



Enclosure 3.
May 20, 2015

Draft Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom
Rhode Island College
Providence, RI

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at the Student Union Ballroom, Rhode Island College, Providence. At 5:34 p.m. Chair Michael Bernstein welcomed everyone. He then took roll call and noted that all Council members were present.

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

Absent:

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of May 6, 2015 as revised and posted.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

2. OPEN FORUM

Chair Bernstein reported that twelve speakers had signed up to speak at Open Forum. In light of the length of these requests to speak, Chair Bernstein suggested that the traditional 20-minute forum slot be extended to forty minutes.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the extension of the Open Forum period from twenty minutes to forty minutes in order to accommodate the requests to be heard.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

- Eight speakers spoke about the status of the negotiations between the Council and the various bargaining units.
- Four speakers spoke in support of the College Unbound proposal which will be discussed later in this meeting.

Documents provided to the Council on Postsecondary Education by Open Forum speakers are on file at the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's May 6, 2015 Meeting.

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

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

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

4. CHAIRS' REPORTS

Chair Barbara Cottam:

Chair Cottam said that she had only two items to include in her report this evening:

1. To remind the Council that the Board of Education had voted to pass dual enrollment at its last meeting as this topic culminated in a policy decision.
2. To acknowledge all of the Council members who will be attending graduation ceremonies and to thank them for representing the Council at these happy events.

Chair Michael Bernstein:

Chair Bernstein reported that the Senate confirmation of William Foulkes was happening this evening with the hope that the full Senate confirmation would be accomplished by the end of the week. He thanked Dr. Barajas for his long term of service to the Board and then the Council. Mr. Bernstein indicated that the Council will miss his sage advice and insight in the important issues related to public higher education in Rhode Island.

He also spoke about the former structures that the Governors and the more recent Board of Education had had related to committees. He indicated that the Council would be talking about its desire for similar structures or new formats for the consideration of the wide breadth of issues that come before the group.

5. Reports from the Committees

There were no reports from either the Personnel Committee or from the Facilities Committee.

6. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Purcell reported the following notices of new programs and changes to existing programs at the University of Rhode Island:

- Minor in Arabic language and culture
- Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)/Dual Language Immersion
- Change in degree name from Bachelor of Science, Horticulture and Turfgrass Management to Bachelor of Science in Plant Sciences

In addition, he reported on the current bills related to higher education that are currently under consideration at the legislature:

- RIHEAA/OPC Merger
- FY 2016 Appropriation
- Complete College Rhode Island
- Performance and formula funding
- Distance Learning (NC-SARA)
- Career and Technical Education

Dr. Purcell introduced Timothy Harrigan, Policy and Information Specialist from ProvPlan to discuss the latest data story: College to Career Landscape in Rhode Island.

Mr. Harrigan introduced the ProvPlan's involvement with the data process related to the Statewide Longitudinal Data System and Workforce Data Quality Initiative and the data stories that are produced from the data. In this evening's presentation, he presented data that shows the high and low growth potential areas in which the healthcare and social assistance area in the highest in group potential currently. In addition, he presented data showing where the fields of study offered by the three Rhode Island public institutions fits within these growth areas and how they contribute to the career landscape of the state.

He also invited Council members to look at two sites for additional information as well as interactive data at:

1. www.ridatasharing.org
2. www.ridatahub.org

7. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

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

Dr. Dooley invited Council members to attend the graduation of their 4,000+ students. He also reported that the Gender and Sexuality Center (known as the LGBTQ Center) opened today. This center is dedicated to developing a safe and supportive environment for all people at the university and Dr. Dooley indicated that he believes that this may be the first center of its kind on any university campus in the U.S.

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

Dr. Carriuolo extended another invitation to attend graduation to Council members and reported that this will be the first Rhode Island College graduation to be held at the Dunkin Donuts Center.

She also reported that Washington Monthly's "The Other College Guide" had ranked RIC sixth in the northeast for "best bang for the buck" among more than 400 four-year institutions. In addition, Public Health Online has rated RIC's Health Administration program one of the top 50 programs in the U.S.

RIC is also celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the Central Falls/Rhode Island College Innovation Lab this month as well. This anniversary was marked by several events to showcase the lab's accomplishments.

May 7th is a Transfer Assistance Day and May 11th is the date for the RI STEM Center's annual conference with Rhode Island's Commerce Secretary, Stefan Pryor, serving as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Carriuolo directed the Council members to her written report which was included in this evening's meeting packet.

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

President Di Pasquale reported that the 50th anniversary celebration for CCRI is coming to a close. He provided a retrospective review of all of the celebrations through the year in his written report that was included in the Council packet. The celebrations spanned from the Opening Day Convocation event for more than 500 faculty and staff when the son of the first CCRI President, Jim Flanagan, visited to celebrate. The events have ranged from golf tournaments to alumni art exhibitions to CCRI Day at the State House and have included a gala "Celebrating Alumni for 50 Years" which was a sold-out event at the Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. President Di Pasquale directed the Council members to his written report for more details on these events.

He also provided an academic year retrospective too which included numerous events also detailed in his written report.

The upcoming graduation ceremonies will include Bill Flanagan, another son of CCRI's first president, as the keynote speaker at graduation. The Community College will be conferring 1,700+ degrees and certificates at the ceremony which will take place in the Vincent A. Cullen Field House at the Knight Campus in Warwick.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

College Unbound Program Application for approval to operate in Rhode Island and grant BA degrees in Organizational Leadership and Change.

The College Unbound program is located on the Met School Campus at 325 Public Street, Providence. The program has been offering college curriculum since 2009 through affiliations with other institutions, including Roger Williams University, Southern New Hampshire University, and most recently Charter Oak State College. The program admits students with some college – a minimum of 9 credit hours which must include College English.

Their mission is to “reinvent higher education for underrepresented returning adult learners, using a model that is individualized, interest-based, project-driven, workplace-enhanced, cohort-supported, flexible, supportive and affordable.”

The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner has been reviewing the program proposal documents as well as making site visits to the program as it is currently running. Their findings include the following:

- The entity appears to be financially sound.
- It is backed by The Big Picture Company.
- They have a pragmatic business plan included in their proposal.
- Tuition for the bachelor's degree will be \$330 per credit hour or \$9,900 annually. (There is a \$100 application fee.)

The Commissioner reviewed the questions from the Office to the program officials and reported on the College Unbound responses. He reported on the strengths of the program:

- The management team has a good track record for national grant support.
- The development of a clear vision of the digital library.
- The positive feasibility study of the program's sustainability provided by The Capacity Group.

Dr. Dennis Littky also provided some introductory comments prior to his availability for questions from the Council members.

Dr. Williams asked about the rationale behind requiring 9 credits for entry into the program. Dr. Littky responded that this requirement exists to assure that entering students are there to complete their education after having some amount of college academic success. But he emphasized that the mission of College Unbound is to provide support to adult students who might not finish their college education otherwise in currently existing contexts.

Ms. Ouellette asked if this was the first time that College Unbound had been presented to the staff or to the board. Dr. Littky indicated that he had been working with both Dr. Purcell and earlier with Clark Greene on this proposal in the past year or so.

Senator Izzo complimented Dr. Littky's work and said that he was struck by the targeted population who have significant need for support and guidance through their college programs.

Mr. Duffy asked how soon it would be for CU to offer other majors and maybe to match growth areas in the local job market. He would like to see more marketable degrees.

Mr. Smith commented that it is difficult to function as a student when you don't have hope. He is impressed with the hopefulness that this program provides.

Mr. Rafanelli commented that his own work with those who have a criminal records has provided him with a significant appreciation for the barrier that such records are to the individual. The length of time between the offence and the time at which the record is expunged is significant. These individuals face tremendous barriers in getting a college education or a job that provides a livable wage. He was enthusiastic about a program that welcomes these individuals and assists them in "turning their lives around".

Mr. Rainone asked about the types of jobs that this program will allow graduates to seek. Dr. Littky responded that the program revolves around the student's employment and provides didactic training that will make the student promotable.

Senator Izzo asked the Chair and the Commissioner why this was not an action item on this evening's agenda rather than a discussion item. He asked if a vote could be taken. Mr. Cavallaro indicated that any action contemplated at an evening's meeting requires notification via the agenda posted to the Secretary of State's website at least 48

hours prior to the meeting. Therefore the Council will need to vote on this program approval at its next meeting.

9. ACTION ITEMS

9a. Approval of Quit-Claim Deed and Merger Regarding Rhode Island College's Acquisition of Property from the City of Providence.

At its June 16, 2014 meeting, the prior Board of Education authorized Rhode Island College to proceed with its acquisition of property from the City of Providence. This acquisition was also approved by the State Properties Committee on December 2, 2014. As part of the acquisition process, the College's Title Attorney, John B. Murphy Esquire, determined that, since the parcels of land to be acquired are presently part of larger parcels of land owned by the City, the subdivision of those parcels would result in the creation of new lots, which require additional survey/topographical work and a hearing process before the Providence Planning Board. That process would be simplified (and time delay and additional expense avoided) by merging the parcels acquired from the City with vacant property already owned by the Council.

Attorney Murphy has prepared the attached Quit-Claim deed, the recording of which will accomplish the merger of this property.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve of this Quit-Claim Deed and merger as presented, subject to the approval of the State Properties Committee, if required, and that the Council Chair is authorized to sign this deed as well as any and all additional documents that may be required.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9b. Recommendation for a three-year External Audit Contract for independent Certified Public Accountants

The Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education plans to engage a firm of Certified Public Accountants to audit the financial statements of each of the three institutions in the system of public higher education. The certified public accountants will also perform A-133 Single Audits at each of the three institutions as well as other accounting services as delineated in the bidding process.

There were five Certified Public Accounting Firms that responded to our Request for Proposal (RFP). Those firms include BerryDunn, Blum Shapiro, CBI Tofias – Mayer Hoffman McCaffrey, McGladrey, and O’Connor & Drew P.C. A technical review committee consisting of the Controllers and the Associate Commissioner for Finance & Management has reviewed the five responses, scoring proposals based upon certain criteria and have made a recommendation as to which firm should be awarded the three-year contract. The audit contract will cover the three fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The technical review committee unanimously recommends the selection of O’Connor & Drew, P.C. after reviewing the written proposals.

Based upon the recommendation of the technical review committee and the approval of both the RFP and the selection of the auditor by the Office of the Auditor General and State Accounts and Controls.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves this recommendation that a three-year audit contract be awarded to O’Connor and Drew, P.C. for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

AND further, acknowledges that the award was subject to review and approval by the Department of Administration and the State Auditor General as required by state statute.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9c. Approval of the Awarding of Degrees at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island.

The University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island request the approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education for the conference of degrees, diplomas, and certificates to those students who have completed their academic requirements. These students have been determined by faculty at the public higher education institutions to meet their respective degree, diploma, or certificate requirements.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas, and certificates to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2015 semester at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9d. Approval of Veterans' Related Policies.

All of these policy issues were reviewed at the last meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education. In keeping with the Council on Postsecondary Education's policy on the adoption of policies and regulations for the system which states that "all proposals shall be first reviewed at a regular meeting of the Council and then considered for action at the next regular meeting of the Council. Only those policies and/or regulations so adopted and so recorded shall be regarded as official Council policy and mandates."

9d1. Approval of 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 towards 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 policy was introduced for discussion at the April 1st Meeting and is now appearing on this evening's agenda for further discussion and vote.

9d2. Approval of the 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 new policy identifies combat veterans as any individual who has:

- Served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force during any foreign war, expedition, campaign, or Military Operation Other than War (MOOW) and;
- Received an in-theater campaign medal
- Received an honorable discharge from service

Combat veterans will be required to self-identify to a designated veterans representative at each campus by providing a copy of their DD-214 or deployment orders/award citation. Qualifying veterans will then be allowed to register on the first day of priority registration for any given term.

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 their 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 schools 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 Board of Education counsel and has been endorsed by the Rhode Island Veterans Education Committee and the VetSuccess on Campus Coordinator.

This policy was introduced for discussion at the April 1st Meeting and is now appearing on this evening's agenda for further discussion and vote.

9d3. Approval 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 causes 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.

This policy revision will facilitate active duty military members and veterans' access to our public postsecondary institutions. In many cases, these students are funded in full by their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits but the Post 9/11 GI Bill will only pay for in-state charges. This will alleviate the burden of securing additional funding for out-of-state fees while still guaranteeing a revenue source for the schools. Spouses and dependents using transferred benefits will still enjoy the benefit but the additional requirement that these students live in the state of Rhode Island will prevent the numbers from becoming too burdensome on the schools.

According to numbers gathered in the fall 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. The policy was also reviewed by the Board of Education counsel.

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 was introduced for discussion at the April 1st Meeting and is now appearing on this evening's agenda for further discussion and vote.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council of Postsecondary Education (CPE) approves the Policy on Academic Credit for Military Service and Training.

And further, that the Council of Postsecondary Education approves the Policy on Priority Registration for Combat Veterans.

And further, that the Council of Postsecondary Education approve the revisions of the Residency Policy.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9e. Approval and Award of Tenure.

9e1. Approval and Award of Tenure at the University of Rhode Island

President David Dooley is requesting approval for the awarding of tenure to the faculty members at the University of Rhode Island listed below. These faculty members will have completed tenure requirements as detailed in the Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and the University of Rhode Island Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Background information on these individuals is attached.

- Holly M. Dunsworth, Associate Professor, Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences
- Wei Lu, Associate Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy
- Debra A. Erickson-Owens, Associate Professor, College of Nursing
- Emily D. Clapham, Ed.D., Associate Professor, Kinesiology, College of Arts & Sciences
- Jason Dwyer, Associate Professor of Bioanalytical Chemistry, Dept. of Chemistry
- David Faflik, Associate Professor, Department of English
- J. Jennifer Jones, Associate Professor, Department of English

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the awarding of tenure to the University of Rhode Island candidates as presented effective July 1, 2015.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9e2. Approval and Award of Tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island.

President Ray Di Pasquale is requesting approval for the awarding of tenure to the faculty members at the Community College of Rhode Island listed below. These faculty members will have completed tenure requirements as detailed in the Agreement between the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Community College of Rhode Island Faculty Association (NEA/CCRIFA) Article X.B. Background information on these individuals is attached.

- Marc LeVasseur, Assistant Professor, English
- Charles Morgan, Assistant Professor, English
- Ann O. Omollo, Assistant Professor, Chemistry

- Cynthia Sullivan, Assistant Professor, Nursing
- Luke Sutherland, Assistant Professor, Performing Arts

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the awarding of tenure to the Community College of Rhode Island candidates as presented effective July 1, 2015.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9f. Approval of the Mission, Role, and Scope of the Public Colleges and University.

At the April 1, 2015 Council on Postsecondary Education meeting, mission, role, and scope statements for the Rhode Island public postsecondary institutions were introduced. 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, is now being 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 and 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 were presented to the Council on Postsecondary Education for discussion at the April 1 Council on Postsecondary Education meeting. These documents are now being presented for further discussion and approval of the documents.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the mission, role and scope statements for the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode Island that were developed in accordance with the Council's powers as enumerated in Article 20 as amended.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9g. Approval of The Rhode Island College's Strategic Plan, Vision 2020.

The 2020 strategic plan for Rhode Island College includes main goals for the College in the upcoming five years as follows:

1. To establish an inclusive campus culture focused on student success that respects the contributions of all campus stakeholders and builds capacity for understanding the nature and importance of diversity in all its forms across all institutional processes.
2. To foster an environment that supports intellectual curiosity, growth, and collaboration as a comprehensive and ongoing learning process that occurs in courses, research, experiential activities and internships, student organizations, and in interactions with the community.
3. To develop and achieve proactive, comprehensive, and collaborative communications to foster a culture of transparent and respectful interaction that advances Rhode Island College as a student-centered, diverse, supportive, and high-quality public institution among its internal and external communities.
4. To optimize and maintain a physical and technological environment that supports teaching, learning, research, and student life, and is welcoming, aesthetically pleasing, sustainable, accessible, and effective for a diverse community of users.
5. To stabilize existing revenue and resources, develop and implement more cost-effective and efficient usage of revenue and resources, and create and sustain a larger and more diverse set of revenue streams.
6. To contribute to the economic development and quality of life – intellectual, social, and cultural – in the greater Providence area, the state of Rhode Island, and the region.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the 2020 strategic plan for Rhode Island College.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9h. Approval of the Rhode Island College Center for Design, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing.

Rhode Island College is seeking approval for the Center for Design, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing. This Center will support the intent of the new WAVE initiative announced by Governor Raimondo.

Background

Rhode Island College is seeking to establish a Design, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing Center. The college states that this center is a reopening and renaming of a previously closed entity. The Board of Governors for Higher Education approved a proposal from Rhode Island College to establish the Center for Industrial Technology on January 19, 1988. The College merged the Department of Economics and Management with the Industrial Technology program in 1994 and the Center for Industrial Technology, becoming the Center for Management and Technology. The Center for Management and Technology became the School of Management and Technology in 2002. In 2009, the Board approved the elimination of the Center for Management and Technology as part of achieving program consolidation and cost-containment measures.

Rationale

RIC's proposal states that the mission of the Center is to provide access, assistance and inter-disciplinary research to educate and build a skilled STEM pipeline of future professionals to meet the needs of business and industry in Rhode Island. Further, in its vision statement, the college notes that the Rhode Island College Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Center will be a central collaborative hub where new ideas and applications can be tested, implemented and disseminated.

The college identifies the following goals for the Center for Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing:

- To partner with industry to provide services, workforce training, and recruitment opportunities using transformational technology
- To develop innovative applications through basic and applied research for education and industry
- To create advanced manufacturing learning opportunities that engage participants in creative applications of knowledge, technology and skills to research and solve real-world problems using cross-disciplinary strategies

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the request from Rhode Island College for the establishment of the Center for Design, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

9i. Approval of the recommendation of the system's Personnel Review Committee on behalf of URI for one non-classified change in position request.

Per the University's request of April 6, 2015, the Personnel Review Committee is recommending that the Council on Postsecondary Education approves the change in position from an Executive Assistant I (Grade 7) in the General Counsel's Office to a Legal Assistant (Grade 8).

The job description for the new position as well as the original request is attached to this letter.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education

approves the recommendation of the Personnel Review Committee as described above.

VOTE: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:34 p.m. Chair Michael Bernstein entertained a motion to enter into executive session for:

- a) Discussion and authorization concerning the GAU (Graduate Assistants Union) negotiations pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2).
- b) Discussion and authorization concerning the PTFU (part-time Faculty Association/ AAUP) and RIC / Adjunct 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 and the AAUP pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2)

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Dr. Williams, 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: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

Ms. Ouellette asked to be recused.

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
- David Dooley, President, URI;
- Nancy Carriuolo, President, Rhode Island College;
- Ray Di Pasquale, President, CCRI

The Council reconvened in open session at 8:48 p.m.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on May 6, 2015.

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, Senator Thomas Izzo, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a) The next Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is May 20, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at RIDE. Please note that this was originally scheduled as a work session but will now be a full meeting of the Council.

- b) The next Meeting of the Board of Education is June 9, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at CCRI, Warwick.
- c) The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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, Senator Thomas Izzo, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.