



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, May 2, 2005, at the Office of Higher Education, 301 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Chair Frank Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

Absent: Miriam Coleman and José González.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by James DiPrete and seconded by Daniel Ryan, it was

VOTED: THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the agenda for the meeting of May 2, 2005.

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

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Michael Schuster, it was

VOTED: THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the minutes of the March 7, 2005 meeting.

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

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chair Caprio issued a reminder that the next Board meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Regents and will take place on May 23, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the URI Bay Campus.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR – None

5. OPEN FORUM

- a. Heidi Green, a graduate student at the University, who is enrolled in the Community Planning Program, addressed the Board to discuss the University's recent decision to cancel this program, which is the only nationally accredited planning program in the state. The program provides a resource for interns who perform work for organizations and municipalities. Throughout the state there are about 100 individuals employed in planning positions.

[Kenneth Aurecchia arrived]

- b. Raymond Watson addressed the Board with regard to the University's elimination of the Community Planning Program. Mr. Watson stated that although students understand the financial concerns of the University, they do not understand why the University has chosen to discontinue the only accredited planning program in the state. Mr. Watson believes the value of the community planning program cannot be accurately measured simply by considering the cost of the program. Not only do alumni from the program graduate and go on to gainful employment, but they also reach levels of importance in their fields. Students enrolled in the Community Planning Program are making an impact in the state even before they graduate. Mr. Watson was born and raised in Providence. This program afforded him the opportunity to return to Rhode Island and give something back to his community. Graduates from the program stay in Rhode Island, make an impact in the community, and impact the community in positive ways.
- c. Brandy Curtis appeared to address the Board on the elimination of the Community Planning Program. Over the last several years, the Community Planning Department has faced a decrease in the number of faculty, assistance-ships, support staff, and technology, as well as budget cuts and downgrading of space. During this time, enrollment has doubled. Alumni of the Community Planning Program have 100% job placement. Ms. Curtis does not feel that the administration understands the importance of including their students in the decision-making process.
- d. Jessica Sick, a second year Community Planning student from Pennsylvania, addressed the Board. Ms. Sick feels that after 40 years the program has reached a crossroads and that with some new innovations, the program could reach a whole new level. Students in the Community Planning Program are trained to solve large scale social problems and would have enjoyed the opportunity to have their solutions taken seriously. Ms. Sick asked whether the University explored the option of a joint program with another college or university. Another suggestion would be to alter the curriculum in a way that would allow the program to keep its accreditation but would lower faculty requirements and costs. Rhode Island is the most urbanized state in the country and should have an urban planning program.
- e. Charles Miller, a former CCRI student and current employee at CCRI for 13 years, addressed the Board and urged Board members to support President Sepe and his efforts to lead CCRI into the new century. Mr. Miller also serves as

a trustee on the CCRI Foundation. The CCRI Foundation has doubled in size and completed a \$1 million capital campaign under President Sepe's leadership. Mr. Miller asked that the Board be mindful that the president's job is not about making decisions in order to gain popularity with staff, faculty, administration, students, or even the Board. It is about making the right decisions; it is about positioning CCRI to better meet its mission in the future; and it is about weaving CCRI into the fabric of the State of Rhode Island so as to enhance both its citizenry and the state's economic outlook.

- f. Dennis Langley, from the Urban League of Rhode Island, addressed Board members in support of President Sepe. Mr. Langley stated that some great things are being done in the community as a result of President's Sepe's efforts. A review of the NEASC report will show that President Sepe is trying to bring CCRI in compliance with its certification body. CCRI is elevating itself. The State should be proud to have such an institution within the State of Rhode Island. Prior to President's Sepe's arrival, CCRI had the highest dropout rate in the country, especially among minority students. For the first time in the institution's history, there is a person of color as a vice president. Mr. Langley suggested that some of the problems at CCRI might disappear if faculty were provided with higher salaries. Mr. Langley asked the Board to make a prudent decision and to make sure that the tail does not wag the dog.
- g. Michael Poindexter, Vice President of Student Affairs, addressed the Board in support of President Sepe. Mr. Poindexter talked about language: Language dealing with how students will be successful; how learners will be successful. The learners are not just the students at CCRI, they are also the faculty, the staff, and the administrators - how we assess what we are doing; and how we grow from there. CCRI will continue to have problems until everyone is speaking the same language. The only way the institution can grow is to address outcomes assessment, threading reading, writing, and technology through every course and making sure everyone is talking the same language and learning the same language. CCRI can only do this with people who are addressing the issues. Mr. Poindexter feels CCRI is addressing the issues under the leadership of President Sepe.
- h. Steven Forleo, a faculty member in the English Department at CCRI, addressed the Board with a very heavy heart. He feels that CCRI is in a freefall. Faculty have heard references to terms such as "culture change" and "accountability." CCRI faculty have sat and actively listened to allegations that CCRI is in dire need of an environmental renovation. Mr. Forleo believes that true efficacy of higher education is easy and simple to understand – The essential equation is that the denominator of all higher education is the institution's faculty, providing solid, quality instruction. The numerator is a supportive administration. Working together, these create and foster an environment that deals with creativity. CCRI's faculty believe that this administration is not interested in such grounded insight, but rather is insistent on an ideological filter on institutional reality. The cornerstone in all of higher education is a supportive administration facilitating the faculty's initiation, implementation and advancement of all curriculum standards. Mr. Forleo represents a faculty of reflective people – thinkers who can not sit idly by when turf battles turn into media announcements and when

there is a direct assault on all departmental policy. Mr. Forleo referenced Robert Frost in saying: "If you take the road less traveled that can make all the difference."

- i. Dorcas Haller, a CCRI faculty member, addressed the Board concerning President Sepe's suitability to remain President of the Community College. Ms. Haller is very concerned about the situation at CCRI and what it is doing to the morale of the College. Ms. Haller stated that the current crisis at the College is not about contract negotiations and the fear of change but rather about the President's lack of ethical behavior, his arrogance, and his continuing inability to manage and lead the College. Ms. Haller remarked that the President has not instituted a model of shared governance that might bring about a new cooperative way of working together with the faculty and staff, instead of dictating to them. Ms. Haller noted the NEASC team visit, which resulted in a very serious report. While the College's accreditation was continued, CCRI is to be the recipient of a focused visit in 2006 and a follow-up visit in 2009. Instead of seeking the counsel of the faculty and staff in addressing the issues raised in the NEASC report, the President announced to the community that CCRI had a successful visit and had been accredited for another 10 years. No mention was made of the seriousness of the situation. There are many issues to be addressed as a result of the NEASC visit, yet the President has been slow and unfocused in his response. The committees that have been established to address some of these issues seem directionless and ineffective. The important work of the College, teaching the students, is being given short shrift. The faculty need to get beyond this crisis and back to their daily work. CCRI needs a president that can work with the faculty, not against it. Ms. Haller believes it is in the best interest of the College not to continue with Tom Sepe as President.
- j. Kip Bergstrom, of the Rhode Island Economics Policy Council, appeared before the Board in support of President Sepe. Mr. Bergstrom believes that CCRI should be the lynch pin of upward mobility because virtually all new jobs that pay a living wage in the state will require at least some college education. It is unacceptable to Mr. Bergstrom that CCRI has the lowest graduation rate of any community college system in the country. Rhode Island is not going to compete economically, and the citizens of Rhode Island are not going to succeed, if this continues. Mr. Bergstrom does not believe that CCRI is moving too fast in making changes. He urged the Board to not only back up President Sepe in his efforts to refocus and realign the College, but to prod him to push even harder for change.
- k. Ramona Skelly, a member of the CCRI Mathematics Department for the past 35 years, addressed the Board. She stated that President Sepe's effect upon CCRI has been disastrous. The President talks about change but has no idea what effective change represents. For example, the President changed the scheduling template for fall, 2005, regardless of the solid reasons presented by CCRI's department chairs as to the difficulties this scheme presented. Due to the variety of programs and types of student populations at CCRI, the faculty had a plan that allowed as many students as possible to fit in their required classes in an efficient manner. The new schedule does not allow for the efficient use of either rooms or faculty. When asked why this change should be implemented, Mr. Sepe's reply was "This is the way the 4-year colleges do it." CCRI is not a 4-year institution;

its students' needs differ greatly. Having been in Rhode Island only a few weeks, President Sepe gave his first address at a general faculty meeting, at which time he castigated the math department's math lab for what he termed poor retention rates, without talking to anyone in the department as to the accuracy of the information he presented. Ms. Skelly commented that President Sepe implemented a new computer management system [Banner] during the present semester rather than between semesters or over the summer. As a result, glitches in the system resulted in a delay in the entry of mid-semester grades. President Sepe closed the entire registration area for a full week while files were being transferred – not the week of spring break - but the week before. The faculty association's vote of no confidence in President Sepe was done for the health of CCRI and its students.

- I. Kathy Gazzola, Chair of the Dental Health Department at CCRI, shared with the Board her experience with President Sepe during her department's accreditation process. The Dental Health Department had an accreditation site visit from the Commission on Dental Accreditation from the American Dental Association on November 8-10. Approximately one week before the visit, Ms. Gazzola personally delivered 10 books to the President's office to prepare him for the administrative interview. The accreditation team wanted to speak with the President of the institution to see where the Dental Health Department fits in, what they are all about, and what the chemistry is between the Department and the President. The question that was presented from the staff member from UNC to President Sepe was "What is your philosophy regarding the dental health programs at CCRI?" His answer to this was, "We have a state of the art dental hygiene clinic." What the accreditation team needed to hear was that CCRI is the sole accredited educational forum for dental health education in the State of Rhode Island. CCRI has the only accredited dental hygiene program and the only collegiate dental assisting program in the state. One of the staff representatives commented that it was sad to see how unprepared the President of our institution was. Ms. Gazzola also informed the Board that the Division of Life Long Learning started a competitive program in dental assisting. There is a difference between an on-line virtual course and spending two semesters within a collegiate atmosphere. What was the mechanism for having two competitive programs within the same institution? Ms. Gazzola asked why she, as chair of the department, or the dental assisting program director, was not made aware of this. People make mistakes, but how can CCRI make the right changes if there is no communication? Ms. Gazzola also informed the Board that for the last two years, CCRI has not had a nurse at the College. Students are frustrated. The mechanism that has been put in place is not working. Ms. Gazzola is concerned about the confidentiality of students' health records and she is concerned with the fact that they are not getting the education that they need because there is frustration and errors. There is a law that will require every college student to have to have their health records completed. CCRI cannot address the 1,000 students with this issue now; what is going to happen when the rest of the approximately 16,000 students at CCRI have this problem?
- m. James McMahon, Chairperson of the CCRI Computer Studies and Information Processing Department for the past 21 years, spoke to the Board about how CCRI has become an angry and hostile work environment beginning in the second year of President Sepe's administration. President Sepe's

micromanagement has caused near paralysis in the College's decision-making, as he is actively involved at all levels. An example of this is President Sepe's rewriting of job specifications for the hiring of faculty at the Newport campus in the Criminal Justice Program, the English Department, and the Psychology Department – all without any departmental involvement. Mr. McMahon noted that although President Sepe's presidential skills outside CCRI campuses are fondly admired by local business leadership, his banging of the table with his fists in order to insist that change be made is something that the outsiders have not observed.

- n. Deborah Lilly, a member of the CCRI English Department for the last 13 years, addressed the Board as a faculty member and an alumna. Ms. Lilly always loved the environment at CCRI, both as a student and as a faculty member, except for the last three and a half years. As a faculty member, she perceives that the administration has created an environment that is neither collegial nor student-centered. Ms. Lilly cites President Sepe's lack of vision – plans are promoted but not followed through; he fails to involve faculty in important curriculum and community decisions; and there is a lack of respect for faculty expertise and pedagogical views regarding student success. Ms. Lilly referenced the fact that CCRI still does not have a mission statement. NEASC asked how CCRI could have a strategic plan when it didn't have a mission statement. CCRI proceeded to develop the strategic plan without a mission statement. Ms. Lilly noted that developmental education and the student success centers are not new to the CCRI community. Ms. Lilly believes that students, faculty and the CCRI community at large deserve better leadership.
- o. Alicia Lyon, a member of the CCRI faculty for 24 years, appeared before the Board to say she has been blessed to work with people in a very collegial and sharing environment. There may be disagreements, but they are expressed in an open forum and are part of the learning process. Ms. Lyon talked about respect – listening and understanding - and provided an example of what she felt was a lack of respect: The administration scheduled 18 new sections of new reading courses in the English Department. At the time, there were no syllabi prepared and no outcomes assessment. The English Department met and requested that the administration reduce the number to 9 – 3 per campus. The answer was no – all 18 sections would run as originally scheduled. This was disrespectful to the process, the faculty, and the students, and resulted in much disagreement. Ms. Lyon described the culture at CCRI as one of alienation. The culture that the faculty desire at CCRI is not one of combat but one of consensus.

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Warner reported on a Notice of Change to approximately ten of the Board of Governors' Finance Policies, as outlined in Enclosure 6a and Enclosure 6b. The Commissioner indicated that many of the Board's policies are being reviewed by several groups from the institutions to ensure they are up-to-date. Each policy is ultimately reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee. These matters are being presented for notice this month and will appear on the agenda for approval at the Board's next meeting, scheduled for May 23.

The Commissioner noted that the Board released its second annual report to the high schools. A copy of the report is included in tonight's packet. The findings are similar to last year's report. Students who take college preparatory courses and do well in them do well when they reach higher education, both in terms of persistence and in terms of academic performance. Students who do not take such courses do not present themselves to institutions of higher education as "college ready." There are a number of efforts underway, including the new PK-16 Council proposed by the Governor, to begin to address these issues. There are several groups working to bring higher education faculty together with high school faculty in order to line up exit high school standards with the entry standards and placement standards of higher education, particularly in the skill areas of reading, writing, and math. Next month's joint meeting with the Board of Regents will provide an opportunity to continue this discussion and to begin to look at practices and policies that will help decrease the need for developmental courses.

The release of the report was also highlighted by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spelling, at Cranston East High School. Several Board members attended the press conference.

Commissioner Warner commented on the course overload issue at CCRI, reported in today's **PROVIDENCE JOURNAL**. This item was discussed at the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on April 27th. This is an issue that has been studied for several months. The Board is satisfied with the College's response to the issue of course overload.

7. NEW BUSINESS

On a motion duly made by Vice Chair Michael Ryan and seconded by Thomas Rockett, it was

VOTED: THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education Public/Private Partnership Policy and Procedures.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members Voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Academic and Student Affairs

James DiPrete reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on March 18, 2005, at Rhode Island College.

The committee welcomed guests from the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority - Deputy Director Gail Mance-Rios and Program Administrator Mary Ann Welch. They

discussed proposed federal changes in Pell grants. President Bush has proposed that the maximum Pell Grant increase by \$100 each year over the next 5 years; however, in Rhode Island the 8% tax rate has been decreased to 6%. As taxes decrease, the expected family contribution to education expenses increases; therefore, some people will either lose Pell grants or their Pell grants will decrease. More specifics, on this issue can be requested from Nancy Carriuolo. In addition to Pell grants, students may receive Rhode Island state grants, which are not expected to change dramatically.

Nancy Carriuolo updated the committee regarding efforts to re-fund TRIO. Thanks to a bi-partisan effort that included Senators Reed and Chaffee, TRIO funds appear to be steady now, with final budgetary decisions to be made over the summer.

The committee also discussed two actionable items which are on tonight's agenda:

1. URI seeks approval for permanent establishment of the Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America, which seeks to develop solutions to the problem of hunger in Rhode Island and nationwide as well as "to promote education, research, and outreach on the causes and consequences of hunger and the study of policies and problems aimed at alleviating hunger." The fiscally sound center has an endowment of \$1.5M and a number of grants. The center's director, Kathleen Gorman, and its students are very active in the community and involved with RIC's Poverty Center.

2. The second action item relates to a proposal to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Film Media at the University of Rhode Island. The revised URI Film Media program takes a broad interdisciplinary and interdepartmental approach and has a production component that distinguishes itself from the program at RIC. The resulting program provides an excellent complement to RIC's program and will provide students with many and varied job opportunities here and abroad.

The committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of these two items.

On April 19th the ASAC sponsored a dinner for student leaders at the URI Faculty Center, during which students learned proper dining etiquette. The dinner was very successful.

On a motion duly made by James DiPrete and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon, it was

VOTED:

(Item 8a1) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) approve the proposal to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Film Media at the University of Rhode Island.

(Item 8a2) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the proposal for permanent establishment of the Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America at the University of Rhode Island.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan,

Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

b. Facilities

Chair Caprio reported that a joint meeting of the Facilities and Finance and Management Committees was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2005. The Committees reviewed the following item:

Item 8b1 on tonight's agenda – approval of URI's request to demolish Hope Dining Hall. The Committees recommend Board approval of the University's request to begin demolition of the Hope Dining Hall on the Kingston Campus to make room for the construction of a new dining hall facility. Capital budget approvals from the Board and the debt management process have already been obtained.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Michael Ryan and seconded by Daniel Ryan, it was

VOTED:

(Item 8b1) That The Board of Governors approve the University's request to demolish the Hope Dining Hall, pending approval by the State Properties Committee

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

c. Finance

Vice Chair Ryan reported on Items 8c1 through 8c7 on tonight's agenda.

The Committees recommend Board approval of Item 8c1, the Henry Barnard tuition rates for the 2005-06 fiscal year, as proposed by Dr. Nazarian. The rates, which represent a five percent increase over the current year, are:

\$7,250 for Pre School
\$5,530 for Kindergarten
\$5,452 for Grades 1-6

The Committees recommend approval of Item 8c2, which is a request for a \$50,000 loan guarantee by the Board for the Phi Sigma Delta Alumni Association. The guarantee is needed to finalize a bank loan that would allow the Association to begin constructing a new fraternity house to replace the original house destroyed by fire in 1994. The addition of this \$50,000 loan guarantee will bring the total of outstanding loan guarantees to \$550,000.

The Committees recommend Board approval of Item 8c3, which is a request for funding through the Department of Administration for the Oracle/PeopleSoft maintenance and licensing agreement. The initial contract, which ends on June 30, 2005, for the PeopleSoft system was financed for a seven-year period by the Department of Administration.

The Committees recommend approval of Item 8c4 - a request from the University to issue revenue bonds to finance the Dining Hall project. During the last legislative session, it was included in the State Capital Budget for consideration under the requirements of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act and was approved for the requested \$13.8 million in bond financing. The bond will be financed by revenues generated by the dining services operations.

The Committees recommend approval of Item 8c5, which is a request from the University for approval to proceed with the financing of \$2.0 million in revenue bonds from RIHEBC for Phase II of the paving project. Phase II includes construction and reconstruction of parking facilities, roadways, sidewalks, curbing, drainage and landscaping. The bonds will be financed by the unrestricted budget of the University.

The Committees recommend approval of Item 8c6. The Owner Controlled Insurance Program is an insurance program that provides a blanket, multi-year general liability and workers' compensation policy for contractors involved in large-scale construction projects. With such large-scale projects beginning in 2005, the University is requesting Board approval to secure a letter of credit for a new Owner Controlled Insurance Program.

Finally, the Committees recommend that the Board accept the Internal Audit Report on CCRI Faculty Assignment Practices, as outlined in Item 8c7. The report was conducted to determine if the practices at CCRI were in line with contract guidelines and industry standards and to determine if the assignment practices are effective and provide efficient utilization of faculty.

On a motion made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Daniel Ryan, it was

VOTED:

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| (Item 8c1) | That | The Board of Governors approve the tuition rates for Henry Barnard School for the 2005-2006 fiscal year as presented. |
| (Item 8c2) | That | The Board of Governors approve the granting of a \$50,000 loan guarantee to the Phi Sigma Delta Alumni Association of URI in support of their financing the construction of a new fraternity house at 8 Fraternity Circle on the Kingston Campus, and further |
| | That | The Chairman of the Board be authorized to execute the documentation necessary to effect that loan guarantee subject to the review and acceptance of the Board's legal counsel. |
| (Item 8c3) | That | The Board of Governors authorize the request for additional funds in the Department of Administration budget for the Oracle/PeopleSoft licensing and maintenance agreement. |

- (Item 8c4)** That The Board of Governors approve the University's Request to Proceed with Financing for the revised Dining Hall project, and further
- That The Board of Governors approve the Resolution of the Board as attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- (Item 8c5)** That The Board of Governors approve the University's request to proceed with the financing of Phase II of the paving project, and further
- That The Board of Governors approve the Resolution of the Board attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- (Item 8c6)** That The Board of Governors approve the University of Rhode Island's request to secure a letter of credit in support of an Owner Controlled Insurance Program.
- (Item 8c7)** That The Board of Governors accept the Internal Audit Report *Community College of Rhode Island Faculty Assignment Practices*.
- Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.
- NAYS: 0

d. Government Relations

Kenneth Aurecchia reported that the Government Relations Committee met at the Office of Higher Education on April 12th. In addition to the Chair, Governor Rockett and Governor Schuster were in attendance. Staff from the Office of Higher Education, University, and Community College also participated. Committee members voted to recommend unqualified support of the following legislation:

2005-S 0113 - Matching Grants and 2005-H 5128 - Matching Grants. These are identical bills which would require the State to provide an additional \$1 for every \$2 privately raised by the schools for the creation of new academic chairs and other educational enhancements. The programs would terminate when the University receives \$5 million, RIC receives \$2 million, and CCRI receives \$1 million. The BOG staff would require each institution to certify that the donations are consistent with the purposes of the Act prior to receiving the matching grants. The three institutions have provided testimony that these bills would have positive impact on their fundraising efforts.

2005-H 5593 - Allocation Powers. This bill would create a single budgetary line for public higher education and would restore the Board's allocation authority. Board committee

members suggest that the Office of Higher Education staff members survey other public higher education systems to determine whether there are other budget allocation systems which would work effectively in Rhode Island. Associate Commissioner Leone is surveying SHEEO to generate that information.

2005-S 0760 - *URI Charter School*. The Committee recommends that the Board support legislation that would allow for the creation of the "University of Rhode Island Academy for Post Adjudicated Youth," a charter school.

2005-S 0205 and 2005-H 5105. - *Unencumbered Balances*. The Committee endorses the idea allowing the three institutions to roll unencumbered balances forward to the next fiscal year. Committee members did suggest, however, that the institutions provide specific purposes for which the unencumbered balances would be used.

2005-H 5106 - *Collaborative Research*. The Committee supports the goals of this bill, which proposes to facilitate the collaborative research efforts of the three schools. Committee members strongly support the deletion of the provision which requires the schools "to solicit expressions of interest" prior to engaging a research partner. Governor Rockett would also like the Board to intensify its efforts to exempt institutional research efforts from the state's purchasing regulations.

2005-S 0715 – *Campus Security*. The Committee recommends that the Board oppose this bill, which would mandate the arming of campus police the University. Current law gives the Board the prerogative of arming campus police at each of the three schools. Prudent public policy dictates that this issue should be driven by a recommendation from the University president and the University community.

On a motion made by Kenneth Aurecchia and seconded by Thomas Rockett, it was

VOTED:

(Item 8d1) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education SUPPORT the following bills without reservation:

- 2005-S 0113 - ***Matching Grants (Revens, Sosnowski, Alves, Bates, Montalbano)***/Would establish the public higher education academic excellence and student access endowment incentive program to which the state would contribute an amount equal to one dollar for every two dollars privately contributed to the three public institutions' foundations for the creation of new academic chairs, the support of existing academic chairs and other educational enhancements.
- 2005-H 5128 - ***Matching Grants (Shanley, Lally, Carter, San Bento, Lewiss)***/Would establish the public higher education academic excellence and student access endowment incentive program to which the state would contribute an amount equal to one dollar for every two dollars privately contributed to the three public institutions' foundations for the creation of new academic chairs, the support of existing academic chairs and other educational enhancements.
- 2005-H 5593 - ***Allocation Powers (McHugh)*** Would create a single budgetary line for public higher education and restore the power to allocate appropriations to the Board of Governors for Higher Education.
- 2005-S 0760 - ***URI Charter School (Issa)*** Would allow for the creation of the "University of Rhode Island Academy for Post Adjudicated Youth," a charter school.

THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education SUPPORT the following bills with suggested changes:

- 2005-S 0205 - **Unencumbered Balances (Issa, Sosnowski, Lenihan)** Would provide that disposition of unexpended balances for public higher education would be determined by the Board of Governors for Higher Education and that written notification be given to the state controller.
- 2005-H 5105 - **Unencumbered Balances (Carter)** Would provide that disposition of unexpended balances for public higher education would be determined by the Board of Governors for Higher Education and that written notification be given to the state controller.

The Government Relations Committee suggests that the bills be amended to require the institutions to specify the purposes for which the unencumbered balances would be spent.

- 2005-H 5106 - **Collaborative Research (Carter)** Would require the Board of Governor for Higher Education and the 3 public institutions of higher education to solicit expressions of interest from public and private entities which may have an interest in collaborative research efforts with the colleges or university.

The Government Relations Committee recommends that the provision which requires the three public institutions "to solicit expressions of interest" be deleted.

THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education OPPOSE the following bill:

- 2005-S 0715 - **Campus Security (Damiani, Polisena, Sosnowski)** Would allow appointed campus police officers at the University of Rhode Island to carry weapons while on duty as well as execute arrest warrants and search warrants in the course of their official duties.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of awarding of degrees by the University of Rhode Island

It was recommended:

(Item 9a) THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the spring 2005 semester who will be approved by the faculty at the University of Rhode Island.

b. Approval of awarding of degrees by Rhode Island College

It was recommended:

(Item 9b) THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the awarding of undergraduate and advanced degrees by Rhode Island College to the candidates who meet degree requirements at the conclusion of the spring 2005 semester.

c. Approval of awarding of degrees by the Community College of Rhode Island

It was recommended:

(Item 9c) THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the awarding of appropriate degrees, diplomas and certificates to those students who have satisfactorily complied with the prerequisites as determined by the president of the Community College of Rhode Island.

d. Endorsement of honorary degree nominee at the University of Rhode Island

It was recommended:

(Item 9d) THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education endorse the awarding of an honorary degree to the recipient proposed by the University of Rhode Island.

e. Approval of awarding of a posthumous degree by Rhode Island College

It was recommended:

(Item 9e) THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the granting of the Bachelor of Science, posthumously, to Clerinda Davignon.

It was recommended:

f. Approval of awarding of faculty tenure by the University of Rhode Island

(Item 9f) THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the awarding of tenure to:

Effective July 1, 2005 (Consequent to Promotion)

Peter Adamy, Education
Bryan J. Blissmer, Kinesiology
Su L. Boatright-Horowitz, Psychology
Thomas B. Boving, Geosciences
David Chelidze, Mechanical Engineering
Mark Conley, Music
Lisa Cingiser DiPippo, Computer Sciences
Earline Rae Ferguson, History
M. Liliana González, Computer Science and Statistics
Scott J. Lloyd, Management Information Systems
Mary C. MacDonald, Public Services
Karen McCurdy, Human Development and Family Studies
Nansook Park, Psychology
André J. Rathemacher, Technical Services
Anne M. Seitsinger, Education
Daniel A. Sheinin, Marketing
Minsuk K. Shim, Education
Evelyn Sterne, History
Gongqin Sun, Cell and Molecular Biology
Cheryl Ann Denesha Wilga, Biological Sciences
Li Wu, Mathematics

Effective July 1, 2005 (Tenure Only)

Michael L. Greenfield, Chemical Engineering

Effective July 1, 2005 (Tenure Only, Upon Initial Appointment)

Beth C. Marcoux, Physical Therapy

g. Approval of recommendations of the Personnel Review Committee

It was recommended:

(Item 9g) THAT

University of Rhode Island:

1. Establish new classification, Technologist, Imaging Services, BOG Grade 9 (\$31,395-\$60,755).
2. Establish new classification, Director, Capital Planning and Design, BOG Grade 16 (\$53,395 - \$105,528).

Rhode Island College:

1. Establish new classification, Director, Child Welfare Institute, BOG paygrade 15 (\$49,463 - \$97,137).

On a motion duly made by James DiPrete and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon, it was

VOTED: THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

11. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. University of Rhode Island

President Carothers reported that the University is heading down the finish line in its preparation for commencement activities. This year's commencement will run live on both Channel 36 and on the Cox network so that people will be able to watch the ceremony from remote sites.

Commissioner Warner asked President Carothers to comment on the elimination of the Community Planning Program. President Carothers noted that discussions relating to the Community Planning Program, which is a master's degree program, have gone on for three years. There have been many meetings with the alumni of the program and meetings with a variety of people at the Rhode Island Planning Association. The program is not productive from a research perspective or in terms of the number of students who graduate. The program has an illustrious history, and it has accomplished some wonderful things in the past. As one of the speakers tonight indicated, the University has to have five faculty members in this program; the program produces about five graduates each year. There are a number of faculty retirements coming up; therefore, this is the right time to make this decision. There is an accreditation visit scheduled for the fall. Without the additional faculty members, the University will not pass the accreditation standards. There are higher priorities within the University for the faculty slots that are associated with this program. The University is guaranteeing to all students who are currently enrolled in the program that the program will continue through their graduation. The University has tried a variety of partnerships and has moved the department several times from college to college. Last year, the department voted to disaffiliate itself from the College of Environment and Life Sciences. Once it disaffiliated itself, nobody else would take them in; they report now directly to the Provost. The University has very good positions for each of the faculty members remaining in the program, where they can make productive contributions to the University once the currently enrolled class graduates. At one time, URI attempted to forge a partnership with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, but it didn't work out.

b. Rhode Island College

President Nazarian reported that Rhode Island College is also preparing for yearend activities. Cap and Gown Day is Wednesday, May 4th. Undergraduate commencement is

scheduled for May 21st and the Graduate Commencement is scheduled for May 19th. Commencement ceremonies will be broadcast on closed circuit television throughout the campus.

c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Sepe announced that CCRI has been named one of the top 10 digitally savvy community colleges in the country for its use of technology in the learning process. This award was presented to the College by the Center for Digital Education and the American Association of Community Colleges at a national conference in Boston last month. CCRI was the only college in New England to be recognized in the survey findings.

President Sepe reported that the Banner system went live the week of March 14th with student recruitment, admissions, records, registration, bursar, financial aid, and Life Long Learning all at once. The Human Resource Department will be next in January of 2006.

President Sepe informed the Board that the Therapeutic Massage Program received its first reaccreditation for five years.

The National Institute for Staff and Occupational Development issued awards to the following CCRI faculty: Kathy Blessing from the Library; Dan Donovan, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies; Doris Aileen Fournier, Chairperson of the Nursing Department; and Philip Miller, Professor of Engineering and Technology. All recipients received national awards for their dedication and hard work as faculty members.

President Sepe announced that CCRI enjoyed its own version of March Madness. The women's basketball team ranked third in the nation after the national tournament and the men's basketball team is ranked ninth nationally.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Caprio indicated he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss an update on collective bargaining, pending litigation, and the job performance of President Tom Sepe, pursuant R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) and R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2). President Sepe was provided with notice of his right to request discussion of his job performance in open session; however, he does not object to discussion in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Paula Arruda and seconded by Pierre LaPerriere, it was

VOTED: THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education convene in executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) and §42-46-5(a)(2), for the reasons set forth.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

All other audience members were excused.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:45 p.m.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Governors and URI Graduate Assistants

On a motion duly made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Pierre LaPerriere, it was

VOTED: THAT: The Board of Governors approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Governors and the University of Rhode Island GAU/AAUP, as presented.
(Item 12a1)

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members Voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

On a motion made by Paula Arruda and seconded by James DiPrete, it was

VOTED: THAT The minutes of the Executive Session be sealed.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members Voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

14. NEXT MEETING

Joint Meeting of the Board of Governors and the Board of Regents, Monday, May 23, 2005, University of Rhode Island, Coastal Institute Building, Narragansett Bay Campus at 5:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Solomon A. Solomon, Thomas Rockett, and James DiPrete and seconded by Kenneth Aurecchia, it was

VOTED: THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education adjourn.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Schuster, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary