Chair Timothy DelGiudice called the Special Meeting to order at 5:35 pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present for this meeting.

**Present:** Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams.

**Absent:** Marianne Monte.

1. **Acceptance of the Agenda**

2. **Open Forum**

No one signed up for the open forum.

3. **Discussion Items**

   3a) **Discussion of Rhode Island College’s proposed FY21 Budget.**

President Sanchez began his presentation with an overview of Rhode Island College’s recent hires and a preview of a video commercial, which will be used as a marketing tool. He introduced new hires at the College – Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Nedder, Interim Vice President for Student Success Eric Rivera Dean of Enrollment Management James Tweed, and Chief of Campus Police James Mendonca.

President Sanchez stated that the recent gains in academic innovations have been due to faculty leadership. RIC’s leadership put together the new faculty contract along with a modernized and updated curriculum. The social work program has been redesigned, and, as a result, students are passing with higher rankings and overall pass ratings. Within the Arts and Sciences Department, RIC has been identified as a leader among medical imaging degrees and certificates in all of New England. RIC currently has a 100% pass rate on the medical imaging national exam. RIC is the first college in the country to have a formal partnership with the creator of the Broadway hit “Hamilton,” who will be investing $500,000 over the next five years into the music, theater, and dance programs.

President Sanchez stated the School of Education will be launching the new teacher preparation training program. RIC is moving forward on the recently approved $25 million bond to modernize the teacher education building.
In the School of Nursing, the pass rate on the national exam is 99%, and the school has received full and maximum accreditations. The School of Business is undergoing an accreditation review. It recently created two new graduate certificates in Project Management and Supply Chain Management. Additionally, since the recent revamp of the undergraduate programs, enrollment has increased 97%.

Regarding partnerships and workforce developments, the city of Central Falls has jointly applied with RIC for a $1 million dollar grant to create an adult learning workforce development hub. The partnership plans to bring together RIC, business leaders in technology, the Mayor’s Office, the Department of Labor and Training, and the Central Falls Schools superintendent. RIC is also working closely with the RI Department of Education to determine how RIC can assist with the recent State takeover of Providence Public Schools.

President Sanchez outlined upcoming plans to meet with top executives at Lifespan to begin conversations for the future of health care and health sciences training in the region. More specifically, they will begin conversations on how RIC can redesign some of their curriculum around the needs of the health care industry. Additionally, he outlined upcoming plans to meet with the CEO of the Boston Globe to discuss media branding opportunities for RIC outside of the region.

With regard to donor and alumni engagement, President Sanchez shared that the data management system recently put in place has had a significant impact on fundraising for the College. Over the last year, there have been 500 additional gifts to the College. There has been a 235% increase with re-engaged alumni donors, and new donors are up 262% percent. Additionally, the annual fund is up 174% in the last year.

President Sanchez stated that RIC’s budget has been revised in light of Adult Promise legislation that was not enacted and lower enrollment numbers. RIC is experiencing a $5.7 million deficit this year and has 263 fewer students than estimated. He stated that not expanding the RI Promise program has seemed to have had a negative impact on enrollment. CCRI transfers are flat and more private schools are becoming much more aggressive in recruiting students throughout RI. Numerous factors have created a very competitive environment.

RIC plans to address this year’s deficit by maintaining the previous year’s budget cuts and implementing an additional 2.5% cut across divisions of the institution. Twenty-eight positions will be impacted this year, and out of those, sixteen positions will be eliminated and twelve will be repurposed based on priorities. The plan is to leverage the most critical positions to address the structural deficit.

RIC’s proposed tuition rate increase will be $681. This increase of 7.5% in tuition will generate $5 million. President Sanchez explained that, in the past, tuition has been artificially kept extremely low, compared to RIC’s peer institutions. In addition to a tuition increase, RIC is requesting a state appropriation of $5 million.

President Sanchez outlined the details of the College’s total request of $10 million. He explained the need for financial aid, branding, repurposing twelve critical positions, IT infrastructure, community equity and diversity work, and academic equipment replacements.
RIC will be launching new branding concepts for the College. Advertising will be a top priority in the near future. An advertisement strategy will also be implemented in the current recruitment cycle. The highlighted information on higher pass ratings and the revamping of programs will be used in branding and advertising at the College.

President Sanchez answered questions from Council members regarding the Henry Bernard School, advertising/branding, and faculty diversity. He reiterated the significant financial challenges currently at RIC, but stated he has full confidence in his leadership team.

4. Upcoming Meeting

   a. The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for September 25, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., at Rhode Island College-Gaige Hall 200.

5. Adjournment

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn with a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

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

VOTED: THAT The Committee adjourns the meeting of September 11, 2019.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Barbara Mullen and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.