



Enclosure 3c
February 4, 2015

Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Work Session
Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Shepard Building
Room 500
80 Washington Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

The Council on Postsecondary Education met for a Work Session on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 in the RIDE Conference Room in the Shepard Building. At 5:30 p.m. Chair Bernstein welcomed everyone. He then took roll call and noted all Council members were present.

Present: Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John Rainone, John Smith Jr., Dr. Jeffery Williams, and Michael Bernstein.

Absent: None

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: That The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of January 21, 2015 as posted.

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

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

NAYS: 0

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRS

Chair Bernstein:

Chair Bernstein reported that he has attended three games at RIC and all were winning games. He stated that victory is good but the comradery is the most important aspect of these team sports. Chair Bernstein encouraged Council members to attend games as it means a lot to the student players.

He indicated that work sessions will be continuing as they are a good forum for information for the action items of the upcoming meeting. However, he did ask that all of the materials should be sent out as early as possible as this meeting process continues to evolve.

Chair Mancuso:

Chair Mancuso reported that she has met with campus representatives related to the sexual assault and harassment policies that are currently being updated for the system. She referenced an article from the Chronicles of Higher Education that indicated that many systems around the country are wrestling with this issue as our system is.

She also reported that the K-12 Council is working with the National School Board Assessment Committee related to K-12 initiatives.

3. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Dr. Purcell introduced a new member of the staff at the Office. Steve Vieira is on loan from CCRI and is working on the Statewide Longitudinal Data Set. Mr. Vieira has wonderful credentials to lend to this effort.

Dr. Purcell requested the Council's indulgence as he combined agenda item 4d, Workforce: Building Human Capital with 4a, Review of the President's announcement related to the "America's College Promise".

4. DISCUSSION ITEM

a) Review of the President's announcement related to the "America's College Promise" Act

Dr. Purcell reported that the President's "America's College Promise" is based on the Tennessee Promise model as well as the model that Chicago is currently using to

provide free community college tuition. He continued his report with a review of comparable projects in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

In his report, Dr. Purcell showed research from *The Great Reset*, *The Coming Jobs War*, and *A Matter of Degrees* that those cities, states, and countries with the highest level of education are also the most successful. The research presented showed that the economic success of regions correlates with increased education of its citizens and that the reverse was as easily demonstrated.

Dr. Purcell's presentation included a discussion of the "Virtuous Circle of Economic Growth through Human Capital Accumulation" vs. the "Vicious Circle". This second cycle features the cyclical pattern of "Demand for low-skill jobs", "Disincentives for education investment", "Little to no Human Capital Accumulation", and "Slow growth". He indicated that Rhode Island is currently in this cycle and that it is important to stop that cycle or to reverse it if possible.

When asking the question if such a program or a program with these goals is needed, Dr. Purcell referenced Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, in which Mr. Brokaw indicated that it was the U.S. government's commitment to spend in excess of \$1.9B per year to educate returning veterans of war. This education effort propelled the U.S. economy into post-war prosperity.

The Complete College Rhode Island five initiatives align with this effort.

b) Rhode Island Legislative Bills related to Higher Education

Dr. Purcell reported that there are currently only two legislative bills presented for this current session's consideration:

H5077-Complete College Rhode Island Act: This is identical to last year's bill. It contains the requirements that the Council will deliver specific metrics to the Governor and the General Assembly. Dr. Purcell indicated that the longitudinal dataset that is under development will assist with this reporting.

H5034 - Reporting of Campus Sexual Assault: This bill requires mandatory immediate reporting of all reports of sexual assaults to law enforcement authorities for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degrees assault as defined in RI Law.

c) National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA)

Sandy Doran of the New England Board of Higher Education, Dan Egan of President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island (AICU Rhode Island), and Diane Goldsmith, Director of Learning, Assessment, and Online Education,

came to present information about the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA).

NC-SARA is a uniform method across the nation which establishes a state-level reciprocity process to serve all interested states, accommodate all sectors of higher education, and support quality for distance education administered by the four existing regional compacts. It benefits its participants significantly.

In order to begin to take steps to become a participant in the NC-SARA Agreement, state law must include a reasonable definition of physical presence, for purposes of interstate reciprocity, as well as allow participation of state institutions in the reciprocity agreement. In addition statute must identify a lead SARA agency as well as adopting an in-state funding model.

At the institutional level, each institution must apply through its home state. The institution must demonstrate on an annual basis that it complies with all standards and requirements.

Senator Izzo asked if the Council will be submitting a legislative packet in the future. Dr. Purcell said yes once the Office's budget was approved and additional staff was added.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:31 p.m. Chair Bernstein entertained a motion to enter into executive session as there were no action items for consideration on this evening's agenda.

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

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

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

YEAs: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams

NAYs: 0

Council member Judy Ouellette recused herself for the updates on collective bargaining.

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;
- Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel;
- Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner, Finance & Management
- Nancy Carriuolo, President, Rhode Island College; and
- Ray Di Pasquale, President, CCRI.

The Council reconvened in open session at 6:50 p.m.

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

VOTED: **THAT** the Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on January 21, 2015

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

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

NAYS: 0

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at Rhode Island College in Alger Hall, Room 110.

The next Work Session of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at RIDE.

The next Meeting of the Board of Education is on Monday, March 2, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at CCRI in Warwick.

