



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, December 3, 2007, at the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education, 301 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Chair Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

Absent: Kathrin Belliveau, Miriam Coleman, and Pierre LaPerriere.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Joseph Hagan and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon, it was

VOTED: That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of December 3, 2007.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VOTED: That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

None

5. OPEN FORUM

None

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Warner reported on enrollment and admissions profiles for the three institutions as outlined in the revised Enclosures 6a and 6b. He indicated that enrollment has increased at the three institutions over the last five years and from 2006-2007 and provided the following enrollment and FTE data:

<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>1-year</u>	<u>5-year</u>
CCRI	2.7%	3.6%
RIC	1.2%	1.3%
URI	<u>3.9%</u>	<u>5.8%</u>
System	2.8%	3.9%
<u>FTE</u>	<u>1-year</u>	
CCRI	4.2%	
RIC	2.6%	
URI	5.9%	

The Commissioner noted a robust increase in FTE students which more accurately reflects enrollment numbers. In addition, he commented that graduate enrollment numbers are growing modestly after recent declines.

Commissioner Warner further reported that applications are up at both Rhode Island College and the University, while applications are back on the rise at the Community College. Rhode Island College received the largest number of freshmen applications in its 153-year history. Transfer applications are also up at the University and Rhode Island College, in large part due to the success of the Joint Admissions Agreement.

Updated admission and SAT data were distributed on behalf of the University of Rhode Island.

The Commissioner stated that although the average SAT scores in all high schools are declining overall (including applicants at Rhode Island College and the University); the decline is not significant enough to be a cause for concern. At this time the Commissioner is more concerned that students' academic skill levels be assessed, and if necessary, remediated.

Governor Hagan commented that there is a significant gender gap in higher education enrollments and graduations. In addition, it was noted that low income females are attaining degrees at even higher rates than their male counterparts.

Commissioner Warner welcomed the provost candidate at the University, Donald DeHayes.

Finally, the Commissioner noted Enclosure 7b under New Business which calls for the adoption of programs relating to system-wide outcomes assessment. These programs align with the Board's policy, as well as NEASC requirements and help ensure that students know and can do what is expected.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Caprio called upon President Carothers to report on Enclosure 7a, which calls for the approval of the appointment of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Rhode Island.

President Carothers took great pleasure in introducing to the Board Donald DeHayes as the candidate for the provost position at the University. Dr. DeHayes is currently the Dean at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. He is a native of Brooklyn and achieved his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook working in tree ecology. Dr. DeHayes has been recognized many times for his research efforts. He is an advocate for new learning strategies, and he has helped minority students make great progress. Dr. DeHayes has a great entrepreneurial spirit and has been successful with fundraising.

On a motion duly made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by the entire Board, it was

VOTED: (Item 7a)	That:	The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the appointment of Donald H. DeHayes as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Rhode Island; and further;
	That:	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the granting of tenure with initial appointment to Dr. Donald H. DeHayes as Professor of Natural Resources Science at the University of Rhode Island.
	Vote:	10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
	NAYS:	0

Dr. DeHayes thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University. He hopes to contribute to the vitality of URI and appreciates the support he has received from the URI community. Dr. DeHayes also hopes to help build and enhance the state system of higher education.

Chair Caprio welcomed Donald DeHayes to Rhode Island and congratulated the search committee, the University of Rhode Island, and President Carothers for presenting such a qualified candidate to the Board.

Chair Caprio called upon Dr. Nancy Carriuolo to comment on Enclosure 7b which calls for the approval of actions to be taken regarding system-wide outcomes assessment.

Dr. Carriuolo commented on student outcomes assessment from both a faculty perspective and student perspective. Dr. Carriuolo introduced Terry Squizzero, Chair of the Administrative Office Technology Department at CCRI. Ms. Squizzero distributed a handout entitled *Outcomes Assessment of E-Portfolio in Administrative Office Technology Department*. She reviewed the handout with the Board and explained how the rubric is used in assessing learning outcomes. The method is both formative and summative. It was noted that the grade students receive on the rubric is not averaged in, but simply used to assist the department in identifying a student's strengths and weaknesses. The rubric grade pinpoints where students need to improve.

Commissioner Warner indicated that this is the first wave of approvals to come before the Board. He also acknowledged Terry Squizzero as an early and effective adopter of student learning assessments.

On a motion made by Brenda Dann-Messier and seconded by Sarah Courtemanche, it was

VOTED: That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education
(Item 7b) accepts the following programs' successful completion of a cycle(s) of student outcomes assessment and the departments commended for their efforts:

At URI:	1. B.S. Communicative Disorders	3. B.S. Kinesiology
	2. B.A. Education	
At RIC:	1. B.S. Finance	4. B.A. Mathematics/Secondary Education Mathematics
	2. Feinstein School of Education and Human Development (B.A., B.S., M.A., M.Ed., CAGS, Ph.D.)	5. B.A./B.S. Computer Science
	3. B.A. Biology	
At CCRI:	1. A.S. Administrative Assistant	4. A.A. Early Childhood Education/Child Development
	2. A.S. Legal Administrative Assistant	5. A.A. Education/Special Education
	3. A.S. Medical Administrative Assistant	6. A.A. Social Service Majors: Social Work, Gerontology, Mental Health and Substance Abuse

That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education accepts the following programs' outcomes assessment, pending completion of a full cycle in 2008-2009 with assistance, if needed. The departments are also thanked for their efforts:

At URI:	1. B.S. Human Development and Family Studies	
	2. B.S. Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design	
At RIC:	1. B.A. Psychology	
	2. B.S. Chemical Dependency and Addiction Studies	
At CCRI:	1. A.S. Accounting	4. A.S. Management
	2. A.S. Financial Services	5. A.S. Marketing
	3. A.S. General Business	

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

Chair Caprio called upon Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne to address the Board regarding Enclosure 7c which calls for approval of the recommendation to accept the Audited Financial Statements for URI, RIC, and CCRI for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007.

As of Fiscal 2006, all state entities were required to submit audited financial statements by September 30th. Ms. LaPanne reported audits were completed for all three institutions under the accelerated time table required by the State.

All three institutions not only completed all audit requirements on time, but each received an unqualified opinion from our external auditors, KPMG, which is the most positive outcome for any audit.

Also significant to this year's findings is the inclusion of the required Statement of Audit Standards #112 which requires an increased level of reporting of conditions and risks noted during the course of the audits. While many higher education entities have been receiving a significant increase in reportable conditions, all three institutions experienced no significant increase at all. These findings are available in the final pages of each of the financial statements.

In addition to the completed financial audits, KPMG has just completed the A-133 audits and will provide management letters for the three institutions. These will be presented to the Board for approval at a later date. Ms. LaPanne introduced Steve Caron of KPMG.

Steve Caron of KPMG reported that the audits have been completed and each institution received an unqualified opinion. He also addressed the system of internal control and made the following comments which were applicable to all three institutions:

- Staffing level available to prepare financial statements at year end; and
- Preparation and final review of the journal entries.

Mr. Caron noted that the accelerated time table has placed tremendous stress on each institution and as an auditor he is obligated to inform the Board that it should consider allocating additional resources to the audit procedure.

In summary, Mr. Caron indicated that he is pleased with the manner in which the audit process came together in lieu of the slim staffing at each institution and thanked all professionals involved at each of the three institutions.

Susan LaPanne stated that these comments appear on the last page of each financial statement. She further informed the Board of the huge effort expended by each of the institution's Controllers and their teams to accomplish the audit task. Their expertise and dedication to the task allowed the system to deliver the required reports to the State on time and with the best outcome possible. She specifically acknowledged the efforts of Paul Forte, the Controller at Rhode Island College; Sharon Bell, the Controller at the University, and Carl Toft, the Controller at the Community College of RI.

On a motion duly made by Brenda Dann-Messier and Daniel Ryan and seconded by Sarah Courtemanche, it was

VOTED: (Item 7c)	That:	The Board of Governors for Higher Education accepts the Audited Financial Statements for the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode Island for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007
	Vote:	9 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
	NAYS:	0

8. a. Academic and Student Affairs

Governor Brenda Dann-Messier reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on November 1, 2007.

The meeting was devoted to the discussion of student outcomes assessment at URI, RIC and CCRI. Enrollment reports from URI, RIC and CCRI were also presented at this meeting. Dr. Dann-Messier is pleased that Commissioner Warner highlighted outcomes in his report this evening and that the Board had an opportunity to hear from Terry Squizzero and Nancy Carriuolo under new business. Dr. Dann-Messier stated that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee takes pride in the progress that has been made in assessing student learning. She recognized the faculty at each of the institutions who assisted in this effort.

The presentations that are being made by the institutions to the ASAC are the culmination of work that has been taking place since April 12, 2004, when the Board directed

the institutions to begin comprehensive student outcomes assessment. The Committee recognizes the hard work of the faculty, the assessment coordinators, and the administration. Public institutions of higher education have a commitment to the students, parents, and the general public to demonstrate that students have specific knowledge and skills when they complete a program of study.

Governor Dann-Messier and the ASAC committee recognize the importance of this work as well as the great effort required to continuously assess and improve programs. Dr. Dann-Messier thanked all of the individuals involved in this process.

b. Facilities

Chair Caprio reported that the Facilities and Finance and Management Committees met on November 14, 2007 at which time the following issues were discussed.

Item 8b1 - Revised Ground Lease between RIBGHE and the Kent County ARC - J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center regarding Property on CCRI's Knight Campus

Since 1987 the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center has leased a 143,618 square foot parcel of land located on Commonwealth Avenue on the Knight Campus of CCRI. The Trudeau Center constructed and maintains a 32,265 square foot building on that parcel of land and pays the Community College of Rhode Island an annual rental of \$200.

With this lease renewal, the Trudeau Center also requested a modification to the Ground Lease to include an additional 22,000 square foot parcel that abuts the existing premises. The Community College has agreed to include this additional parcel with this lease.

Ron Cavallaro was available to answer any questions posed by Board members.

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

VOTED:

(Item 8b1) That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the proposed Ground Lease between RIBGHE and the Kent County ARC J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center with the enclosed updates and revisions, subject to final review and approval by the Board's legal counsel; and further,

That: The lease be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

In response to an inquiry made by Governor Rockett, it was noted that the new lease increased the original rental period by a few months.

Item 8b2 - Utility Easement for Electrical Connection to the new Pell Library and Undersea Exploration Center building on the University's Narragansett Bay Campus

Vice Chair Michael Ryan recused himself from all discussion and action taken with regard to Item 8b2.

The University of Rhode Island requests permission to enter into an agreement with National Grid to grant an easement to cover the installation of electrical utilities for the new Pell Library and Undersea Exploration Center building to be constructed at the Narragansett Bay Campus off of South Ferry Road.

Because the current waiting list for such connections by National Grid is approximately one year, the approval of this easement at this time supports the construction time table for this project. Groundbreaking ceremonies for this project took place on Monday, November 5, 2007.

On a motion made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Kenneth Aurecchia, it was

(Item 8b2) That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the attached utility easement for the electrical connection to the new Pell Library and Undersea Exploration Center building on the University's Narragansett Bay Campus.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: Michael Ryan (as to Item 8b2)

c. Finance

Vice Chair Ryan reported that the Finance Committee met on November 14, 2007 at which time the following issues were discussed.

Item 8c1 - Possible amendments to the Board's Defined Contribution Plans, Deferred Compensation Plans, and Cafeteria Plan as may be required by Recent Changes in the Federal Law and Regulations.

Recent changes to pension reform legislation, as well as Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department amended regulations, require changes to existing Board of Governors retirement plans. Existing language in plan documents may require further amendment prior to the end of this calendar year.

The proposed amendments are described in the materials provided for today's meeting. Ronald Cavallaro is present to answer any questions.

Governor Thomas Rockett recused himself from all discussion and action taken in regard to Item 8c1.

Item 8c2 - Recommendation for approval of exemption request by the University of Rhode Island for Professor Wayne Velicer pursuant to the Public-Private Partnership Act.

Professor Velicer's request was filed with the University's Conflict of Interest Management Committee (CIMC). After an investigation of the circumstances of the contract with ProChange Behavior Systems in which Dr. Velicer is a principal, CIMC has determined that any potential conflict of interest is manageable. With the approval of the CIMC, President Carothers has also reviewed and approved this proposal for recommendation to the Board of Governors. General Counsel Cavallaro also reviewed the proposal, investigated any remaining issues, and received approval from the Finance and Management Committee for recommendation to the full Board.

On a motion made by Brenda Dann-Messier and seconded by Sarah Courtemanche, it was

VOTED:

(Item 8c1) That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the attached amendments to its Defined Contribution Plans (403b), Defined Compensation Plan (457b), Qualified Money Purchase Pension Plans (401a), and Cafeteria Plan; and further

That: The Board of Governors authorizes the Board Chair and the Commissioner of Higher Education to take such further action as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate the foregoing amendments and resolution.

(Item 8c2) That: The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the exemption filed by Professor Wayne Velicer pursuant to the Public-Private Partnership Act in regard to the proposed contract and with reporting as required per the attached.

Vote: Regarding Item 8c1, 8 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative with Governor Rockett recusing himself on the vote relative to this item, and as such for Item 8c2, 9 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: Thomas Rockett (as to Item 8c1)

9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Daniel Ryan, it was

VOTED:

(Item 9a)

That:

The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees to the candidates who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the fall 2007 semester and who will be approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island.

(Item 9b)

That:

The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees to the candidates who meet degree requirements at the end of the fall 2007 semester.

(Item 9c)

That:

The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of honorary degrees as proposed by Rhode Island College as set forth on that request received from the College.

Vote:

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

YEAS:

Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS:

0

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

11. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. Rhode Island College

President Nazarian made the following announcements:

- A solution has been worked out in response to NEASC's request to provide for periodic review of Rhode Island College's mission statement. This response has been approved by President Nazarian and the Council of Rhode Island College.
- The creation of a graduate certificate in physical education at Rhode Island College. This new program will allow students with professional development plans to fulfill a 15-credit course. This program will not require any additional funding.
- NCATE has announced that all education programs at the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development have received full accreditation. It was noted that all undergraduate programs had previously been approved.

President Nazarian reported that the Rhode Island Department of Education also certified all programs for an additional four years.

b. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale thanked Dr. Carriuolo for highlighting student outcomes assessment and thanked Vice President Lela Morgan and Dean Peter Woodberry for their efforts in this area.

President Di Pasquale thanked Lou Pullano and John Panzica for setting record enrollments at CCRI this fall.

President Di Pasquale thanked Dennis Moore for his efforts in assisting CCRI in winning two Medallion Awards at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District One – the special events category for President Di Pasquale’s March 2007 inauguration and in the media success story category for the media relations and coverage that occurred as part of inauguration week.

President Di Pasquale reported that Dr. Robert Keegan, the Meehan Professor of Adult Learning and Professional Development at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, joined CCRI on Friday, November 30, 2007, for a 3-hour interactive keynote workshop on overcoming “immunity to change” for 100 faculty and staff members.

President Di Pasquale reported that for the first time in CCRI’s history student government leaders were elected by their peers and not appointed by the administration. The four new student presidents (one at each campus) are working hard to collaborate on new projects that will unify the student body and increase its presence in the community.

d. University of Rhode Island

President Carothers thanked the Board for its support of Donald DeHayes’ nomination as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

President Carothers acknowledged Provost Beverly Swan for her many accomplishments while at the University and for leading URI through the accreditation process. Provost Swan has agreed to stay on and assist the University in the transition process for the new provost.

President Carothers announced that the URI men’s basketball team will host its rivals, the PC Friars, tomorrow night at the Ryan Center.

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)(2), Board Policy B 6.0 and R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5).

On a motion duly made by Michael Ryan and seconded by Joseph Hagan, 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)(2), Board Policy B 6.0, and R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5) for the reasons set forth above.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

After a short break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

Non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Commissioner Jack Warner, President Robert Carothers, President John Nazarian, President Ray Di Pasquale, General Counsel Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel Louis Saccoccio, Labor Relations Director Anne Marie Coleman, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer Nancy Carriuolo, Associate Commissioner Steven Maurano, and Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:44 p.m.

13. NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 28, 2008, at Rhode Island College, Alger Hall, Providence, Rhode Island.

Monday, March 24, 2008, at the University of Rhode Island, URI Foundation, Kingston, Rhode Island.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Daniel Ryan and seconded by Joseph Hagan, 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: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Sarah Courtemanche, Joseph Hagan, Brenda Dann-Messier, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary