather Crosby, Rachelle Green and Jeffrey Williams

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Foulkes then called for a motion to approve the agenda.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the agenda for the meeting of September 27, 2017.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS	0

2. Approval of the Minutes

a) Minutes of the September 8, 2017 Special Meeting

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the special meeting on September 8, 2017.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS	0

3. Reports from the Chairs and Committees

3a) Chair Bill Foulkes

Chair Foulkes welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in the September 8th Council Retreat and Special Meeting. He gave an overview of the upcoming meetings on October 25 2017 and November 8, 2017 at which the system budget submissions will be heard.

3b) Chair Barbara Cottam

Chair Barbara Cottam highlighted the Waterfire celebration for URI's 125th anniversary celebration and K-12 salute to educators, which recognized educational professionals for their commitment to education. She also noted that on September 18, 2017, Governor Raimondo signed the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. Lastly, she noted the findings from the 2017 School House Report by Jacobs Engineering, which revealed \$600M in high priority repairs needed for Rhode Island public schools.

3c) Finance and Facilities Committee and Facilities Committee report on behalf of Committee Chair Heather Crosby.

The recent meeting of the Finance and Facilities Committee on September 13, 2017 included updates and discussion on the following items:

- **Continuation of the discussion from the Council's retreat on September 8th related to the Higher Education Funding Formula**
- **First review of the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2019-2023**
 - Each of the institutions presented the first draft of their Capital Improvement Plan for the upcoming five year period
 - There were a few minor adjustments that the Committee is anticipating and that will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Finance Committee scheduled on October 4th
 - First review of the Operating budgets for the three institutions and the Office will begin at the Finance Committee meetings on October 4th and then on October 18th with the anticipation that the Committee will be able to recommend both budgets to the Council in the upcoming meetings scheduled for October 25th and November 8th.
- **Update on the comparative costs of insurance premiums between FY 2017 and FY 2018**
 - Sean Donaghey provided an updated schedule on the complement of insurance coverage in place in FY 2017 and 2018 shortly after our last meeting in July
 - The Committee will be discussing deductibles at a late winter meeting to gather input and provide advice to the institutions regarding the next year's insurance RFPs.
- **Update on the upcoming bond issuance**
 - The System Work Group continues to meet with a great deal of activity surrounding the upcoming issuance including:
 - The results of the meetings with the bond rating agencies were very positive.
 - Moody's has affirmed the University ratings at Aa3 for Education and General (E&G) and Auxiliary bonds with a stable outlook
 - S&P has affirmed the University's bond ratings at A+ for both E&G and at A1 Auxiliary bonds with a stable outlook

- The pricing conference call was held on Tuesday afternoon, September 26th.
- The sale of the bonds will take place on October 11th.
- The Council will receive a report on the result of the sales of these bonds.

3d) Personnel Committee

Anne Marie Coleman gave the report below for the Personnel Committee on behalf of Committee Chair Rachelle Green.

The Personnel Committee met on September 12, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to discuss the current evaluation policy for the Presidents and Commissioner for annual evaluations and contract extensions. The Committee also discussed updating the existing policy based upon best practices.

After reviewing the current policy, the Committee determined that they would request abbreviated management letters from the presidents outlining their accomplishments for last academic year, while they continue to review and update the policy for next year.

The management letters will be due on October 16, 2017 and the committee will meet with each president sometime in November to discuss their goals and performance. Ron Cavallaro will research existing evaluation policies and procedures from other governing boards and the American Association of Governing Boards.

4. Commissioner's Report

4a) Update on Policy and Programmatic Initiatives

Commissioner Dann-Messier thanked Rhode Island College for hosting the Council meeting and introduced her new Chief of Staff, Kimberly Bright and RINEC Executive Director, Erin Wilbur. She shared more details for the upcoming Higher RI Summit on October 13, 2017 and the NEASC Accreditation Team coming to URI on October 23, 2017.

The written report, which was included in the Council packets appears in its entirety below:

Dear Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education,

I am pleased to provide the Council with an update on the many initiatives that the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is currently implementing.

Higher RI Summit and attainment plan update

As you know, a major priority for the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is developing an action plan to reach the 70% attainment goal by 2025. In addition to working with the Education Strategy Group, we are hosting the HigherRI Summit for Postsecondary Attainment on October 13th to inform and strengthen our action plans. We are convening a number of state, regional and national leaders to have a thoughtful discussion around equity, affordability, workforce innovation, and partnerships so we can include their insights and build commitments. I hope that you will be able to join us. Even if you can only come for part of the day, we welcome your input.

Higher Education Funding Formula

Over the past two weeks since the retreat, RIOPC has been in frequent contact with stakeholders and HCM Strategists regarding how to proceed with the funding formula work. The Office has put together a resource guide that collects research on various funding models. In addition, the Office has begun to collect and analyze data around the performance-based funding metrics that were approved last year. We continue to gather input from the Presidents and senior leadership, and we look forward to updating the Finance and Facilities Committee at its meeting on October 18, 2017.

Dual and Concurrent Enrollment

The work led by Kim Bright on my team and Steve Osborn at RIDE on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment continues. The team is working administratively to address the directive included in Article 12 of the Budget. Based on the recommendations of the Work Group, we are moving to award block grants to the institutions based on the costs of implementing the programs. My team is working with the institutions to develop a tool that will be used to determine the true costs of the program. Those costs are due by mid-October, in time to inform RIOPC's budget request.

In addition, we are considering regulatory changes that are in line with nationally recognized best practices for administering dual and concurrent enrollment programs.

Waiver Policy

As you know, RIOPC and our institutions have been working over to summer to analyze tuition waiver policies and processes on the campuses and to make recommendations about enhancing the checks and balances in place. The working group was also asked to recommend policies and practices that would ensure consistent implementation across the system. The process and policy recommendations that we

will discuss tonight will streamline the approval process and ensure transparency and consistency.

RI Promise

At this evening's meeting, the Council will have the opportunity to review and discuss the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Policies and Procedures, which were developed in collaboration with CCRI. The policies provide guidance to CCRI around eligibility requirements; special circumstances and accommodations; award determination; responsibilities for campus administration of the program; and compliance with program policy and procedures.

RIOPC, in collaboration with CCRI, will review the policies regularly to make sure that they are the right ones as the program matures. Our office stands ready to continue to support CCRI in the implementation of the Program.

Innovation and Effectiveness RFP update

We are in the final stages of selecting a consulting group to implement the Council's Innovation and Effectiveness Initiative. I believe that as a small system there is a lot of potential for Rhode Island to be innovative leaders in higher education. I look forward to working closely with the Chair Foulkes, the Council and the colleges and university as we explore opportunities to foster innovation and effectiveness system-wide.

Delegated Purchasing Authority

Discussions continue with the Department of Administration (DOA) on granting RIOPC delegated purchasing authority. To provide some background, DOA's Division of Purchases is responsible for the fair, equitable, and ethical procurement of all goods, commodities, construction, and other services required by state government. Granting RIOPC delegated purchasing authority would allow the System to process our own procurements for both restricted and unrestricted budgets. A work group comprised of representatives from each of the three institutions, RIOPC, and the Division of Purchases has been convened and will continue to develop the specific policies related to this delegation. We look forward to keeping you informed as this work continues.

Financial Aid Technical Assistance grant

I am thrilled to announce that RIOPC has been selected as one of 4 states to receive a technical assistance grant from Education Commission of the States (ECS) to review, refine and design our State's financial aid policies, a body of work supporting one of our key priorities. We are pleased to be working with other states on this important work and look forward to incorporating evidence-based strategies and national best practices into our own state policies and practices. We want to ensure that Rhode Island students have access to affordable options to fund their education, while also

ensuring that proper consumer protection measures are in place. We look forward to providing updates on this work as it develops.

RINEC Update

I am proud to provide an update on the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (RINEC). Classes are in full swing in the state-of-the-art facility. RINEC hosts an average of 60 classes over the course of the week, serving approximately 800 nursing students from RIC and URI. Classes run throughout the day, starting as early as 8 a.m. and ending as late as 9:00 p.m. Most of the undergraduate classes take place during the day, while graduate classes occur in the late afternoon to evening hours.

URI and RIC faculty moved into their assigned offices this summer. There are approximately 30-40 faculty members per institution at RINEC, plus approximately an additional 30 adjunct faculty members per institution who teach at RINEC as well.

AV systems are now up and running in all classes and simulation labs. Desktop computers have been installed in classrooms and will be programmed within the next 2-3 weeks. Faculty members are using laptops for this interim period (although some will continue to use laptops moving forward as this is their preferred method).

Executive Director Erin Wilbur is building her team there. She now has on staff a Senior Info Technician, a Simulation Specialist, and a Business Manager.

Finally, hold the Wednesday, November 1 for the RINEC grand opening and ribbon cutting. The event will begin a little after 11:00 a.m. with the ribbon-cutting, followed by the speaking portion (tentatively scheduled for 11:30 a.m.). Please stay tuned for further details.

Westerly Education Center update

We have provided in your packets today a snapshot of the impressive work taking place at the Westerly Education Center at its 6-month mark. In that short time, over 300 students have taken courses, offered by three different higher education institutions - CCRI, URI and RISD. The partnership with Electric Boat has resulted in almost 300 students going through their programs.

Executive Director, Amy Grzybowski, has done a great job of securing additional grant funding and opening up the Center to the broader business and civic community, resulting in the Center seeing almost 600 guests from events happening at the Center. We are thrilled about the growth of the Westerly Education Center and the potential for more industry-higher education partnerships that lead to college credit and workplace certificates for students and the creation of a stronger and more educated workforce.

Personnel Update

We are continuing to build a solid team at RIOPC. There are a couple of positions that I have recommended for approval this evening. The first is a Legislative and Policy Advisor, which is a downgrade from the previous Assistant Commissioner role. This role will have a smaller portfolio, focusing more narrowly on the legislative and policy work. The second is a Director of Communications and Outreach. This is an upgrade from the communications specialist position. This role will include an expanded communications portfolio, as well as a new outreach and engagement focus. The person in this role will also oversee our legislative strategy. Additionally, we continue to receive applications for the Associate Commissioner for Student Success position. I will continue to provide you updates as we fill this crucial vacancy.

Finally, I am happy to report that we are searching for a Postsecondary Policy Specialist, who will focus primarily on the New Skills for Youth (NSFY) portfolio of work. You may recall that NSFY is a statewide collaborative effort between RIDE, the Governor's office, the Department of Labor and Training (DLT), the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB), and RIOPC, focusing on building work-based learning opportunities for secondary and postsecondary students. Since the State was awarded the grant last year, RIOPC has not had staff dedicated to this work. I am grateful to my statewide partners for creating room in the budget to support this position. This position is grant funded through December of 2018, with the possible extension for one year.

4b) Notification of a new program: Data Science Minor at Rhode Island College

Commissioner Dann-Messier called on RIC Provost Dr. Joshua Hamilton provide the background on the new program at RIC. Dr. Hamilton shared that the program was designed to support existing majors at Rhode Island College. Council Member DelGiudice commented that this new minor was also great from the employer perspective, as they want to see more people with data visualization credentials and experience. Dr. Jeffrey Mello, Dean of the School of Business at RIC, was also in attendance to answer any questions from the Council.

5. Reports from the Presidents**5a) Rhode Island College - Fall Enrollment and Special Initiatives**

President Frank Sánchez highlighted RIC 13th Annual Diversity Week, October 1-7. He also gave an overview of RIC's fall enrollment numbers, noting that his leadership team

is analyzing the potential impact of the introduction of the RI Promise program at CCRI on RIC's enrollment.

President Frank Sánchez's report can be read in its entirety below:

2017 Enrollment (as of September)

Headcount	16-Sep-13	15-Sep-14	14-Sep-15	12-Sep-16	12-Sep-17	Projection	5-Year % Change	% Difference between Enrollment and Projection
Undergraduate								
Full-Time	5,600	5,616	5,581	5,598	5,464	5,410	-2.4%	1.0%
Part-Time	1,905	1,902	1,865	1,800	1,616	1,833	-15.2%	-11.8%
Total	7,505	7,518	7,446	7,398	7,080	7,243	-5.7%	-2.3%
Graduate								
Full-Time	202	195	195	178	204	180	1.0%	13.3%
Part-Time	993	928	871	870	890	910	-10.4%	-2.2%
Total	1,195	1,123	1,066	1,048	1,094	1,090	-8.5%	0.4%
College Total	8,700	8,641	8,512	8,446	8,174	8,333	-6.0%	-1.9%

President Sánchez to meet with RIC faculty members concerning DACA program

In response to mounting concern regarding the DACA program, President Sánchez will meet personally with faculty members on Thursday, September 28 to discuss items including: what RIC is doing to protect its DACA students, current policies, available resources, and ongoing plans to monitor the situation at the federal level.

Title IX Policy Update

RIC has been working with legal counsel to update its policies with regard to Title IX. The updated policies are now aligned with national standard language for Title IX and clear about the reporting process and expectations. The new policies are available online at

http://www.ric.edu/titleIX/Pages/sexual_harassment_and_sexual_violence_policy.aspx.

Rhode Island College Unveils Newly Renovated Gaige Hall

A significant part of the revitalization of RIC's campus, the 64,655-square-foot Gaige Hall features new classrooms, computer lab, multi-purpose room, auditorium and, most importantly, extensive meeting space for students. Gaige Hall is the new home of the Dean of Arts and Sciences; the Departments of Anthropology, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology; and the Audiovisual Department and Audiovisual Help Center.

Gaige Hall stands as an important centerpiece as RIC modernizes its campus and reimagine the future of higher education. Every classroom has been transformed to facilitate active learning. Smaller, more intimate settings, movable classroom furniture, and collaborative work spaces are all part of the new economy, where students are engaged and fully involved in the teaching/learning process.

The \$44 million, multi-phased, complete renovation of Gaige Hall features:

- Complete reorganization of all departments and classrooms to facilitate innovative teaching strategies and increase collaboration among students.
- Substantial amount of additional space for students to stay engaged between classes, discuss classwork, study together, and break into groups.
- Additional classrooms to help alleviate scheduling congestion.
- All classrooms sized for up to 32 students for a more intimate teaching/learning environment.
- Movable classroom furniture for greater flexibility and increased teamwork.
- Modernization of auditorium with significantly improved acoustics, excellent sound system, and optimized sight lines.
- New, prominent multi-purpose function space added overlooking the campus quad, featuring a glass curtainwall that allows natural light to stream in.
- Significant system upgrades that bring building up to current fire safety and Americans With Disabilities Act compliance standards.

Supporting the college's designation as a 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, energy efficient upgrades include more natural light, new HVAC systems, and LED lighting throughout.

RICFest 2017: Weekend of Fun, Festivities and Friends

RIC alumni are invited to return to campus Sept. 28-Oct. 1 for a fun-filled schedule of RICEFest 2017 Homecoming events. Festivities will commence with an official RICEFest kickoff party followed by a free screening of the Academy Award-nominated movie "Hidden Figures" in Alger Hall 110. Events throughout the weekend include family activities, a 5K Run/Walk, and the annual RIC Athletic Hall of Fame dinner and recognition ceremony.

On Sunday, Oct. 1, RIC will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception for Ron McLarty '69, a veteran actor, playwright, audiobook narrator and acclaimed novelist who is donating his published and unpublished works to a Ron McLarty Collection that will be housed in RIC's James P. Adams Library.

A full event schedule can be found at <http://www.ric.edu/homecoming/Pages/Event-Schedule>.

RIC Performing Arts series kicks off this month!

- Suzanne Davis and the Tapestry Band will transport you back to the sounds of the 1970s in "Tapestry: The Carole King Songbook" on Saturday, Sept. 23.
- Direct from Johannesburg, the "Festival of South African Dance" will bring together two dynamic dance companies – the Gumboots and Pantsula Dance Companies – for a pulsating, rhythm-filled evening of entertainment on Friday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. in Roberts Hall Auditorium. This performance showcases two South African dance forms: "gumboot dance, which began as a form of resistance by black miners; and the pantsula dance style, which was born of street culture in the black townships and influenced by Sotho dances, American jazz and hip-hop. Both dance forms were created in response to cultural and political issues in their communities.
- On Thursday, Nov. 2, "The Other Mozart," a one-woman play written and performed by Sylvia Milo, will explore the true and untold story of the sister of Amadeus Mozart – Maria Anna (Nannerl) Mozart – a prodigy, virtuoso and composer in her own right, who performed with her brother to equal acclaim.
- An immensely entertaining rendition of "The Nutcracker," titled "NUT/CRACKED," will be held on Dec. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall. Performed by The Bang Group and the RIC Dance Company, this production intermixes Tchaikovsky's original score with music by Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller and other jazz greats, while dancers combine ballet with tap, disco and contemporary dance.

A full schedule and ticket information is available at <http://www.ric.edu/news/Pages/2017-Fall-Arts-Calendar>.

13th Annual Rhode Island College Diversity Week: October 1 - 7

The purpose of RIC's Diversity Week is to provide shared learning opportunities designed to increase awareness, disseminate knowledge, and develop skills and perspectives that will strengthen the campus community, broaden our understanding of diversity and inclusiveness, and promote mutual respect. A full list of events is available at <http://www.ric.edu/unitycenter>.

5b) Community College of Rhode Island – Fall Enrollment, Special Initiatives and RI Promise Update

President Meghan Hughes highlighted the excellent rollout of RI Promise and thanked the Commissioner and her team for all their support. She then gave an overview of the fall enrollment numbers and the gains the institution had seen as a result of the RI Promise program.

President Meghan Hughes' report can be read in its entirety below:

Launch of Rhode Island Promise

- Through outstanding teamwork and collaboration, CCRI has officially welcomed more than 1,400 first-time, full-time recent Rhode Island high school graduates as the inaugural Rhode Island Promise cohort. This number represents a 47% increase over the previous year. To put this accomplishment in national perspective, Tennessee had a year and additional financial resources to recruit students. Tennessee saw a 25% increase in their first-time, full-time students. We exceeded their increase in enrollment by 50% in only four weeks and with no additional funding for recruitment. Our state has made a historic investment in these students and in our college. We are proud to welcome these students to CCRI and look forward to supporting them through their first two years of college.

Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be operationalizing plans to support the RI Promise cohort. These plans include dedicated advisors, increased tutoring, a Promise-specific student newsletter, and a series of targeted events to build a sense of community and engagement among the cohort. We look forward to sharing regular updates on the continued success of our RI Promise students.

Guided Pathways Update

- This Fall, CCRI will be engaging with faculty and staff to develop a Guided Pathways model that will create easier-to-follow program requirements for our students and better position them for employment and transfer success after graduation. On August 31, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Rob Johnstone and Dr. Gretchen Schmidt from the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement to the Knight Campus in Warwick for our opening day Convocation. Drs. Johnstone and Schmidt delivered an informational and inspirational keynote address to our faculty and staff on the national movement towards Guided Pathways and through compelling data illustrated how the model can significantly improve student success at CCRI. Drs. Johnstone and Schmidt had the opportunity to conduct more than a dozen focus groups with faculty, staff, and students. Over the next two years, we will continue this work with Dr.

Johnstone as we build Guided Pathways with the intent to begin implementation in Fall 2018.

Reverse Transfer Update

- The Reverse Transfer program was a success in its first year, with a total of 51 associate degrees awarded during the spring and summer to eligible students who had earned a cumulative 60 credits combined from CCRI, RIC, URI, or other higher education institutions. The focus of Reverse Transfer in the coming year will be two-fold: better communication with students who have transferred in the past and development of a more automated enrollment process for future transfer students.

We are proud to be doing this important work and are pleased by our first year of results. We look forward to continued collaboration with RIC and URI to build upon this early success.

Launch of Hybrid Orientation

- In an effort to better engage students from the moment they arrive at CCRI, our college has moved from a half-day, in-person orientation model to a hybrid model that pairs on-campus engagement with valuable online information. In our new model, students gain access to two online orientation modules that focus on necessary enrollment information and tips for first semester success and are also invited to one in-person event focused on creating community among incoming students.

Entering the fall semester, more than 1200 students utilized the online portions of the orientation and more than 980 students attended an in-person welcome event. We are encouraged by the early success of our hybrid orientation and will be reviewing student feedback and data provided from our online modules to improve content and access for the spring semester.

Advancement

Announcement of Last Mile Scholarship

- We are very pleased to announce that CCRI has received its largest individual gift in the 53-year history of our college. Local philanthropist Bhikhaji Maneckji has donated \$500,000 which will be used to create the Last Mile scholarship, which will remove barriers so students can graduate, enter the workforce, or pursue a bachelor's degree more quickly.

We know that when students enroll full time, they have a significantly higher chance of graduating. This funding will allow part-time students who are at least halfway to graduation the funding they need to attend CCRI full-time and complete their studies. The scholarship will assist in addressing costs often not covered by financial aid, including child care, transportation, lost wages, and other basic life expenses.

We are inspired by Mr. Maneckji's generosity and his belief in our students and their ability to succeed. His gift is a powerful sign to new potential donors, and we will use the Last Mile scholarship to build the culture of philanthropy CCRI must have in order to fully realize our mission.

Academic Affairs

NEASC Accreditation Update

- We are pleased to announce that the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education has accepted CCRI's Graduation Rate Information Project report. This is not only great news for our college, but a significant acknowledgment from NEASC that our efforts to improve graduation and completion rates are making a positive impact. In their letter, the Commission commended CCRI for its dedication to using student success data to improve graduation rates, curriculum, pedagogy, and student services. They also lauded our college for the successful implementation of several critical student success initiatives, including the Joint Admissions Agreement, the RI Reverse Transfer policy, the Stackable Credentials initiative, and Accelerated Pathways.

We are immensely thankful to everyone at our college that helped assemble this report and have made these initiatives and projects so successful. We are making significant progress in improving student completion, and it has taken the strength of our entire CCRI community to make that happen.

Review of General Education Program

- During the upcoming academic year, CCRI's General Education Committee, led by Professor Shawn Parker, will complete a thorough and focused review of our General Education program. The review will assess the alignment of each course with CCRI's student learning outcomes and transferability to our sister institutions, RIC and URI. Professor Parker and several members of the Committee attended an Association of American College & Universities Institute this summer to learn more about national best practices related to general education requirements and assessment of student learning.

We are excited by this work and look forward to sharing the Committee's findings throughout the academic year.

Workforce Development

Fast Track to CNC Manufacturing

- CCRI's "Fast Track to CNC Manufacturing" program has been awarded a Real Jobs RI grant and the program will begin later this month. The Fast Track initiative was developed in conjunction with Polaris, an industry partner. In this free, two-phase advanced manufacturing boot camp, students will prepare for a high-quality career in one of our state's fastest growing industries and earn free college credits toward an associate degree while learning the skills employers are seeking.

Phase one is a 10-week program that introduces the fundamentals of manufacturing, safety, precision measurement, and blueprint reading. Students will also receive ten college credits, OSHA-10 certification, job interview training, resume building, and assistance in finding their first position as a CNC operator. During phase two, students can earn six more college credits while learning deeper skills and cutting-edge advanced manufacturing processes to become a CNC machinist.

We are immensely thankful to Polaris for their guidance in developing this program and to Real Jobs RI for their funding. We look forward to sharing updates on our first cohort of Fast Track CNC students in the coming months.

College Community News

Academic Leadership at CCRI Campuses

- In response to important feedback from faculty and staff at our Flanagan and Liston Campuses that there was a need for academic leadership, we have assigned academic deans to move to each of those locations. Dr. Thomas Sabbagh, Dean of Business, Science and Technology, has been assigned to the Liston Campus in Providence and Dr. Hilary Jansson, Interim Dean of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences, has been assigned to the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln.

We are confident that the Deans regular presence at each of these campuses will enhance communication and support teamwork. It will also bring us into alignment with NEASC standards.

New Faculty Hires

- Twenty-two new faculty members will be joining our CCRI community in the fall semester, and the hiring of another 15 faculty members is currently underway. We are pleased with the caliber of our newest faculty and the deep knowledge they will bring into the classrooms to share with our students. All of our new faculty members have had the opportunity to partake in our college's new Faculty Mentoring initiative as well as New Faculty Orientation. We are grateful to our experienced CCRI faculty who volunteered to lead these initiatives and for their graciousness in welcoming and assisting the newest members of our college community.

CCRI Wins Marketing Awards

- On September 8, CCRI was informed that our Marketing and Communications department had won four Medallion awards from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The Medallion awards, which recognize excellence in marketing and public relations at community and junior colleges, are for our college's fall marketing campaign, radio commercial, annual report, and poster series for gender equity. The awards will be formally announced at the NCMPR District 1 Conference in early October. We congratulate our team in Marketing and Communications on these awards and thank them for the work they have done in helping move our college forward.

Safety and Security

Safety Briefings

- Starting in October, CCRI will be renewing its focus on safety and security at all of our locations. College Police will be leading this effort, which will feature communication and training for students, staff, and faculty. These training initiatives including the rollout of our college's updated Emergency Management Plan, Town Halls at each campus during the fall semester, and specialized "Safety Briefings" on key topics that are important to our entire community.

5c) University of Rhode Island - Fall Enrollment and Special Initiatives

Provost Don DeHayes represented President Dooley in reporting on the University of Rhode Island. He recognized the two University faculty members whom the Council would be considering for tenure later in the meeting: Dr. Jeannette Riley and Dr. Anthony Rolle.

President Dooley's report can be read in its entirety below:

2017-2018 Enrollment

A decade ago URI received about 14,000 applications for approximately 3,100 freshman slots. In each of the last four years, URI has broken its record for most applications received and for the fall 2017 class URI received 22,656 applications, a 60% increase from 2007. The freshman class size as of September 21, 2017 is 3,250 students and is subject to change until we report final enrollment numbers in late October. In addition, approximately 500 transfer students enrolled at URI this semester.

With the much larger applicant pool, URI selectivity increased from an acceptance rate of 85% a decade ago to 69% for the entering class in fall 2017. Yield of high quality applicants has also increased. In the past few years about one-third or more of our entering freshman class have been eligible for our Honors Program and the academic profile of our fall 2017 freshman class is impressive --- an average high school grade point average of 3.54 and SAT of 1180. A decade ago this profile was 3.1 and 1075, 3 respectively. The diversity profile of our student body has increased by 1% per year over the past decade with 22% of the entering freshman class and 20% of all students coming from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. Diversity in the student body has grown by 65% since 2008.

In addition to freshman enrollment increases, retention of students has also increased overall enrollment. The Academic Plan metrics indicate that the 2016 first-year retention rate is 84.3%, the highest in URI history. This represents an increase of 1.9% from the previous year and 6% increase from the Academic Strategic Plan 2010 baseline.

Enrollment has been the highest in the University's 125-year history for three of the past four years. While our enrollment successes can be attributed in part to new and effective recruitment strategies, a key component has been the development and implementation of strategic financial aid allocation models tied to enrollment goals established via the Academic Strategic Plan. Financial aid has emerged as our most important enrollment management tool in addition to its critical role in providing support for needy and meritorious students. A strategic financial aid allocation model has enabled the institution to enhance student quality, increase ethnic diversity, ensure access and affordability for needy students, and generate net revenue necessary to operate the institution.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation Site Visit

On October 22 through October 26, 2017, URI will be hosting the NEASC team evaluators at the Kingston Campus to complete the on-site evaluation that is part of our ten year accreditation renewal. According to NEASC:

“The on-site evaluation by a group of faculty and administrators provides the institution and the Commission with a valuable external perspective. Team members are selected because of their experience at an institution comparable to the one being evaluated. They are trained by Commission staff to validate the self-study in light of the institution's mission. The Evaluation Manual may be a helpful resource to understand the approach and perspective of the visiting team.

After the visit, the team chair, using material submitted by the team members, will produce a draft report, first reviewed by the team and the Commission staff. The staff review is designed to help ensure that the report can stand on its own and that important areas are sufficiently addressed. Following any changes made in that initial review, the chair sends the draft report to the institution's president for purposes of making sure the factual matters in the report are correct. Having made any appropriate changes based on that review, the chair sends the final version of the team report to the institution, which sends copies to the team members and to the Commission. The institution's president is asked to respond to the team report. Responses may indicate concurrence with the team's findings, may provide a differing interpretive perspective on factual matters or may provide an update on how the institution has responded to the findings of the team.”

A copy of URI's Self-Study Introduction is attached to this report and URI is prepared to answer any follow up questions or provide more detail on any of the sections highlighted in this summary.

Standard Three of the Nine NEASC Accreditation Standards deals with Organization and Governance. The Council should be aware of this specific standard as it will be included in the agenda as part of the on-site visit. The Standard requires the following:

The institution has a system of governance that facilitates the accomplishment of its mission and purposes and supports institutional effectiveness and integrity. Through its organizational design and governance structure, the institution creates and sustains an environment that encourages teaching, learning, service, scholarship, and where appropriate, research and creative activity. It demonstrates administrative capacity by assuring provision of support adequate for the appropriate functioning of each organizational component. The institution has sufficient independence from any other entity to be held accountable for meeting the Commission's Standards for Accreditation.

National Science Foundation Grant Announcement

The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of Rhode Island a \$19 million grant to establish a statewide research consortium to study the effects of climate variability on coastal ecosystems. The funding builds on more than \$30 million of previous NSF funding through its Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), which aims to strengthen the state's research competitiveness and fund workforce development initiatives. The state of Rhode Island, through Commerce Rhode Island, has committed an additional \$3.8 million toward the initiative over the next five years, which will be used to provide collaborative grants and support workforce development. URI is the project lead on the grant and will work in collaboration with a statewide network made up of researchers at Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island College, Bryant University, Providence College, Roger Williams University and Salve Regina University. To accomplish the goals of the consortium, it will create a state-of-the-art Bay Observatory, including high-tech instrumentation and wireless data transmission, to collect real-time information at high resolution about the changing environmental conditions in Narragansett Bay.

Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative

The University of Rhode Island today received a \$20,000 grant from the American Cancer Society and CVS Health Foundation to advocate for, adopt and implement 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free campus policies. The grant is part of the American Cancer Society's Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative, funded by the CVS Health Foundation, to deliver the first tobacco-free generation by accelerating and expanding the number of campuses across the country that prohibit smoking and tobacco use. The initiative is part of CVS Health's Be The First campaign, the company's five-year, \$50 million commitment to help deliver the nation's first tobacco-free generation. The grant will help URI students, faculty and staff develop and execute strategies toward a 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free environment. The American Cancer Society will also provide technical assistance and other resources, including education, communications, support to quit smoking and evaluation.

Additional Announcements

- The new URI Welcome Center project has started and the demolition of the old Visitors Center is complete. The Welcome Center is scheduled to open in August 2018.
- The official naming ceremony of the College of Pharmacy building is scheduled for October 16 at 9:00 and we welcome Council members to attend.
- Alumni and Family Weekend at URI is scheduled for October 20-22 and includes Homecoming.

Members of the Council expressed interest in hearing more about the Graduate enrollment and retention at RIC and URI, impact on enrollment at CCRI in 2020 with the RI Promise. Council Member Lucaj shared about how the RI Promise made it possible for a student to start college, instead of taking a year off.

6. Discussion Item

6a) Discussion of proposed updates to the Council Tuition Waiver Policy and Procedures for employees and their dependents.

Chair Foulkes asked Anne Marie Coleman to give the background the Tuition Waiver Policy and Procedures for employees and their dependents.

In July 2017, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner convened a work group consisting of representatives from the three institutions and OPC to assess the current tuition waiver policy and recommend enhancements to the checks-and-balances currently in place. The group was also asked to recommend efficiencies that would ensure consistent application of the policy across the system.

The current tuition waiver policy was adopted in 2013 by the then Board of Education. The 2013 policy, which was later negotiated into all of the non-classified collective bargaining agreements, included additional eligibility requirements and required all employees and dependents to consent to public disclosure of the existence and amount of the tuition waiver in accordance with RIGL §16-97-7.

Proposed Revisions

The work group, with the assistance of tax counsel, recommends the following changes to the current policy and approval procedures:

1. A uniform definition of dependent child, along with an employee dependency affidavit that will ensure consistency of application across the system. Currently the schools use different methods to determine dependency. Tax counsel has recommended the affidavit as a best practice to ensure consistency and compliance across the system.
2. A requirement that the Council approve any exceptions to the policy at a public meeting. This will ensure transparency and consistency across the system
3. An express prohibition against an employee who is on leave from their position being eligible to obtain this benefit if the position they now occupy is not eligible for a tuition waiver.

In addition, the work group recommended that all three public institutions use an online waiver approval process to ensure consistency and streamline the process for approval. The Community College of Rhode Island and the University of Rhode Island have already implemented an online waiver approval, and they have offered their assistance to Rhode Island College in developing and implementing a similar process. The work group further recommended that the institutions and the Office eliminate the requirement for notarizing the Tuition Waiver Information FERPA Release form, which is intended to streamline the process.

Ms. Coleman invited the Council Members to ask any specific questions of the tax counsel who was present. Chair Foulkes reiterated that this process would add another level of governance and ensure transparency. The Council recommended that the Commissioner have authority for provisional approval between Council meetings in the case of an exceptional situation that needed to be dealt with before the Council could meet.

6b) Discussion of proposed policy and procedures for Rhode Island Promise

Chair Foulkes asked Ron Cavallaro to give the background to the proposed policy and procedure for Rhode Island Promise.

General Counsel Ron Cavallaro began by thanking the Commissioner and the team from RIOPC: Dr. Robin McGill, Gail Mance-Rios and Kim Bright for the collaboration in crafting this document. Mr. Cavallaro made sure the Council understood the eligibility requirements, appeal process, and clarified that there was no mechanism in place to turn the award into a loan.

Council Member Duffy requested the statute to be sent to all Council members. In addition, the Council requested language to be included that RI Promise funds are contingent on the State's approval of annual appropriations for the program.

6c) Discussion regarding establishment of a pension review committee.

Chair Foulkes noted that General Counsel Ron Cavallaro was invited to present this item as a follow-up at the Council's request from a previous meeting. Mr. Cavallaro recommended that the Council Chair create an ad hoc committee to review the system-wide retirement plans with outside consultants and then ask the committee to make recommendations back to the Council for improvements and any other actions.

7. Action Items

7a) Approval of tenure at the Rank of Professor with initial appointment as Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Rhode Island for Dr. Jeannette Riley.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Vivian Caruolo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the tenure at the Rank of Professor with initial appointment as Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Rhode Island for Dr. Jeannette Riley.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7b) Approval of tenure at the Rank of Professor with initial appointment as Dean in the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies at the University of Rhode Island for Dr. R. Anthony Rolle.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the tenure at the Rank of Professor with initial appointment as Dean in the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies at the University of Rhode Island for Dr. R. Anthony Rolle.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7c) Approval of Recommendations from the System Personnel Review Committee:

7c1a) Approval of new classification request from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, Legislative and Policy Advisor.

Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier gave an overview of the position, noting that this was not a new FTE, but was a downgrade of the previous role of Assistant Commissioner of External Affairs.

The Council requested that the education qualification in the job description be amended to "Masters preferred," rather than "Masters required."

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of SPRC regarding the new classification request from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for Legislative and Policy Advisor, with the job description amended as noted.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy

DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and
Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7c1b) Approval of new classification request from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, Director of Communications and Outreach.

Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier gave an overview of the position, noting that it is an upgrade from the previous position of Specialist in Public Information and Communications.

The Council requested that the education qualification in the job description be amended to “Masters preferred,” rather than “Masters required.”

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of SPRC regarding new classification request from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for Director of Communications and Outreach, with the job description amended as noted.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7c2a) Approval of new classification request from the Community College of Rhode Island, Executive Director, Workforce Development Operations.

President Meghan Hughes gave an overview of the reorganization of the Center for Workforce and Community Education unit of CCRI under new Vice President Julian Alssid. She noted how this position and the two others being requested would fit into the new organizational structure.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of SPRC regarding new classification request from the Community College of Rhode Island for Executive Director, Workforce Development Operations.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7c2b) Approval of new classification request from the Community College of Rhode Island, Executive Director, Workforce Development Partnerships.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of SPRC regarding new classification request from the Community College

of Rhode Island for Executive Director, Workforce Development Partnerships.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7c2c) Approval of new classification request from the Community College of Rhode Island, Director, Industry Partnerships.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of SPRC regarding new classification request from the Community College of Rhode Island for Director, Industry Partnerships.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7c3) Approval of new classification request from Rhode Island College, On-site Director, RIC-COEXIST. This position will be funded on an external grant.

President Frank Sánchez gave an overview of the position and the grant-funded program through RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services' Ryan White Part B funding.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Vivian Caruolo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of SPRC regarding new classification request from Rhode Island College for On-site Director, RIC-Coexist.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

7d) Approval to purchase a structure at 50 Campus Avenue, Kingston, Rhode Island.

Chair Foulkes invited Provost DeHayes to give an overview of the proposed purchase. He noted that the structure was a fraternity house that had fallen into disuse and that the University owned the land. Nonetheless, the terms of the lease required the University to buy the structure at fair market value. He indicated that the University's intention was to demolish the structure and use the newly available land for additional parking.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Vivian Caruolo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves

the purchase of a structure at 50 Campus Avenue, Kingston, Rhode Island.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

8. Executive Session

The Council may seek to enter into Executive Session for the following items:

Update and discussion on collective bargaining – URI Part-Time Faculty Union (PTFU), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to enter into executive session for reason presented, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Dennis Duffy it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education enters into executive session for reason presented, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

The Council reconvened in open session at 7:48 p.m.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on September 27, 2017.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS	0

9. Upcoming Meetings

- a. The next meeting of the **Personnel and Finance/Facilities Committees** for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 100, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886.
- b. The next meeting of the **Personnel and Finance/Facilities Committees** for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 100, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886.
- c. The next **Council on Postsecondary Education** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** at Rhode Island College,

Faculty Center, Main Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.

- d. The next **Council on Postsecondary Education** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** at Rhode Island College, Faculty Center, Main Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.
- e. The next **Board of Education** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.** at the Community College of Rhode Island, Room 4090, 400 East Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886.
- f. The next **Council on Postsecondary Education** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** at Rhode Island College, Faculty Center, Main Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.

10. Adjournment

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Council on September 27, 2017.

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourns the meeting of September 27, 2017.
	VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, and Thomas Izzo.
	NAYS:	0
	ABSTAINS	0

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.