



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

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A regular meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, June 30, 2008 at Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island. Chair Frank Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

**Present:** Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

**Absent:** Brenda Dann-Messier, Pierre LaPerriere and Michael Ryan

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

A revised agenda has been distributed to reflect the removal of item 9b under additional new business.

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 June 30, 2008.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion duly made by Brandon Brown and seconded by Thomas Rockett, it was

**VOTED:** THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the minutes of the May 12, 2008 meeting.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

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

Chair Caprio thanked President Nazarian and the RIC staff for hosting tonight's meeting.

President Carothers recognized the passing of William Corr. Bill Corr had been a distinguished senator for the State of Rhode Island, then chair of the Board of Governors for Higher Education during the last budget crisis. He was a remarkable advocate for the University of Rhode Island and for higher education, as well as a fan of URI's sports teams, and he will be missed. The Board and meeting attendees held a brief moment of silence.

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

Chair Caprio called upon President Nazarian to discuss the new residence hall's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. It was designed by RGB and it is only the second building in Rhode Island to receive this certification. Steven Hughes, principle architect, and Ed Brady, director of operations and facilities at Rhode Island College, were commended for their efforts. A brief PowerPoint presentation outlined the required characteristics of a LEED-certified building, including water and energy efficiency and air quality. The residence hall also has a white roof, retained rather than cleared most trees during its construction, is on land protected as a natural habitat as well as shielded lighting as a protected dark sky sight, and is made to keep out drafts. The building has low VLC (volatile organic compounds) materials and is safe and healthy for students. Reducing material finishes and completing a green maintenance plan gave the building points for innovation. It will also be a great return on investment, saving \$1500 a year on energy costs. Connie McGreevy, regional director of the U.S. Green Building Company, presented a plaque to Chair Caprio. The plaque will be mounted on the new residence hall, and Chair Caprio thanked the presenters on behalf of the Board of Governors.

Chair Caprio thanked President Emeritus John Nazarian for his hospitality and once more recognized his contributions to Rhode Island College as well as being a person of intellect and integrity whose love of family and country has set an example for all of us to follow.

President Elect Nancy Carriuolo was recognized for her eight years of leadership with the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Chair Caprio and Commissioner Warner presented President Elect Carriuolo with a plaque in recognition of her contributions and look forward to her work at Rhode Island College. President Elect Carriuolo thanked the Board, presidents, and administrators and faculty for their mentoring and support.

Chair Caprio then took a moment to draw attention to the painful decision the Board has been forced to make tonight by the state's budget crisis. The impact on students and families, especially in light of the state's cuts to tuition and scholarships, is particularly hard for Chair Caprio to recommend. As a youngster, he worked three jobs to put himself through college, and he recognized that it's virtually impossible for today's students to do the same. The Board has a strong ethical and moral obligation to keep public higher education affordable to students, yet we also have to ensure the quality of an education that will serve students well and prepare them for the workforce. The higher education system has absorbed \$20 million in cuts the past two years, and although the good work of Presidents Carothers, Nazarian and Di Pasquale has helped our institutions function at a high level, the institutions cannot maintain high quality without more cost to students. The recommended increases will allow URI, RIC and CCRI to experience some modest revenue growth to help meet increasing costs. Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island are still priced lower than their counterparts in the

Northeast, but the Board does recognize the cost to students attending these institutions next fall. Chair Caprio realizes the pain concerned for all; the increased tuition and fees will still not be enough to stave off additional cuts across the board at URI, RIC and CCRI. Although the Board is approaching tonight's decision with heavy hearts, they cannot blame anyone at the institutions. It's simply a situation that has been foisted upon us.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

None

**6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Warner again congratulated President Emeritus Nazarian on his last day and wished him well in the future.

Commissioner Warner expanded on Chair Caprio's comments, adding that the Board of Governors is waiting to receive final numbers from the Department of Administration. In addition to the existing cuts in appropriated funds, the state now is asking the higher education system to reduce its personnel costs by an additional \$6.1 million, which will put an additional strain on all three institutions and the Office of Higher Education. We begin each year with hope, approving a current service level budget in September that would maintain the current level of students and provide modest growth. Truthfully, we would have to increase tuition between an 20-30% range for each of our institutions to maintain their current level of service, but such increases are unreasonable and unsustainable. Because the Board cannot and will not put students and their families in that position, it will do its best to request that the state keeps cuts reasonable. However, everyone in public higher education will feel some pain this year in their quest to maintain institutional quality and remain as affordable as possible.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Caprio introduced Item 7a, which requested the Board's approval of renaming the Cooperative Extension Education Center at URI in honor of Dr. Kathleen M. Mallon. President Carothers spoke of Dr. Mallon's services to URI and the state of Rhode Island, which included founding the Cooperative Extension Education Center and planning the Ryan Center and Boss Arena. President Carothers added that the educational center is not a building but rather a complex of programs and facilities.

Chair Caprio added that he had great respect and admiration for Kathy as a wonderful person.

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

VOTED: THAT that the Board approves the renaming of the Cooperative Extension Education Center at the University of Rhode Island as the Kathleen M. Mallon Outreach Center.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

Item 7b requested the Board's approval of tuition rates at the Henry Barnard School for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. President Nazarian informed the board that, as in past years, the Henry Barnard School Tuition Rate Setting Committee has recommended a tuition rate increase of 5.5% over the previous fiscal year. He noted that the committee, formed back in 1985-1986, includes parents of current students. The committee's recommendations are also signed by a parents' association.

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

VOTED: THAT that the Board approves the 2008-2009 tuition rates for the Henry Barnard School as presented.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

Item 7c requested the Board's adoption of a resolution regarding facility clearance at the University of Rhode Island. President Carothers explained that the University has a joint program with NWC (Naval Warfare College) that requires a security resolution. Several years ago the University decided, rather than to subject members of the Board of Governors to security clearance, the federal government agreed on a single resolution investing authority for security in the president, vice president for administration and the project director. This resolution is needed to continue the work in this relationship between URI and NWC.

On a motion moved by Joseph Hagan and seconded by Brandon Brown, it was

VOTED: THAT that the Board approves the resolution delegating authority over user agency contracts to the managerial group 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, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

Item 7d requested the Board's approval of tuition and fee rates for Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island for FY 2009 and a Pharmacy fee increase at the University of Rhode Island.

The specific rates will be an increase of \$500 per academic year in Pharmacy professional fees to URI graduate students in Pharmacy; an increase of \$515 over the current FY 2008 tuition and fee rates at Rhode Island College; and an increase of \$245 over the current FY 2008 tuition and fee rates for full-time CCRI in-state students.

Whereas the Board originally approved a 5.6% increase at Rhode Island College, the tuition and fees will now cost a total of 9.8% over the previous academic year. At CCRI, the previous increase of 5.4% will now cost 8.6% total over last year. The Board and the Office of Higher Education have worked hard to keep the increases below double-digit numbers so that Rhode Island's in-state costs remain more affordable than similar institutions in the Northeast.

Governor Brown asked how the student body could help gain increases from the General Assembly and learned that the Board of Governors, not the legislature, is charged with setting tuition fees. Unfortunately the legislature is only giving higher education \$156 million of a budget of \$800 million. In the past when the institutions have saved money from efficiency or tuition revenue, the General Assembly has penalized the schools by taking back money. It has nearly become a disincentive to do well, and yet Presidents Carothers, Nazarian and Di Pasquale have continued to strive to raise enrollment and provide quality education. The Board has to take the type of action seen in Item 7d when revenue declines to an unsustainable amount. Governor Brown and other higher education students were advised to encourage the General Assembly during budget development to maintain support for higher education.

In response to an inquiry from Governor Flanders, Commissioner Warner explained that the institutions reported a modest revenue growth over last year, between 2% and 3%, but utilities, food and employee contracts have skyrocketed. In September the Office of Higher Education requested a total revenue of \$189 million from the state just to keep operations constant from last year, and the previous tuition and fee increases passed by the Board (6% for URI, 5.6% for RIC and 5.4% for CCRI) were based on the assumption that the state would allocate that amount. However, state support has declined to \$156 million. These proposed tuition and fee increases will make up only a small portion of that.

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

VOTED:	THAT	that the Board approves the Tuition and Fee Rates for URI, RIC and CCRI for FY 2009
	Vote:	9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon
	NAYS:	0

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS and RELATED CONSENT AGENDA

### a. Academic and Student Affairs

Committee Vice Chair Solomon A. Solomon reported that ASAC met on June 13, 2008 and reviewed the proposal from Learning Gate, Inc., to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island, contingent upon receipt by RIOHE of a \$75,000 surety bond before the opening of classes (Item 8a1). The committee also approved actions to be taken regarding the system-wide outcomes assessments at URI, RIC, and CCRI (consent item 8a2) and revisions to the board *Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island* (8a3) in light of the State Department of Health's elimination of the position of chief field inspector for hairdressing. As a result of this change, the state's cosmetology schools are unable to fulfill the RIBGHE's requirement for an annual health certification that is awarded to the school following a visit by the chief field inspector. The regulation as revised continues to require health inspections and

adherence by the schools to all health standards. The regulations waive the requirement only if an inspector is not available. Schools are licensed by the health department, so some oversight is ongoing.

Governor Solomon reported that Mark Higgins, URI's dean of business administration, and Bonnie MacDonald, RIC's director of film studies, had presented to the committee, illustrating well how outcomes assessment can lead to program improvement. In addition, the committee received an update from Deborah Suggs of the Adult Learner Forum, a committee that was formed based on the recommendations laid out in the *Final Report of the Task Force on Groups Underrepresented in Public Higher Education in Rhode Island*. The forum group has agreed to aid in the implementation of approximately \$300,000 in RIHEAA grant funds that were approved for adult learners. Governor Solomon reported that a letter of gratitude from outgoing URI provost M. Beverly Swan was read to the committee and Deputy Commissioner Nancy Carriuolo was thanked for her dedication and commitment to the ASAC and wished well in her new position as president of Rhode Island College.

In response to an inquiry by Governor Flanders regarding follow-up on approved proprietary schools, Commissioner Warner explained that a RIOHE staff person monitors the schools, requires annual statements, and requires bonds for financial protection in case the schools go out of business. The schools are routinely reviewed, must approach the RIOHE with any changes, and are phased out over 1-2 years if they fail to fulfill the proprietary school requirements.

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

**VOTED:**

**(Item 8a1)** THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves a proposal from Learning Gate, Inc. to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island.

**(Item 8a2)** 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. in Accounting	5. B.S. in International Business
	2. B.S. in Entrepreneurship Management	6. B.S. in Marketing
	3. B.S. in Finance	7. B.S. in Supply Chain Management
	4. B.S. in General Business Administration	
At RIC:	1. B.S. in African and African-American	7. B.A. in Film Studies
	2. B.A. in Anthropology	8. B.A. in Justice Studies
	3. B.A. in Communications, Graphic Technology	9. B.A. in Modern Languages, French/Spanish
	4. B.A. in Communications, Public & Professional	10. B.A., B.S. & B.F.A. in Studio Art, Ceramics, 3D Synthesis
	5. B.A. in Communications, Public Relations	11. B.A., B.S., & B.F.A. in Studio Art, Painting, Jewelry/Metalsmithing, Sculpture, Printmaking, Figure Drawing
	6. B.A. in Communications, Speech & Hearing	12. B.A. in Women's Studies
At CCRI:	1. A.F.A. in Art	2. A.F.A. in Music or Jazz Studies

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 RIC:	1. B.S. in Art Education 2. B.S., B.A. & B.F.A. in Art History	3. B.A. in Mass Media
At CCRI:	1. A.S. in Computer Programming 2. A.S. in Computer Science 3. A.S. in General Microcomputing 4. A.S. in IT Support Specialist 5. A.S. in Networking 6. A.S. in Web Programming	7. A.S. in Web Site Development 8. A.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology 9. A.A.S. in Computer & Networking Technology

**(Item 8a3)** THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the revised sections of the *Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island*.

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

YEAS: Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

**b. Government Relations Committee**

Governor Aurecchia reported that the Government Relations Committee met on June 30, 2008. At that time, Associate Commissioner Maurano provided a review of the final FY09 budget and the 2008 General Assembly session, and a summary of those findings was being distributed to members of the Board of Governors.

**9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **11. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS**

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

President Carothers spoke on the budget reductions. Of the original \$21 million and now additional \$6.1 million in budget cuts to Rhode Island's public higher education system, \$17.3 million are from the University's budget. URI is consistent with the Board's policy to grow enrollment to achieve greater opportunities, and enrollment has grown by over 2,000 students in the past four years. Before this last cut, appropriation to the University was about \$65 million, and now will be brought down just below \$62 million. That represents about half of the subsidy that URI provides to in-state students (who pay only one-third of the cost of education, which is \$24,000 for out-of-state students). The state's subsidy to those in-state students is barely \$8,000 per in-state student, meaning \$16,000 of each Rhode Island students' education is unfunded. 75% of the University's tuition and fees is paid by out-of-state students, and the University has an obligation to provide those students and their families with value for that money.

Depending on out-of-state student tuition to make up for the gap is not a sustainable business model. URI is eliminating 150 positions (and another 25 lecturers and instructors) between now and September 30<sup>th</sup> as well as making cuts to English as a Second Language, Art, debate, and other programs. The University needs to explore a different funding paradigm, and the Board will be asked to look at different financing models. President Carothers recognized that CCRI as a gateway to education is even more in need of funding, with 17,000 students and only about 300 faculty members. Now is the time to look at the financing for the entire system. The institutions' needs are different and should be reviewed and revised.

### **b. Rhode Island College**

President Emeritus Nazarian expressed gratitude for his presidency and feels assured the Board of Governors will continue to serve higher education. He also expressed interest in participating in conversations about higher education whenever his support is needed.

President Emeritus Nazarian reported that Rhode Island College received a grant on nurse preparation and called on Jane Williams, Dean of the School of Nursing, to provide more information.

Dr. Williams explained that RIC's School of Nursing will be a pilot site of the VA Academy of Nursing. It's an important initiative, as the VA partners with the finest nursing schools in the country to help increase enrollment and improve care. Only 10 nursing schools in the country have been selected for this partnership since its inception last year, and it's an honor to be among them. RIC will be supplied with five nursing faculty this year, five faculty next year, and nearly \$1 million to fund their salaries. In return, the program will increase professional development for VA staff and allow them to use our nursing labs at down times. One RIC faculty member will devote 25% of her time to work on this project. Already this means RIC can accept 20-24 additional students this year and next year, which is important given that of the 174 qualified nursing school applicants this year, the College was only able to accommodate 86. Dr. Williams added that 100% of graduates of RIC's nursing school obtain positions at a starting salary averaging \$50,000.

Commissioner Warner was called upon to address the nursing capacity problem. He stated that because of barriers like clinical placement availability, nursing is an expensive program the higher education institutions offer. Yet it's also one of the most important in an industry with a 13% and growing vacancy rate. With additional funding through grants like this one we have expanded to more than 400 nursing students across URI, RIC and CCRI. In addition, our nursing programs have been partnering with other industries, such as the 18-month Summer Nursing Admission Program (SNAP) we created with Lifespan and Care New England.

**c. Community College of Rhode Island**

President Di Pasquale thanked members of the Board for making difficult decisions such as tonight's. The community college would not be able to open their doors to 17,000 students without this tuition increase, and yet they continue to be concerned for their students, who have to cover rising costs not only in tuition but in gas and other expenses.

He reported that the community college's NEASC five-year report is right around the corner, and 30 faculty and staff have been meeting to address strategic planning and governance in that report. He will update the Board after NEASC's visit in January.

President Di Pasquale also shared that daycare centers at CCRI's Providence and Warwick campuses will re-open. There will be no cost to the institution; students and participants will pay the cost for attending. This day care is much-needed at CCRI.

Right now, CCRI is working on creative ways to fund its programs and facilities. President Di Pasquale reported that the "Changing Lives" celebration helped raise \$1.3 million in the first five months toward CCRI's campaign goal of \$5.5 million, and that money will go into health programs and to help buy equipment. The rest of the money yet to be raised is needed for more full-time faculty and for new and upgraded technology on campuses. Although it continues to be a struggle for CCRI to meet the challenges it faces with reduced funding, President Di Pasquale thanked the Board for their support.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

On a motion duly made by Kathrin Belliveau and seconded by Brandon Brown, 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, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown, Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan, Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon

NAYS: 0

The Board convened into Executive Session at 6:23 p.m.

Members of the audience were excused with the exception of General Counsel Ronald A. Cavallaro, Labor Relations Director Anne Marie Coleman, President Robert Carothers, President John Nazarian, President Ray Di Pasquale, Commissioner Jack Warner, President Elect Nancy Carriuolo, Associate Commissioner Steve Maurano, Associate Commissioner John R. Pagliarini, General Counsel Louis Saccoccio, Assistant Vice President of Business Services J. Vernon Wyman, and Attorney Gregory Benik.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:47 p.m.

**13. NEXT MEETINGS**

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

Monday, September 22, 2008, 5:00 p.m. at the Community College of Rhode Island, Board Room 4090, Warwick, Rhode Island.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**VOTED:**        THAT            the Board of Governors for Higher Education adjourn.  
  
Vote:            9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted  
                     in the negative as follows:  
  
YEAS:           Kenneth Aurecchia, Kathrin Belliveau, Brandon Brown,  
                     Frank Caprio, Robert Flanders, Jr., Joseph Hagan,  
                     Thomas Rockett, Daniel Ryan, and Solomon A. Solomon  
  
NAYS:            0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary***