



Enclosure 3.
May 6, 2015

Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Alumni Lounge, Ryan Center
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, April 1st, 2015, at Alumni Lounge, Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston. At 5:47 p.m. Chair Michael Bernstein welcomed everyone. He then took roll call and noted most Council members were present.

Present: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John Rainone, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

Absent: Senator Thomas Izzo

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bernstein entertained a motion to accept the agenda. On a motion duly made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of April 1, 2015.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

2. OPEN FORUM

Chair Bernstein reported that no one had signed up to speak at the Open Forum.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a) Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's Meeting of February 4, 2015

On a motion duly made by Dr. Barajas and seconded by Mr. Duffy, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the February 4, 2015 meeting.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

b) Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's February 18, 2015 work session.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Ouellette and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the February 18, 2015 work session.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

4. Report from the Chairs.

Chair Barbara Cottam:

After an introduction from Chair Bernstein and his welcome to Ms. Cottam to both the Board and the Council, Chair Cottam thanked him saying that it was an honor to have been appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent graciously given by the Senate. She reported that the other nominees to the Board and Councils are moving through the process with one candidate receiving the Senate's consent possibly today.

Chair Cottam also reported that she has been attending the listening sessions regarding the appointment of the next Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education. She indicated that it was clear that the people attending are pleased that their voices and opinions are being heard as a significant part of the process.

Chair Michael Bernstein:

Chair Bernstein indicated that his report would be short as this evening's agenda was a long one. He did say, however, that with all of the changes that have occurred in this recent year, he is most appreciative of the work done and energy committed to the task by all of the members.

5. Reports from the Committees

a) Personnel Committee

Mr. Rafanelli, chair of the Personnel Committee, thanked the members of the committee for their contributions in the past sixty days. The other committee members include Judith Ouellette, Antonio Barajas, and Senator Izzo.

In that recent 60-day timeframe, the committee has completed all three evaluations for the Presidents and issued letters. Each letter from the Committee regarding the President's performance for the past year invites response from them.

Mr. Rafanelli also reported that one of their discussion topics as well as the Committee's recommendation for action will be discussed in the Council's Executive Session later this evening.

b) Facilities Committee

There was no report from the Facilities Committee at this time.

6. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Commissioner provided the notices of the following new programs as well as the change in one of the University's programs per the amended statutes:

New Programs:

1. Master of Science in Dietetics
2. Master of Science in Finance
3. Graduate Certificate in Community Planning
4. Minor in Engineering Entrepreneurship

Program Change:

1. Replacement of the Master's Core with the Doctoral Core Courses in the post-baccalaureate entry to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

In addition, he presented an update on the legislative bills that have been introduced for consideration during this current legislative session.

1. RIHEAA/OPC Merger
2. FY 2016 Appropriation
 - Dual Enrollment
 - RIHEAA/OPC funding and staffing
 - Last-dollar scholarship
3. Complete College Rhode Island (bill)
4. Performance and formula funding

7. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a) University of Rhode Island - Update from last report and current events.

Donald DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, attended in Dr. Dooley's place.

Dr. DeHayes welcomed Chair Cottam to the Board and the Council and offered his thanks for her willingness to serve in this significant capacity.

He continued his report with the following three items:

- The winter J-term program is a 3-week mini semester program that started in January 2014. It allows students to catch up on and plan ahead with the offering of credit courses. These courses are offered on the Kingston campus but included 17 travel courses as well. He reported that the enrollment for this year's J-term had increased from 400 participants to 600 with the potential for even more growth in upcoming years.
- The Student Success Initiative (Gateway Initiative) includes 12 to 15 courses that students have to take in their general course curriculum that encompass an enhanced pedagogy. URI joined a national initiative "Gateway to Completion" with nine other institutions. At the recent national meeting of this group, there were seven URI faculty participants offering presentations to their peers.
- Dr. DeHayes also reported that there are currently 21,400 applications for the fall semester which breaks the record for the fourth year in a row. He noted that this success is in contrast to the shrinking pool of applicants nationally. In state students made up about 59% of the student body.

b) Rhode Island College - Update from last report and current events

In deference to the significant agenda for this evening's meeting, Dr. Carriuolo deferred to her report which was included in the Council meeting packet. She did note, however, that she had welcomed the Rhode Island Senate to their Economic Summit which took place at RIC earlier this month. In addition, she reported that she has been a featured presenter at a recent Smaller Business Association of New England breakfast talking about the college's Professional Studies and Continuing Education Division as well as RIC's Design and Advanced Manufacturing Center.

c) Community College of Rhode Island - Update from last report and current events

Mr. DiPasquale also welcomed Chair Cottam to the Board and the Council indicating his appreciation for the enormity of the time commitment that she was willing to offer the system of public higher education.

He reported that he was continuing to discuss partnerships with local businesses citing numerous local business and business leaders. He talked about the exciting potential partnerships especially with Electric Boat.

President Di Pasquale invited Council members to participate in the upcoming event during CCRI's All College Week. Some of these events include a Liberal Arts Celebration, the Community Service Day, a Wellness Fair, the Cultural Awareness Day, Professional Development Day, and the CCRI 5K Run/Walk which winds the week's events up on Saturday.

He also thanked Dr. Williams for visiting the campus and spending a day there as well as thanking Mr. Smith for attending the alumni celebration which included 650 attendees.

President Di Pasquale reported that CCRI's men's volleyball team had placed 3rd in the country in a league that is largely comprised of four-year institutions.

He also reported that there were four Town Meetings scheduled for the campuses to talk about performance based budgeting and about the measures that should be included in the metrics for the Community College.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) **Notice and review of recommended amendments to the Council on Postsecondary Education Policies to reflect statutory changes related Veterans Affairs.**

1) **Policy on Academic Credit for Military Service and Training.**

Rhode Island General Laws §16-101-1 and §30-30.2-3(1) require public postsecondary institutions to honor the military training, experience, courses, and occupations of any individual who has served in the Armed Forces by awarding academic credits when appropriate. The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner has created a new policy in response to those laws.

This new policy requires the public postsecondary institutions to award credit for veterans' military training, experience, courses and occupations toward degrees and certificates. It also establishes guidelines for the transfer review process, including means of assessment and requirements for communication with students.

This policy was developed by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner. The public postsecondary institutions were invited to comment on the policy and suggest revisions. The policy was also reviewed by the Board of Education counsel, the Education officer for the Rhode Island National Guard, and the Associate Director for the RI Department of Veterans Affairs.

This topic was introduced for discussion at this evening's meeting. Further discussion and a motion to approve will be considered at the next Council Meeting of May 6, 2015.

2) Policy on Priority Registration for Combat Veterans

Rhode Island General Law §30-30.2-3(2) requires combat veterans to be granted priority registration at our public postsecondary institutions. In response, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner has developed a priority registration policy for combat veterans. The Office worked in conjunction with the Adjutant General of the Rhode Island National Guard and in consultation with the Associate Director of Veterans Affairs for the state of Rhode Island to develop the language and requirements for this policy.

The legislation cited in the development of this policy requires a preference ranking to be determined among combat veterans with respect to their tours of duty and service medals awarded. All parties involved agreed that any combat veteran who registers on the day of priority registration will likely gain access to the classes of his or her choosing, thereby negating the need for an elaborate preference ranking. However, if an occasion should arise where there is in fact limited availability in a particular course, the institutions have been instructed to grant access to the combat veteran with more tours of duty. If that is insufficient to determine preference, the schools will determine which student has received a higher ranking medal for their service.

The public postsecondary institutions were invited to comment on the policy and their feedback has been incorporated. The policy was also reviewed by the Council on Postsecondary Education's counsel and has been endorsed by the Rhode Island Veterans Education committee and the VetSuccess on Campus Coordinator.

This topic was introduced for discussion at this evening's meeting. Further discussion and a motion to approve will be considered at the next Council Meeting of May 6, 2015.

3) Revision of Residency Policy

Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 requires all states to grant in-state tuition status to GI Bill beneficiaries residing in a state while attending a public postsecondary institution in that state. Any public institution of higher education which is found not to be in compliance with those guidelines after July 1, 2015 will no longer be approved to receive veterans' educational benefits. In Rhode Island, compliance can be met through a revision of the current

Residency Policy concerning in-state tuition requirements for military members and their families.

Furthermore, the Residency Policy must continue to meet the requirements of the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 2008, which required public postsecondary institutions to grant in-state tuition to active duty military members and their spouses and dependents if they were attending a state institution while stationed in that state or immediately after establishing residency in that state.

The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner has developed a revision to the Residency policy which would meet both federal laws by granting in-state tuition to the following individuals:

- An active duty member or the spouse or dependent of an active duty member of any branch of the Uniformed Services who has been on active duty for a period of more than 30 days.
- Any active duty member who is injured while on active duty and whose injuries cause him/her to be on active duty for a period of less than 30 days.
- A veteran of the Uniformed Services who is eligible for federal GI Bill educational benefits.
- Any other individual who is eligible for transferred federal GI Bill educational benefits or the Fry Scholarship.

The revision requires that active duty military members, their families, and other individuals (spouses or dependents using GI Bill benefits) will be required to live in the state of Rhode Island in order to receive status as an in-state resident.

According to numbers gathered in the fall of 2014, out of state VA beneficiaries made up only four percent of the total VA population at CCRI, seven percent of the VA students at RIC, and sixteen percent of the beneficiaries at URI. As such, we do not anticipate this policy revision to have a significant financial impact but it will make a strong statement about our commitment to our military members and their families.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has reviewed the proposed language and confirmed that, if passed, Rhode Island will be considered to be in compliance with Sec. 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act. The public postsecondary institutions were invited to comment on the policy and their feedback has been incorporated.

This policy revision is strongly endorsed by the Associate Director of Veterans Affairs, the RI National Guard, the Rhode Island Veterans Education Committee and the VetSuccess on Campus Coordinator.

This policy has been introduced into this meeting's discussion with the anticipation that it will be further discussed and voted upon in the Council's upcoming meeting.

b) Affirmation of the Mission, Role, and Scope of the Public Colleges and University

Overview

The mission, role, and scope statements for the Rhode Island public postsecondary institutions were introduced for discussion. The powers given to the Council on Postsecondary Education under Article 20, section 16-59-4.11.i and iii include approving the mission, role and scope statements of the public higher education institutions:

1. To approve the role and scope of programs at public institutions of higher learning with the assistance of the commissioner of postsecondary education which shall include but not be limited to populations to be served, type and level of programs, and academic fields offered.
2. To approve a clear and definitive mission for each public institution of higher learning with the assistance of the Commissioner of postsecondary education that is consistent with the role and scope of programs at the public institutions.

The Council on Postsecondary Education, as required by Article 20, will be asked to approve the mission, role and scope statements for the institutions. While this is a requirement imposed by the General Assembly, it is also an opportunity to help the public institutions of higher education in Rhode Island to coalesce into a stronger and more productive system. Once approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education, the following outcomes are expected:

- Clear and updated statements of role and scope provide guidance to the institutions for the appropriate development of new programs and services while allowing them latitude to develop new programs more quickly and in response to verified needs.
- With less oversight of new programs developed within the purview of the institutions, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner may focus on overarching policy development, institutional effectiveness, academic quality, and duplication and gaps in programs or service needs.

The approach used in developing the role and scope statements reflects the work at the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). NCHEMS

has consulted in Rhode Island on governance and coordination issues as well as in several states on developing statements of the system's mission, role and scope.

The role and scope statements now being presented to the Council were developed with reference to previous Board of Governors' documents and input from the public postsecondary institutions. Draft versions of the mission, role, and scope document were sent out to the institutions for review and their comments were incorporated into the version presented to the Council.

The mission, role, and scope documents are being presented to the Council on Postsecondary Education for discussion at this evening's meeting in anticipation of further discussion and approval at the next scheduled meeting of the Council for Postsecondary Education.

c) Review of the Rhode Island College's Strategic Plan, Vision 2020.

President Carriuolo presented an overview of the strategic plan for Rhode Island College as well as the process used to engineer this plan. Mr. Duffy asked about the bond rating that had just recently experienced a downgrade due to the enrollment projections for RIC. President Carriuolo indicated that this was a reflection of a national trend that RIC is experiencing and that she had engaged a consultant to assist enrollment management services with its marketing efforts.

Mr. Smith congratulated the college on its process which allowed for the voicing of all opinions and insights from faculty, staff, and students. Ms. Ouellette commented that she felt that the planning was thoughtful and very well done.

Dr. Williams asked about revenue streams that the plan addresses in its goal of increasing such cash flows. President Carriuolo responded that the College was going to be specifically looking for increased revenue streams from the new Center for Design, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing as well as outside donations and contracts with businesses that would include innovative partnerships.

When asked about the threats and challenges that the college faces, President Carriuolo indicated that the demographic fall-off in the high school graduation projections is a significant challenge. She also indicated that the rapid diversity of the campus was both a threat and an opportunity. The diverse mix of the college includes such groups as disabled veterans who require more resources as an example. In addition, approximately 40% of RIC's students identify themselves as minority which increases the need for financial aid as most of these students are in economic need and most of them need to work part time instead of pursuing full time enrollment.

This discussion will be followed up at the next Council meeting for a vote to approve the Rhode Island College Strategic Plan, Vision 2020.

9. ACTION ITEMS

a) Approval of a lease agreement among the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety for the use by the Municipal Police Training Academy of certain space and facilities at the Community College of Rhode Island's Lincoln (Flanagan) Campus

The Community College of Rhode Island is requesting that the council approve a lease agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety for use by the Municipal Police Training Academy of certain space and facilities at its Lincoln (Flanagan) Campus.

The Training Academy has been operating at the Lincoln Campus since 1981 under an agreement dating back to that same year. Recently, the College and the Department of Public Safety have negotiated and agreed upon an updated lease which reflects the changes in the operation of the Academy over the years, as well as changes in the College's operations at that campus.

The initial term of this new lease is for a period of three (3) years beginning, July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. The rent for this term is \$19,475 per year, payable on the first day of July each year. The rent for any agreed upon Extended term shall be negotiated by the parties. The lease also sets out the Department of Public Safety's use of the premises as office, instruction, and storage space related to the operation of the Academy, as well as use of the Field House and pool located on that campus.

The lease has been reviewed by the College's General Counsel and is included in the Council meeting packet.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the lease among the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety, Municipal Police Training Academy. The Agreements' final execution will also be subject to the approval of the State Properties Committee.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

b) Approval of a memorandum of understanding associated with the lease agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and Commonwealth Ventures South Street Landing Master Tenant, LLC in support of the development and lease of space for the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center.

At the Board of Education's June 16, 2014 meeting, the Board voted to authorize the Chair to execute the Lease Agreement between the Board and Commonwealth Ventures Master Tenant, LLC for the development and long-term lease of space for which is now referred to as the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (RINEC). The lease has since received the approval of the State Properties Committee and the General Assembly in accordance with § 37-6-2(d).

However, it became clear in early discussions among the parties that there was some misunderstanding related to the costs related to some of the design work and the identity of responsible party. Therefore, the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted with direct discussion with the developer and his counsel to reinforce the language in the Lease that spoke to the inclusion of professional design and consultant services within the total capital design, construction, and financing for the RINEC Tenant Improvements as the attached memo included in the Council packet from Dr. Dooley and Dr. Carriuolo addresses in depth.

The Council's approval is now sought to execute this MOU which serves as prudent due diligence as the project advances into the construction design document phase.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Barajas and seconded by Mr. Rafanelli, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the Council on

Postsecondary Education and Commonwealth Ventures South Street Landing Master Tenant, LLC in support of the development and lease of space for the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

c) Approval of National Grid Master Meter replacement Project - Phase I on the Kingston Campus.

The University is requesting the Council's approval to enter into two Commercial Gas Service/Main Agreements with National Grid. These agreements are the first phase of improvements to the natural gas building service connections on the University's properties, starting on the Kingston Campus.

Per the documents included in the meeting packet, National Grid will perform capital improvements to building interconnection. They will also install meters that will provide better tracking of data for the University. The University will be required to make a single payment of \$42,927 for the initial two agreements and, upon completion of the work, National Grid will assume responsibility for the ongoing condition monitoring, maintenance, and repair of the gas mains and the building interconnections.

The University believes that the long term benefits of advancing these first and future agreements pertaining to the upgrade of University-owned gas service main lines and interconnections far outweigh the cost sharing obligations anticipated under this National Grid Program. The attached letter from Dr. Dooley provides additional detail related to this agreement as well as the agreement itself.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Ouellette and seconded by Mr. Duffy, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the attached Agreement related to the

National Grid Master Meter Replacement Project
– Phase I on the Kingston Campus. The
Agreements’ final execution will also be subject
to the approval of the State Properties
Committee.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no
members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara
Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry
Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery
Williams.

NAYS:

d) Authorization for the University of Rhode Island to enter into a hosting agreement with Earth Networks, Inc. for a real-time weather monitoring station.

The University is requesting the Council’s approval to enter into a “Hosting Agreement” with Earth Networks, Inc. related to the installation of a real-time weather monitoring station. Earth Networks will provide the equipment as well as provide for its installation while the agreement calls for the University to maintain its connectivity to electrical power and to high-speed internet services thereafter.

The term of the agreement is one year with automatic renewals annually unless one or both parties provide a 30-day advance notice of non-renewal for the upcoming term.

Earth Networks was identified by National Grid as a means for the State’s electrical service network provider to monitor weather conditions in localities across the State during stormy weather events and to feed real-time data to National Grid to inform their strategies for the deployment of response teams.

Per the agreement, the University will be able to use this data on a royalty-free basis for its own real-time monitoring and accurate records of weather conditions over time that may be used exclusively for educational, research, and operational purposes.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rafanelli, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education

authorizes the Hosting Agreement with Earth Networks, Inc. for this real-time weather monitoring station on its campus. The Agreements' final execution will also be subject to the approval of the State Properties Committee.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

e) Approval of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act Authorization for a Revenue Bond financing the URI Fraternity Circle Improvements Project - Phase I

In the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan presented to the Council in September 2014, the University has planned to reconfigure and improve utility infrastructure, paved surfaces, and landscape fixtures that serve the fraternity and sorority neighborhood on the Kingston Campus.

The next step in the development of this project is to secure the necessary Council and State level approvals to secure financing in FY 2016 for the project's design, oversight, and construction.

Because this transaction would constitute a form of financing or guarantee beyond a single fiscal year, a Public Finance Debt Management Act Resolution is required in order to meet those requirements, reflecting estimated financing parameters within which the University expects to conclude its negotiations.

It is important for the Council to understand that this affirms the placement of the attached resolution on the General Assembly's list of legislation for review and passage in this current session. The University has prepared the attached resolution regarding this transaction.

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

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education

approves that the resolution addressing the Public Corporation Debt Management Act issues related to the University's Fraternity Circle Improvements Project – Phase I at the Kingston Campus be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

f) Approval to Rescind the Honorary Doctoral Degree awarded to former Speaker of the House, Gordon Fox.

The granting of honorary degrees is an opportunity for the public postsecondary institutions in Rhode Island to recognize an individual of distinguished merit who has made significant contributions to the institution, has given distinguished service to the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, or has earned high distinction nationally or internationally. However, in those rare circumstances when an individual has been honored by the granting of an honorary degree but subsequently has demonstrated a lack of ethical standards, the Council on Postsecondary Education may exercise its authority to rescind the honorary degree.

Therefore, the following motion is proposed to the Council on Postsecondary Education:

- Whereas the eligibility to be awarded an honorary degree from a Rhode Island public institution of postsecondary education rests upon the recipient being a person of distinguished merit and
- Whereas, Gordon Fox has demonstrated a lack of the core values of the Council on Postsecondary Education and the public postsecondary institutions of the State of Rhode Island, the Council on Postsecondary Education rescinds the awarding of the honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Mr. Gordon Fox.

In the discussion that followed, President Carriuolo described the process for the naming of the recipients of honorary degrees at Rhode Island College. She explained

that this is a matter that is considered with great care. At the time of this decision, the recipient appeared to be very worthy of such an honor.

She also indicated that, although rescinding such a degree is not common, it is also not unheard of.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Mr. Smith, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the rescinding of the Honorary Doctoral Degree awarded to former Speaker of the House, Gordon Fox.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

g) Approval of the awarding of honorary degrees by URI and RIC.

The granting of honorary degrees is an opportunity for the public postsecondary institutions in Rhode Island to recognize individuals of distinguished merit who have made significant contributions to the institution, have given distinguished service to the State of Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations, and/or have earned high distinction nationally or internationally.

Dr. DeHayes indicated that there are four criteria that the University uses to determine its honorary degree recipients:

- The individual must be recognized for his or her significant contributions to society through their civil, personal, or academic achievements.
- The individual's accomplishments must have a connection or parallel to the mission of the University.
- The individual must appear in person at the graduation ceremonies.
- The individual must not be a current employee of the University or a holder of an office within the state.

Five recipients are currently nominated awaiting approval by the Council who emerged from a pool of 30 nominations.

President Carriuolo presented the six candidates that emerged from the Rhode Island College pool of nominations via the process that she had described earlier this evening.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the awarding of honorary degrees to the individuals selected by the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

h) Approval of recommended amendments to the System's Sexual Harassment Policies.

Louis Saccoccio, General Counsel for the University, and Peter Harrington, Esq., URI, presented the final recommended amendments to the system's Sexual Harassment Policies based on the workgroup's direction from the former Board Chair as well as the related laws from both federal and state codes.

In regard to the definitional issues that were discussed at the January meeting of the Council, Mr. Harrington referred to the sources of the definitions for the policies that come from the Title IX act itself and that they are not to be confused with the criminal definition for these terms. These differences were enumerated.

Mr. Duffy asked about the timeline that the workgroup had for the production of the procedures to support these new policies. Mr. Saccoccio indicated that he would anticipate that they may be brought to the Council in the July 1 timeframe.

Mr. Rainone asked if cyber assault was addressed in the policies. Mr. Harrington referred him to page 6 of the policy for these references.

Dr. Williams asked if the definitions include photography. Mr. Harrington indicated that it was probably included within the broad definition although it is not specifically mentioned. Dr. Williams also asked about the timeframe in which law enforcement gets involved per the policy. Mr. Harrington indicated that this is an option that is provided to the victim but that reporting to law enforcement is not a requirement of the report to college officials. Mr. Saccoccio indicated that, if the safety of the community is at risk, there may be a requirement for the institution to report to law enforcement.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Barajas and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the amended Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr.

NAYS: Dr. Jeffery Williams.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:38 p.m. Chair Michael Bernstein entertained a motion to enter into executive session for:

- a) Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) – Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for RIC Adjunct Faculty.
- b) Discussion and authorization concerning the PTFU (Part-time Faculty Association/AAUP) negotiations pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2).
- c) Update, discussion, and authorization on the negotiations with the higher education union coalition pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2).

- d) Discussion of Contract Renewal for Thorr D. Bjorn, Director of Athletics, University of Rhode Island, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1).

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Mr. Smith, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education convenes in executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reasons set forth above.

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

Chair Bernstein noted that Mr. Bjorn was offered the opportunity to have his contract discussed in Open Session but declined. Therefore, the contract will be discussed in Executive Session.

Ms. Ouellette recused herself for the discussion related to bargaining unit negotiations.

All non-Council members in the audience were excused with the exception of:

- Dr. Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education;
- Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Council;
- Douglas Tingle, Executive Assistant;
- Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel;
- Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner, Finance & Management
- Donald DeHayes, Provost, URI;
- Nancy Carriuolo, President, Rhode Island College;
- Ray Di Pasquale, President, CCRI

The Council reconvened in open session at 8:43 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rafanelli, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on April 1, 2015.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

a) Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for RIC Adjunct Faculty

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Mr. Smith, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education ratifies the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the RIC Adjunct Faculty (RIPTFU) as presented in Executive Session.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative, no members voted in the negative, and 1 abstained as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

ABS: Judy Ouellette.

b) Approval of Contract for Thorr D. Bjorn, Director of Athletics at the University of Rhode Island.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Mr. Duffy, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the contract for Thorr D. Bjorn, Director of Athletics at the University of Rhode Island, and specifically Section 3.1.4 (Supplemental Deferred Compensation Plan (401a)) within the contract dated 2/28/2012 by and between the University of Rhode Island/David Dooley, President, and Thorr Bjorn, Athletic Director.

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS:

12) UPCOMING MEETINGS

- The next Work Session of the Council on Postsecondary Education is Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at RIDE.
- The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at RIC

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Dr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was:

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourns its meeting.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.