



**Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education  
Work Session  
Wednesday, November 5, 2014  
Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner  
80 Washington Street  
Providence, R.I.  
AGENDA**

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 80 Washington Street in Providence. At 5:32 Chair Bernstein welcomed everyone and took roll call.

**Present:** Michael Bernstein, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, John J. Smith Jr., Jeffery Williams, Kerry Rafanelli\* arrived at 5:41 pm

**Absent:** Antonio Barajas

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Bernstein asked for a motion to accept the agenda. On a motion made by John Smith and seconded by Judy Ouellette, it was

**VOTED:** That The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the Work Session of November 5, 2014 as posted

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

## 2. CHAIRS' REPORT

### Chair Bernstein:

Chair Bernstein noted the attendance of several members of the Elementary and Secondary Council for the budget review and thanked them for participating. He indicated that the Council will be discussing the budget tonight with action in the upcoming Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The budget will then go to the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the full Board. After that it will go to the Governor and then to the General Assembly.

Chair Bernstein also noted that the Personnel Committee would need to do the annual reviews of the college presidents' performance, which Legal Counsel Ron Cavallaro noted should be done by the end of the year. Chair Bernstein then gave the floor to Board of Education Chair, Ms. Mancuso.

### Chair Mancuso:

Chair Mancuso provided an update on the activities of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. That Council has started its own Strategic Plan and Chair Mancuso noted that it was on a different timeline than the Postsecondary Council. Chair Mancuso pointed out that the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education is embarking on a year-long stakeholder- driven strategic plan.

Chair Mancuso also mentioned that the Elementary and Secondary Education Council was starting a Mental Health/First Aid Initiative in the schools and that she was hoping that Senator Izzo would co-chair it with Larry Purtill and Colleen Callahan.

## 3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Purcell noted that there was a lot of feedback as a result of the previous meeting's discussion of the policy related to sexual harassment and sexual violence. He had, therefore, requested that Anne Marie Coleman and Ron Cavallaro look into the matters further and discuss it with the three institutions.

The following items are on the agenda for the meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup>:

- Awarding of tenure at the University of Rhode Island
- Public Private Partnership
- Environmental Assessment Agreement with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Review and Approval of a Real Estate License Agreement between the

- Council on Postsecondary Education and Atlantic Produce, Inc.
- Sexual Harassment Policy

#### 4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### c) **Affordable Care Act update and proposal for plan to address legislative mandates**

The Affordable Care Act was discussed first as two representatives from Cornerstone Group were in attendance to give a Power Point presentation on their findings. They were as summarized as follows:

- Employer mandate goes into effect on January 1, 2015 for employers with 100+ FTE employees;
- Must offer Minimum Essential coverage to all FT employees (30+ hours/week) or pay penalty = (#FT employees \* \$2K) - 80 in 2015;
- Penalty increases, thereafter, as “-80” is reduced to “-30”.
- Law further stipulates that coverage must be of “Minimum Value” and “Affordable”;

The next steps for compliance with the ACA are:

- Send notice to eligible employees;
- Gather information on all family members to be covered;
- Solicit final bids from insurance companies;
- Employees complete application process;
- Install coverage for January 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid penalties.

##### a) **Strategic Plan for the OPC and Complete College Rhode Island**

Commissioner Purcell did a Power Point presentation on the Strategic Plan which noted that:

Article 20 defines the **Roles & Responsibilities** for the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner with key objectives and related activities. Those core functions include:

- Using data systematically to analyze information on all aspects of postsecondary education in Rhode Island;
- Providing strategic planning for the system including a five-year funding plan;
- Formulating broad policy to implement identified goals and objectives;
- Assisting in budget preparation and assuring efficient management of state

- property at the public colleges and university;
- Administering policies, rules and regulations; and
- Advocating for public higher education.

Commissioner Purcell then defined the mission of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner:

*The mission of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is to support the work of the Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education in **providing an excellent, accessible and affordable system of higher education designed to improve the overall educational attainment of the citizens of Rhode Island, support economic development, and enrich the civic, social and cultural life of all living in the state of Rhode Island.***

Then Commissioner Purcell presented the plan:

- The focus is on more global objectives and defining the role of the OPC
- Specificity to occur over the next 2 years as staff are added
- Initial state-wide effort would be **Complete College Rhode Island**

#### **b) Operating Budget for the System for Public Higher Education for FY 2016**

Dr. Susan LaPanne presented the budget -

- Today: overview and discussion of the budgets for the four entities that comprise the system of public higher education in Rhode Island:
  - University of Rhode Island
  - Rhode Island College
  - Community College of Rhode Island
  - Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
- The review included discussion about
  - The 2016 Restricted and Unrestricted budgets
  - The 2015 Supplemental request for the Office
  - The revenue scenarios: three scenarios

There were three scenarios presented included:

- No increase in tuition & mandatory fees with the balance coming from an increased state appropriation request.
- No increase in the state appropriation request with the balance being generated by tuition & mandatory fees.
- A balance of tuition & mandatory fee increases and state appropriation increases.

The Council members had numerous questions about the budgets and there was discussion related to proposed tuition and mandatory fee increases.

The Council will be voting on the operating budget as its next meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:08 p.m. Chair Bernstein entertained a motion to enter into executive session for:

- a) 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)
- B) Update, discussion, and authorization on the negotiations with the higher education union coalition pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2)

**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.

A roll call vote was taken on this motion as follows:

Chair Mancuso	Yes
Dennis Duffy:	Yes
Thomas Izzo:	Yes
Judy Ouellette:	Yes
Kerry Rafanelli:	Yes
John Smith Jr.:	Yes
Dr. Jeffery Williams:	Yes
Michael Bernstein:	Yes

Chair Mancuso made the motion to convene in executive session and Kerry Rafanelli seconded it.

Judy Ouellette recused herself from the Executive Session.

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

- Jim Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education,
- Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Council;
- Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel;

- Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner, Finance & Management
- David Dooley, President, URI;
- Nancy Carriuolo, President, Rhode Island College; and
- Ray Di Pasquale, President, CCRI.

The Council reconvened in open session at 8:52 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was

**VOTED:**                    **THAT**    the Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on October 1, 2014

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

YEAS:    Eva-Marie Mancuso, Michael Bernstein, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, John Smith Jr., Dr. Jeffery Williams, and Kerry Rafanelli

NAYS:    0

## 6. NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 5:30 p.m. at Rhode Island College in the Student Union Ballroom.

The next Meeting of the Board of Education is on Wednesday, December 1, 2014, 5:30 p.m. at CCRI in Warwick.

The next Work Session of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 5:30 p.m. at RIDE.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by John Smith and seconded by Judy Ouellette, 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: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Michael Bernstein, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, John Smith Jr., Dr. Jeffery Williams, Kerry Rafanelli

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.