



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, March 24, 2008, at the University of Rhode Island, URI Foundation, Kingston, Rhode Island. Chair Frank Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Present: Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

Absent: Kathrin Belliveau, Miriam Coleman, and Daniel Ryan

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Caprio indicated that board members received a revised agenda to reflect the addition of Item 12c which calls for the approval of the awarding of an honorary degree at the University of Rhode Island.

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

VOTED:	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the revised agenda for the meeting of March 24, 2008.
	Vote	10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS	Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.
	NAYS	0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Pierre LaPerriere and seconded by Robert Flanders, Jr., it was:

VOTED:	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting.
	Vote	10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS	Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Caprio called upon Governor Solomon A. Solomon, who thanked fellow Board members for their support during his induction into CCRI's Hall of Fame on March 16th.

On behalf of the entire board, Chair Caprio expressed appreciation to President Carothers and the staff at the University for their hospitality this evening. The Chair welcomed Brandon Brown as the new student member of the Board of Governors. Mr. Brown is a sophomore at the University of Rhode Island with a dual major in Sociology and Political Science and a dual minor in African American Studies and Non-Violence and Peace Studies. Chair Caprio also congratulated Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, and Daniel Ryan for their reappointment to the Board.

5. OPEN FORUM - None

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Warner joined Chair Caprio in welcoming Brandon Brown to the Board. Mr. Brown is an articulate spokesperson for his fellow students. The Commissioner also extended congratulations to Governor Dann-Messier and Governor LaPerriere for their reappointments and looks forward to a continued working relationship.

Commissioner Warner commented on the proposed merger between Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island. This suggestion as a solution to some of the state's budget problems was first proposed by Chair Constantino during the House Finance Committee hearing. In speaking with colleagues around the country, the Commissioner has learned that more and more states are facing deficits; however, few states are facing deficits in the order of magnitude that Rhode Island is facing.

Commissioner Warner offered various perspectives on the proposed merger. One important question is: Can the system of public higher education cut its administrative costs while maintaining the identities of the institutions that are so important to students, faculty, staff, and alumni? There are probably some minor administrative cost savings that might accrue from merging institutions with the most obvious being the chief executive salary. Additional consolidated savings might take place in human resources, purchasing, information technology or payroll; however, the Commissioner believes that these savings across the two institutions are likely to be minimal. He further commented that CCRI and RIC are already very lean institutions when it comes to administrative costs. CCRI has one central administration for four campuses; whereas similar institutions in Connecticut or Massachusetts would have a president at each campus, three or four vice presidents at each of the four campuses, and an assortment of deans, assistant deans, directors, and other titles that you do not find at CCRI. When you look at who is administering core functions at Rhode Island College in human resources, payroll, purchasing, and other back office operations, you will find one or two professionals at most. The Board's external auditor has already indicated on record that he is concerned about the system's administrative capacity to administer the budgets.

The Commissioner stated that there are other perils to consider when proposing a merger between the two institutions, such as alumni loyalty and fundraising. There is already

evidence that donors are questioning whether they should continue to give if their institution is going to be merged with another. There is also the issue that each of these institutions has their own very distinct mission and degree granting authority. An associate degree granting institution being merged with one that grants bachelors and masters degrees has serious implications for the types of faculty who are hired, the level at which courses are instructed, and expectations for faculty about their own work loads and compensation. Typically, when mergers take place, the salary and other compensation structure tends to gravitate towards the more expensive institutions. Hence, another concern to consider is whether the merger will end up costing more money to operate a merged institution versus two separate institutions.

Commissioner Warner posed the question of whether the board can achieve further administrative savings while preserving institutional identity. He believes that such savings can accrue only if all three institutions are involved. Commissioner Warner will form a work group that would expand the scope of work of two existing work groups from around the system that are already looking at consolidating the system's payroll functions and purchasing through expanded delegated authority from the state. The Commissioner will expand the scope of these work groups to include human resource consolidation, library acquisitions, information technology, academic and other forms of recordkeeping, legal services, and billing and collections. The Commissioner takes seriously the issue that resources are declining rapidly and asks whether we can maintain the identity of institutions that have become precious to Rhode Islanders and alumni while making savings at the administrative level.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Caprio indicated that Item 7a calls for the Board's approval of an intellectual property policy at the Community College of Rhode Island. General Counsel Cavallaro reported that the Community College of Rhode Island has worked for some time in formulating an intellectual property policy. The effort involved both faculty and administration. While the policy itself has been patterned after the University of Rhode Island policy, it has been modified to better fit the operation of the Community College of Rhode Island.

After discussion initiated by Governor Flanders, it was stated that the proposed intellectual property policy typically would not cover novels or literary creations by members of the faculty performed during scholarly activity; however, if an individual were commissioned to do a work by the college and the agreement provided that the college would retain those rights, then it would become the institution's (or board's) property. If a professor created a textbook for his/her students or other students on his/her own and not as part of what he/she is teaching at the institution, then it would not fall under the intellectual property policy. If the professor received a grant or funds from the institution that assisted in the development of the textbook, then the arrangement would fall under the terms of the agreement of the grant or funding.

On a motion made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Brenda Dann-Messier, it was:

VOTED:
(Item 7a)

That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves and adopts the proposed Community College of Rhode Island Intellectual Property Policy.

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

Vice Chair Ryan called upon Commissioner Warner to explain Items 7b and 7c under new business. The Commissioner indicated that these items align the sunset provision approved by the Board on September 17, 2007. He reported that the retirement incentive plans provide for a forty (40%) percent payout to retiring staff and faculty at CCRI, RIC, and the Office of Higher Education, and a lump sum payment of \$7,000 to retiring staff and faculty at URI. It was previously voted that all retirement incentive plans would be discontinued as of June 28, 2008. Commissioner Warner reported that Item 7b raises the incentive at the University from \$7,000 to \$20,000 and changes the discontinuation date from June 28, 2008 to June 21, 2008 (the end of the last full pay period for the 2008 fiscal year). Item 7c changes the discontinuation date at RIC, CCRI, and OHE from June 28, 2008 to June 21, 2008.

Governor Dann-Messier inquired as to whether there was a projection as to the number of staff and faculty who are expected to take advantage of this incentive. The Commissioner has consulted with the three presidents who have indicated that although there is a slight increase in the number of those who have expressed an interest, the deadline is still open for individuals to exercise this option and therefore, a final count is not yet available. It was noted that part-time faculty and staff who work 20 hours a week or more are eligible to participate in the retirement incentive plan.

Governor Flanders asked how the \$20,000 figure was arrived at and whether there is an idea as to how effective this incentive will be inducing early retirements. President Carothers indicated that a great deal of research was invested in talking with the URI community to determine what would be a fair and equitable amount. President Carothers noted that the University is seeing increased activity because of the combination of the AAUP opting out of the retiree health care program and the discontinuation of the retirement incentive plan. President Carothers discussed factors that might impact the net effect that the retirement incentive plan will have on the University's budget, such as the number of hire backs. The general principle is that senior professors with higher salaries will retire and new professors will be hired at a lower cost to the University.

Commissioner Warner noted that by sun-setting the retirement plan in FY 2008, it will save the system money in FY 2009. Those faculty and staff members retiring in 2009 and beyond will not be eligible to receive this incentive.

On a motion made by Pierre LaPerriere and seconded by Brandon Brown, it was:

VOTED:

(Item 7b) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves an amendment to the University of Rhode Island's Retirement Incentive Plan to increase its lump sum payment from \$7,000.00 to \$20,000.00, subject to those other terms and conditions as set forth in the summary provided and to discontinue the plan as of June 21, 2008.

(Item 7c)	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves an amendment of the effective date of discontinuation of the system's current Retirement Incentive Plans at Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the Office of Higher Education, and discontinue those plans as of June 21, 2008, the date of the last full period of the 2007-2008 fiscal year.
	Vote	10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS	Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.
	NAYS	0

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There being no objection, Chair Caprio took Item 8b on the agenda.

a. Finance

Vice Chair Michael Ryan reported that the Finance and Facilities Management Committees met on March 12, 2008. There are five (5) items on tonight's agenda related to finance that the committee is recommending for action by the board. A revised resolution for Item 8b1 was distributed at tonight's meeting.

8b1. Acceptance of a Resolution authorizing the Refunding of the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education, University of Rhode Island Auxiliary Enterprise Revenue Issue, Series 2004B.

Both the Facilities and Finance and Management Committees and the Board of Governors have discussed and approved measures to ameliorate the interest rate increases brought about by the crisis in the bond market. However, as conditions continue to deteriorate, the possibility for more significant restructuring of this bond issue has become desirable.

At the last Board meeting, the Board of Governors authorized the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Commissioner and the Associate Commissioner of Finance and Management to make financing changes to the variable rate arrangements to include acquiring either (a) a liquidity facility, (b) a letter of credit, or (c) both. However, our financial advisors have been unable to secure the alternatives desired without the removal of our AMBAC insurance. We are now being advised that other bond issues that are comparable to ours have been successful in reducing their interest expenses by converting or refunding the bond issue. These refunding options may include a revision of the variable rate structure or may perhaps include changes as significant as reissuing the bonds under a fixed rate.

The Office of Higher Education and the University of Rhode Island are working with its financial advisors and with the state to determine the best way to address these unprecedented events in the bond market that are negatively impacting our financing arrangements for this bond issue. The resolution distributed with the board agenda provides the Chair, the vice chair,

the commissioner, and the associate commissioner for finance and management with the authority to act in a timely way regarding this issue and to fully report back to these committees and the board regarding actions taken.

Steve Maceroni of First Southwest and bond counsel, Paul Campellone, are present to address any questions raised by members of the board.

A motion was made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Joseph Hagan to approve Item 8b1 as presented.

Governor Flanders questioned the duration of the authority granted by the resolution. After discussion on the motion, it was agreed that the resolution be amended to provide authority for a two (2) year period with the commissioner providing a full report back to the board in one (1) year.

A second motion was made by Robert Flanders and seconded by Michael Ryan, to approve Item 8b1, as amended:

VOTED:
(Item 8b1) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves authorizing the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Commissioner, and the Associate Commissioner for Finance and Management to act on the Board's behalf in any conversion and/or refunding of the RIBEBC Higher Education Bonds – University of Rhode Island Auxiliary Enterprise Revenue Issue, Series 2004B for a period of two (2) years, with a full report by the Commissioner to the Board in one (1) year, and amends the attached resolution accordingly.

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Michael Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

8b2. Acceptance of a Resolution authorizing the amendment of certain bond indenture reporting requirements.

Vice Chair Ryan reported that there is a requirement entitled "Compliance Certificate Requirement" within the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC) bond issues on behalf of the Board of Governors for the 1993 Agreement, 1993A Agreement, 1997 Agreement, and 1999 Agreement and with the associated amendments of December 1, 2004. However, the financial covenants or agreements under this certificate have not been defined in a way that allows the independent certified public accounting firm to perform appropriate tests and evaluations to determine compliance.

Bond counsel has examined these documents in order to determine financial compliance requirements and has determined that this "Compliance Certificate Requirement" was inadvertently left in the bond indenture without definition. Therefore, we are requesting that the bond indentures be amended to either delete the "Compliance Certificate Requirement" or to amend these requirements in a manner that is reasonable and satisfactory to the board.

These amendments to the bond indenture will also require the consent and approval of RIHEBC and the Trustee as well as AMBAC Assurance Corporation and MBIA Insurance Corporation.

8b3. Acceptance of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act Resolution required for "pledge financing" for six University of Rhode Island projects within the University's Capital Improvement Program for FY 2009-2013.

The University is requesting "pledge financing" for the short term financing of projects covered by a combination of voter-authorized general obligation bonds as well as private and third-party funding. While it is optimal to have private gift and grant commitments to be received in a single sum, it is customary for pledges and commitments toward the funding of capital construction and renovation projects to be received in installment payments over multiple years.

In order to keep construction progressing on schedule, the University is requesting that the board authorize a resolution allowing the use of short-term financing to cover those sums included in pledges and grants receivable. The financing obtained will be tax-exempt in nature and free from pre-payment penalties in order to allow re-payment if pledged amounts are received ahead of schedule.

The projects included in this request are the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences, the new College of Pharmacy Building, the Pell Library and Undersea Exploration Center, the Roger Williams Fitness and Wellness Center, the International Center, and the baseball facility improvements.

8b4. Acceptance of the Public Corporation Debt Management Act Resolution for the proposed purchase of the International Engineering Program (IEP) House by the University of Rhode Island.

Vice Chair Ryan reported that the board approved the University's lease of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon House at 67 Upper College Road approximately nine years ago. The house had subsequently been renovated by the fraternity as the first International (IEP) Engineering Program House.

As the end of the lease approaches, the University has expressed its desire to purchase the house, and the fraternal organization has indicated its willingness to consider an installment purchase that would begin at the end of the lease. Because this transaction would constitute a form of financing or guarantee beyond a single fiscal year, a Public Finance Debt Management Act Resolution would be required in order to proceed with the desired purchase.

It is important for the board to understand that this initial resolution is to place the resolution on the General Assembly's list of legislation for review and passage in this current session. The University will be preparing resolutions for the committees and for the Board of Governors at a later time to consider the parameters of this transaction and whether this proposed transaction should occur.

8b5. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the Mid-year Review for Fiscal 2008 Higher Education Budgets and Tables of Organization.

This mid-year review process provides the Board of Governors the opportunity to review year-to-date activities and incorporate updated revenue data based on new enrollment figures. This mid-year review is also incorporating the changes recommended by the Governor in his revised FY2008 state budget recommendation that was released on January 31, 2008, with amendments from the Office of Higher Education.

- The Governor is recommending that state support in the current year be reduced by a net \$5.2 million. This reflects decreases in the following areas:
 - Personnel reductions \$.5M
 - Uncompensated Leave Days \$2.0M
 - Health benefits holiday \$1.5M
 - Operating savings (2.7% statewide) \$1.2M
- However, the recommendation of the Office is to reduce these planned decreases by \$4.1M as follows:
 - Uncompensated Leave Days \$1.0M
 - Operating savings \$0.1M
- Uncompensated leave days include a proposal of 6 furlough days for all employees. However, it is impossible to furlough faculty and part-time student workers. These two categories represent almost half of the proposed reduction.
- Operating savings may be achieved on operating line items. However, the Governor's proposed cuts also include reductions to items that are outside of the standard operating budget or that have obligations against these funds as of the date of the proposal including:
 - Legislative grants
 - Fixed expenses such as the Shepard's parking and administration
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Performance Improvement Grants
 - PeopleSoft Implementation
- Enrollment in all three institutions has increased tuition and fee revenues as follows:
 - University of Rhode Island \$3.9M
 - Rhode Island College \$.4M
 - Community College of Rhode Island \$2.2M
- The three institutions have experienced an increase in enrollment of 4.3% over FY 2007 and 1.7% over the 2008 enacted budget.
- The mid-year review recommendation does not reallocate any state appropriations from one institution to another in order to comply with current state law.
- It is most important to note that this mid-year reduction to the budgets for the Office of Higher Education and the three institutions further erodes our financial base for future appropriations and its effect is especially problematic as we strive to continue our growth enrollment plan in order to improve access for all Rhode Islanders.

- The revised FY 2008 general revenue budget recommendation is \$182.3 million (without debt service).

A motion was made by Kenneth Aurecchia and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon.

[Governor Michael Ryan departed]

Governor Flanders initiated discussion with bond counsel as to the function of the compliance certificate requirement. After discussion on the motion, it was:

VOTED:

(Item 8b2) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the passage of the attached resolution which authorizes the Chairman or Commissioner of Higher Education or the Associate Commissioner of Finance and Management to amend or delete the Bond Indentures related to the Compliance Certificate Requirement.

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurecchia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

On a motion made by Robert Flanders, Jr. and seconded by Pierre LaPerriere, it was:

VOTED:

(Item 8b3) That the Board of Governors approves for submission to the General Assembly the proposed draft legislation addressing the Public Corporation Debt Management Act issues related to the "pledge financing" for the six University of Rhode Island projects.

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurecchia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

On a motion made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Joseph Hagan, it was:

VOTED:

(Item 8b4) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the proposed draft legislation addressing the Public Corporation Debt Management Act issues related to a potential purchase of the International Engineering

Program House on the campus of the University of Rhode Island be submitted to the General Assembly.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

A motion was made by Brenda Dann-Messier and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon.

Governor Dann-Messier requested an accounting of the number of positions that remain unfilled within the system and requested an update at a future meeting on the number of vacancies created by the retirement incentive programs. Commissioner Warner indicated that there are currently 136 vacant positions in the system, the bulk of which are at Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island. He further noted that the mid-year budget adjustments are roughly \$1 million less than what was proposed by the Governor based on one method of calculating how much is available in savings through furloughs. The proposal before the board adopts the Governor's recommendations wherever possible, with the exception of the proposed furlough days. After discussion on the motion, it was:

VOTED:

(Item 8b5) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approved the mid-year budget adjustments for fiscal year 2008 as presented.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

b. Academic and Student Affairs

Governor Brenda Dann-Messier reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on March 14, 2008. Commissioner Warner presented his report and stressed that federal and state governments are paying increased attention to student learning outcomes, and that accrediting agencies are holding institutions of higher education to greater rigid standards. He believes that the policies we are pursuing and the effort being expended on developing student learning outcomes will position our institutions more favorably in meeting these expectations.

The committee then approved actions regarding programs that have been targeted for low completion rates at RIC. Mark Motte, assistant vice president for academic affairs, gave the underlying rationales for the proposed elimination, retention, consolidation, or continued two-year review of the targeted programs. The B.A. program in Labor Studies was recommended for elimination because of low graduation rates in the past three years. Other programs, such

as the M.A.T. in Music, were to be considered over the next two years either for elimination or consolidation with other programs. Some programs with low completion rates (e.g., B.A. in Physics) but are considered central to the college's general education program, other majors, or electives were recommended for retention at this time. The M.F.A. in Theatre/Drama and B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences were recommended to undergo a focused review in two years.

The committee also approved actions to be taken regarding the system-wide outcomes assessments at URI, RIC, and CCRI. Dan Donovan, professor of criminal justice and legal studies at CCRI, gave the first of two showcase presentations to highlight the efforts in implementing student learning outcomes assessment. Commissioner Warner provided suggestions on how the departments could track their graduates through data provided by the National Student Clearinghouse and the Department of Labor and Training. Stephen Brown, associate professor of English at RIC, showcased the importance of outcomes assessment and how it has evolved to become an annual retreat item. Both presentations were commended for their comprehensiveness.

Governor Dann-Messier reminded everyone that the April 18th ASAC meeting has been rescheduled to May 2, 2008.

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

VOTED:

(Item 8a1) That the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) approves the following recommendations:

- 1. That the following Rhode Island College programs be eliminated, in keeping with the institution's administrative review and request:**

1. B.A. in Labor Studies (the degree will be replaced by a minor and a certificate in Labor Studies to be offered by the History Department)
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- 2. That each of the following Rhode Island College programs be considered over the next two years for elimination as a free standing program, but considered for consolidation with another, more active program:**

1. M.A.T. in Music Education / M.M.Ed. in Music Education (considered for consolidation as either an M.A. in Music with performance and education tracks or as a five-year B.F.A. in Music, modeled after RIC's new B.F.A. in Art)
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- 3. That the following Rhode Island College programs be retained since courses in the program are required for general education, other majors, minors, and/or electives, thereby creating little or no additional cost to offer the major. The programs will be monitored through the institution's regular cyclical program review process:**

1. B.A. in French 2. B.A. in Physics 3. M.A. in Biology

4. M.A. History 5. B.S. Computer Science

4. That the following programs, which had low-completion rates, be retained for two years with the proviso that RIC either provides the resources necessary to pursue strategies for increasing enrollments and graduation rates or brings the programs forward for elimination. If not eliminated, these programs will undergo a focused review in two years (spring of 2010), possibly with the help of an external consultant, to determine whether or not the criteria for continuation (see RIBGHE program review policy, attachment #1) have been met.

1.	M.F.A. Theatre/Drama (admission suspended in fall 2008)
2.	B.S. Clinical Laboratory Sciences

(Item 8a2) That the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) approves the following recommendations:

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

At URI:	1. B.S. Environmental Economics and Management	2. B.S. Resource Economics and Commerce
At RIC:	1. B.A./B.S. Chemistry 2. B.A. Dance Performance 3. B.A. English 4. B.A. History	5. B.A. Philosophy 6. B.A. Physics 7. B.A. Sociology
At CCRI:	1. A.A.S. Chemical Technology 2. A.S. Law Enforcement	3. A.S. Paralegal Studies

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Caprio indicated that there are six items on tonight's consent agenda as follows:

- Item 9a calls for the approval of the awarding of degrees at the University of Rhode Island;
- Item 9b calls for the approval of the awarding of degrees at Rhode Island College;
- Item 9c calls for the approval of the awarding of degrees at the Community College of Rhode Island;
- Item 9d calls for the approval of the awarding of tenure at the University of Rhode Island.
- Item 9e calls for the approval of the awarding of tenure at Rhode Island College.
- Item 9f calls for the approval of two non-classified positions at the University of Rhode Island.

A revised enclosure relating to Item 9d was distributed to board members with the only change being the inclusion of a page that was missing from the enclosure distributed in the board packet.

On a motion made by Kenneth Aurecchia and seconded by Brenda Dann-Messier, it was:

VOTED:

(Item 9a) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees to those students who have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2008 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 those students who have satisfactorily complied with the prerequisites as determined by the president of Rhode Island College.

(Item 9c) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of appropriate degrees, diplomas and certificates at the Community College of Rhode Island on May 16, 2008, subject to satisfactory compliance with the prerequisites as determined by the president of the Community College of Rhode Island.

(Item 9d) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of tenure to the following individuals at URI:

Effective July 1, 2008 (Consequent to Promotion)

Lori Ciccomascolo, Kinesiology
Tracey Morin Dalton, Marine Affairs
M. Kathleen Ellis, Kinesiology
Ellen Flanery-Schroeder, Psychology
Christopher Hunter, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Ron Hutt, Art and Art History
Steven Irvine, Biological Studies
Mikyong Kim, Communicative Disorders
Kyle Kusz, Kinesiology
Michaelangelo La Luna, Italian
Lauren Lauzon Clabo, Nursing
Abby Lillethun, Textiles/Fashion Merchandising & Design
Seung Kyoon Shin, Business Administration
Jacqueline Sparks, Human Development and Family Studies
Lynda Stein, Psychology
Kathleen Torrens, Communication Studies
Sarina Wyant, Library and Information Science

Effective July 1, 2008 (Tenure Only)

Denise Coppa, Nursing
Lynn Dunphy, Nursing
Jacqueline Webb, Biological Sciences

(Item 9e) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the awarding of tenure to the following individuals at RIC:

Effective July 1, 2008 (Consequent to Promotion)

Desiree A. Ciambrone, Sociology
Joseph D. Foley, Music
Maria Lawrence, Elementary Education
Mary Ellen McGuire Schwartz, Early Childhood Education

Effective July 1, 2009 (Tenure Only)

Susan M. Gracia, Educational Leadership
Lindsay Barker, Henry Barnard School

(Item 9f) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the following non-classified positions:

At the University of Rhode Island:

1. Establish a new classification, **Assistant Vice President, Research/Intellectual Property Management & Commercialization**, BOG grade 16 (\$59,801 - \$118,188)
2. Establish a new classification, **Assistant Vice President, Research Administration**, BOG Grade 18 (\$69,442-\$138,521).

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale reported on a highly successful week of events as CCRI just concluded its first ever All College Week. Packets were distributed to board members that included highlights of the events that took place during All College Week. Nearly 200 CCRI students, faculty, and staff participated in Community Service Day on Tuesday. They all worked

together in performing community service at over seven locations across the state of Rhode Island. Senator Jack Reed served as the keynote speaker at CCRI's 6th annual Professional Development Day on March 19th.

President Di Pasquale noted that CCRI's women's basketball team made it to the National Junior College Athletic Association Sweet 16 for the fourth year in a row. Many of these women players have achieved honors such as First American, All American, First Team All Americans.

b. University of Rhode Island

President Carothers reported that he has received a draft copy of the NEASC report. He reported that NEASC has awarded the University of Rhode Island a full accreditation for ten (10) years. President Carothers commended Provost Swan for the kind comments made in the report relative to the process itself. The NEASC report also included positive remarks about the enthusiasm of faculty and students. The report requires that a progress report be submitted in 2010 to look at two specific issues: (1) The progress on the integration of planning and budgeting activities, specifically, to look at responsibilities centered management; and (2) To look at progress on relationships between the state and the University, specifically, including the budget impact of continuing state reductions. There is a traditional five year report at which time the University will have to show progress on the above elements. The next comprehensive visit for the University will be held in the fall of 2017.

President Carothers reported that the University is struggling with the budget and how to put together the budget for the current year. One of the challenges is to explain to everyone what is being done and how to cast that in a light of positive movement forward. The hope is to make some significant changes that will allow the University to endorse some short term pain for a long term, more stable, future for the University. A statement from the Office of the President that will be sent out to faculty and friends of the University was distributed to board members. President Carothers thanked new Provost Don DeHayes for his efforts in thinking through this process and this proposal.

c. Rhode Island College

President Nazarian announced that on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, Suzan Shown Harjo will make a presentation on Dialogue on Diversity. The event will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Gage Hall and is open to the Rhode Island College community and public.

President Nazarian reported that the number of applicants this year to the College has increased to 8.4%. He is hopeful that many of these applications will translate to registrations.

President Nazarian reported that construction has started on buildings #3 and #7 on the East Campus. Building #3 will house the student financial aid office, additional classrooms and a snack bar. Building #7 will house the Sherlock Center on Disabilities.

President Nazarian announced that Michael Bonora, a senior at Rhode Island College with a GPA close to 4.0, is ranked the number one wrestler in the country in the 141 pound weight class in NCAA Division III. It was also noted that RIC's men's basketball team reached the NCAA this year; however, they were eliminated in round thirty-two.

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).

On a motion duly made by Brenda Dann-Messier and seconded by Thomas Rockett, it was:

VOTED:	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education convene in Executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(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 Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, 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, 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; Nancy Carriuolo, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer, Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne, and Associate Commissioner Steven Maurano.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:35 p.m.

13. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

On a motion duly made by Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Robert Flanders, Jr., it was:

VOTED: (Item12a)	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the Collective bargaining agreements between the Board of Governors for Higher Education and the AAUP, URIPSA, URI Physician's Association, Maritime Professionals, RIC/AFT, PSA@RIC, CCRIPSA, Driver's Education Association, AFT Local 2012, and the CCRI Faculty Association
	Vote	9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS	Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Brenda Dann-Messier and Joseph Hagan, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the
(Item 12c) awarding of an honorary degree to the indicated candidate.

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda
Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre
LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

14. NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2008, 5:00 p.m. at the Community College of Rhode Island, Board Room 4090, Warwick, Rhode Island.

Monday, June 30, 2008, 5:00 p.m. at the Office of Higher Education, Board Room, Providence, Rhode Island.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Brandon Brown and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon, it was:

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

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

YEAS Kenneth Aurrechia, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Brenda
Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Pierre
LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, and Solomon A. Solomon.

NAYS 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary