



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, December 12, 2005, at the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education, 301 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Chair Frank Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

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

Absent: Kenneth Aurecchia, Miriam Coleman and Michael Schuster

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 12, 2005, 2005.

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

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

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VOTED: THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the minutes of the October 24, 2005 meeting.

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

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Frank Caprio, José González, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Caprio acknowledged the presence of Cliff Monteriro, the President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the NAACP, and welcomed Mr. Monteriro to today's meeting.

5. OPEN FORUM

None.

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Warner announced that the Pre-K-16 Council (a Governor chaired council that began as a joint committee between the Board of Governors and the Board of Regents and that now includes Work Force Training and Economic Development representatives) will be meeting at the Office of Higher Education on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The Commissioner extended an invitation to attend to all Board members.

Commissioner Warner reported that a detailed discussion of this fall's enrollment is included in tonight's packet. In addition, the admissions profiles of Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island are also contained in tonight's packet. Overall head count and FTE enrollment for the system remain level. Both RIC and URI grew on the FTE measure; however, CCRI is down approximately 1.2%. Minority enrollment is up 7.7%, especially at RIC where it is up 10.0%. CCRI's minority enrollment is up 9.1% and URI's is up 3.5%. Although URI grew in enrollment, it did not meet its projections. Commissioner Warner reported that in-state student applications were up, as well as the number of in-state admissions. The mean SAT score at URI stayed level at 1120. Rhode Island College's in-state enrollment and transfer enrollment has also increased. The mean SAT score at RIC is 1000, a gain of 25 points from last fall.

Several notices (Items 6c-e) are included in the Commissioner's report that have been reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The Board will be asked to formally vote on these notices at the next Board meeting in January.

Commissioner Warner thanked President Tom Sepe for his 5 and one-half years of leadership at the Community College and extended his best wishes for his transition back to teaching.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Academic and Student Affairs

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on November 18, 2005, at which time presentations were made by the three state institutions of higher education regarding enrollment, undergraduate/graduate courses, and FTE's.

Revisions to Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island and Regulations Governing Institutions of Higher Education Operating in Rhode Island are

before the Board for notice and are intended to clarify and to align our regulations with the newly revised standards of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which will be effective on January 1, 2006. The revisions were summarized by the ASAC and recommended for approval by the full Board at its January meeting.

Revisions to the regulations that govern URI, RIC and CCRI are also in draft form and will be considered at a later meeting.

Finally, ASAC recommends approval of CCRI's proposal to offer an associate's degree in Applied Science in Histotechnology at the Liston Campus. CCRI will be the first community college in New England to offer this program. Histotechnologists require an associate's degree and licensing. The President of the Rhode Island Society of Histotechnologists and the office of the National Society of Histotechnologists sent letters of support, stressing the need for well-trained histotechnologists. The members of the ASAC unanimously recommend approval of this program.

The next meeting of the ASAC committee will be held on January 13, 2006.

On a motion made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by José González, it was

VOTED:

(Item 8a1) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the Community College of Rhode Island's proposal to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Histotechnology at the Liston Campus

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

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

NAYS: 0

b. Facilities

A meeting of the Facilities and Finance and Management Committees was held on November 16, 2005. Chair Caprio reported that under tonight's Consent agenda there are four items that the Facilities/Finance Committees recommend for Board approval tonight:

Item 8b1 - Approval of Fire Marshall Inspection Reports on Residence Halls at the University of Rhode Island

This item is a report assembled by the University on the status of the responses to the State Fire Marshall's inspections. As of this date thirteen (13) of the nineteen (19) residence facilities have been inspected. The University's report indicates that 80% of the findings were in the categories of documentation and on-going maintenance

and repairs, and the remaining 20% require upgrades to existing building systems and additional capital investments.

At the committees' meeting the University reported that it continually focuses on fire safety in the residence halls. The University is systematically going through each of the buildings to identify needed improvements and to secure or commit funding to make those improvements.

Item 8b2: Approval of the University of Rhode Island Agricultural Land leases

Item 8b is a request from the University for approval of agricultural land leases. The University has leased land in Kingston for agricultural use for several decades. The current leases expire in the year 2005. The University has gone through the procurement process and has received several bids from parties interested in leasing land from URI. The University is recommending two companies as a result of the bidding process. One lease would cover 101 acres, which would generate an annual payment to the University of \$57,350. The second lease would cover 84 acres and generate an annual payment of \$43,400.

Item 8b3: Approval of License (lease) Agreement between Nextel, Inc. and RIC for cell phone antennas

Rhode Island College is requesting permission to enter into a lease agreement with Nextel, Inc. to place cell phone antennas on the roof of Browne Residence Hall. Nextel will pay a monthly rent of \$2,400 to Rhode Island College with an annual escalator of 3%. The term of the lease is for 10 years with two five-year renewal options.

Item 8b4: Approval of the Community College's Request to Enter into a License Agreement with the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Division of Information Technology (DoIT)

This is a request from the Community College to enter into a license agreement with the State of Rhode Island to grant the Department of Administration, Division of Information Technology, the right to establish, construct and maintain an emergency radio network antenna site on the roof of the main building on the Knight Campus. It is a five-year lease with the option to extend for three additional five-year periods. This will be a part of the Rhode Island Tactical and Emergency Radio Network which will coordinate police, fire, emergency medical services and other key services throughout Rhode Island.

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

VOTED:

(Item 8b1) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the University's report on the status of responses to the State Fire Marshal's inspection reports.

- (Item 8b2) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the lease documents for the following:
- P2 and P3 (101 acres) - to Tee and Green Sod, Inc., totaling \$57,350 annually at an average of \$568/acre or \$1.30/sq. ft.
 - K1, K2 & K3(84 acres) – New England Turf, Inc. for \$43,400.00 annually at an average of \$520/acre or \$1.19/sq. ft.
- (Item 8b3) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve Rhode Island College's request to enter into a lease agreement with Nextel, Inc. to place cell phone antennas on the roof of Browne Residence Hall, and further
- That The lease be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval, pending a favorable review by the Board's legal counsel.
- (Item 8b4) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the Community College's request to enter into a License Agreement with the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Division of Information Technology to establish, construct and maintain a Rhode Island Tactical and Emergency Radio Network antenna site on the roof of the main building of the CCRI Knight Campus, and further
- That The License Agreement be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval, pending a favorable review by the Board's Legal Counsel.
- Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Paula Arruda, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, José González, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
- NAYS: 0

c. Facilities

Vice Chair Ryan reported that under the Consent agenda there is one item that the Facilities/Finance Committees recommend for Board approval tonight:

Item 8c1: *Approval of Report on Copyrighted Software Usage – Community College of Rhode Island*

This is a report prepared by the Internal Audit unit regarding controls over copyrighted software at CCRI. The audit staff have discussed their findings and

recommendations with CCRI, and the improvements CCRI has planned should resolve the issues.

Vice Chair Ryan also reported that as a result of a collaborative effort by the Office of Higher Education, Rhode Island College, and the University, over \$3.4 million in debt service payments were saved by refinancing some existing Board debt. In addition, through a series of bond issues, two construction projects at the University—the Dining Center and Tyler Hall--have been financed.

On a motion made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Thomas Rockett, it was

VOTED:

(Item 8c1) That The Board of Governors approve the Report on Copyrighted Software Usage – Community College of Rhode Island, prepared by the OHE Internal Audit staff.

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

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

NAYS: 0

Chair Caprio expressed his appreciation to President Tom Sepe for all of his accomplishments at the Community College and the assistance he provided to the Board of Higher Education. President Sepe will be remembered for all of the positive things he achieved. He leaves behind a great legacy.

d. Personnel Committee

Daniel Ryan reported that the committee met several times over the last few months. The Board retained the services of an outside consultant, Dr. Stephen Portch, who submitted a report after conducting focused group interviews on the Kingston campus. The committee has completed its contract renewal evaluation for President Robert Carothers and commends Dr. Carothers for the fine job he has done over the last few years. The committee recommends that the Board approve a new three year contract for President Robert Carothers for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009. The committee recommends authorizing the Board Chair to negotiate the terms of the contract with President Carothers. The committee also recommends that the Board continue to use the management letters submitted by President Carothers in 2006, 2007 and 2008 to focus presidential leadership on certain priorities over the next three years:

On a motion made by Daniel Ryan and seconded by the entire Board, it was

VOTED:

(Item 12c1) That The Board of Governors commend Robert Carothers for his many years of effective leadership of the University of Rhode Island, and

- That The Board approve the offering of a new three-year contract to President Robert Carothers for the period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009, and
- That The Board Chair be authorized to negotiate the terms of the contract with President Carothers.
- That The Board of Governors for Higher Education use the management letters submitted by President Carothers in 2006, 2007 and 2008 to focus presidential leadership on the following priorities over the next three years:
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the systems, programs, and services that are designed to improve overall student retention and graduation rates with special attention to improving those rates overall and for minority and low-income students.
 - Continue efforts to move fund raising to the next level over the next three years.
 - Expand continuing education offerings and enrollments at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
 - Continue efforts to increase overall graduate student enrollment.
 - Enhance strategies to increase federal funding for research.
 - Empower managers to deal more effectively with discrimination and harassment complaints through professional development and training programs.
 - Continue efforts to increase the quantity of student housing significantly beyond current levels.
 - Enhance efforts to further refine the process of academic program review and evaluation. Such program review could identify priority programs that would enable resource reallocation to those programs.
 - Conduct a re-examination of such core processes as enrollment management and financial systems for re-engineering possibilities that would improve results and free up resources for reallocation.
- Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Paula Arruda, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, José González, Pierre LaPerriere, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
- NAYS: 0

9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

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

VOTED:

(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 fall 2005 semester who will be approved by the faculty at the University of Rhode Island.

(Item 9b) That The Board of Governors for Higher Education endorse the awarding of honorary degrees to the recipients proposed by Rhode Island College.

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

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, José González, Pierre LaPerriere, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**a. University of Rhode Island**

President Carothers expressed his gratitude and appreciation of the results of the evaluation process and for the professional way in which it was handled by the Personnel Committee, Dr. Stephen Portch, the Commissioner, and everyone involved.

President Carothers updated Board members on the status of the various ongoing construction projects at URI. The residence hall remains on track to open in the fall of 2006 and the dining hall project remains on track to open in January of 2007. Significant work began this week on Independence Hall. Almost all of the work at Independence Hall is inside; therefore, this project should be completed on time for the reopening of classes in the fall of 2006. The BioScience building design is progressing nicely. If everything proceeds as expected, the groundwork should commence in August of 2006. Finally, a meeting took place on the Pell Marine Library. Value engineering continues on this project in an effort to bring it within budget. President Carothers also anticipates commencing groundwork on this project in August of 2006.

President Carothers announced that a reorganization of the fund raising activities at the University that will involve the URI Foundation is being formulated. This proposal will be presented to the Board in the spring. The redesign involves an 18-month transition period. A retreat took place at Alton Jones in November with the Foundation Board. A consultant from the AGB attended the retreat and assisted in the redesign process. The end result will be the

creation of an integrated fundraising effort throughout the University.

Finally, classes ended on Friday, December 9th. Final exams begin on Wednesday, December 14th. There is a festive spirit in the air despite the blood shot eyes.

b. Rhode Island College

President Nazarian reported that classes at Rhode Island College ended today and exams start on Wednesday, December 14th.

President Nazarian announced that Rhode Island College was awarded the Education Publications Community Involvement award by the Providence Preservation Society for its work with the State Home and School Project and the renovation of the Yellow Cottage, located on the east campus at RIC.

President Nazarian reported that the expectations for the new residence hall have been met. The project is two months ahead of schedule. There is a pre-bid meeting on December 20th, and the bids are to be opened on January 11th. President Nazarian hopes that there will be a break in the weather so that this project can get underway. The project is currently on schedule, and the estimate is within budget.

Finally, Rhode Island College will be holding an open-house tomorrow. President Nazarian extended an invitation to all in attendance.

c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Sepe announced a curriculum change in the name of a certificate program. The certificate program previously designated as travel and tourism will be known as travel, tourism and hospitality. Three additional courses will be offered. This change reflects an emphasis on hospitality, particularly in the Newport area.

President Sepe also announced some positive results in the nursing program. For the period of January, 2005 CCRI ranked top in the state in graduation rates at 82.14%.

A publication entitled "2005 Fall Sports Guide" was distributed to Board members. In recent years participants in the CCRI sports programs, particularly women athletes, have performed quite well. This year's men's basketball team ranked second in the nation while the women's basketball team ranked fifteenth in the nation. At a recent track meet at Harvard, the men and women on the CCRI track team broke six school records. President Sepe pointed out the new logo which appears on the front of the sports guide.

Each year CCRI follows up with its graduates six months after they leave the college. The most recent transfer report was distributed to Board members. President Sepe provided highlights: Over 80% of CCRI's students responded to the survey. 92% of CCRI graduates are either employed full time or going to college full time, or are doing a combination of both. 85% of those students surveyed who are working are employed in Rhode Island. 88% of those who continue their education do so in Rhode Island. This illustrates CCRI's education of Rhode Island students for Rhode Island jobs and colleges.

Lastly, President Sepe thanked the many individuals, both on campus and off, including colleagues and friends in the business and minority communities, who came to the aid of the College and supported a very ambitious agenda. Many progressive and important changes

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have been made during the time President Sepe has been at the College. President Sepe believes the College is well on its way to completing a very aggressive agenda that was established several years ago. President Sepe leaves to the Board and his successor some important developments that have grown from a working relationship with faculty and staff over the last couple of years – a plan and a very aggressive agenda for everyone which will require the Board, the Office of Higher Education and the College to work in harmony with each other to continue to make CCRI an even better place to live and work.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Caprio indicated that he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss an update on collective bargaining, pending litigation, and the appointment of an interim president at CCRI, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2). The proposed interim president was provided with notice of his right to request that this discussion be heard in open session; however, he does not object to discussion taking place in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Pierre LaPerriere and seconded by Thomas Rockett, 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 above.
	Vote:	8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS	Frank Caprio, James DiPrete, José González, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
	NAYS:	0

The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:44 p.m. after a brief recess.

All members of the audience were excused with the exception of the General Counsel for the Board and Ray Michael DiPasquale.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Recommendation to appoint Ray Michael DiPasquale as interim president of the Community College of Rhode Island.

On a motion duly made by Daniel Ryan and seconded by Paula Arruda, it was

VOTED:	THAT:	The Board of Governors for Higher Education appoint Ray Michael DiPasquale as interim president of the Community College of Rhode Island for the period of one (1) year from January 15, 2006 to January 15, 2007.
	THAT:	The Board of Governors for Higher Education authorizes the Board Chair to negotiate the terms of the one (1) year

interim appointment.

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

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

NAYS: 0

Ray Michael DiPasquale indicated that it was a privilege and an honor to receive a vote of confidence from the Board. Mr. DiPasquale looks forward to the possibilities, the challenges, and the opportunities that this appointment presents. Mr. DiPasquale promised to embrace the campus and looks forward to working with everyone as the transition begins. Mr. DiPasquale will represent the community college with great pride.

14. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, January 23, 2006, Rhode Island College, Alger Hall, Providence, Rhode Island at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, March 6, 2006, Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus, Room 4090, Warwick, Rhode Island, 5:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by José González, it was

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

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

YEAS: Paula Arruda, Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, James DiPrete, José González, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary