



**Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 5:30 p.m.  
Rhode Island College – Gaige Hall, Room 200  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908**

Enclosure 2a  
April 24, 2019

Chair Timothy DelGiudice welcomed everyone and acknowledged that a quorum was present. He thanked RIC and President Sanchez for their hospitality.

**Present:** Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Jay Rumas, and Jeffery Williams.

**Absent:** Marianne Monte, Rachelle Green.

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the agenda.

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

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the agenda for the meeting of March 20, 2019, as presented.

**VOTE:** 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffrey Williams.

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**2. Approval of the minutes**

**2a) Minutes of the January 23, 2019 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 on January 23, 2019.

**VOTE:** 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffrey Williams.

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

### **3. Reports of the Chairs**

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

Chair DelGiudice acknowledged that the state of Rhode Island has not been adversely effected by the ongoing admissions scandal that has been in the media. He encouraged each President to review policies and ensure that they are up to date based on the current events taking place in the media. He asked that past and current policy review be the topic of the Presidents reports for the upcoming Council meeting in April. Chair DelGiudice highlighted that eight union contracts have been completed across the three institutions with negotiating teams, with two to be discussed during this meeting in executive session. He emphasized that the current meeting will focus on mental health initiatives, following up on the mental health summit which took place in January.

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

Chair Cottam explained that the Governor announced her recommendation for a new Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner, Angelica Infante-Green. She explained that a joint meeting on Tuesday 3/26/19 will take place, with the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Education to appoint this candidate. This meeting will be held on the URI Campus in Providence.

### **4) Open Forum**

1. Melanie Griffin:
  - a. Read a letter written by Mayor James Diossa of Central Falls, RI, in support of the RI School for Progressive Education.
2. Christine Alves:
  - a. Director for the RI School for Progressive Education start-up team read a descriptive letter of support, addressing the needs the state of Rhode Island has for this new program.

### **5) Report from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Dann-Messier expressed her support of incumbent Angelica Infante Green as the next Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner. She explained that OPC and Department of

Corrections (DOC) co-hosted an innovation lab on correctional education in February highlighting correctional programs throughout the state of RI and the country. It also highlighted policy considerations to increase access to education for those incarcerated or formerly incarcerated. The expansion of correctional education programming aligned with postsecondary pathways and workforce demands is a shared goal for the DOC and the OPC, and the agencies are committed to partnering with the three public institutions. On March 12, 2019, Commissioner Dann-Messier testified before the House Finance Committee for the proposal to expand the RI Promise program to serve adults at CCRI and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students attending RIC. The South Street landing facility, which houses RINEC and Office space for Brown University will be recognized as an outstanding smart growth project in 2019. Zachary Saul has been hired as CFO for OPC. Dr. Robin McGill, Director of Strategic Initiatives, will be leaving the office on March 29.

Commissioner Dann-Messier continued her report with notices of new programs and/or changes that were submitted and reviewed for notification to the Council:

**bI. Notification of RIC’s proposal for the creation of the Youth Development Master’s program.**

RIC Provost Pearlmutter explained that the program is housed in the School of Education, which currently offers a bachelor’s degree program. This Master’s program will allow its graduates to work in informal education programs, such as after school programs, and work with youth and families and represent themselves as strong professionals.

**bII. Notification of URI’s academic program closures, including Chemistry and Chemistry oceanography (BS), comparative literature (BA), Latin American studies (BA), and physics (BA).**

URI Provost DeHayes explained that enrollment in the proposed program closures have been low for the last several years. After unsuccessful revitalization efforts to promote these majors, the decision was made to stop accepting students. He explained that URI is implementing a strategic effort to allow the University to focus its resources and increase efficiency in its academic program offerings. He explained in greater detail that particular majors within larger departments are being closed; for example, the chemistry and physics departments continue to be popular with students and are not being closed.

**bIII. Notification of URI’s creation of a Health Studies Department.**

Provost DeHayes explained that URI began a health studies major that has been successful and operated out of the kinesiology department. These two majors are large and faculty members have been added over the last several years. He explained that the health studies major has established itself as one that is vibrant and viable, and that it will be maintained within the College of Health Sciences.

**bIV. Notice of URI’s proposal to create a new B.S. degree and major in bio technology.**

Provost DeHayes explained that the creation of a new bio technology degree is another example of academic efficiency. He explained that it will be housed in the College of Environment and Life Sciences. This major will be offered out of the Providence campus, where students are able to be in the hub of the biotechnology industry in the state and participate in a wide range of internship opportunities. It will also provide clarity for students who are currently involved with similar majors within the College. He explained that there is also a strong transfer relationship between CCRI and this program.

**6) President Reports**

**6a) Rhode Island College - Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education - Presentation on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Services Compliance Plan.**

President Sanchez highlighted the developing partnership with Lin Manuel Miranda and the Miranda family which has been in progress for three years. It has led to a five-year commitment and \$500,000 in student scholarships for students in music, theatre, and dance.

The College received an anonymous gift of \$264,000 for first-generation college students and a Champlain foundation grant of \$251,000 to improve biology labs. Additionally, a retired faculty member will be giving scholarships to biology students, increasing his endowment by \$230,000.

This year's gala will be celebrating the arts, and will be held on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Twin Rivers.

Mental health service continues to be an important priority for the college. The Counseling Services Center has begun to do a suicide assessment with each student at each session. This allows the counselors to connect more with the students. The Counseling Services Center has also made critical hires to benefit and match the diverse student population. There is a new online prevention program, My Student Body, which helps to reduce the risk of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as sexual violence, through education awareness. This academic year, the school has increased staff training by 50% as a part of a practicum training initiative. Finally, the College launched its campus climate survey to gather information from students, faculty, and staff to provide insight into how the College can continue to work to create a stronger community and identify needed changes.

**6b) Community College of Rhode-Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education - Presentation on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Services Compliance Plan.**

President Hughes presented on the progress that CCRI has made on its Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Service Compliance Plan. Good mental health is foundational to student success. The community-based approach includes three elements: continuously improving protocols, training faculty and staff to recognize students in crisis, and supporting students to develop life skills, build social connections, and destigmatize to asking for health services.

All police officers and selected student affairs staff will be trained and certified in two mental health programs, QPR (question, persuade, refer) and Mental Health First Aid, a more comprehensive program covering the most prevalent mental illnesses. There are currently 119 people certified in QPR and 38 in MHFA. The next step will be to train the faculty members; many have expressed strong interest.

President Hughes stated for education and programming initiatives, CCRI will focus efforts on reaching more students across all platforms. Student Affairs introduced a wellness initiative, focused on stress reduction and improving access to mental health resources on campus. There is a staffed information desk and peer-led support groups. The Student Health 101 online health and wellness platform has been expanded to increase student engagement. This summer, the College will roll out a new student orientation with comprehensive information on accessing mental health services on and off campus. The annual survey for new students has also been rewritten to better understand perceived mental health needs.

The institution is currently testing a new model of the advocate platform, which allows faculty and staff to share concerns about the wellbeing of a student. It is a non-emergency system that allows professionals to share concerns early and confidentially. The system will be launched April 1, 2019. CCRI is also working to partner with statewide organizations to better serve its students. As a result, CCRI is establishing a

memorandum of understanding with several mental health providers. The goal is to quickly connect students in crisis.

President Hughes reported that the first winter session was a success. More than two hundred students participated in nineteen courses and more than 90% passed with a grade of a C or above. In February, CCRI announced a new partnership with Info Sys to create the Digital Economy Aspirations Lab to prepare students for the growing number of jobs in the digital economy. The 54<sup>th</sup> Commencement will take place on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:15pm at the Dunkin Donuts Center. This will be the largest commencement in the history of the College.

**6c) University of Rhode Island - Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education - Presentation on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Services Compliance Plan.**

President Dooley provided those in attendance with **copies** of the training guides for faculty and staff to assist students with mental health and suicide. It introduced the types of services available to students and an overview of what to do in specific situations along with contact information. This is part of a comprehensive approach to mental health and suicide prevention. **Multiple suites are working together to provide care for students and establish best practices.** The goal of these collaborative efforts is to ensure that students are connected to the services they need when they need them. URI has trained over 800 members of the community with mental health first aid, including faculty, staff, and students. URI also initiated the “Change Direction” campaign with the Hospital Association of RI to change the culture of mental health and ensure that students get help without fear or stigma. **There is also a new grant with Washington County aimed at 0 suicides.** URI is a member of the JED campus initiative, and currently participates with a campus-wide team to conduct a healthy mind survey.

**7) Discussion Items**

**7a) Revision to Residency Policy**

Commissioner Dann-Messier presented on this topic. The particular section of the Residency Policy under discussion involves service members, veterans, and their families. The proposed changes come in response to updates to federal law. The current version of policy gives in-state residency and tuition, to any service member and veteran using GI benefits, regardless of their actual state of residency. The new federal regulation requires that in-state tuition be given also to individuals with disabilities connected to their service. The change in Council policy will ensure consistency across public institutions. In most cases, institutions are already implementing this and, as a result, financial impacts will be minimal.

**8) Action Items**

**8a) Motion for approval of the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education’s Application for Initial Approval to operate as a degree-granting institution in the State of Rhode Island**

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion.

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

**VOTED:      THAT**                      The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education’s Application for Initial Approval to operate as a degree-granting institution in the State of Rhode Island

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8b) Approval of the Amendment (Exhibit E) to the Rhode Island Council of the Postsecondary Education Restated Defined Contribution Retirement Plan regarding hardship distributions.**

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 Amendment (Exhibit E) to the Rhode Island Council of the Postsecondary Education Restated Defined Contribution Retirement Plan regarding hardship distributions.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8c) Approval of the revised lease agreement terms for a T-Mobile cell tower on Penfield Hall at RIC.**

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 the revised lease agreement terms for a T-Mobile Cell Tower on Penfield Hall at RIC.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8d) Approval of the Reclassification of Coordinator of Special Projects to Talent Acquisition Specialist at CCRI.**

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 the Reclassification of Coordinator of Special Projects to Talent Acquisition Specialist at CCRI.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8e) Approval of the modification to the position description for the Director of Public Safety and the Chief of Police at URI.**

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 the modification to the position description for the Director of Public Safety and the Chief of Police at URI.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8f) Approval of the awarding of an honorary degree at URI.**

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 awarding of an honorary degree at URI.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**8g) Approval of the awarding of an honorary degree at RIC.**

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion.

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

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the awarding of an honorary degree at RIC.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**9) Executive Session**

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to enter into executive session for the following items:

**9a) Discussion regarding collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L §42-46-5(a)(2) - ratification of collective bargaining agreements with the following:**

- I. Marine Professional Association**
- II. CCRI Professional Staff/NEARI**

**9b) Discussion related to the proposed release of real property in Woonsocket, RI for public purpose, the Higher Education Center of Northern RI pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(5).**

**9c) Discussion regarding pending litigation - *R.I. Council on Postsecondary Education et al. v. Hellenic Society Paideia RI Chapter*, RI Supreme Court (SU-2017-0200-A), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).**

**9d) Discussion regarding personnel matters at the University of Rhode Island, pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1).**

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

|               |                 |  |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>VOTED:</b> | <b>THAT</b>     | The Council on Postsecondary Education enters into executive session.                |
|               | <b>VOTE:</b>    | 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:   |
|               | <b>YEAS:</b>    | Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams. |
|               | <b>NAYS:</b>    | 0  |
|               | <b>ABSTAINS</b> | 0  |

The Council entered in executive session at 7:05 PM. All non-committee members in attendance were excused.

The Council Reconvened in open session at 8:05 PM

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

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

**VOTED:        THAT**        The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on March 20, 2019.

VOTE:        5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS:        Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS    0

**10) Additional Action Items**

**10a) Approval (conceptual) and authorization regarding a proposed lease for real property in Woonsocket, RI for the Higher Education Center of Northern 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 (conceptual) and authorization regarding a proposed lease for real property in Woonsocket, RI for the Higher Education Center of Northern Rhode Island.

VOTE:        5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS:        Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:        0

ABSTAINS:    0

**10b) (I.) Ratification of collective bargaining agreements with the Marine Professionals Association.**

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 ratification of collective bargaining agreements with the Marine Professionals Association

**VOTE:** 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**10b) (II.) Ratification of collective bargaining agreements with the CCRI Professional Staff/NEA RI.**

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 ratification of collective bargaining agreements with the CCRI Professional Staff/NEARI.

**VOTE:** 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**11) Upcoming Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for April 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the RI Nursing Education Center. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Room 306.

**12) Adjournment**

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Council on March 20, 2019.

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

**VOTED: THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourns the meeting of January 23, 2019.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy,  
Thomas Izzo, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.**