



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, May 21, 2007, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Board Room 4090, Warwick, Rhode Island. Chair Frank Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Present: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

Absent: Joseph Hagan and Michael Ryan

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Caprio announced the deletion of Item 7d, approval of the Partnership Agreement between the Central Falls Board of Trustees and the University of Rhode Island.

Commissioner Warner noted that President Carothers has taken a leadership role to position the University to help the Central Falls High School improve its performance using the University as a resource. In recognition of this partnership, an agreement was crafted between the parties which included the Board of Regents, the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Board of Governors, the University of Rhode Island and the Central Falls School District. Commissioner Warner indicated that since the details of the Partnership Agreement were not finalized prior to tonight's meeting, approval of this item has been postponed.

On a motion duly made by Kathrin Belliveau and seconded by Sarah Courtemanche, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education accepts the revised agenda for the meeting of May 21, 2007.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Miriam Coleman, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the minutes of the April 9, 2007 meeting.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Caprio called upon President Di Pasquale for the first portion of his report.

President Di Pasquale welcomed the audience to the Community College of Rhode Island. President Di Pasquale noted that CCRI is the largest producer of nurses in the state and asked CCRI's Nursing Department to give a brief presentation on the critical shortage of nurses in the State of Rhode Island.

President Di Pasquale announced that Doris Aline Fournier, Chair of the Nursing Department, is retiring after 38 years with the Community College of Rhode Island. President Di Pasquale introduced Margaret Clifton as the new Chair of the Nursing Department, having been voted by her peers to become the new department chair.

President Di Pasquale introduced Dean Maureen McGarry who gave a brief presentation on CCRI's current nursing program. Dean McGarry thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak this evening and distributed a 2-page document containing facts for both the ADN and LPN programs at CCRI. Dean McGarry noted that currently there are seven operating nursing programs: a day program at each of the four campuses; two evening/weekend programs; and the newest initiative which is a summer program or Summer Nursing Admission Program (S.N.A.P.). A total of 98 students are participating in this accelerated nursing program which started on May 14 and concludes the third week of August, 2008.

Dean McGarry reported that as of this date there are 582 applicants on the waiting list for the nursing program. Once the waiting list is depleted, a new initiative will transition the traditional waiting list into a competitive admission process.

Dean McGarry introduced Doris Aline Fournier, outgoing department chair of the nursing department.

Ms. Fournier believes the biggest problem facing CCRI is a shortage of nursing faculty. She believes that the salaries offered by CCRI to its nursing faculty are not competitive and asked Board members to take the salary disparity into consideration. Ms. Fournier noted that it was the teamwork amongst the CCRI nursing faculty that allowed the formation of the new summer nursing program, despite a shortage of resources.

Ms. Fournier asked for additional funding to help increase the size of the nursing labs which would allow more students into the nursing program.

President Di Pasquale acknowledged the assistance of Commissioner Warner, who was instrumental in working with Care New England, LifeSpan, and other hospitals to establish the creative partnership involved in the new accelerated nursing program (S.N.A.P.).

Commissioner Warner believes the industry is now willing to invest in helping to solve the nursing shortage problem. Commissioner Warner is pleased to report that 62 of the 98 slots in the S.N.A.P. will be sponsored by either Care New England or LifeSpan. Another positive outcome of this partnership is that LifeSpan has identified four clinical instructors, who have been accepted by the nursing program at CCRI as clinical nursing instructors.

Governor Solomon related to the Board the quality of care he received fifteen years ago from CCRI nursing graduates who cared for him at Jane Brown Hospital.

In response to an inquiry made by Governor Dann-Messier, it was noted that the S.N.A.P. will start at the Flanagan Campus and move to the Knight Campus in the fall.

Commissioner Warner noted that a majority of the 62 students in the S.N.A.P. are already employees at the LifeSpan or Care New England facilities. Others students being sponsored fully by LifeSpan or Care New England have entered into an agreement to join LifeSpan or Care New England as employees at the conclusion of the program.

In response to an inquiry made by Governor Dann-Messier, President Di Pasquale estimated that the waiting list for the nursing program will be depleted within the next 3 to 4 years.

Chair Caprio and Commissioner Warner joined President Di Pasquale at the podium to present Aline Fournier with a plaque for her 38 years of dedicated service to the Community College of Rhode Island.

Chair Caprio thanked President Di Pasquale and the food services staff at CCRI for hosting tonight's meeting.

Chair Caprio remarked that tonight's meeting was preceded by a great weekend with undergraduate commencement ceremonies at three of the institutions and graduate commencement ceremonies at two of the institutions. Chair Caprio commended President Carothers, President Nazarian, and President DiPasquale for the excellent speakers and the quality of the graduates at each of the commencement ceremonies.

5. OPEN FORUM

None

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Warner added his voice of congratulations to the three presidents. The Commissioner noted that the graduation ceremonies held over the weekend were wonderful, and he was overwhelmed with the infectious enthusiasm of the graduates.

Commissioner Warner noted that the Board will be asked to approve the appointments of three new vice presidents this evening. Commissioner Warner is pleased with the proposed vice presidential nominations and recommends them to the Board.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Caprio called upon President Carothers for the appointment of a Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Rhode Island.

President Carothers is pleased to nominate Dr. Peter Alfonso for the position of Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Alfonso comes to URI from a similar position at the University of North Dakota where he put together its first research foundation and research park. This nomination signifies a shift towards more commercialization and development for economic purposes in Rhode Island for the research that comes from the University's faculty.

On a motion made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Brenda Dann-Messier and the entire Board membership, it was

VOTED:

(Item 7a) That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Peter Alfonso as the Vice President of Research and Economic Development at the University of Rhode Island.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

Chair Caprio called upon President Di Pasquale for the nominations of vice president of business affairs and vice president of academic affairs at the Community College as outlined in Items 7b and 7c.

It was with great pleasure that President Di Pasquale presented two outstanding candidates for two positions that have been vacant at CCRl for some time. The first nomination was for Robert Shea to fill the position of Vice President of Business Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island, a position that has been vacant since 2004. Mr. Shea has 24 years of management experience and serves as a Captain in the United States Navy. He joined the U.S. Naval War College in 2004 as director of the leadership and management faculty. Mr. Shea brings a unique blend of skills to this very important position.

On a motion made by Kathrin Belliveau and seconded by Pierre LaPerriere and the entire Board membership, it was

VOTED:

(Item 7b) That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Robert Shea, Jr. as the Vice President of Business Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

President Di Pasquale next announced the nomination of Lela Morgan for the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island. Ms. Morgan has served the College well for the past 15 months as Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and has 40 years experience both as a department chair and faculty member. In addition to her academic success, Ms. Morgan has an extraordinary record of involvement and success in working with organizations devoted to the inner city and diversity within the Rhode Island community. A national search was conducted for this position and President Di Pasquale noted that the best candidate was found within the CCRI community.

Chair Caprio is delighted with the nomination of Lela Morgan for the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island because of her past record and is confident that Ms. Morgan will make the Board exceedingly proud in the future.

Governor Solomon announced that it was an honor and a privilege to work with Lela Morgan during his tenure at the Community College. Governor Solomon has witnessed the commitment of Ms. Morgan and finds her to be an inspiration.

Governor Dann-Messier recognized and thanked those from the community who are in attendance this evening to witness the nomination of Lela Morgan for the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs.

On a motion made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Brenda Dann-Messier and the entire Board membership, it was

VOTED:

(Item 7c)

That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Lela Morgan as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

[Sarah Courtemanche departed]

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Academic and Student Affairs

Governor Jim DiPrete reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on May 1, 2007. The meeting began by noting the passing of Dr. Gus Capotosto, a man of extraordinary influence on education in Rhode Island. Dr. Capotosto was chair of the RI Board of Regents and this Board, as well as vice president of the RI Academic Decathlon.

It was noted by Governor Rockett that Provost Swan will be leaving her position as provost and returning to teaching. He commented on her remarkable service and noted that students will benefit from her return to the classroom.

Governor DiPrete reported on the Presentation on College Leadership Rhode Island. Ericka Atwell, a student leader at RIC and recent graduate of College Leadership Rhode Island, described a statewide student project that raised over \$1,000.00 so that Amos House could purchase bus passes for the homeless.

Governor DiPrete announced that Governor Courtemanche will host an event for her non-profit organization, *Teens 4 Teens* at RIC on Sunday, June 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Invitations were distributed to Board members at tonight's meeting.

Governor DiPrete reported that Scott Kane, dean of students at RIC, spoke about AlcoholEdu. During the summer, RIC's fall 2006 freshmen completed AlcoholEdu for College, an online alcohol prevention program that motivates students to change their attitudes and behavior towards drinking. The program also provides valuable information on helping roommates or friends who overindulge. Sixty days after the initial program the same students go through a refresher course and another on-line survey.

Governor DiPrete reported that the Zion Bible College notified the Board that Zion has signed a sales agreement with an individual to purchase their campus in Barrington for \$11 million. However, the college will remain in place and in operation throughout the 2007-2008 academic year. Officials at Zion are considering relocating in Rhode Island and do not intend to close.

The next two items are on this evening's consent agenda:

Item 8a1 - Approval of a proposal for a Center for Molecular Toxicology at URI

Governor DiPrete reported that URI's Center for Molecular Toxicology has been in operation for over six years. Dr. Shaikh, the center's director, indicates that the center is funded by a 5-year NIH grant and has been operating under provisional status. URI is the lead institution, partnering with five other Rhode Island institutions (Brown, RIC, Providence College, Roger Williams, and Salve Regina). The grant has supported 14 new positions within the institutions, four of which are at URI. The center has undergone an external review to position itself for future funding. The center has over \$2.5M in equipment, which can be incorporated into experiments to attract future funding, and is free of charge to faculty around the state who are engaging in research.

The Center for Molecular Toxicology hopes to increase the pipeline of biomedical students to continue on to graduate schools and participate in the workforce at large in Rhode Island. The committee unanimously recommended approval of the center.

Item 8a2 - Approval of the closing of certificate programs at IMEDIA Academy

Governor DiPrete reported that Charles Hewitt, a member of the board of IMEDIA Academy, was present at the ASAC meeting to discuss the closing of IMEDIA and its certificate program. IMEDIA is a non-profit collaboration with RISD and the Technical University of Darmstadt in Germany designed to provide computer graphics certification to professionals. Originally, the International Certificate Program in New Media was offered through RISD's school of continuing education. However, in 2003, the RIBGHE granted provisional approval to IMEDIA to offer certificate programs. The program, however, proved to be too costly. Based on insufficient enrollment and insufficient external funds to subsidize the program, the IMEDIA board voted in 2006 to cease operations of IMEDIA Academy as of June 30, 2007. The last cohort of IMEDIA students graduated in 2006. No students remain in the pipeline and student records will be maintained at RIOHE.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve closure of the certificate program in preparation for closure of IMEDIA. The committee also voted that RIOHE hold IMEDIA's records in perpetuity. The records have been transferred and are stored at RIOHE.

On a motion made by Miriam Coleman and seconded by Pierre LaPerriere, it was

VOTED:

- (Item 8a1)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) approves the University of Rhode Island's Center for Molecular Toxicology.
- (Item 8a2)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) approves the closure of IMEDIA Academy's postsecondary certificate programs in preparation for closing of the academy on June 30, 2007; and
- That the Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) requires that all student records be held at RIOHE for perpetuity.
- Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
- NAYS: 0

b. Finance and c. Facilities

Chair Caprio reported that the Facilities and Finance and Management Committees met this evening just prior to this Board meeting. There are two items on tonight's agenda that the Finance and Facilities Committees are recommending for approval to the Board.

Item 8b1 - Approval of Proposed Financing for the North District Utility Infrastructure Project at the University of Rhode Island

The University's North District Master Plan encompasses the construction of the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences currently under way, as well as planning for the new Pharmacy Building and eventually new Chemistry and Nursing Buildings. Major utility infrastructure work must be completed prior to the completion of these buildings.

The University is seeking to finance this project, estimated to be \$10 million including bond issuance costs, through revenue bonds with debt service, estimated to be \$800,000 annually, supported by the University's general revenues. The total project cost is detailed in tonight's packet.

Item 8c1 - Approval of the Revision of the Lease Extension Term of the Independence Square Foundation

This item is an extension of the terms of a Ground Lease Agreement between the University of Rhode Island, Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Independence Square Foundation. The University has requested to extend the end date of the land lease to coincide with the end date of the space lease. The University intends to lease space for its Kinesiology Program in a planned addition to the Independence Square II Building.

The University is also proposing a modification of the land lease to reflect an increase in the size of the addition planned for the Independence Square II building to 27,600 feet.

On a motion made by Kenneth Aurecchia and seconded by Daniel Ryan, it was

VOTED:

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| (Item 8b1) | That | the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves that the University proceed with the RIHEBC financing of the North District Utility Infrastructure Project and further; |
| | That | the Board approves the attached Kushner Resolution endorsing this project be submitted to the Department of Administration subject to review and approval by the Board's Legal Counsel. |
| (Item 8c1) | That | the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the land lease extension as redrafted and authorizes the University to execute the modified land lease subject to Board Counsel review and approval and further; |
| | That | the Lease be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval. |
| | Vote: | 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows: |

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Caprio reported that there are two additional consent items on today's agenda.

- Approval of awarding tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island as outlined in Item 9(a);
- Approval of awarding tenure at the University of Rhode Island as outlined in Item 9(b);

On a motion made by Kathrin Belliveau and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon, it was

VOTED:

(Item 9a)

That

the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island to:

Effective July 1, 2007:

Maureen Abbate, English
Karen Allen, Computer Studies
Frances Bettencourt, Nursing
John Cole, English
Alfred Craig, Biology
Kevin Crawford, Engineering/Technology
Christine Fox, English
Michael Kelly, Computer Studies
Vernon Mace, Engineering/Technology
Helen McGovern, Nursing
Tony Rashid, Engineering/Technology
Laurie Sherman, English

(Item 9b)

That

the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of tenure at the University of Rhode Island to:

Effective July 1, 2007: Assistant Professors, Tenure
Consequent to Promotion

James Baglama, Mathematics
Christopher D.P. Baxter, Civil and Environmental
Engineering and Ocean Engineering
Naomi R. Caldwell, Library and Information Studies
Teresa A. Deeney, Education
David T. Howard, Theatre
Roberta S. King, Medicinal Chemistry
James F. Kinnie, Library and Information Studies

Stephen J. Kogut, Pharmacy Practice
Woong Kook, Mathematics
Bing-Xuan Lin, Finance
Kathleen Melanson, Nutrition and Food Science
Nathaniel Mitkowski, Plant Sciences
Carl-Ernst Rousseau, Mechanical Engineering
David C. Rowley, Biomedical and Pharmaceutical
Sciences
Manabu Takasawa, Music

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio,
Miriam Coleman, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete,
Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and
Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

Governor Rockett noted that several outstanding individuals were given tenure this evening which he believes to be a credit to the system.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

Chair Caprio announced that President Di Pasquale has extended an invitation to join him for a reception at the President's house immediately following tonight's meeting.

11. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. University of Rhode Island

President Carothers reported the University had a wonderful weekend with its graduation ceremonies and thanked those members of the Board who participated in commencement activities.

President Carothers announced that summer classes started today at the University.

President Carothers remarked that the biggest issue facing the University in the coming year is the 10-year accreditation. The draft reports have been completed which are available on-line on the University's web site in the event Board members would like to review them prior to formal presentation. President Carothers is confident that the University is ready for the accreditation visit and is looking forward to greeting the accreditation team in October.

b. Rhode Island College

President Nazarian announced that for the first time in the history of Rhode Island College two athletic teams – the men's basketball team and the women's softball team – made it to the Elite 8.

President Nazarian reported that 48 people (out of 48 people) have graduated from the Upward Bound Program. These students have applied to and have been accepted at 40 different institutions. One student has deferred going onto college due to family reasons; however, the remaining 47 students are going on to college.

President Nazarian further reported that there are approximately 750 Upward Bound Programs in the country; 100 of these programs were not funded; 35 programs are still up in the air, and Rhode Island College was funded for four more years.

President Nazarian announced that the College has plans to establish a certificate program in International Non-Governmental Organizations. Given the significant Portuguese and French heritage communities in Rhode Island, the new certificate program will focus on these two languages and regions of the world where these languages are spoken. Participating staff will integrate foreign language instruction with the study and teaching of cultures. The courses already exist; therefore, there will be no additional cost to run the new program. This is another opportunity for the students to learn more about the world.

c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale asked Karen Kortz and Lynn Fontaine to stand. President Di Pasquale acknowledged Ms. Kortz and Dr. Fontaine as two of CCRI's most outstanding faculty members who are also the advisors to CCRI's honors program. CCRI's Honors Program is growing thanks to their incredible dedication. President Di Pasquale expressed his appreciation for their tremendous work and noted that over 180 faculty currently participate in the honors program.

President Di Pasquale thanked members of the Board for attending CCRI's commencement ceremony and noted there were 20 commencement activities that led up to commencement. President Di Pasquale reported that over 1,253 students graduated from the Community College this year.

President Di Pasquale thanked Chair Caprio, Commissioner Warner and members of the Board for their support of the two candidates for vice president. President Di Pasquale is excited to have Lela Morgan and Bob Shea join the CCRI team.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Caprio indicated that he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss an update on pending litigation and collective bargaining, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) and R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

On a motion duly made by Pierre LaPerriere and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education convenes in Executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reasons set forth above.

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio,
Miriam Coleman, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete,
Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and
Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

After a short break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:29 p.m.

Non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Board; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations; Louis Saccoccio, General Counsel for the University, President Robert Carothers; President John Nazarian; President Ray Di Pasquale; Associate Commissioner Steven Maurano, and Vice President Robert Weygand.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:36 p.m.

13. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, June 25, 2007, 5:00 p.m. at the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education, Board Room Providence, Rhode Island.

Monday, August 20, 2007, 4:00 p.m. at University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion duly made by Kenneth Aurecchia and seconded by James DiPrete, it was

VOTED: That The Board of Governors for Higher Education adjourns.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio,
Miriam Coleman, Brenda Dann-Messier, James DiPrete,
Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan and
Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary