Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 5:30 p.m.  
Rhode Island College - Gaige Hall, Room 200  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at Rhode Island College - Gaige Hall, Room 200, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908. At 5:33 p.m., Chair Timothy DelGiudice welcomed everyone and acknowledged that there was a quorum.

Present:  Timothy DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green (arrived at 5:47), Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, and Jeffrey Williams

Absent:  Barbara Cottam, Joseph MarcAurele

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the agenda.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED:  THAT the Council on Postsecondary Education approves the agenda for the meeting of December 5, 2018, as presented

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

YEAS:  Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS:  0

ABSTAINS:  0

2. Approval of the Minutes

2a) Minutes of the November 7, 2018 Special Meeting
2b) Minutes of the November 8, 2018 Special Meeting
2c) Minutes of the November 13, 2018 Special Meeting

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the minutes of the special meetings.

Council Member Crosby noted that the November 13, 2018 special meeting took place on a Tuesday, not a Wednesday, and asked that the minutes be updated accordingly.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the special meetings of November 7, 8, and 13, 2018.

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Crosby noted that the November 13, 2018 special meeting took place on a Tuesday not a Wednesday, and asked that the minutes be updated accordingly

2d) Minutes of the November 14, 2018 Meeting

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2018.

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
3. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS

3a. Council on Postsecondary Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education

Chair DelGiudice shared his unequivocal confidence in and support for President Meghan Hughes and her leadership team at the Community College of Rhode Island. Chair DelGiudice explained CCRI’s recent improvements in credentials awarded, noting that it recently achieved the highest nursing exam pass rate in the state of RI, and that it secured the largest philanthropic (1.1-million-dollar) investment in CCRI’s history, to name a few accomplishments. Chair DelGiudice stated he was very disappointed in the CCRI faculty unions decision to hold a no-confidence vote while confidential contract negations are ongoing. Chair DelGiudice opened the floor to other Council members for comments.

Member Heather Crosby shared her review of significant milestones at CCRI under President Hughes’s leadership. Ms. Crosby expressed her concern that the faculty association’s strategic approach to a no-confidence vote was ill advised. Crosby expressed her complete confidence in and support for President Hughes and described her as a “rock star.”

Member Dennis Duffy concurred with the previous comments expressed by Council members. Mr. Duffy expressed his full confidence in President Hughes’s leadership.

Member Rachelle Green also concurred with all of the previous comments expressed by Council members. Ms. Green said she was very impressed with President Hughes’s performance evaluation, that January terms at other institutions had been successful, and expressed her full confidence in President Hughes’s leadership.

Member Marianne Monte also agreed with all of the previous comments expressed by Council members. Ms. Monte said she was impressed by her visit to the institution and stated that she would be proud to send her son to the school. Ms. Monte expressed her full support for and confidence in President Hughes’s leadership.

Member Thomas Izzo said he was impressed with the atmosphere on campus due in part to recent capital improvement projects. Mr. Izzo visited the Knight campus and observed a warm and caring environment on campus. While there, he spoke with students with compelling stories about their impressions of the campus and was very impressed with the fact that CCRI had drawn them in and supported them. Mr. Izzo explained that changes take time and was disappointed with the faculty taking a no-confidence vote. He expressed his full support for and confidence in President Hughes’s leadership.

Member Jeffrey Williams shared his emphatic agreement with Council members in support of President Hughes’ leadership. Dr. Williams jokingly asked President Hughes why she would still want this position, given the amount of contention taking place at the intuition. Dr. Williams joined his fellow Council Members with his full support and confidence in President Hughes’s leadership.
Chair DelGiudice spoke on behalf of Chair Cottam in her absence, reading a short statement that she had written. Chair Cottam expressed her strong support for President Hughes and her leadership team. Chair Cottam described President Hughes's recent accomplishments and praised CCRI’s improvements in student achievement. Chair Cottam stated that President Hughes is dedicated to students and has brought nationally proven best practices to CCRI and built a team that is committed to the mission of the college. The Chair stated that change is difficult but that she has deep confidence in the future of CCRI and the leadership of President Hughes and her team. She is looking forward to continuing to work together on behalf of the students of CCRI and the State of Rhode Island.

Chair DelGiudice shared that the Westerly Education Center was recently recognized by the Office of Naval Research and given a $750,000 grant for STEM-related educational services in workforce development on behalf of General Dynamics Electric Boat. Funds will be used to increase educational services in workforce opportunities and defense industries and other regional employers. He thanked URI business engagement center for making the initial introduction between the Office of Naval Research and the Westerly Education Center.

3b. Board of Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national PK-20 education

Chair Cottam was not present at the meeting

4. OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers in open forum.

5. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONER

5a. Update on policy and programmatic initiatives

Commissioner Dann-Messier expressed her full support for President Hughes and her leadership team. Commissioner Dann-Messier thanked President Hughes and her team for their countless hours supporting CCRI students. Commissioner Dann-Messier stated that President Hughes is the right person to be at the helm of leadership for CCRI. Commissioner Dann-Messier also shared that she had recently moderated a panel with President Hughes and Vice President Sara Enright, on how to implement a state promise program. During this panel it was obvious to those in attendance that the rollout of the RI Promise program was a success because of President Hughes’s leadership. Commissioner Dann-Messier stated it is a privilege to work with President Hughes.

Commissioner Dann-Messier highlighted that Governor Raimondo and Congressman Kennedy will be attending and speaking at the Summit on Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Postsecondary Students in RI. She gave recognition and thanks to all staff that assisted with setting it up. She also shared that on November 16, the Westerly Education Center celebrated the official opening of the new chemistry and biology labs. Local media covered the event and conducted interviews with students enrolled in workforce development programs. The labs are important to the hands-on instruction in technology and the Center’s ability to host science courses with lab instruction. Commissioner Dann-Messier recognized Amy Grzybowski and her team for their leadership. Finally, the Commissioner discussed the launch of the state’s attainment dashboard during the week of December 10 to track FAFSA completion for high school students in coordination with the Governor’s office and RISLA.
6. REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Rhode Island College - President Sanchez expressed full support for President Hughes’s transformative leadership and how it has had a tremendous impact on the lives of Rhode Islanders. President Sanchez stated that he appreciated her partnership and collaborative spirit. RIC is focusing energy and resources on the persistence, success, and eventual graduation of students. A variety of efforts have been implemented including a new advising platform, Starfish, to assist with precision advising. President Sanchez highlighted one effort tied to persistence retention: the new hire of a Director of First-Year Experience to bring this work into focus. RIC is implementing a more robust orientation for first-year students. They have established the following goals: availability of resources and support, measurable advances in writing, reading, verbal communication, research, and study skills, and the establishment of paths of all first-year students. In fall 2019, RIC plans to establish learning communities. Finally, he recognized Michelle Johnson, a RIC graduate and 3rd grade teacher in Providence who recently won the Milken award.

Community College of Rhode Island – President Hughes thanked everyone for their support. President Hughes expressed gratitude for her team, specifically thanking Vice President Costigan for her continued support and work. CCRI is focusing on credit accumulation by intentionally encouraging students to take more classes per semester. They are increasing advising support and engaging students with tutors and job opportunities. CCRI is working hard to provide more options for students to take more classes year-round. CCRI is making meaningful progress in serving students of color and low-income students. CCRI is committed to keeping equity at the center of its work. This fall CCRI students will have the opportunity to choose among seven academic and guided pathways, allowing them to explore career paths. This learning model creates a learning community guided by advisors, faculty, and fellow students along each path. It delivers on two key strategies: It shows students the momentum they are building by giving them a clear path to graduation. And it creates a community that builds a sense of belonging and technology to improve student success.

University of Rhode Island - President Dooley expressed his view of President Hughes as laser-focused on the work she and her team are doing at CCRI. President Dooley expressed that it is a privilege to work with President Hughes, and he supports the work of her team. He looks forward to working closely with her throughout the remainder of his tenure at URI. URI has seen extraordinary improvement according to numerous metrics. Using multiple strategies simultaneously has been the key to achieving data-driven results that are measurable. President Dooley highlighted that the creation of a January term and enhanced summer session has assisted with the improvements toward completion. Other keys to success have been new online programs, new improvements to the experiential department, and enlarging the faculty. President Dooley noted that persistence is needed to achieve greater outcomes.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
7a. Discussion of postsecondary attainment dashboard and review of 2018 attainment data:

Commissioner Dann-Messier noted that staff led by the Director of Strategic Initiatives at OPC have been working to develop the attainment dashboard in partnership with Data Spark at URI. Commissioner Dann-Messier thanked all responsible for their assistance with developing the dashboard. She then handed over the floor to Director of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Robin McGill to present the dashboard.

Dr. McGill provided updates on the progress made toward developing the attainment dashboard. She used sample visuals to explain how to use the dashboard and the data displays. She described examples of how the dashboard would be used to track the state’s goal of 70% postsecondary attainment by 2025. She made note that the data is still under development.

Chair DelGiudice made a note that this presentation was only an example to display the tool design and functionality, and that Council members should not be focused on the numbers used in the example.

Council Member Duffy mentioned that this example does not address the gender gap. He suggested that the dashboard be updated to address gender gaps.

Council Member Crosby encouraged the Office to consider adding financial data, particularly data related to costs per degree and credit.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8a. Approval of the proposal from ANLI Academy to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice 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 proposal of the ANLI Academy to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
8b. Approval of the application from American Safety Programs and Training, Inc., to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice 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 application from American Safety Programs and Training, Inc., to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island as discussed.

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8c. Approval of faculty tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island

Chair DelGiudice yielded the floor to President Hughes for further details of the request for faculty tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island. President Hughes gave details about the faculty and yielded the floor back to Chair DelGiudice.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion:

On a motion duly made by Heather Crosby and seconded by Jeffrey Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the faculty tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island as discussed.

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0
ABSTAINS: 0

8d. Approval of new classification request from the University of Rhode Island, Director, Risk Manager

Chair DelGiudice yielded the floor to President Dooley for further details on the new classification request from the University of Rhode Island, Director, Risk Manager. President Dooley gave details on the request and yielded the floor back to Chair DelGiudice.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion on the approval:

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the new classification request from the University of Rhode Island, Director, Risk Manager as discussed.

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

8e. Approval of acceptance of the Public Finance Debt Management Act authorization for revenue bond financing for the University of Rhode Island Memorial Union – Auxiliary Enterprise, Combined Health & Counseling Center - Auxiliary Enterprise, and Fraternity Circle Master Plan Implementation

Chair DelGiudice yielded the floor to President Dooley to provide further details on the request.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion for the approval:

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves of the acceptance of Public Finance Debt Management Act authorization for revenue bond financing for the University of Rhode Island Memorial Union - Auxiliary Enterprise, Combined Health & Counseling Center - Auxiliary Enterprise, and Fraternity Circle Master Plan Implementation as discussed.
VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the following items:

a. Discussion - update on collective bargaining, all bargaining units, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2)

b. Update on collective bargaining pursuant to RIGL §41-46-5(a)(2) – Ratification of collective bargaining with the following:

   Rhode Island College American Federation of Teachers, Local 1819

   c. Update on pending litigation, Smith v. URI et al., Supreme Court (C.A No. 2015-4812),
      McCann v. URI et al., R>I Superior Court (C.A. No. 2018-0261), and possible litigation, pursuant

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Jeffrey Williams, it was

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

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
The Council entered into Executive Session at 6:48 p.m.

The Council reconvened in open session at 7:11 p.m.

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

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was:

**VOTED:**

**THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 5, 2018.

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

**YEAS:** Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

10. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

10a. Ratification of collective bargaining agreement with Rhode Island College American Federation of Teachers, Local 1819

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was

**VOTED:**

**THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves of the ratification of collective bargaining agreement with Rhode Island College American Federation of Teachers, Local 1819, as discussed.

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

**YEAS:** Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

**NAYS:** 0
ABSTAINS: 0

10b. Approval of salary increases for non-union non-classified employees at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, effective January 1, 2019.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Jeffrey Williams, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the 2.5% salary increase for non-union, non-classified employees at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, effective January 1, 2019 as discussed.

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

YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

11. UPCOMING MEETING

11a. The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for January 23, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus, Room 4090.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education on December 5, 2018.

On a motion duly made by Marianne Monte and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourns the meeting of December 5, 2018.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
YEAS: Chair DelGiudice, Heather Crosby, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green, and Jeffrey Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.