



**Special Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education
Thursday, September 9, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
Rhode Island College
Roberts Hall Auditorium
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue Providence, RI 02908**

Meeting Minutes

Chair Timothy DelGiudice called this special meeting to order at 5:25 PM and indicated that a quorum was present.

Council on Postsecondary Education members present:

Timothy DelGiudice, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education
Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education
Dennis Duffy
Rachelle Green
Thomas Izzo
Michael Mello

Council members absent:

Marianne Monte
Mackenzie Raimond
Jeffery Williams

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

Shannon W. Gilkey, Ed.D., Commissioner
Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations
Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., General Counsel
Tammy Warner, Ph.D., Assistant Commissioner, Academic and Student Affairs
Susan Mansolillo, Chief Financial Officer
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications
Catherine McConnell, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Kimberly Bright, Interim Executive Director, RINEC
Jill Olson-Crowley, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participant: Alix Ogden, Associate Vice President, Administration

Rhode Island College (RIC) participant: Frank Sánchez, Ph.D., President

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the special meeting of September 9, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was:

VOTED THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of September 9, 2021.

VOTE: 6 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.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. Open Forum

Chair DelGiudice noted that individuals interested in providing public comment were encouraged to submit written comments to the Council, and indicated that written comments that were submitted have been shared with Council members.

Chair DelGiudice stated that one person had signed up to speak during the Open Forum. He noted that the Open Forum will last no longer than thirty minutes and that each speaker is afforded three minutes to speak.

Zachary Zimmerman stated that he is employed at the Community College of Rhode Island and wondered with the potential implementation of a COVID – 19 Vaccination Policy, would this set precedent for future mandated vaccination requirements for MMR, or Chicken Pox that aren't currently requirements for employment. General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro, at the request of the Chair, explained that the Open Forum is only for members of the public to speak and that the Council does not answer questions during them. Chair DelGiudice thanked Mr. Zimmerman for his participation during the Open Forum.

3. Discussion Item

Chair DelGiudice stated that pursuant to the Council’s procedure for approving policies, the proposed policy that is on the agenda will be discussed at this meeting and then be an action item on, and a vote to approve it will be on the agenda of the next Council meeting on September 15, 2021. Chair DelGiudice then asked General Counsel Cavallaro to introduce the policy. Attorney Cavallaro explained the proposed vaccination policy for faculty and non-classified employees (including internal payroll employees) at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner. The policy, he indicated, requires that all Council faculty and Non-Classified Employees be fully vaccinated by November 1, 2021, subject to religious or medical exemptions.

General Counsel Cavallaro also explained that since the deadline in the RI Department of Health regulation for the vaccination of licensed health care workers in health centers may be extended past October 1, 2021, the reference in the proposed policy to that regulation should now be deleted.

Chair DelGiudice shared that faculty and staff should be following the protocols in place at the institutions.

General Counsel Cavallaro, President Sanchez, and Associate Vice President Ogden answered questions from Council members regarding the policy and the processes at the institutions.

Senator Izzo requested that some of the language in the policy be more clearly stated and General Counsel Cavallaro indicated that he would add language to the policy to address Senator Izzo’s concerns.

4. Upcoming Meetings

Chair DelGiudice stated that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 5:30 pm at Rhode Island College Roberts Hall Auditorium.

5. Adjourn

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED:	THAT	The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of September 9, 2021.
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VOTE:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative:
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YEAS:	Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam,
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Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas
Izzo, Michael Mello.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM

DRAFT