



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

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A regular meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, August 18, 2008, at the University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute, Narragansett, Rhode Island. Chair Frank Caprio declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 3:26 p.m.

**Present:** Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, Kenneth Aurecchia

**Absent:** Michael Ryan, Kathrin Belliveau, Robert Flanders, Jr., Pierre LaPerriere, Thomas Rockett

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Caprio indicated that a revised agenda has been distributed to reflect the addition of item 7a under new business. Item 7a will ask for the Board's approval of the appointment of a Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College.

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

**VOTED:** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education accepts the revised agenda for the meeting of August 18, 2008.

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

YEAS: Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and Kenneth Aurecchia

NAYS: 0

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion duly made by Daniel Ryan and seconded by Brandon Brown, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the minutes of the June 30, 2008 meeting.

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

YEAS: Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier,  
Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and  
Kenneth Aurecchia

NAYS: 0

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

Commissioner Warner announced that the Office of Higher Education is going to be holding a college fair on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Newport Campus of CCRI. This is the second such college fair that the RIBGHE has sponsored. The sponsorship for the college fair grew out of the task force on underrepresented groups in higher education. The college fair is really an effort to bring the message of why it is so important to go to college and get a post-secondary education in terms of quality of life and economic benefits.

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

None

### **5. OPEN FORUM**

None

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

The Commissioner reiterated remarks he gave today during the retreat and added that he would like to thank the three Presidents for their candor in their presentations today. He commented that we have every right to take for granted that each of our institutions is led by effective leaders who are really attempting to live within the challenges that present themselves. The Commissioner expressed how fortunate we are to have the leaders that we have and again thanked them for their candor.

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Caprio introduced Item 7a, requesting the Board's approval of the appointment of Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College. President Carriuolo introduced Dr. Ron Pitt and spoke about his background and qualifications for the position stating, that after careful consideration of candidates for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs, she was recommending Dr. Ronald Pitt, effective September 4, 2008, following approval by the Board. Dr. Pitt is presently the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bridgewater State College, and he was Director of the Faculty Development Center at Bryant University from 1999-2003, and from 1980-1999, he was a professor of biological engineering at Cornell University.

His academic background began at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where in 1974 he was awarded a BS in agricultural engineering with senior high honors, and in 1977 an M.S. in Agricultural Engineering. In 1980, he was awarded a Ph.D. from Cornell University in Mechanical Engineering with minor in Applied Probability and Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. Since RIC is moving toward the opening and development of a statewide STEM Center, Dr. Pitt's expertise in STEM will be an asset to the Center and its development.

Other areas of specialization that will particularly be important in his work at RIC include national academic program accreditation, faculty development, strategic planning, outcomes assessment, cross-institutional collaboration and distance learning.

On a motion moved by Daniel Ryan and seconded by Joseph Hagan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the appointment of Ronald E. Pitt as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College

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

YEAS: Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and Kenneth Aurecchia

NAYS: 0

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Academic and Student Affairs

1. **Approval of a Proposal from URI to Establish the Ocean Engineering Professional Practice Degree**
2. **Approval of a Proposal from CCRI to Eliminate the Computer Engineering Technology Program**

Governor Dann-Messier reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Following approval of the ASAC minutes for June 13<sup>th</sup>, Jim Miller, Chair of URI's Ocean Engineering Department presented a proposal from URI to offer the Ocean Engineering Professional Practice Degree. URI will combine the existing BS and MS in Ocean Engineering to form an accelerated degree program. This approval appears as consent 8a1 on today's agenda.

CCRI's Dean of Business Science and Technology, Peter Woodbury requested that the Board approve the elimination of the Computer Engineering Technology Program due to low graduation numbers over the past five years. The approval appears as consent item 8a2.

There were also two informational presentations to the ASAC, RIC's Dean of Students, Scott Kane presented to the ASAC results of RIC's participation in the 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement. In summary he said, there have been no significant differences in data between 2005 and 2007 results. RIC continues to be strong in the areas of level of academic challenge and active and collaborative learning. Areas of concern include student engagement in extra-curricular activities, and with faculty outside the classroom.

CCRI's Director of Institutional Research, Bill LeBlanc presented retention data for CCRI. In summary, he said CCRI's one-year retention rate is above its peers for both full time and part-time cohorts. CCRI's completion rate after three years remains similar to its peer average as reported with the 2004 cohort. CCRI presented data suggesting that we look beyond the federal government's definition of three year completion rates to see the broader picture which includes students graduating five, six or even nine years after they begin.

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

<b>VOTED:</b> <b>(Item 8a1)</b> <b>(Item 8a2)</b>	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves items 8a1 and 8a2
	Vote:	7 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and Kenneth Aurecchia
	NAYS:	0

**b. Finance Committee**

Since Vice Chair Michael Ryan was unable to attend today's meeting, Chair Caprio provided the Finance Committee report.

The Facilities, Finance and Management Committees met on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. There is one item on tonight's agenda the Finance Committee is recommending approval of from the Board of Governors and the Facilities Committee is recommending approval of this item.

Board members previously received an executive summary report for the Board of Governors fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2014, Capital Improvement Plan. It combines both new and continuing projects in the capital improvement programs for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the Community College. In summary, there are a total of 50 projects included in this five year plan, totaling \$786.5 million. Of that amount, \$607.2 million is at the University, \$82.5 million is at Rhode Island College and \$96.8 million is at the Community College. These capital projects are expected to be financed by a variety of debt instruments as well as other financial sources. The five year capital improvement plan recommends the following funding sources: General Obligation Bonds, \$480.0 million; RIHEBC Bonds \$131.5 million; RI Capital Funds, \$115.9 million, other debt \$33.7 million and private funds \$25.4 million for a grant total of \$786.5 million in capital improvement funds.

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

**VOTED:  
(Item 8b1)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the Finance Committee's 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan

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

YEAS: Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and Kenneth Aurecchia

NAYS: 0

**c. Facilities Committee**

Chair Caprio reported that Rhode Island College has the opportunity to enter into a license lease agreement with Metro PCS for a cell phone antenna on the roof of its new residence hall. The license lease agreement is for an initial term of 10 years with two five year renewal options. The rent to be paid by Metro PCS is approximately \$2,400 per month, with an annual escalator of 3%. Board members have been provided with a copy of the lease which has been reviewed by Rhode Island College's legal counsel.

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

**VOTED:  
(Item 8c1)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the license lease agreement for the placement of a Metro PCS Phone Antenna on the Rhode Island College campus

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

YEAS: Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and Kenneth Aurecchia

NAYS: 0

## 9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Caprio reported that there is one additional consent item on tonight's agenda, item 9a, the request for approval of the Awarding of Degrees at the University of Rhode Island.

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

**VOTED:  
(Item 9a)**

That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of degrees at the University of Rhode Island as outlined in item 9a

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

YEAS: Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and Kenneth Aurecchia

NAYS: 0

## 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## 11. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

### a. Community College of Rhode Island

President DiPasquale reported that there are just a couple of upcoming items to which he would like to call to everyone's attention. One is enrollment. We are seeing increases in numbers, and we will probably by the end of this month see close to 5000 students who will enter our doors who have not done anything as to this point. So far it looks like an increase of 400 students and additional credits. He also noted that a decision has been made to expand in Westerly, where there has been a satellite for some years. President DiPasquale, Senator Algieri and others had an open house there last Thursday. There appears to be some obvious increases in enrollment and as we continue to expand, we want to continue to look at Westerly as another opportunity for us as well. The new CCRI view book was distributed to all present. It talks about our statistics and data, how many students are transferring to our sister institutions and represents the Community College very well.

**b. University of Rhode Island**

President Carothers gave the Board notice on a couple of items, one is the establishment of the dual degree program in Business Administration and Masters of Oceanography. These are two existing programs which have been repackaged in an exciting format with considerable interest in it. There are two minors in here as well. A minor in Sustainability, which is an 18 credit unit, and a minor in Medieval Studies.

President Carothers also provided an update on the first summer of the international MBA program. That's a program that has 5 students in it from each university in China, Korea, USA and France. The students in that program spend two weeks at each of the countries; at the participating institution for one week and then for their second week, in seminars with corporate leadership in each of those communities. President Carothers commented on how spectacular the program is and believes it's certainly what we need to do for the future. He stated that this program is going to be a real showpiece program if we can figure out how to finance it each year.

**c. Rhode Island College**

President Carriuolo gave a snapshot about the admissions figures from last week. Freshman admits are up 7.8%, the transfer admits are down 3%, total admits are up 4.8% and represent a record high. Total deposits are up 1.2% and set another record for this recording period. Freshmen deposits are up 4.5%, also a record, transfer deposits are down 4.3% but the gap has been narrowing each week. MTP deposits are up 9%, out-of-state deposits are up 16.1%, and non-Rhode Island deposits are up at an all time high for the college.

President Carriuolo highlighted Rhode Island College's "Debate Watch," which is part of its on going participation in the American Democracy Project since 2004. The ADP was established nationally in 2003 as an initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in partnership with the New York Times. The Project addresses a key mission for a state college, the responsibility to encourage student engagement in civic life. In preparation for the first presidential debate, RIC will hold a media forum on September 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the influence of the media in framing perceptions about Presidential candidates and their campaigns. The debate itself will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>. RIC will host a statewide town hall meeting at 7pm, just prior to a community viewing of a presidential debate at 9:00p.m. After the debate, there will be an open discussion by Debate Watch participants who will analyze the contents of the debate. Trained facilitators will record and report these findings. In 2004, RIC's Debate Watch broke all national attendance records in the history of the program, and President Carriuolo is hoping that RIC will do as well or maybe even better this year. She extended an invitation to the Board of Governors and all others present to attend.

President Carriuolo also noted that beginning in September, RIC will be sponsoring a farmers market. In keeping with one of the themes that President Carriuolo based her presidency on, "linking arms with the community for greater good," she is pleased to announce that the college is moving forward to pilot a community based initiative to establish a farmers market one evening a week throughout September. This is a cooperative project that so far has involved people from the community, farmers, some emeritus alumni and students. The farmers market is being coordinated by Patty Nolan in President Carriuolo's office.

Lastly, President Carriuolo announced the investiture of the President. The planning for her formal investiture has begun and the event will be held on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. The event will be appropriately dignified as it does serve as an important celebration for the entire campus. At the same time, work is being done to have as many aspects of the ceremony as possible donated, so that funds will not come from the college budget.

## 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 Solomon A. Solomon and seconded by Brenda Dann-Messier, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	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:	7 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier, Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and Kenneth Aurecchia
	NAYS:	0

After a short break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 4:03 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Board; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations; Louis Saccoccio, General Counsel for the University, President Robert Carothers, President Nancy Carriuolo; President Ray Di Pasquale; Steven Maurano, Associate Commissioner for External Affairs and Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner for Finance & Management.

The Board reconvened in open session at 4:08 p.m.

## 13. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, September 29, 2008, 5:00 p.m. at Rhode Island College, Alger Hall, Providence, Rhode Island.

Monday, October 27, 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 Daniel Ryan and seconded by Solomon A. Solomon, it was

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

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

YEAS: Frank Caprio, Brandon F. Brown, Brenda Dann-Messier,  
Joseph Hagan, Daniel Ryan, Solomon A. Solomon, and  
Kenneth Aurecchia

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Kenneth Aurecchia, Secretary***