



**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, January 28, 2008, at Rhode Island College, Alger Hall, Providence, Rhode Island. Vice Chair Michael Ryan declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

**Present:** Kenneth Aurecchia, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

**Absent:** Kathrin Belliveau, Frank Caprio, Miriam Coleman, and Robert Flanders, Jr.

Vice Chair Ryan informed Board members that Chair Frank Caprio is doing quite well following his surgery.

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

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 accepts the *revised* agenda for the meeting of January 28, 2008.

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

YEAS: Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, 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 Sarah Courtemanche, it was

**VOTED:** THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the minutes of the December 3, 2007 meeting.

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

YEAS: Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

[Thomas Rockett arrived]

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On behalf of Chair Caprio and all the members of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, Vice Chair Ryan recognized exiting board member, Sarah Courtemanche. She has served the Board with great distinction as a student member for her 2-year term and has been a very active member of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, as well as a search committee member. Ms. Courtemanche has been an impressive and enthusiastic young leader. Vice Chair Ryan and Commissioner Warner presented Ms. Courtemanche with a plaque at this, her last, meeting.

[Kenneth Aurecchia arrived]

### **4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Vice Chair Ryan thanked President Nazarian and the staff at Rhode Island College for their hospitality this evening.

### **5. OPEN FORUM**

None

### **6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Warner joined Vice Chair Ryan in congratulating Sarah Courtemanche, noting that she has represented her fellow students well throughout the system, while attaining great personal achievements academically and performing extensive public service.

Commissioner Warner provided an update on the budget process. He reported that the higher education system, along with several other state agencies, is being asked to revert money back to the state at mid-year. The Commissioner believes that higher education has been asked to revert back a disproportionately high share of the total amount being saved, and he has expressed these sentiments to the Budget Office. Commissioner Warner has made some suggestions to the Budget Office in order to bring OHE's savings level more into proportion with the rest of the state.

Commissioner Warner reported that the Governor's budget for FY2009 is scheduled to come out toward the end of the week. Although he does not have the complete details on this budget, he does not anticipate it to be good news. The Commissioner indicated that the system of public higher education will face some difficult challenges on the financial front in the future. Board members will be informed as to those details as they become available.

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Chair Ryan called upon President Carothers to comment on Item 7a which calls for the approval of the renaming of Independence Hall at the University of Rhode Island for Beverly Swan. This item was previously discussed during the executive session of the Board's December 3, 2007 meeting.

With great pleasure President Carothers recommend to the Board the changing of the name of Independence Hall, the largest classroom building on campus and home of the English, Foreign Languages, and Film Studies programs. This building was recently rehabilitated and is in terrific shape. President Carothers noted that Provost Swan spent much of her career in this building as a professor of English and has served the University for many years with great

distinction. Dr. Carothers stated there are few things that he has recommended to the Board that also have greater support of the URI community as does this recommendation.

Vice Chair Ryan commented that there is a certain calm associated with Beverly Swan's leadership. She knows how to accomplish things, and she usually does not try to get her name attached to the successes. He thanked President Carothers and the University for bringing this recommendation forward.

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

**VOTED:**  
**(Item 7a)**      That                    the Board of Governors for Higher Education endorses the naming opportunity proposed by the University of Rhode Island to change the name of Independence Hall to Swan Hall.

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

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

NAYS:                 0

Provost Beverly Swan thanked the Board and stated that it has been an honor to be in the provost position for so many years and to have served with President Carothers.

Vice Chair Ryan reported that Item 7b calls for the discussion and recommendation of the resolution to designate the URI Research Foundation as the Board's agent for intellectual property. During the 2007 legislative session, the state legislature enacted the "University of Rhode Island Research Act" which provided for the incorporation of the URI Research Foundation. This enactment greatly enhanced the University's efforts to expand the level and amount of sponsored research along with providing a vehicle for the University's plans to develop a Research and Technology Park.

In view of this enactment and the transfer of the intellectual property management function from the URI Foundation to the newly created Research Foundation, a resolution is necessary that designates the URI Research Foundation as the Board's sole and exclusive agent to manage and administer University patents and other intellectual properties. Representatives from the University are available to provide any additional information that the Board may require.

President Carothers commented that this power has been invested in the University of Rhode Island Foundation for many years and now, as URI has refocused the University of Rhode Island Foundation as the fundraising arm of the University and the Research Foundation has been created, it is appropriate and important to shift that responsibility for the management of intellectual properties to the Research Foundation under Dr. Peter Alfonso's leadership.

On a motion made by Pierre LaPerriere and seconded by Brenda Dann-Messier, it was

**VOTED:**  
**(Item 7b)**

That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the designation of the University of Rhode Island Research Foundation as its sole and exclusive agent to pursue, obtain, protect, manage, and administer all intellectual property invented, created, or developed at the University of Rhode Island or that which may be assigned, transferred, or made available to the University.

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

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

NAYS: 0

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Academic and Student Affairs**

Governor Brenda Dann-Messier commended Sarah Courtemanche on behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and stated that Sarah was a fantastic ASAC committee member, who brought the student perspective to all of its deliberations.

Dr. Dann-Messier reported that the ASAC met on January 25, 2008. The committee unanimously recommended for approval by the full Board the establishment of a new BFA in Art Education at Rhode Island College, the establishment of a School of Communication at the University of Rhode Island, and the elimination of the BS in Financial Services at the University. The BFA requires no new resources but offers new options to students who wish to be artists and, perhaps, also to teach art. The elimination of the BS in Financial Services is cost-effective. The School of Communication has major external funders to absorb the costs. The institutions should be congratulated for moving ahead with vision and confidence even during difficult financial times.

The committee approved actions to be taken regarding system-wide outcomes assessment at URI. The committee heard from Anne Veeger, chair of geosciences and geological oceanography, and Nathaniel Mitkowski, associate professor of plant sciences, as they highlighted the progress of their respective programs made in conducting student outcomes assessment. 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. As public institutions of higher education, we have the commitment to the students, parents, and general public to demonstrate that students have specific knowledge and skills when they complete a program of study.

Finally, the committee was briefly updated on the status of developmental education at CCRI, RIC and URI. In particular, representatives spoke about their alignment of their exit standards from developmental programs with the college-level expectations of their institutions, methods used to assess student's college readiness and either place students in courses or direct them toward other types of academic assistance, and future plans for identifying and assisting developmental ed students. The topic of assistance for under-prepared students is important and will be continued on other agendas.

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

**VOTED:**  
**(Item 8a1)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the University of Rhode Island's proposal to eliminate the B.S. program in financial services.

**VOTED:**  
**(Item 8a2)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the University of Rhode Island's proposal to establish a School of Communication.

**VOTED:**  
**(Item 8a3)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) approves Rhode Island College's proposal to offer the Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Art Education.

**VOTED:**  
**(Item 8a4)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) approves the following actions to be taken regarding system-wide outcomes assessment:

**1. THAT the following programs' successful completion of a cycle(s) of student outcomes assessment be accepted, and the departments commended for their efforts:**

At URI:	1. B.S. Environmental Horticulture & Turf grass Management	4. B.S. Microbiology
	2. B.S. Geosciences; BS Geology & Geological Oceanography	5. B.S. Nutrition and Dietetics
	3. B.L.A. Landscape Architecture	

**2. THAT the following programs' outcomes assessment be accepted, 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. Animal Science and Technology
	2. B.S. Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology
	3. B.S. Wildlife and Conservation Biology

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas

Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

**b. Facilities**

Vice Chair Ryan reported that the Facilities and Finance/Management Committees met on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. There are nine items on tonight's agenda related to facilities and one item related to finance that the committees are recommending for action by the Board.

**1. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the Tripartite Agreement among the Board of Governors, Independence Square Foundation, and Sovereign Bank**

The Independence Square Foundation and the Board of Governors have a Ground Lease dated as of May 7, 2004. The Foundation owns an existing building and an addition that are located on this property which is within the grounds of the University of Rhode Island.

Currently the Independence Square Foundation has applied for a mortgage on the building for \$7 million from Sovereign Bank. As a requirement of this mortgage, Sovereign Bank is requesting the enclosed Tripartite Agreement that requires several concessions from the Board of Governors that are detailed in the Board packet.

**2. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the Resolution Authorizing Conversion of the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility variable rate Revenue Bonds Series 2004B**

The Series 2004B RIHEBC bonds issued to support the construction of the recently completed apartments at URI were initially issued as variable rate bonds in the R-FLOATs mode - whereby the interest rate is adjusted weekly by the remarketing agent.

Recently, many bond insurers (including our insurer, Ambac) have been subject to significant ratings actions because the rating agencies are concerned that their reserves are invested too heavily in sub-prime mortgage pools. This has negatively impacted the weekly R-FLOATs rate on the bonds and continues to do so in a way that is unprecedented in the market.

As a result of these market conditions, the University has been advised by First Southwest Company, its financial advisor relative to the issuance of the RIHEBC bonds that it is in the University's best interest to convert from the R-FLOAT Mode to a Weekly Variable Rate Demand Obligation ("VRDO").

However, even as this recommendation was made to and accepted by the Facilities and Finance/Management Committees on January 16<sup>th</sup>, there continue to be significant changes in the market that are requiring even greater assurances to bond investors. Board members have, therefore, received an updated resolution that includes the authority to procure both a liquidity facility and a credit facility as may be deemed necessary and appropriate.

Bond counsel, Board counsel, and Maureen Gurghigian of First Southwest are present to answer any questions.

Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel to the Board, commented that since the Facilities & Finance meeting and based upon what has happened in the bond market in the last week, First

Southwest again contacted the Office of Higher Education. In addition to authorizing the action to be taken with a liquidity facility, they now recommend that going forward the Board also authorize the option to use a letter of credit institution. This letter of credit will work in addition to the bond insurance to provide credit enhancement for these bonds as they try to sell them going forward. The bond counsel for RIBHEC, First Southwest Company, members of the Office of Higher Education, the University, and RIBHEC have all reviewed these documents and arrived at a consensus that it gives the option going forward to deal with the volatile bond market.

Maureen Gurghigian of First Southwest provided background information to Board members as to the history of these bonds, their rates, and the plan going forward.

**3. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the Real Estate License Agreement between the Board of Governors for Higher Education/University of Rhode Island and Phi Corporation of Sigma Kappa**

Phi Corporation of Sigma Kappa, a sorority located on the University of Rhode Island's Kingston campus, lacks the financial resources required to finance extensive renovations and upgrades, including those required for current fire code compliance. As a result, Sigma Kappa will be obtaining the required financing from its national organization.

The real estate license agreement before the Board will allow the sorority to continue operating the chapter house on the property owned by the Board as it has done historically. The use of a license as opposed to a ground lease ensures that the Board and the University are giving permission to use the land but not granting an estate or interest in the land to these entities.

This license agreement has been developed as a template to be used with all fraternity and sorority houses going forward instead of a ground lease.

**4. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the Hillel Foundation Ground Lease at the University of Rhode Island**

Hillel is a national organization that supports Jewish students on college campuses around the nation. Founded in 1951 at URI, it had been housed on the first floor of a small house on Lower College Road. They have been renting space from a sorority currently suspended from campus during this past year.

Alpha Epsilon Pi (a fraternity that has currently been denied access to campus) owns a house on University property that has been vacant and boarded up for the past two years.

Hillel has negotiated the purchase of this house from the fraternity which is subject to approval of the ground lease by the Board and the State Properties Committee. The University will have approval authority over the design of the new or renovated facility.

Governor LaPerriere asked for clarification as to the different uses of a ground lease and a real estate license agreement. General Counsel Saccoccio indicated that historically fraternities and sororities enter into a 2-page agreement as opposed to a lease. In other transactions involving an organization with a more permanent relationship with the University, a real estate license agreement is necessary in order to secure financing.

**5. Discussion and recommendation of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act authorization requests for four University capital projects.**

The University of Rhode Island's 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program, approved by the Board of Governors earlier this year, includes four important projects that will require the approval of the Executive and Legislative branches in the coming months in accordance with the State's Public Corporation Debt Management Act.

The projects include:

- The Fire Safety and Protection Project – Auxiliary Enterprise Buildings (\$17.7 million)
- The North District Infrastructure and Program support Project (\$10 million)
- The Repaving and Road Construction Project (\$9.6 million)
- The New Residence Hall – Terrace Apartment Site (\$40 million)

Each of these projects will be funded through the issuance of Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation revenue bonds.

**6. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement for property at 362 Plains Road in Kingston, Rhode Island by the University of Rhode Island**

The University is seeking Board approval to proceed with the purchase of a 20,300 square foot lot with a single family residence at 362 Plains Road.

This property is located at the center of the proposed Flagg-Plains Road Project which is an important element of the University's Kingston Campus Master Plan. It will provide better flow of traffic to and from perimeter parking lots and campus destinations and will also facilitate unhindered access to the future research and technology park.

The property was appraised at \$196,000 in February 2007 and the family that owns the property has expressed a willingness to sell the property to the University for \$225,000. It is the University's belief that if they do not acquire the property, re-alignment of the proposed Flagg-Plains Road could require construction costs in excess of the proposed purchase price. The University has submitted a draft purchase and sales agreement.

**7. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the proposed land exchange between the Board of Governors for Higher Education/University of Rhode Island and Habitat for Humanity**

The University of Rhode Island is seeking approval of a real estate exchange of a stand-alone parcel of land for an undeveloped parcel of land currently owned by Habitat for Humanity.

This parcel of land is contiguous with the University's land holdings north of the Kingston Campus. The acquisition of this property will provide expanded developable acreage. A full real estate appraisal of the two properties has concluded that the two properties are of equivalent value permitting the exchange to occur at no net cost to either land owner.

Governor Rockett noted that the University is giving up 1.2 acres in exchange for 9 acres. Vern Wyman explained that the 9-acre parcel is undeveloped and inaccessible in terms of public utilities and the 1.2-acre University parcel is in the village of Kingston (the former site of the old North Road School). Habitat for Humanity believes it can convince the town to allow them to build multiple affordable housing units on the 1.20 acre site, while the 9.0 acre parcel can only support a single family home because of the limited access to utilities.

**8. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the proposed naming of Roads on the University's W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich**

During a comprehensive review of the University's emergency response readiness, it was noted that long established roadways on the W. Alton Jones campus had not been named. This is necessary in order to establish a 911 address for W. Alton Jones campus buildings.

The document enclosed with today's packet lists the proposed names for seven campus roadways, as recommended by the W. Alton Jones director. This recommendation has been accepted by senior management at the University and sent for the Board's review and approval by the Facilities Committee.

**9. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the proposal for an antenna placement on the University's Kingston campus in support of the Rhode Island Statewide Communications Network.**

The Rhode Island Statewide Communications Network (RISCON) is a state-of-the-art, interoperable radio system serving police, fire, and emergency responders across the state.

RISCON has been expanding progressively over the last several years. The Board of Governors has played a part in supporting the system's capability when it approved the placement of a transmitting and receiving antenna on the Knight Campus of the Community College of Rhode Island.

At this time, the leadership group of RISCON is seeking permission to place a transmitting and receiving antenna on the water tower on the University's Kingston Campus, utilizing approved Federal funding to do so.

Governor Ryan noted that although this item has no cost to the University, there will be no subsequent annual rent to be paid to the University. Vern Wyman indicated that the University has benefited from the \$700,000 grant to make this transmission capability possible on URI's campus. The investment in this antenna will greatly improve the service across the URI campus

On a motion made by Brenda Dann-Messier and seconded by Pierre LaPerriere, it was

VOTED:

**(Item 8b1)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the Tripartite Agreement among the Board of Governors, Independence Square Foundation, and Sovereign Bank subject to final approval of the Board's general counsel, and further

That the Tripartite Agreement be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval.

- (Item 8b2)** That the Board of Governors authorizes the conversion of the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation's \$33,000,000 Higher Education Facility Variable Rate Revenue Bonds, Auxiliary Enterprise Revenue Issue, Series 2004B from an R-FLOATs Auction Rate mode to a Variable Rate Demand Obligations mode in the adjustment of the weekly interest rate, subject to review and approval by legal counsel, and further
- That the Board of Governors for Higher Education authorizes the conversion of these bonds among the available modes as the Board Chairman, Vice Chairman, Commissioner and Associate Commissioner for Finance and Management determine in response to changes in the market with appropriate reporting to both the Facilities and Finance and Management Committees and the Board of Governors regarding those actions taken per the attached revised resolution.
- (Item 8b3)** That the Board of Governors of Higher Education approves the Real Estate License Agreement between the Board of Governors for Higher Education/University of Rhode Island and Phi Corporation of Sigma Kappa subject to review and approval by legal counsel, and further
- That the license agreement be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval.
- (Item 8b4)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the ground lease between the Hillel Foundation at the University of Rhode Island and the Board of Governors for Higher Education subject to review and approval by legal counsel, and further
- That the ground lease be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval.
- (Item 8b5)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the Public Corporation Debt Management Act authorizations and recommends that they are forwarded, as required, for consideration at the State Budget Office as part of the Governor's Budget Submission.
- (Item 8b6)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the proposed University of Rhode Island purchase of property at 362 Plains Road, Kingston, Rhode Island subject to review and approval by legal counsel and at a price not to exceed \$225,000, and further
- That the completed Purchase and Sale Agreement be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval.

- (Item 8b7)** That the Board of Governors of Higher Education approves the land exchange between the Board of Governors/University of Rhode Island and Habitat for Humanity subject to the final review by the Board's general counsel, and further
- That the land exchange agreement be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval.
- (Item 8b8)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the proposed naming of roads on the University's W. Alton Jones Campus.
- (Item 8b9)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the placement of an antenna on the Kingston Campus in support of the RISCO's mission.
- Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
- NAYS: 0

**c. Finance**

Vice Chair Ryan reported that the Facilities Committee met on Wednesday, January 16, 2008.

**Item 8(c)1 calls for the acceptance of the A-133 Audits for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007**

KPMG has issued the A-133 audits for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007.

The following summarizes the findings of these reports:

- All three institutions received unqualified opinions on compliance with requirements applicable to major Federal award programs. No material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting were disclosed by the audit of the financial statements.
- The report for Rhode Island College does indicate four significant deficiencies in internal control which are not considered material weaknesses; however, they require disclosure by OMB Circular A-133.
  - Three of these four findings relate to timely notifications or filings related to student financial aid and have already been corrected by the College.

- The fourth finding relates to supervisory review documentation for disbursements. There were no questioned costs related to any of these findings. KPMG will return to perform a follow up review.
- Neither the University nor CCRI had any significant deficiencies found per OMB Circular A-133 related to federal programs.

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

**VOTED:**

**(Item 8c1)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education accepts the A-133 Audits for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College 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, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

**d. Government Relations Committee**

Governor Ken Aurecchia reported that the Government Relations Committee met on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. At that time, the committee reviewed legislation that passed during the 2007 session and discussed the two reports that were to be provided as a result of that legislation. One report was submitted to Chairman Costantino on January 1<sup>st</sup> and the other will be submitted to Representative Norton later this week.

Governor Aurecchia noted that the major legislative priority for the Office of Higher Education this year is the establishment of a trust fund to deal with the issue of the system's unfunded retiree health care liability. This legislation has been submitted as part of the Governor's FY08 supplemental budget. In addition, the Committee will be submitting legislation to shift the responsibility of overseeing proprietary schools to the Department of Business Regulation. The committee is scheduled to meet again on February 11, 2008.

Governor Dann-Messier asked whether there was any work that could be done in the Government Relations Committee to advocate for the funding of higher education. Commissioner Warner indicated that OHE will do its best to lobby for additional funding. The Office of Higher Education will have an opportunity to testify before the House Finance Committee and later Senate Finance. Vice Chair Ryan believes that it would be beneficial to have Board representation at these hearings. Board members will be notified in advance as to the date and time of these hearings. Governor Dann-Messier suggested having as many students as possible engage in the budget hearing process.

**9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice Chair Ryan reported that there are three additional consent items on today's agenda.

- Approval of the awarding of tenure for faculty at the Community College of Rhode Island as outlined in Item 9(a);
- Approval of the awarding of honorary degrees at the University of Rhode Island;
- Approval of two non-classified positions at the University of Rhode Island as outlined in Item 9(c)

Governor Rockett noted that he was impressed with the group of men and women put forth by the Community College of Rhode Island, and Governor Solomon seconded that sentiment.

On a motion made by Sarah Courtemanche 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 January 1, 2008:

Anthony Amore, English  
Joseph Crowley, Mathematics  
Fatima Devine, Human Services  
William Geary, Psychology  
Eylana Goffe, Biology  
Linda Hassoun, Human Services  
Karen Kortz, Physics  
Paul Macaruso, Psychology  
Richard Tessier, English

**(Item 9b)**

That

the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of honorary degrees to the individuals selected by the University of Rhode Island.

**(Item 9c)**

That

the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the Personnel Review Committee's recommendations as follows:

At the University of Rhode Island:

1. Establish a new classification – Manager, Operations/Graduate School of Oceanography, Special Research, BOG Grade 13 (\$47,592 - \$93,040)
2. Establish a new classification, Director, School Reform, Partnerships and Outreach, BOG Grade 13 (\$47,592 - \$93,040).

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

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

NAYS: 0

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **11. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS**

### **a. University of Rhode Island**

President Carothers reported that the second semester at the University is off to a good start with enrollment stronger than predicted.

President Carothers also reported that Judge Flanders, Chair of the Board of Regents, along with Peter McWalters, several political figures, and members of the URI leadership team attended an in-state educational summit that took place on January 28th in Central Falls. Those in attendance had an opportunity to not only hear a presentation about the changes being made in the school district, but to travel to each of the elementary schools, middle schools, and to the high school to meet with students, teachers, and administrators to see what was going on in the classroom. President Carothers came away from the summit extraordinarily impressed by the good work that is going on in Central Falls. There is a strong affirmation of the standards that have been established by the Regents and through the Pre-K-16 Council process (No Child Left Behind Standards) that are available there. There is a tremendous team effort on behalf of the teachers, particularly in the middle school, which is a very impressive place and is well above the performing standard required by the state. This is the first time that any urban school in Rhode Island has been passed the first stage of the protocols for the assessment-based diploma system. President Carothers believes that there will be a profound difference in the performance at the Central Falls school district as a result of the partnership with the University.

President Carothers reported that the University has nominated Brandon Brown, a graduate of Central Falls High School, as the student representative to the Board of Governors. The Governor has approved this nomination and it is now waiting to be scheduled for senate confirmation hearing.

In response to an inquiry made by Governor Rockett, it was noted that the University reimburses those students assisting with the Central Falls partnership for their transportation costs.

In addition to the \$200,000 annual stipend from the Department of Education to support the Central Falls partnership, President Carothers reported that URI has recently been approved (but not yet publicly announced) for a substantial grant from the Rhode Island Foundation for three years to support the work being performed in Central Falls. The Rhode Island Foundation has also publicly provided \$50,000 to conduct future planning for this project.

President Carothers commented that both RIC and CCRI are contributing to the Central Falls partnership as well. CCRI will conduct much of the developmental this summer at Central Falls, while Rhode Island College has made a long commitment to the reading program, an essential part of the reform move at Central Falls.

President Carothers noted that the URI Ram's men's basketball team is 17 and 3. They will be playing against Richmond Wednesday night and Xavier Saturday night.

**b. Rhode Island College**

President Nazarian reported on the Pathways to College Program (formerly known as the dual enrollment program). This program involves 25 students from Mt. Pleasant High School, who are taking four courses at the RIC campus. President Nazarian is hopeful that this pilot study will be successful and allow for more students to join the Pathways to College Program.

Rhode Island College is continuing to work with Hope High School where faculty from Rhode Island College are teaching 4 or 5 courses to students at Hope High School.

President Nazarian reported that Rhode Island College is in its fifth day of the add period and enrollment appears to be on schedule with an increase in graduate enrollment.

President Nazarian attended the nursing pinning ceremony earlier in the month where 67 students graduated from the nursing program (up from 36 graduates this time last year). He noted that there were 7 minority graduates and 5 male graduates. In 2005 RIC had slightly over 100 students that graduated from both the fall and spring semesters. President Nazarian is anticipating 145 graduates for the 2007-2008 academic year. Dr. Nazarian reported that Rhode Island College has fulfilled the charge issued by the General Assembly and noted that the nursing program at Rhode Island College is one of the most difficult programs to enter into.

**c. Community College of Rhode Island**

President Di Pasquale thanked Sarah Courtemanche on behalf of all students, who she represented well through leadership conferences and at Board meetings. He also thanked her on behalf of the Community College of Rhode Island and its student body.

President Di Pasquale formally recognized Dr. Swan, who has been a wonderful friend to the Community College of Rhode Island. He extended congratulations to her on the naming of Swan Hall.

President Di Pasquale noted that there is one notice item on today's agenda:

1. New 18-credit Certificate in Early Childhood Education

This is a program for the hundreds of childcare providers across the state that otherwise would have no opportunity to improve their skills. This is an outstanding advancement for career opportunities in early childhood education. This is an informational notice that CCRI is adding this new certificate program.

President Di Pasquale reported that as of noon time today spring enrollment is at 15,880, which reflects an increase of over 800 students from a year ago. This is CCRI's largest increase in fourteen years. This spike in enrollment is an economic indicator. When economics are low and job opportunities are low, enrollments typically go up.

President Di Pasquale announced that CCRI is resurrecting its Hall of Fame induction to honor two people who have contributed endlessly to the Community College of Rhode Island: Solomon A. Solomon (retired professor and honorary alumnus) and English Professor Charles E. Sullivan. President Di Pasquale congratulated Governor Solomon publicly at tonight's meeting. The induction ceremony will take place at CCRI's Newport Campus on March 16 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

President Di Pasquale reported that CCRI will conduct an all college week during its Professional Day. Senator Reed has agreed to share his experiences of what it feels like to walk around Washington, D.C. as a senator and what 2008 will look like. In addition, Chief Justice Williams will give a presentation on the life of Abraham Lincoln. Board members will receive invitations to these and other events as the time draws near. Senator Reed will also deliver a check to CCRI at its professional development day for \$200,000 towards CCRI's capital campaign. These funds will be used to update the labs at the Lincoln campus.

President Di Pasquale informed the Board that there are several student representatives from CCRI in the audience who are involved in the Business Affairs Intern Program. This collaborative effort was established by CCRI's Co-Op program and run by Anne Marie Marge and Tonia Fay, who were in the audience and introduced by President Di Pasquale. President Di Pasquale thanked Vice President Shea for his suggestion to include the students and invite them to today's meeting.

President Di Pasquale indicated that the goal is to introduce the students to what happens in government, what happens at CCRI, what happens at the University, and the role of the Board of Governors. This is a paid experience and they will be working on one of three projects.

President Di Pasquale introduced each intern: Ronald Jones, Robin Sousa-Jolin, Jonathan Bird, and Oanh Tran. President Di Pasquale noted that Lisa Lancellotta, coordinator of MBA programs at URI's School of Business Administration, was instrumental in indentifying these interns.

Governor Dann-Messier asked whether there is still a law on the books that allows unemployed residents to take courses in public higher education for either free or at a reduced rate. Commissioner Warner believes the provision was for reduced tuition for a limited time and may have expired. This issue will be researched and reported on at a later date.

Governor Solomon acknowledged the individuals in the audience from the Co-Op Program. The Co-Op Program enabled a young lady by the name of Melissa Bibeault to participate in the program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She returned to Rhode Island, finished her nursing degree, and started working at Rhode Island Hospital. The inspiration and love for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital never left Melissa. A position opened up at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and with the help of Governor Solomon she was hired to fill this position.

## **12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

On a motion duly made by Sarah Courtemanche 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)(2) 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, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
- NAYS: 0

After a short break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:16 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; Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer Nancy Carriuolo, Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne, and Associate Commissioner Steven Maurano.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:41 p.m.

### 13. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

On a motion duly made by Sarah Courtemanche and seconded by Joseph Hagan, it was

- VOTED:** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the agreement between the RIBGHE and the Graduate Assistants United/AAUP at the University of Rhode Island.
- Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS Kenneth Aurecchia, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
- NAYS: 0

### 14. NEXT MEETINGS

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

Monday, May 12, 2007 at the Community College of Rhode Island, Board Room 4090, Warwick, Rhode Island.

**15. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

<b>VOTED:</b>	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, Sarah Courtemanche, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon.
	NAYS:	0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary***