Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting  
Wednesday, October 25, 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, October 25, 2017, at the at Rhode Island College at the Faculty Center Main Dining Room, Providence, Rhode Island. At 5:33 p.m. Chair William Foulkes welcomed everyone. He then asked for the roll to be taken, after which he declared a quorum present.


Absent: Jeffery 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 Vivian Caruolo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the agenda for the meeting of October 25, 2017.

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

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

NAYS: 0
2. Approval of the Minutes

a) Minutes of the September 27, 2017 Meeting

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the meeting on September 27, 2017.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

3. Reports from the Chairs and Committees

3a) Chair Bill Foulkes

Chair Foulkes thanked RIC for hosting the meeting and recognized Dr. Rosemary Costigan, Vice President of Academic Affairs at CCRI, who was sitting in for President Hughes. He also thanked the Council for attending the NEASC Review at URI and congratulated President Dooley, Provost DeHayes and the URI team for the incredible job. Chair Foulkes congratulated Commissioner Dann-Messier for a successful and well-attended Higher RI Summit on October 13th and suggested holding the event on an annual basis.
He noted that RI Promise policies and procedures and revisions to the Tuition Waiver policy were on the agenda, along with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

3b) Chair Barbara Cottam
Chair Barbara Cottam gave an overview of RIDE’s first PrepareRI Summit, which took place on October 21st. Nearly 200 attendees gathered to inform the state’s career readiness work through the New Skills for Youth (NSFY) initiative. She thanked Commissioner Dann-Messier for attending and introducing U.S. Representative Jim Langevin. Chair Cottam also noted that on October 24, 2017, Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved state standards for social and emotional learning. Finally, she indicated that the 2017 Advanced Placement (AP) results are available for all to review.

3c) Report from the Finance and Facilities Committee
Heather Crosby, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, made the following updates:

There have been two meetings of the Finance and Facilities Committee since the last Council meeting: on October 11th and on October 18th, both of which have primarily focused on budgetary matters. She reviewed several items:

- **Recommendation for approval of a site license agreement related to the Solar Array Project at the Kingston Campus**
  - This project has been recommended for approval at this evening’s meeting after review and discussion at the October 18th meeting of the Committee.

- **Audited Financial Statements**
  - All four entities (URI, RIC, CCRI, and the Division of Higher Education Assistance) received an unqualified or clean opinion on their audited statements. The external auditors are present at tonight’s Council meeting to answer any questions and give their required disclosures.

- **Capital Improvement Plans**
  - Capital Improvement Plans for FY 2019-2023 were presented on October 18th with the few adjustments that had been noted at the meeting of September 13th. Previous Committee meetings had taken place on the campuses so that Committee members could
have a tour and get a better sense of the buildings and grounds included in the CIP.

- After discussion at the October 18th meeting, the Committee voted on a recommendation to approve the projects shown for the Fiscal Years FY 2018 through FY 2020, noting that those in the later years will be returning for discussion and review in upcoming years.

- **Operating Budgets for FY 2019**
  - The operating budgets were reviewed with presentations from the Presidents and their staffs at the meeting on October 11th.
  - Discussions continued at the October 18th meeting with a presentation from the Commissioner related to the inclusion of Performance-Based Funding.
  - The Committee determined that it would reconvene on Wednesday, November 1st at 5:30 p.m. for further discussion.

- **Revising the system budget request process**
  - The Finance Committee has charged the Commissioner with proposing revisions to the budget request process by March 1, 2018. The new process would be designed to allow for more informed discussion by the Committee and the Council, especially around the relationship between funding and institutional performance.

4. **Commissioner’s Report**

4a) **Update on Policy and Programmatic Initiatives**
Commissioner Dann-Messier thanked the Council Members for attending the Higher RI Summit on October 13th and praised CCRI for its work in hosting the Summit. She congratulated URI for their strong self-study for the NEASC Accreditation Team ahead of their visit on October 23, 2017. She noted that based on the Council’s suggestion, an overview of URI’s NEASC self-study would now be included in the Council Member orientation packet.

The written report, which was included in the Council packets, can be accessed through the following link: [https://www.riopc.edu/static/photos/2017/11/03/Commissioner_report_102517.pdf](https://www.riopc.edu/static/photos/2017/11/03/Commissioner_report_102517.pdf)

5. **Reports from the Presidents**
5a) Rhode Island College – Update in workforce initiatives, employer partnerships, and work based learning participation
President Frank Sánchez gave notification of three certificate courses now available at Rhode Island College in the School of Continuing Studies. He also announced that Rhode Island College received the $1.1M from the USDE. Commissioner Dann-Messier commented and congratulated President Sanchez on the award and noted that it is an extremely competitive grant and great for RIC.

President Frank Sánchez’s report can be read in its entirety through the following link: https://www.riopc.edu/static/photos/2017/11/03/President_Sanchez__-_RIC_-_October_25_2017.pdf

5b) Community College of Rhode Island – Update in workforce initiatives, employer partnerships, and work-based learning participation
Dr. Rosemary Costigan presented President Hughes’ report and recognized the Community College’s efforts around workforce initiatives, employer partnerships and work-based learning.

President Meghan Hughes’ report can be read in its entirety through the following link: https://www.riopc.edu/static/photos/2017/11/03/President_Hughes_-_CCRI_-_October_25_2017.pdf

5c) University of Rhode Island – Update in workforce initiatives, employer partnerships, and work based learning participation
President David Dooley gave an overview of the University’s initiatives around workforce development, employer partnerships, and work-based learning, including courses with experiential learning components and the ITR 300 Career Rhode Trip curriculum.

President Dooley’s report can be read in its entirety through the following link: https://www.riopc.edu/static/photos/2017/11/03/President_Dooley_-_URI_-_October_25_2017_-_Workforce.pdf

6. Action Items

6a) Approval of the Policy and Procedures for Rhode Island Promise
Chair Foulkes recognized this program as an exciting opportunity for the Council and the State, and he called on Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier for background.
Commissioner Dann-Messier congratulated CCRI for a strong and smooth rollout of the RI Promise Scholarship Program. She noted that there had been one minor change to the policy and procedure document as a result of the discussion at the previous meeting. This change recognized that the awarding of funds was dependent on continued appropriation for the program.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Heather Crosby, it was

**VOTED:** THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the Policy and Procedures for the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program.

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

**YEAS:** Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green and Thomas Izzo

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS** 0

6b) Approval of the Tuition Waiver Policy and Procedures for employees and their dependents

Chair Foulkes thanked the RIOPC staff for their diligence. He then called on Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier for background.

Commissioner Dann-Messier noted that one change had been made as a result of the discussion that the previous Council meeting, which would allow the Commissioner to approve Tuition Waiver exceptions between Council meetings.

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 Tuition Waiver Policy and Procedures for employees and their dependents.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

6c) Approval of to continue tuition waivers for Frank Cotoia, Jr., son of deceased employee Frank Cotoia

Chair Foulkes solemnly told the Council that in keeping with the policy just passed, RIC was requesting Council approval for an exception to the Tuition Waiver Policy. He invited Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier to give an overview.

Commissioner Dann-Messier thanked the Council for their vote on the Tuition Waiver Policy and Procedures and invited Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations, to provide background. Ms. Coleman stated that request comes in unfortunate circumstances the passing of RIC employee Mr. Frank Cotoia before his son’s receipt of acceptance to CCRI. President Frank Sánchez was recommending approval of a tuition waiver for Frank Cotoia, Jr. to enroll at CCRI.

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 to continue tuition waivers for Frank Cotoia, Jr., son of deceased employee Frank Cotoia.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
6d) Approval to nominate the Historic Core of the University of Rhode Island Campus to the National Register of Historic Places

Chair Foulkes reminded the Council that at the September 8, 2017 Special Meeting, the Council asked URI to submit a legal opinion on the impact of recognizing the Historic Core of the URI campus on the National Register of Historic Places. Chair Foulkes invited URI General Counsel Lou Saccoccio to give background.

Mr. Saccoccio emphasized that approval of the nomination would not restrict URI’s ability to make improvements to its Historic Core. He further explained the process with state and federal national registry protocol. In response to questions from the Council, he noted that inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places would be an honor for the institution and would garner national recognition.

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 nomination of the Historic Core of the University of Rhode Island Campus to the National Register of Historic Places.

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

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

NAYS: 0
6e) Approval of FY2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan and recommendation to the Board of Education for final approval

Chair Foulkes thanked the Finance and Faculties Committee for their hard work in vetting the Capital Improvement Plan and invited Dr. Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner of Finance and Management, to take the Council through the CIP. Dr. LaPanne gave an overview, noting the components of system-wide budget submission, process for vetting the CIP, Council’s role in stewarding state property, breakdown of stewardship of State property by institution, funding sources for capital investments, components of the CIP. She indicated that the Finance and Facilities Committee reviewed the FY 2019-FY 2023 CIP over the course of two meetings, and that a summary was included in the Council packets. As a result of its review, the Committee recommended approval for projects through FY 2020.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Heather Crosby, it was

**VOTED: THAT**
The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2019-2023 as presented for the Fiscal Years 2018-2020 and forward it to the Board of Education for its approval. It will then submit the plan to the State Budget Office for review and inclusion in the Governor’s recommended budget.

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

**YEAS:** Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green and Thomas Izzo

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS** 0
6f) Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island and the Division of Higher Education Assistance for the Fiscal Year Ended 6/30/2017

Chair Foulkes called on the external auditors of O’Connor & Drew P.C. to address the Council. The representatives thanked all three institutions for their cooperation and responsiveness to all their requests. They also noted that all deadlines were met, and that all of the four entities received the highest audit rating.

Council Member Crosby commented that it was a very clean audit. Chair Foulkes thanked everyone for their contributions to the audit process.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Heather Crosby, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the Audited Financial Statements for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island and the Division of Higher Education Assistance for the Fiscal Year Ended 6/30/2017.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

6g) Approval of a Site License Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and Kearsarge Solar 2, LLC for the Development and Operation of a Solar Array Project at Kingston Campus

Chair Foulkes noted that Dennis Duffy will abstain from discussion and vote on this item. He then invited Vern Wyman to give background. Mr. Wyman noted that this was
an opportunity to collaborate with Kearsarge Solar 2, LLC to take advantage of federal tax credits and net-metering rates. After further discussion among the Council, Heather Crosby reminded that this was a license agreement, not a lease, and could be reviewed every 10 years.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Heather Crosby and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was


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

**YEAS:** Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green and Thomas Izzo

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS** Dennis Duffy

6h) **Approval of a New Classification at the University of Rhode Island: Vice Provost, Global Initiatives (Senior International Officer)**

Chair Foulkes invited Provost DeHayes to provide background. Provost DeHayes shared URI’s strategic goals in growing their international student population.

Council Member Izzo requested a fiscal note accompany new classification requests that come before the Council.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.
On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the New Classification at the University of Rhode Island: Vice Provost, Global Initiatives (Senior International Officer)

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

**YEAS:** Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green and Thomas Izzo

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS** 0

7. **Executive Session**

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

Discussion regarding the Annual Report on Litigation (all cases pending in the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island; the Rhode Island Supreme, Superior, and District Courts; the United States Court of Appeal – 7th Circuit; the RI Commission for Human Rights); and potential litigation, 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 Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was


**VOTE:** 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green and Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

The Council reconvened in open session at 7:34 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 Vivian Caruolo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on October 25, 2017.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

8. Upcoming Meetings

a. The next meeting of the Personnel and Finance/Facilities Committees for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rhode Island Office of the
b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

9. Adjournment

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Council on October 25, 2017.

On a motion duly made by Heather Crosby and seconded by Vivian Caruolo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourns the meeting of October 25, 2017.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.