



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus, 400 East Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island. Chair Frank Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

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

Absent: Kathrin Belliveau and Joseph Hagan.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

A revised agenda has been distributed to reflect the removal of item 9b under additional new business. Chair Caprio indicated that this issue will be addressed at a later date.

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 accept the revised agenda for the meeting of May 12, 2008.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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 approve the minutes of the March 24, 2008 meeting.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

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

President Di Pasquale welcomed the Board to CCRI's Knight Campus and introduced two new representatives to the Faculty Senate: Ramona Skelly, professor of mathematics is the new president of the CCRI Faculty Association, and Denise Laza, associate professor and clinical coordinator for radiography, is the new vice president of the CCRI Faculty Association.

President Di Pasquale intended to present a short video relating to CCRI's career placement and cooperative education. He introduced Amanda Salzat, a CCRI student who will be graduating on Friday; the same day her daughter will be graduating from pre-school. Ms. Salzat is featured in the video. She did her internship with the Department of Health and plans to transfer to the University of New Hampshire where she hopes to study forensic science. President Di Pasquale also introduced Director Annemarie Marge and Jonathan Steele, two members of CCRI's Cooperative Education/Career Placement Program. Annemarie Marge and the CCRI CO-OP staff work one-on-one with CCRI students to assist them in preparing resumes, cover letters, and searching for job prospects by utilizing tools such as workshops and on-line resources. A one-page handout is included in the packet distributed at tonight's meeting. The video presentation was temporarily passed due to technical difficulties.

[Governor Brandon Brown arrived]

Chair Caprio stated that John Nazarian has been associated with Rhode Island College for fifty eight years. The name John Nazarian is synonymous with Rhode Island College. In addition to serving as president for eighteen years, he has served as professor, chairman of the math department, associate dean of arts and sciences, special assistant for planning, and vice president for administration & finance. Chair Caprio summed up Dr. Nazarian's tenure by saying he is like the father of Rhode Island College and Rhode Island College has been treated as though it was his cherished child. His accomplishments and dedication have been widely recognized and appreciated by everyone in higher education and anyone who had any relationship with Rhode Island College. Each member of the board extended thanks to Dr. Nazarian for his contributions to the system of higher education and the people of the state of Rhode Island.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Michael Ryan and seconded by the entire board, it was

| | | |
|--------|-------|--|
| VOTED: | THAT: | the Board of Governors for higher education bestow upon Dr. John Nazarian the title of president emeritus of Rhode Island College. |
| | Vote: | 10 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., Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon |
| | NAYS: | 0 |

Vice Chair Michael Ryan, Governor Solomon A. Solomon, and Governor Brenda Dann-Messier each commented on their individual experiences with John Nazarian.

Chair Caprio and Commissioner Warner presented John Nazarian with a framed resolution in recognition of his contributions to Rhode Island College bestowing upon him the title of president emeritus of Rhode Island College.

4. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Warner indicated that it has been widely reported that he might be moving to Pennsylvania; however, he is pleased to report that he will be staying in Rhode Island. The Commissioner was able to go deep into a very large search on the strength of an agenda that everyone has worked on together. He could not have done it without the board's support, as well as the support of the presidents, the senior administrators at OHE and the institutions. He thanked everyone for their support.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Caprio indicated that he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the finalists selected by the presidential search committee for the position of president at Rhode Island College, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1).

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

| | | |
|---------------|-------|--|
| VOTED: | That | the Board of Governors for Higher Education convene in Executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(1) for the reasons set forth above. |
| | Vote: | 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows: |
| | YEAS | Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon |
| | NAYS: | 0 |

The Board convened into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m.

Chair Caprio asked that only board members remain in the room during executive session for the deliberations on the appointment of the new president at Rhode Island College, with the exception of President John Nazarian. General Counsel Ronald A. Cavallaro also remained in the room during executive session.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:18 p.m.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Michael Ryan described the search process which began late last fall after President John Nazarian announced that he would not seek a reappointment as president of

Rhode Island College. There was a pool of nearly 50 applicants that was narrowed down to a field of 8 semi-finalists, all of whom were interviewed by the search committee. Based on those interviews, the committee decided to invite 4 finalists back for all-day interviews that included on-campus meetings with various groups from the Rhode Island College community. As of this morning the four finalists were: Nancy Kleniewski, Nancy Carriuolo, John Wm. Folkins, and Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr. However, Commissioner Warner received a phone call this morning from Nancy Kleniewski wherein she indicated that she has accepted the presidency at SUNY Oneonta, thus leaving the board with three finalists for consideration.

Vice Chair Michael Ryan noted that each candidate was notified, in writing, that their job qualifications would be discussed in executive session. Each candidate was given the option to ask the board to proceed in open session and none of the candidates indicated an interest in having the discussions take place in open session.

Vice Chair Michael Ryan thanked the search committee members for the time and effort they put forth during the presidential search process.

After discussing the qualifications of the candidates in closed session, Chair Caprio indicated that he would entertain a motion to place in nomination the name of a candidate for the presidency of Rhode Island College.

Vice Chair Michael Ryan nominated Nancy Carriuolo, currently the interim vice president for academic affairs at Rhode Island College, as well as the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer at the RI Office of Higher Education, for the presidency at Rhode Island College. The motion was seconded by the entire board.

Chair Caprio inquired as to whether there were any further nominations. In the absence of any further nominations, Chair Caprio closed the nomination process.

| | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| VOTED: | THAT | the Board of Governors for Higher Education appoints Nancy Carriuolo as President of Rhode Island College for a three-year period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011. |
| | Further | that the Board authorizes the Board chair to negotiate the specific provisions of a contract with Nancy Carriuolo. |
| | Vote: | 10 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members Voted in the negative as follows: |
| | YEAS: | Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Robert Flanders, Jr., Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon |
| | NAYS: | 0 |

Chair Caprio declared Nancy Carriuolo as having been duly appointed as president-elect of Rhode Island College.

7. OPEN FORUM

None

[Robert Flanders, Jr., departed]

8. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Warner congratulated John Nazarian on his new status as president emeritus. Rhode Island College is far better off today as a result of John Nazarian's stewardship over the last eighteen years. The commissioner stated that it has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with John Nazarian over the last six years.

Commissioner Warner extended congratulations to Nancy Carriuolo for assuming the challenge to follow in John Nazarian's footsteps. He looks forward to working with Dr. Carriuolo in her new role as president.

The commissioner welcomed J.R. Pagliarini as a new member to the senior staff at the Office of Higher Education. Mr. Pagliarini has a master's degree in public policy and has been asked by Senator Jack Reed to comment on the Federal Higher Education Authorization Act. He will also have a leadership role in establishing the administrative services center that is being proposed by Commissioner Warner as an alternative to the merging of institutions.

Commissioner Warner reported that although there are no proposals pending at this time that involve the merging of institutions, he is proposing the administrative services center as an alternative. He further reported that on Friday several individuals, including President Carothers, President Nazarian, Dennis Moore, and himself testified against a bill submitted by Representative Amaral to merge all three institutions into the University of Rhode Island. The hearing was sparsely attended by committee members, the sponsor of the bill did not show up to testify in favor of it, and no other testimony was given in support of it.

The commissioner noted that the June board meeting will be held at Rhode Island College. This meeting was originally scheduled to take place at the Office of Higher Education; however, the office will be moving on May 27, 2008 from 301 Promenade Street to the Hazard Building in the Pastore Complex located in Cranston, Rhode Island.

Commissioner Warner reported that the retirement incentives appear to be producing robust numbers of retirees at the institutions. There are currently 85 retirees at the University of Rhode Island; 50 at the Community College of Rhode Island; and 40-50 at Rhode Island College. The numbers are expected to climb before the deadline arrives for ERS employees.

9. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Chair Caprio indicated that item 9a calls for the approval of salary increases for non-union, non-classified Board of Governors employees. Commissioner Warner referred to enclosure 9a contained in the packets distributed to board members which summarizes the salary increases, health premium co-shares, and retiree health insurance options for Board of Governors employees. He indicated that the first across the board salary increase of 2.5% is retroactive to January 1, 2008. A second 2.5% merit-based salary increase is effective July 1, 2008, and the third merit-based 3.0% salary increase is effective July 1, 2009. The proposed salary increases are identical to those contained in collective bargaining agreements previously approved by the board at its last meeting, as well as the one remaining collective bargaining

agreement on tonight's agenda. It was also noted that the health premium co-share rates are identical to what is contained in the collective bargaining agreements.

The third element of the proposal relates to the retiree health contribution which again mirrors the union contribution rate. The board gave each union the option of staying with the retiree health program at the revised contribution rates or opting out. All of the unions decided to stay in the retiree health program, with the exception of the AAUP at the University of Rhode Island. Each non-union employee will be given the choice of staying in the retiree health program at the revised rates and with a revised plan. The plan has been revised as a post-65 plan and the 58-65 option has been eliminated effective July 1, 2008.

Governor Brenda Dann-Messier inquired as to whether merit-based salary increases are customary. The commissioner indicated that salary increases are usually tied to evaluations on a merit basis; however, since the first increase is retroactive to January 1st, it was decided this increase would be across the board and the next two would be merit based, as they have been in the past.

Governor Pierre LaPerriere questioned the condition for eligibility for the post-65 retiree coverage. Anne Marie Coleman responded by saying that the eligibility criterion is based on a formula involving years of service and age. Commissioner Warner stated that the goal of the board was to end up with a 50/50 contribution rate between the institutions and the individuals at the end of the third year. When the board conducted an actuarial study for liability, under the old plan, the contribution rate would have been 3.0% of salary beginning with the age 58 plan currently in operation. This rate seemed to be high from the negotiation perspective and would have resulted in 1.5% in the third year. The plan was then revamped to be a post-65 Medicaid supplemental plan only. This reduced the liability down to 1.8% of salary which resulted in the .9% contribution rate in year 3, up from the .25% that was enacted a decade ago.

On a motion made by Kenneth Aurecchia and seconded by Brandon Brown, it was

VOTED: THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education
(ITEM 9a) approve the salary increases, health premium co-share
rates, and retiree health insurance options for non-union,
non-classified employees as outlined in enclosure 9a

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda
Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel
Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS and RELATED CONSENT AGENDA

a. Academic and Student Affairs

Governor Dann-Messier congratulated Nancy Carriuolo on her appointment as president of Rhode Island College and thanked her for her tremendous services not only to the ASAC committee but to all students, particularly underrepresented students.

Governor Dann-Messier reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on May 2, 2008. Deputy Commissioner Carriuolo reviewed the plans that Gibbs College intends to implement before closing its institution on or before December 31, 2009. The teach-out plan submitted by Gibbs contains satisfactory provisions and options for students to complete their studies with full services, transfer to other institutions, or receive a refund. Gibbs also provided faculty with options to continue until closure with incentive pay or receive severance compensation. It was noted that all but two faculty have opted to continue. The president of Gibbs College gave assurances that student records will be kept by the parent company and support services will be maintained beyond the closure date.

The ASAC also recommended the approval of Gibbs College's request to extend their degree-granting authority until their closure. This recommendation is included on this evening's consent agenda as item 10a1.

The committee then approved URI's proposal to initiate a Master's of Arts in Special Education program which appears as consent item 10a2. URI presented a rationale that the proposed program fulfills a need within the community, does not conflict with other programs offered within Rhode Island, and will be financially viable once it becomes fully operational. The program is unique in that it prepares special education teachers to work in inclusive educational environments on a cohort basis.

The committee then approved actions to be taken regarding the system-wide outcomes assessments at URI, RIC, and CCRl which actions appear as consent item 10a3. Ron Lee and Susan Thomas from URI's music department gave the first of two showcase presentations. Paula McGlasson and David Howard from URI's theatre department expressed their department's experience through an entertaining theatrical sketch. The presentations were excellent illustrations of how outcomes assessment can lead to program improvement as well as provide students with impressive portfolios that demonstrate to future employers their skills, knowledge, and – in the case of music and theatre – their performance expertise.

Deputy Commissioner Carriuolo then reviewed the revised calendar of assessment reporting from the individual departments to the Board of Governors for Higher Education in response to a request by Governor Rockett.

Outgoing URI provost Beverly Swan presented the committee with the outcome of the accreditation visit to URI by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). She highlighted the strengths and concerns cited in the NEASC report. The outcome of the visit is that URI's next university-wide accreditation review will be in 2017, but the university will undergo a focused review in 2010.

Finally, Chair Dann-Messier and Deputy Commissioner Carriuolo expressed on behalf of the ASAC their gratitude to Beverly Swan and Miriam Coleman for their dedication and service to the system of higher education in Rhode Island.

Governor Thomas Rockett commented that the presentation on outcomes assessments provided by Paula McGlasson and David Howard was so superb that he would recommend that the presentation be repeated before the board.

On a motion made by Pierre LaPerriere and seconded by Thomas Rockett, it was

- VOTED:**
(Item 10a1) THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve a request from Gibbs College for an extension of their degree-granting authority
- (Item 10a2)** THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the proposal from the University of Rhode Island to offer a Masters of Arts degree in Special Education.
- (Item 10a3)** 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.A./B.S. Economics | 5. B.M. in Composition |
| | 2. B.A/B.S. Mathematics | 6. 4. B.M. in Music Education |
| | 3. B.A. Music | 7. B.A. Psychology |
| | 4. B.M. in Performance | 8. 7. B.F.A. Theatre |
| At RIC: | 1. B.A. Music | 4. B.A. Political Science |
| | 2. B.S. Music Education | 5. B.A. Theatre |
| | 3. B.M. Performance | |

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 commended for their efforts. All these programs have made excellent progress and given much thought about this commitment. They do need the additional time, however, to either gather data, evaluate a capstone course, or assess proposed methods. Some either need to identify methods to assess student achievement, or the program achievement has yet to be completed.

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| At | 1. A.A. Computer Studies | 6. A.S. Networking |
| CCRI: | 2. A.A. Foreign Languages | 7. A.A. Philosophy |
| | 3. A.A. General Studies | 8. A.A. Psychology |
| | 4. A.A. History | 9. A.S. Science Tracks A&B |
| | 5. L.A.M.A Mathematics | 10. A.A. Sociology |

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

b. Facilities

Chair Caprio reported that the Facilities and Finance and Management Committees met on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. Item 8b1 on tonight's agenda is for the approval of a resolution authorizing the purchase of six parcels of property by Rhode Island College from the Rhode Island College Foundation.

The Rhode Island College Foundation purchased six (6) pieces of property in North Providence contiguous to the College in order to construct a third entrance to the College from Fruit Hill Avenue. The total purchase price for the six parcels was \$536,333.41. At the request of the Office of Higher Education, the Foundation paid for an appraisal of the properties which was conducted in January 2008. At that time the appraised value of the properties was \$702,000. The Foundation is seeking to sell these parcels to the College.

The initial resolution to authorize the parties to continue to discuss the transfer options available was presented to and passed by the Facilities and the Finance & Management Committees at their April 23rd meeting. At that time, however, the resolution was a recommendation to the Board to authorize the parties to continue to discuss the details of the transaction. The specific parameters of the agreement between the Foundation and the College are complete and ready for the board's review.

The Foundation and the College have agreed to enter into a Purchase & Sales Agreement with an agreed upon price of \$600,000.00 for these parcels. The agreement stipulates that monthly payments of \$6,528.00 will be paid by the College to the Foundation for a period of ten (10) years at an interest rate of 6.0%.

Chair Caprio reported that because this transaction would constitute a form of financing or guarantee beyond a single fiscal year, a Public Finance Debt Management Act Resolution will be required in order to proceed with the desired purchase. This has been prepared per the documents included in tonight's packet.

Accordingly, Chair Caprio moved to amend the original recommendation from the Facilities and the Finance & Management Committees for the ratification of the transfer of these parcels from the Rhode Island College Foundation to Rhode Island College. This ratification, therefore, includes the financing details and the further actions required by the State Properties Committee and the Public Debt Management Act requirements as proposed in the revised motion distributed at the beginning of tonight's meeting.

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

VOTED:

- (Item 10b1)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the proposed acquisition of six (6) parcels on Hennessey Avenue and Fruit Hill Avenue, Tax Assessor's Plat 9, Lots 276, 284, 290, 295, 298, and 400 in the Town of North Providence, subject to review and approval by the Board's legal counsel; and
- That the agreement be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for approval; and

That The Board of Governors approves the draft resolution as required under the provision of the Public Debt Management Act.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

c. Government Relations Committee

Governor Aurecchia reported that the Government Relations Committee met on April 30, 2008. At that time, Associate Commissioner Maurano gave a review of the final FY08 supplemental budget. The committee also reviewed, discussed, and voted to oppose three bills.

Associate Commissioner Maurano reported on the three (3) bills that the committee voted to oppose:

- H-7763 (and its senate companion, S-2537) is a bill that has been filed for several years now that would place campus police officers under the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights. The committee opposed this bill on the grounds that the system of higher education already has an arbitration grievance process in place for its employees that were negotiated through collective bargaining.
- H-8059 (and its Senate companion, S-2723) is a bill that mandates the arming of campus police at our institutions. The committee opposed this bill as written because it would take the decision to arm campus police away from the board; because the bill mandates an extensive training routine into which the board has no input; and because the bill does not provide any funding mechanism to pay for the proposed training.
- S-2449 (and its House companion, H-8164) is a bill which mandates that 75% of all faculty at each of the three institutions be full-time, tenure track faculty by the year 2012. The committee opposed this bill because of the significant cost attached to such a measure.

In response to an inquiry made by Governor Thomas Rockett, Associate Commissioner Maurano indicated that going forward the committee will be looking into the arming of campus police.

11. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

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

VOTED:
(Item 11a) THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the awarding of tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island:

Effective July 1, 2008
Regina Cobb, Rehabilitative Health
Kristen Dummer-Foley, English

- (Item 11b)** THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the awarding of an honorary degree to the individual selected by Rhode Island College.
- Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members Voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon
- NAYS: 0

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President elect Nancy Carriuolo thanked President John Nazarian and is gratified to be able to follow in his footsteps. She also thanked Chair Caprio, the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Office of Higher Education, and Commissioner Warner for their best wishes. In addition, she thanked everyone on the Rhode Island College campus who participated in the search process for their support.

13. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. Rhode Island College

President Nazarian expressed his appreciation to the Board of Governors for bestowing upon him the honor of president emeritus. He indicated that he and Nancy Carriuolo have worked very well together over the last nine months, and he will be available to offer advice or discussion as needed. He is very grateful to have had the privilege of serving Rhode Island College over the years and will cherish the resolution presented to him this evening.

President Nazarian announced that the women's softball team won the 2008 NCAA regional championship competition, and they are on their way to Salem, Virginia for the national championship round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

b. Community College

President Di Pasquale stated that he is very pleased that Commissioner Warner will remain in Rhode Island and believes this is terrific for Rhode Island and for higher education.

As the newest president to the system, President Di Pasquale has found that President Nazarian and President Carothers have both been wonderful teachers in helping him to navigate through the system and to become a better president. President Di Pasquale expressed this thanks to John Nazarian and Robert Carothers for their mentoring and guidance. He now looks forward to teaching Nancy Carriuolo the lessons he has learned. President Di Pasquale noted that Nancy Carriuolo is an alumnus of SUNY Brockport, his former institution. He is pleased to see an alumnus of SUNY Brockport become the next president of Rhode Island College.

President Di Pasquale stated that Governor Aurecchia was featured in an article of this month's CCRI's alumni association newsletter *Green & White* with the headline "Kenneth Aurecchia builds skills, knowledge, experience at Local 51." A copy of the newsletter is included in tonight's packet. President Di Pasquale acknowledged Governor Aurecchia as one of CCRI's best and brightest alumni.

President Di Pasquale announced that the CCRI Foundation will be honoring Governor Michael Ryan as the education contributor to the Community College of Rhode Island on May 22, 2008 during its *Changing Lives Celebration*. Board members are invited to attend and invitations are included in tonight's packet. President Di Pasquale congratulated Governor Michael Ryan who recently received an honorary doctorate.

President Di Pasquale reported that CCRI's commencement is on Friday, May 16, 2008. He indicated that associate degrees will be awarded to more than 1,400 students. Karen Adams, award winning anchor for Channel 12, will deliver the commencement address. Karen Finn, mother of 2 children, who received her GED in 1971 will be CCRI's featured student speaker.

c. University of Rhode Island

President Carothers echoed the comments made during the evening in regards to President Nazarian who has been a terrific colleague over the years and a good friend.

President Carothers congratulated Nancy Carriuolo on the appointment of president elect for Rhode Island College. He stated that Dr. Carriuolo is a passionate, committed person to whatever work she has been assigned.

President Carothers reported that the University is working to close a \$17 million gap in its budget; \$12 million of which is a result of the actions by the Governor and the General Assembly to reduce URI's budget. He reported that the process is particularly painfully because the University had in place a fiscal plan to generate \$20 - \$25 million a year in new revenues. URI has been able to stick with this plan and expects to generate this new revenue; however, the state will take back \$12 million of whatever URI earns during the fiscal year. Internally, the end result will be a 10% budget reduction over the various divisions at the University. The athletics program received the first and highest profile when URI eliminated four men's and women's inter-collegiate sports. Each division will face comparable reductions translating into roughly a \$12 million reduction for Academic Affairs going into next year.

The projection of 85 retirements will help URI close this gap by \$8 million. At a time when URI is trying to gear up the nursing program, it will lose 7 nursing faculty members to the retirement incentive program. In addition, URI will lose 5 chemistry faculty members and 4 economics faculty members. The University is in the process of increasing the teaching load for all faculty members. As URI moves forward to attempt to close the budget gap, many adjunct and lecture positions will be eliminated.

President Carothers reported that the University's freshman admissions numbers are coming in strong and are up 1% year to year at this time; however, transfer enrollments are down in large part due to a lack of housing. All this is taking place at a time when the system is having unprecedented success with the JAA program. Students coming to the University through the JAA program have to find their own housing.

President Carothers indicated that the University will enjoy some fun activities during the rest of this week when it kicks off various activities in celebration of Beverly Swan's retirement. The week will end with commencement exercises for graduate and undergraduate classes. Governor Rockett will provide the honors for these events on behalf of the Board. Vice Chair Ryan will fill in during the commencement festivities for Chair Caprio, who is receiving an honorary doctorate degree from Providence College.

President Carothers stated that although the University is facing many challenges, there is a great deal of hard work going on and people have their heads up. He hopes to come in on June 30th with a balanced budget and be able to meet the expectations of the students in the fall.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Caprio indicated that he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss collective bargaining, pending litigation, and the recommendations relative to the evaluations and contracts of Commissioner Jack Warner and President Ray Di Pasquale, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) and R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

On a motion duly made by Brandon Brown 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)(1) and R.I. G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) 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, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon |
| | NAYS: | 0 |

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

Members of the audience were excused with the exception of Ronald A. Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Board; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations; President Robert Carothers; President John Nazarian; President Elect Nancy Carriuolo; Associate Commissioner Steve Maurano; and Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:20 p.m.

Chair Caprio noted that Commissioner Warner and President Di Pasquale were each given the opportunity, in writing, to have their evaluations take place in open session. Neither individual indicated an interest in having the discussions take place in open session.

15. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

On a motion duly made by Daniel Ryan and seconded by the entire board membership present, it was

- VOTED:** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the agreement between the RIBGHE and the PTAA at the University of Rhode Island.
(Item 14a)
- That the Board of Governors for Higher Education extends the contracts of Commissioner Jack Warner and President Ray Di Pasquale for an additional two (2) years in recognition of their committed service, energy, and dedication to this system of public higher education; to reaffirm its commitment to them; and to provide consistency of leadership to this system which will enable it to continue to effectively deal with the current conditions in Rhode Island.
- Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon
- NAYS: 0

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

- VOTED:** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education seals the minutes of both executive sessions held this evening
- Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Frank Caprio, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon
- NAYS: 0

16. NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 30, 2008, 5:00 p.m. at Rhode Island College, Alger Hall, Providence, Rhode Island.

Monday, August 18, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island, Coastal Institute, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Brandon Brown and seconded by Pierre LaPerriere, 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, Brandon Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, Michael Ryan and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary