



Enclosure 2a  
January 24, 2018

**Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting  
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 5:30 p.m.  
Community College of Rhode Island  
Room 4090  
400 East Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886**

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at the Community College of Rhode Island in Room 4090, Warwick, 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.

**Present:** Vivian Caruolo, Barbara Cottam (arrived at 5:41PM), Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green (arrived at 6:33 PM), Thomas Izzo and Mariela Lucaj (arrived at 5:36 PM)

**Absent:** Jeffery Williams

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Vivian Caruolo.

Chair Foulkes then called for a motion to amend the agenda to remove item 7h.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education amends the agenda for the meeting of December 6, 2017, as discussed.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

Chair Foulkes then called for a vote on the motion to approve the agenda as amended.

On the motion made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Vivian Caruolo, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the agenda for the meeting of December 6, 2017, as amended.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS 0

## 2. Approval of the Minutes

### a) Minutes of the November 8, 2017 Meeting

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the meeting on November 8, 2017.

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

YEAS: Vivian Caruolo, Timothy DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, 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 coming. He felt that it was a productive year for the Council with a number of accomplishments that included the success of the Westerly Education Center, the Transfer/Reverse Transfer Policies and the RI Promise, as well as the Nursing Education Center, which is an incredible partnership of Brown, RIC and URI. He thanked Bess Wilbur, Robin McGill and the Commissioner for making the opening of the Center so successful.

For 2018, there are some items that will probably be looked at by the Council, which include: the tax bill, which may have some serious ramifications for higher education, the legislation around bonding issues, the deductibility of state taxes, and the potential taxability of graduate fellowships.

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

Chair Foulkes said that Chair Barbara Cottam would not be giving a report as she was scheduled to arrive late for the meeting.

### **4. Commissioner's Report**

The Commissioner's report is available [here](#).

### **5. Reports from the Presidents**

#### **5a) Community College of Rhode Island – Discussion of high-impact practices that support institutional performance goals**

President Hughes gave an update on:

1. [CCRI's Student Success Agenda](#)

Guided pathways, which is a strategy that community colleges around the country use as one of the essential building blocks of their work to deliver transformational results, is a concept that marries student services with academic affairs. Advisors work with faculty to build smart paths that are available to students on the first day they arrive at the college. When a student comes to CCRI and is trying to understand how to get to that graduation stage, the college is prepared to help them design that path and answer that question. CCRI is working with Dr. Rob Johnstone, who is a nationally renowned expert on this work. CCRI is going to pilot a pathway in the fall of 2018 with the construction of 5 meta majors, which are:

- 1) Allied Health
- 2) Arts & Humanities
- 3) Business & Technology
- 4) Engineering, Science & Mathematics
- 5) Social & Behavioral Sciences

## 2. Update on Workforce Development

The Governor announced a partnership with Infosys. CCRI feels that this is a landmark moment for CCRI, which was instrumental in bringing Infosys to RI, which comes with the promise of 500 jobs. Infosys is looking at CCRI not only to create a talent pipeline but also to figure out how to replicate this at other community colleges throughout the U.S.

## 3. Update on RI Promise

CCRI welcomed 1,577 students into the inaugural cohort this September. The students are excited and the CCRI is grateful that they are there. However, in the near future, the Council needs to have a conversation about the legislation that was passed, and what the implications are for the RI Promise students at CCRI. It is a rigorous merit scholarship program, requiring a 2.5 GPA and 30 credits a year. This is significantly more rigorous than what the federal govt. has set for the Pell funding. Historically, roughly 10% of CCRI students have a 2.0 GPA and complete 30 credits a year. The way to make programs like this succeed is to provide additional funding. This Council supported a two million dollar plan for RI Promise, however, that money was not put in the budget. The Hassenfeld Foundation has generously provided CCRI with a \$650,000 two year support grant for this. As we go forward, we need to have some conversations about how to secure the necessary funding that is needed to ensure that this program is successful.

President Hughes' report is available [here](#).

## **5b) Rhode Island College – Discussion of high-impact practices that support institutional performance goals**

President Sánchez stated that RIC has identified several institutional goals in their 2017-2020 Strategic Action Plan. Two of the pillars they have identified are:

1. Learning Innovation

a) The college is working closely with faculty to build a culture that focuses on effective learning strategies. Research shows that if faculty can engage students throughout the class time with group activities there are better educational gains, better retention, better academic progress and more success for students versus the traditional lecture format. This will involve some additional training for faculty.

b) Experiential Learning to ensure that every student has a significant experiential project-based learning opportunity. This could be an internship, senior capstone project, undergraduate research project or study away from campus. RIC believes that in order for their students to be competitive in the global marketplace, they must give them practical, hands on, project-based learning opportunities. Under Provost Hamilton, RIC is launching a faculty committee that will guide how to operationalize the experiential learning requirement.

c) Intrusive Advising or as RIC calls it: 360 Academic Advising is the national model that has shown that student advising has to go beyond the traditional academic advising. It has to include wrap around support that may include: counseling support services, food and emergency support/funding, etc. that will help catch the academic and life issues that cause students to drop out and will allow them to stay in school. RIC is partnering with CCRI and hopes to share similar technology through an RFP to employ the leading technology for the very best advising.

d) RIC is optimizing their class scheduling which has at times presented a significant obstacle to student success. Revised schedules will allow more students to access classes that are convenient for them. This involves a change in culture that involves faculty. The college will use data to determine where there are significant wait lists and try to schedule more classes at those times and determine which classes are not well attended (such as in the mornings). This may result in more robust offerings in the evenings and on weekends.

e) Improved Articulation through transfer agreements. RI Promise is particularly important to RIC so that these students will have an easy transition to the school.

2. Student Success

a) Recruitment strategies – The College is looking at different enrollment target populations including out-of-state and international.

b) Student retention – RIC is looking at data to determine how to turn around their retention rates. Data has identified all students on hold and looked at what these holds entailed (academic, financial, etc.). RIC had 1,100 students on hold the past year. The college made phone calls and reached out to these students and was able to cut down that number to 481, which has reengaged these students.

c) RIC has done a marketing campaign to get students to register earlier so they can get the classes they need. This has been shown to improve retention. RIC's Geofencing campaign sends text reminders to all students within a certain mile radius to RIC reminding them to register early for their classes.

These initiatives have resulted in Over 900 more students registered and close to 10,000 more credit hours as compared to 2 years ago just by engaging students in a different way.

President Frank Sánchez' report is available [here](#).

### **5c) University of Rhode Island – Discussion of high-impact practices that support institutional performance goals**

Provost Don DeHayes gave a report on URI's high impact practices. He noted that next week the College of Nursing at the Nursing Education Center would be hosting a presentation by Dr. Paul Farmer, Founder of Partners in Health and subject of the best-selling book: Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder. He encouraged members of the Council to attend this event at 5:30 p.m. in the RINEC auditorium.

URI has been actively engaged in high impact practices for many years and are noticing the results of these. A synopsis of some of these results include: URI has gained about 14 points in their 4-year graduation rate in the last 3-4 years and 7 points in their 6-year graduation rate over the past 4-5 years. Their retention rate of 85+ percentage is the highest in the history of the University as is their enrollment. In 2007, they awarded 2600 degrees; in 2017, they awarded 4,220 degrees. They are not only bringing more students into the University, but are graduating many more students with bachelor degrees.

1. Their most significant area of activity and investment is their enrollment management efforts and their strategic allocation of financial aid. Their financial aid model is complex, strategic and proprietary and is supporting students and the institution at the same time. The enrollment strategy has led to the largest applicant

pool in their history from 14,000 about 10 years ago to 23,000 this past year at a time when there is a shrinking population of high school graduates.

2. Their second major initiative is the 15 to Finish Program. The single most important thing is that they paid very close attention to student credit completion; what proportion of first year students are completing 30 credits, sophomore students 60 credits, etc. When the college notices that a first year student is falling behind they can intervene with intrusive advising to get them on track the moment they start to fall behind. Nine years ago, 45% of their freshman completed 30 credits, this past year, 74% of freshman completed 30 credits. They continue to work on this and it allows URI to project whether their graduation rates will continue to increase. In addition to credit completion, URI's curriculum maps/academic pathways and meta majors they introduced about 4 years ago have provided a pathway for undecided students to find their way without losing time and without taking classes, which will not help them progress toward a degree.

3. URI's Winter J Term has allowed some students to catch up if they missed a general education class or missed a major requirement. It also provides academic enrichment for some students, which include exciting international or domestic travel classes and increased retention. In the past 4 years, the Winter J term went from 400 students to 1,000 students participating.

#### Academic initiatives

a) Experiential Learning Initiative – This has grown from 4000 a year to 8200 students a year who take credit-bearing, hands-on learning projects, which allow them to gain experience and confidence.

b) A reinvigorated Gen Ed Program, which has created more interest and excitement among students.

c) Professional Advising

d) Starfish Electronic Early Alert System

President David Dooley's report is available [here](#).

## **6. Discussion Item**

**6a) Update and discussion on the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center**

Chair Foulkes and the Council congratulated Executive Director Erin Wilbur on a successful grand opening and the wonderful collaboration between the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. Chair Foulkes said the Council is looking forward to learning the plans RINEC has for 2018.

RINEC Executive Director Erin Wilbur's report is available [here](#).

## 7. Action Items

### **7a) Approval of Second Amendment to the Lease between the Council on Postsecondary Education/URI and Schneider Electric for an additional 15,492 Square Feet of Space for the Construction Period of the College of Engineering**

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 Second Amendment to the Lease between the Council on Postsecondary Education/URI and Schneider Electric for an additional 15,492 Square Feet of Space (and the addition of parking spaces on the site) for the Construction Period of the College of Engineering, as presented

**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, Rachele Green, and Thomas Izzo

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS** 0

### **7b) Approval of Lease of Space Housing the Northern Rhode Island Office of the R.I. Small Business Development Center by the Council on Postsecondary Education/University of Rhode Island**

Lou Saccoccio provided the background and overview for the lease. The intent is to use the space for professional staff and business consultants. The lease is for one year to better ascertain the function and continued use of the space. The space will not have any academic classes.

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 Lease of Space Housing the Northern Rhode Island Office of the R.I. Small Business Development Center by the Council on Postsecondary Education/University of Rhode Island

**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

### 7c) Approval of Faculty Tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island

President Hughes reiterated the good work of the faculty eligible for tenure and looked forward to the Council's vote.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

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

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the awarding of tenure to: Barbara Leasher - Mathematics, Shawn Parker - Art, Renee Gaboury -

English, Robert Angell - English, Duayne Rieger -  
Physics - Effective January 1, 2018

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

**7d) Approval of tenure at the Rank of Professor with Initial Appointment as Director of the Coastal Resources Center at the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island for John P. Walsh II**

Provost DeHayes gave background on the national search that resulted in the hiring of Dr. John P. Walsh II and highly recommended his tenure and appointment by the Council.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo 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 Director of the Coastal Resources Center at the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island for John P. Walsh, II

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

**7e1) Approval of new classification request from Rhode Island College, On-site Project Director, Healthy Jobs RI**

President Sánchez gave the background and the collaboration with Care New England to have this new position at RIC.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the new classification request from Rhode Island College, On-site Project Director, Healthy Jobs RI

**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

**7e2) Approval of new classification request from Rhode Island College, Director, Information Security**

President Sánchez explained how this new position at RIC would allow the college to have a dedicated person to provide policies and compliance for IT and cybersecurity.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Barbara Cottam, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of the new classification request from Rhode Island College, Director, Information Security

**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

**7e3) Approval of new classification request from the University of Rhode Island, Director, Purchasing and Support Services**

Anne Marie Coleman gave the background and explained that the two new jobs were being created from a consolidation.

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Barbara Cottam and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the recommendation of the new classification request from the University of Rhode Island, Director Purchasing and Support Services

**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

**7f) Approval of Council Schedule and Committees Schedule for 2018**

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 approve the Council Schedule and Committees Schedule for 2018

**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

**7g) Approval of the awarding of honorary degrees by the University of Rhode Island**

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 approve the awarding of honorary degrees by the University of Rhode Island

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. Executive Session

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

- a. Discussion regarding a personnel matter at URI, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) *The individual involved with item 8(a) has been notified, in writing, of their right to have this discussion held in Open Session. No objection to proceeding in Executive Session has been received.*
- b. Discussion regarding collective bargaining system-wide-overview, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)
- c. Discussion regarding collective bargaining - URI Part-Time Faculty Union, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)
- d. Discussion regarding collective bargaining - RIC/AFT, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)
- e. Discussion regarding collective bargaining - Council 94, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) and
- f. Discussion regarding a matter related to the question of the investment of public funds, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(7)

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) and §42-46-5(a)(7)

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

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into Executive Session

**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 8:38 PM

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

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

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 6, 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

## **9. Additional Action Item**

### **9a) Approval of and authorization of the Commissioner regarding the transfer of the Federal Family Education Loan Portfolio**

Chair Foulkes called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Rachele Green and seconded by Heather Crosby, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the authorization of the Commissioner regarding the transfer of the Federal Family Education Loan Portfolio

**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, Rachele Green, and Thomas Izzo

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS** 0

## 10. Upcoming Meetings

- a. The next meeting of the **Personnel Committee** for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 19, 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 Committee** for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 100, Warwick, RI 02886
- c. The next meeting of the **Finance/Facilities Committee** for the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 100, Warwick, RI 02886
- d. The next **Council on Postsecondary Education** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Community College of Rhode Island, Room 4090, 400 East Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island, 02886

## 11. Adjournment

Chair Foulkes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Council on December 6, 2017.

On a motion duly made by Vivian Caruolo and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourns the meeting of December 6, 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

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS** 0

**The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.**