Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education  
Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 5:30 PM  

CCRI Knight Campus  
400 East Avenue  
Warwick, RI  02886  
Room #4090  

Meeting Minutes  

Chair Timothy DelGiudice called this meeting to order at 5:36 PM, and acknowledged 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  
Jeffery Williams  

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

Shannon 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  
Beth Bailey, Director of Communications  
Zachary Saul, CFO  
Jill Olson-Crowley, Assistant to the Commissioner  

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participant: Meghan Hughes, President  

Rhode Island College (RIC) participant: Frank Sanchez, President
1. **Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of March 29, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of March 29, 2022.

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, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. **Approval of the Minutes**

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 16, 2022, as presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meetings that took place on February 16, 2022, as presented.

VOTE: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative. 1 member abstained from voting.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, and Thomas Izzo

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: Jeffery Williams
3. **Open Forum**

There were no written submissions in advance of the meeting and no individuals signed up to speak.

4. **Report from the Chairs**

   **A. Council on Postsecondary Education**

Chair DelGiudice stated that this was his last Council meeting as Chair. He shared that serving as a member of the Council has been an honor. He indicated that he was most proud of the creation of the Rhode Island Promise program and the flawless implementation at CCRI by President Hughes and her team. He praised the continued and relentless focus on students and outcomes. Chair DelGiudice praised President Sanchez and Rhode Island College for opening the first specialized workforce training center in Central Falls, creating an important step in meeting people where they are. He also praised the Rhode Island College campus transformation that was on time and budget.

Chair DelGiudice also stated that he was proud of the appointment of Shannon Gilkey as Commissioner. He praised Commissioner Gilkey’s leadership, the trusted partnership he has developed with the governor, employers, general assembly members, and private institutions. He shared that all accomplishments have been shepherded by Ron Cavallaro and Anne Marie Coleman and thanked them and acknowledged their contributions as well as the members of the Council. Chair DelGiudice announced that council member Dennis Duffy will be stepping up to fill the Chair position. He thanked everyone for their support, leadership, and partnership.

   **B. Board of Education**

Chair Cottam shared that words that came to mind when reflecting on Chair DelGiudice were “dedicated, forward-thinking, concern, and vision”. She praised his understanding of students and families as well as seeing the connection between education and the workforce for setting up students for careers. She stated, “Leaders think and talk about solutions, others think and talk about problems”. Chair DelGiudice is the former and thanked him for his leadership & partnership.

5. **Report from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Gilkey stated that there were notice of change submissions from the Community College of Rhode Island including a Personal Trainer Certificate, a Therapeutic Massage Certificate, and an Environment, Sustainability, and Management associate degree. The RIOPC staff reviewed the notices. The program changes were within the role and scope of the institution and Council approval was not required.

Commissioner Gilkey shared that national trends in postsecondary education that were
included in President Biden’s FY 23 budget proposal included reimagining the high school to postsecondary education transition, making historic investments in college affordability, and investing in educator recruitment and retention.

Commissioner Gilkey provided updates including that OPC will join Governor McKee at the Rhode Island College Workforce HUB in Central Falls to speak with students about the proposed Higher Ed Academy. Commissioner Gilkey will also be testifying on the HE Academy to the Senate Finance Committee. He also shared that in partnership with the Executive Office of Health & Human Services, the Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner, and the Department of Labor and Training, will host healthcare providers across the state as well as institutions of higher education to kick off a collaborative effort to close short and long-term workforce gaps in Rhode Island.

Commissioner Gilkey acknowledged and thanked Chair DelGiudice for all the work he has done on behalf of higher education in the state of Rhode Island. Commissioner Gilkey read the numerous citations that were presented to Chair DelGiudice from the Speakers of the House and the President of the Senate, the Governor, and our federal Delegation.

Each Council member as well as the Presidents acknowledged the hard work and dedication that Chair DelGiudice has provided and thanked him for all he has done on behalf of higher education.

6. Reports from the Presidents

A. Community College of Rhode Island

President Hughes shared that CCRI has received a $1 million-dollar federal earmark to support the implementation of a college-wide customer relations management platform, CRM. She also shared updates to CCRI’s DEI work including building a best-in-class DEI office that serves employees and students; creating a three-year action plan that aligns with the mission and principles of the college’s strategic plan, and restructuring the college’s existing DEI Council to better support leaders and drive campus engagement.

President Hughes shared that the final spring enrollment landed at 10,690, which is 5% better than the target of 10,168, and 2% better than the stretch goal of 10,500. The summer enrollment goal is 5,300 students, which is an increase of 210 students, or 4%, as compared to summer 2021, and is just about equal to the summer of 2020. For fall, the total applications are 2419 (this day last year) vs 2980 (today), which equals a 23% increase, or +561 applications, and the Promise applications are 1705 (this day last year) vs 2281 (today), which equals a 34% increase or +576 applications.

President Hughes shared that Community College of Rhode Island’s commencement will be on May 12, 2022, at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center to celebrate the Class of 2022, as well as to welcome back more than 150 of the 2020 and 2021 graduates.
B. Rhode Island College

President Sanchez shared that the Fall 2022 weekly admissions report summary included: Fall 2022 application activity remains up, +197 (+5.1%) compared to Fall 2021 (4009 vs. 3812). Admissions are up +315 (+10.4%), compared to Fall 2021 (3320 vs. 3005), remaining ahead of Fall 2021, Fall 2019 and Fall 2018. The application completion rate [applications with a decision] is +3.2%, (86.4% for Fall 2022 vs. 83.2% for Fall 2021) and gross deposits are +20 (+11.1%), compared to Fall 2021 (200 vs. 180).

President Sanchez shared that summer registration opened on March 21, 2022. Summer Session 1 begins 5/16/22 and Summer Session 2 begins 6/27/22.

President Sanchez noted that Rhode Island College will receive a federal appropriation of $490,000 to support workforce development certificate programs in leadership development, computer science, cyber security, and data science. President Sanchez also shared that as RIC has an HSI status (25% of students are Hispanic/LatinX confirmed by IR), and that the college is eligible to apply for federal grant funding available only to institutions with that designation. The Title V Infrastructure grant requires the development and implementation of a 5-year comprehensive plan to support expanded educational opportunities for, and improved academic and career attainment of, Latinx and low-income students.

Rhode Island College will host commencement on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Dunkin’ Donut Center, Providence, RI. Over 1,200 graduates will participate in the ceremony for Rhode Island College’s Class of 2022.

7. Action Items

a. Approval of Honorary Degrees as recommended by the Rhode Island College Honorary Degree Committee

Chair DelGiudice shared that a request for approving honorary degrees of Doctor of Public Service was received from Rhode Island College for Simone P. Joyaux (Posthumously) and Louis A. Marciano. President Sanchez shared that all materials had been provided in advance to council members.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve honorary degrees as recommended by the Rhode Island College Honorary Degree Committee as presented.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Honorary Degrees to Simone P. Joyaux (Posthumously) and Louis A. Marciano, as
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recommended by the Rhode Island College Honorary Degree Committee.

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, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

b. Approval of a Real Estate License Agreement with RIPTA to Install, Operate, and Maintain Bus Shelters on the Knight Campus of CCRI.

Chair DelGiudice shared that the Council received a request from Community College of Rhode Island for approval of a Real Estate License Agreement with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to install, operate, and maintain bus shelters on the Knight Campus. He called upon President Hughes and General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro for further explanation. General Counsel Cavallaro explained that CCRI and RIPTA entered into an MOU regarding the responsibilities of RIPTA and CCRI for this project and that the MOU provides that RIPTA will receive rights to use this portion of the Knight Campus pursuant to this License Agreement. He shared that the contract has an initial term of ten years and that the location of the shelters would be near the picnic table area that is located there now.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the real estate license agreement with RIPTA to install, operate, and maintain bus shelters on the Knight Campus of CCRI, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the real estate license agreement with RIPTA to install, operate, and maintain bus shelters on the Knight Campus of CCRI, as presented.

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, and Jeffery Williams.
8. Executive Session

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education enter Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

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

A. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

B. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

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, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 6:42 PM.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:25 PM.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 29, 2022.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 29, 2022.
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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, and Jeffery Williams,

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will be on April 14, 2022, at Rhode Island College.

Remaining 2022 Meetings

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10. Adjourn

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of February 16, 2022.

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, and Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.