



**Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
560 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02886**

**PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR RAIMONDO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER
20-05, THIS MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY.**

MINUTES

Chair Timothy DelGiudice called this meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present. He thanked everyone for their patience and flexibility during such an unexpected time.

Chair DelGiudice announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Council on Postsecondary Education is hosting its first virtual meeting this evening using Facebook Live for the public to access the meeting. The Council will pause the live cast to enter Executive Session and resume it once back in Open session.

Chair DelGiudice recognized all attendees present for this remote meeting:

Council on Postsecondary Education members:

Timothy DelGiudice, Chair (RIOPC, 560 Jefferson Blvd.)
Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education (remote)
Dennis Duffy (remote)
Rachelle Green (remote)
Thomas Izzo (remote)
Michael Mello (remote)
Marianne Monte (remote)
Jeffery Williams (remote)

Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (RIOPC) staff:

Ronald Cavallaro, Acting Commissioner, General Counsel (RIOPC, 560 Jefferson Blvd.)
Anne Marie Coleman, Esq., Director of Labor Relations (RIOPC, 560 Jefferson Blvd.)
Susan Mansolillo, Chief Financial Officer (RIOPC, 560 Jefferson Blvd.)
Dr. Tammy Warner, Assistant Commissioner, Academic and Student Affairs (remote)
Dr. Phyllis Harnick, Interim Assistant Commissioner (remote)
Lynn Owens, Assistant to the Commissioner (remote)

RIOPC outside legal counsel and consultants:

Lynne Barry Dolan, Esq. (remote)

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David Iden, TIAA (remote)
Michael Richal, TIAA (remote)

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Dr. Meghan Hughes, President (remote)
Kristen Albritton, Vice President, Finance and Strategy (remote)
Dr. Rosemary Costigan, Vice President, Academic Affairs (remote)
Sarah Enright, Vice President, Student Affairs/Chief Outcomes Officer (remote)
Bobby Gondola, Associate Vice President, Institutional Advancement (remote)
Amy Kempe, Director, Marketing and Communications (remote)
Greg LaPointe, Associate Vice President, Impact and Institutional Effect (remote)
Alix Ogden, Associate Vice President, Administration (remote)
Dr. Ali Rafieymehr, Interim Dean – Business, Science, Technology and Math (remote)

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Dr. Frank Sánchez, President (remote)
Robert Eaton, Director of Budget (remote)
Stephen Nedder, Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)
Dr. Sue Pearlmuter, Interim Provost/Vice President, Academic Affairs (remote)

University of Rhode Island (URI) participant:

Abigail Rider, Vice President, Administration and Finance (remote)

(The transmission on Facebook Live stopped. At that point, Chair DelGiudice stopped the meeting. Once the Facebook Live transmission was re-established, the Chair resumed the meeting.)

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Ms. Cottam, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the
agenda for the meeting of March 24, 2020.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. Minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting and retreat.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting and retreat held January 8, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Mr. Izzo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the meeting and retreat held on January 8, 2020.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Minutes of the February 5, 2020 special meeting.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held February 5, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Mr. Izzo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes of the meeting held February 5, 2020.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. Reports from the Chairs

- A. Council on Postsecondary Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education- COVID-19 preparation and impact at the Office and the Institutions

Chair DelGiudice thanked Amy Grzybowski, executive director of the Westerly Education Center, for representing the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner during this public health emergency. She, along with representatives from the institutions of public higher education, has been in frequent communication with the Rhode Island Department of Health. CCRI, RIC and URI have announced that the remainder of classes will be delivered off-campus. Traditional commencements will not take place in May, and the schools are working on a plan to recognize their graduates.

- B. Board of Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national PK-20 education- COVID-19 preparation and impact K-12.

No report.

4. Report from the Commissioner

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro read into the record the following notices of programmatic changes that were submitted by the institutions and reviewed by RIOPC. He confirmed that the changes are within the role and scope of the programs and that Council approval is not required.

- A. Notices of new programs and/or changes that were submitted and reviewed for notification to the Council:
- I. At the Community College of Rhode Island, the following programs have been changed:
- a. Notice of Change: Network Support Technician Certificate,
 - b. Notice of Change: Computer Support Technician Certificate,
 - c. Notice of Change: Computer Support Specialist Concentration Associate of Science degree,
 - d. Notice of Change: Entrepreneurship Certificate Revision and the
 - e. Notice of Change: Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Certificate

- II. Rhode Island College submitted the following notices of change:
 - a. Established a Queer Studies Minor
 - b. Established a Statistical Modeling Minor. This is the official title for this Minor. It has also been entitled Data Science, but Statistical Modeling is what should be used.
 - c. Established an Adult Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist Certificate of Graduate Study (C.G.S.)
 - d. Established an Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate of Graduate Study (C.G.S.) and to
 - e. Reorganized the existing Computer Sciences program and Computer Information Systems program into a new Computer Science and Information Systems Department.

5. Action Items

A. Approval of recommendation from the System Personnel Review Committee (SPRC).

- I. Establishment of new classification, Assistant Chief Information Officer, at Rhode Island College.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the new classification for the position of Assistant Chief Information Officer at Rhode Island College.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Mr. Izzo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation of the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the new classification for the position of Assistant Chief Information Officer at Rhode Island College.

VOTE: 8 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

B. Approval of Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the CCRI FY20 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Mr. Izzo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the CCRI FY20 Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

VOTE: 8 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Authorization to submit an application to the Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation (RIHEBC) for bond issuances to refund previous bond series issuances for savings and to reflect the change in the governance for the state's public colleges and university.

The Council took no action on this item, it will be addressed at a future Council meeting.

D. Approval of Proposed Amendments to FY2021 Residence Room Rates and Dining Plans at Rhode Island College.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council approve the proposed amendments to FY2021 Residence Room Rates and Dining Plans at Rhode Island College.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Mr. Izzo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the proposed amendments to FY2021 Residence Room Rates and Dining Plans at Rhode Island College.

VOTE: 8 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6. Executive Session

Chair DelGiudice stated the Council will now seek to move into Executive Session. Viewers were advised that the Council will end the livestream to enter Executive Session and will resume on Facebook Live once the Council returns to Open Session. Chair DelGiudice stated the time is now 5:24 p.m. and that he expects the Executive Session to last roughly 30 minutes. Once back in Open Session, the live cast will resume.

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

- A. Discussion regarding potential litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a) (2).
- B. Discussion regarding the investment of public funds pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a) (7).
- C. Discussion regarding collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L §42-46-5 (a) (2) - with the following: RIC/AFT Adjunct Faculty Union, Local 1563, AFT.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mello, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into Executive Session for the following items:

- A. Discussion regarding potential litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a) (2).
- B. Discussion regarding the investment of public funds pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a) (7).
- C. Discussion regarding collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L §42-46-5 (a) (2) - with the following:
RIC/AFT Adjunct Faculty Union, Local 1563, AFT.

VOTE: 8 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative
and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy,

Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 5:27 p.m.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. The Facebook livestream resumed. Chair DelGiudice advised the viewers that Ms. Cottam had left the meeting.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 24, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Monte and seconded by Mr. Izzo, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 24, 2020.

VOTE: 7 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
No vote from Ms. Cottam, as she had left the meeting.

7. Additional Action Items

- A. Approval of allocation options for TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account for 2016-2018, and 2019 and going forward.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion:

THAT the Council approve and select Option 2 as an allocation method for \$1 Million in the TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account, for participants who have an active account as of the date of allocation; and

THAT the Council approve and select Option 4 as an allocation method for the balance of funds in the TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account, for participants who have an active account as of the date of allocation; and

THAT the Council approve and select Option 4 as an allocation method for credits posted after 2019 regarding the TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account, for participants who have an active account as of the date of allocation each year, or until said Option and/or date is/are subsequently changed by the Council.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Ms. Monte, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council approves and selects Option 2 as an allocation method for \$1 Million in the TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account, for participants who have an active account as of the date of allocation; and

THAT The Council approves and selects Option 4 as an allocation method for the balance of funds in the TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account, for participants who have an active account as of the date of allocation; and

THAT The Council approves and selects Option 4 as an allocation method for credits posted after 2019 regarding the TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account, for participants who have an active account as of the date of allocation each year, or until said Option and/or date is/are subsequently changed by the Council.

VOTE: 7 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
No vote from Ms. Cottam, as she had left the meeting.

B. Approval of the Restatement of the Council's Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (the 403(b) Plan).

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion:

THAT the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Restatement of its Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (the 403(b) Plan) into TIAA's pre-approved plan document, effective January 1, 2010; and

THAT the Council authorize its Chair and/or Chief Financial Officer to execute the pre-approved plan document in a form substantially similar to that presented, and to take any other action necessary to effectuate this restatement.

(During the call for this motion, the transmission on Facebook Live stopped. At that point, Chair DelGiudice stopped the meeting and no action was taken on the motion. Once the Facebook Live transmission was re-established, the Chair again called for the motion set out above.)

On a motion duly made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mello, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Restatement of its Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (the 403(b) Plan) into TIAA's pre-approved plan document, effective January 1, 2010; and

THAT The Council authorize its Chair and/or Chief Financial Officer to execute the pre-approved plan document in a form substantially similar to that presented, and to take any other action necessary to effectuate this restatement.

VOTE: 7 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
No vote from Ms. Cottam, as she had left the meeting.

- C. Approval of the tentative agreement dated February 13, 2020 between RIC/AFT Adjunct Faculty Union, Local 1563 AFT and Rhode Island College and the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the ratification of the tentative agreement dated February 13, 2020 between RIC/AFT Adjunct Faculty Union, Local 1563 AFT and Rhode Island College and the Council on Postsecondary Education.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Izzo and seconded by Mr. Mello, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the ratification of the tentative agreement dated February 13, 2020 between RIC/AFT Adjunct Faculty Union, Local

1563 AFT and Rhode Island College and the Council on Postsecondary Education.

VOTE: 7 members voted (by a roll call vote) in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
No vote from Ms. Cottam, as she had left the meeting.

8. Upcoming Meeting

- A. The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is scheduled for April 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Rhode Island College Gaige Hall, Room 200, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI.

Chair DelGiudice noted that, as these are unusual times, the meeting date and location may change.

B. Adjourn

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Mello and seconded by Ms. Monte, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of March 24, 2020.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green, Michael Mello, Marianne Monte and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0
No vote from Ms. Cottam, as she had left the meeting.

This meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.