



DRAFT

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A regular meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, December 10, 2012, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick, Rhode Island. Chair Lorne Adrain declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Present: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

Absent: George Caruolo, Eva-Marie Mancuso, and William Maaia

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Joan Abrams and seconded by Joseph White it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 10, 2012.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Joan Abrams and seconded by John Walsh it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the minutes of the November 5, 2012 meeting.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Adrain welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting and thanked President Di Pasquale and the faculty and staff at CCRI for hosting this evening's meeting.

Chair Adrain shared some observations with the Board and assembled guests from the 18 months he spent working with everyone. He extended words of thanks to Commissioner Di Pasquale, the leadership, faculty, staff and students of the colleges and of the Office of Higher Education for their humility, generosity, courage, and patience. To the volunteer members of the Rhode Island Board of Governors, Chair Adrain shared with each member a small token of his appreciation. He thanked the members for all of their good work.

As for the road ahead, Chair Adrain feels there are great opportunities for public higher education in the State of Rhode Island. First, would be the efforts he has observed in the institutions for the last 18 months. The most important thing he has learned is that we are blessed to have three great presidents and extraordinary faculty and staff. They have been and continue to challenge themselves to imagine how we might serve the State and our students better. With the continuing support of the new Board of Education, Chair Adrain believes this progress will continue.

Second is the need for continued commitment for political leaders. Support of public higher education has been and will continue to be a challenge in the midst of scarce resources and the many worthy options for taxpayer support.

Third, the landscape of higher education is changing more rapidly every day and we must have the ability to imagine and adopt a similar pace of change or risk failing both our customer and the people of Rhode Island. The competitiveness of our economy rests on our ability to optimize the productivity of our existing higher education system while creating and promoting more and better pathways for the many people that are not and likely will not be students in our institutions.

Finally, a new balance is needed in providing independence for our colleges while simultaneously encouraging a system perspective. Our schools are fundamentally a different business than the other departments of the State and careful consideration should be given to the harm done and the opportunity cost of not treating them differently. The system is an engine of economic growth being managed as if it were simply another cost center. Our schools are dramatically different from each other, but the student is often best served by taking advantage of multiple parts of our system. We must continue to think creatively about system-wide enrollment strategies to help students accomplish their objectives most effectively.

Chair Adrain indicated that he personally felt that this has been a wonderful adventure working with everyone on the Board and he certainly did his best to support the school's leadership, faculty, students and staff. He again thanked everyone for helping him learn, grow, and to do the best he could.

As part of his report, Chair Adrain later distributed to the Board an analysis of the number of the students that qualified for in-state tuition under the undocumented student definition and that enrolled in the system as of the fall 2012 semester. Out of 124 applications that were received, 91 were accepted for 2012, and 32 applications were denied. The number of applicants that were eventually enrolled in the fall of 2012 under the new policy is 59 students: 30 full-time and 29 part time. The 59 students represented 1/10th of 1% of total number of students in the system. Because we have the excess capacity to accommodate more students, nobody who qualified to enter either the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College or the Community College of Rhode Island was denied admission.

5. OPEN FORUM

Wendy Roworth, a URI professor of Art History, addressed the Board with her dismay that the Board still had not approved the AAUP contract. She thanked those members who voted to renew, but the refusal of some Board members to ratify the contract negotiated in good faith, agreed to by its negotiating team last March, and ratified by the URI faculty continues to leave the University in a state of uncertainty. URI's salaries rank far below peer institutions nationally and in New England and this makes it very difficult to retain, recruit and compete. The University's administration also has a stake in seeing this contract approved; putting in place negotiated changes for evaluating tenured faculty, improving the status of full-time teaching faculty and other non-monetary provisions.

The Board of Governors for Higher Education will soon cease to exist, but Ms. Roworth stated that there is still time in the next few weeks to ratify the contract. Starting in January, the new merged Education Board will have significant and varied responsibilities for K-12 as well as higher education. The new members will have much to do to establish priorities and plans before they can get to work. Why burden them with the Board's unfinished business? Tomorrow, the Rhode Island Labor Relations Board will meet yet again on the Board of Governor's second dilatory motion to prevent depositions of certain Board of Governors members in the matter of the AAUP Unfair Labor Practice complaint. She is confident the Labor Board will order the depositions once again. If you do not comply, the Board will receive subpoenas that will be enforceable in Court. She urged Board members to complete their service on this Board by showing support for Rhode Island public higher education rather than contempt for our flagship institution and a process that is long overdue for resolution. It is in all our interests to get this done. Mr. Roworth thanked Chairman Adrain and members of the Board for their consideration.

Antonio Lombardi, student/Executive Vice President for Student Government at the Community College of Rhode Island. Mr. Lombardi thanked the Board for all of the service it has provided for the students and for always having the students' best interests at heart. He thanked Governor Constant for representing the student body as well. The Student Government at the College is very concerned that this new structure is not going to have a student representative on the Board. As student leaders, they will petition to get a student advisory committee for the Board of Education because they believe it is extremely necessary to make sure that the needs of the students are voiced. Mr. Lombardi again thanked the Board for their service.

At this time, Chair Adrain introduced Stephen Hourahan, Special Assistant to Governor Chafee. On behalf of the Governor, who could not be in attendance this evening, Mr. Hourahan thanked the Board for their time, professionalism and the level of commitment that every Board member has made to higher education by making sure that the voice of the students was heard.

He expressed the Governor's appreciation for every step of communication with the public, and the Governor's Office. He added that Governor Chafee is very committed to higher education and has stopped the trend that existed before he took office, of several million dollars in cuts to higher education.

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

On behalf of the Presidents, the Colleges and the 45 thousand students in the higher education system, Governor Chafee and all the staff, Commissioner Di Pasquale thanked everyone for the great dedication and the tremendous amount of work that has been done. At this time, the Commissioner presented each Board member with a plaque that read "With gratitude for your commitment of time and talent to the improvement of public higher education in Rhode Island," signed by Governor Lincoln Chafee and himself.

President Dooley added his appreciation to all the Board members and Chair Adrain for their terrific service. Although there have been some issues about which President Dooley and the Board disagreed profoundly, Dr. Dooley never doubted that ultimately the Board's concern was in the best interest of higher education, the students, and the people of Rhode Island. President Dooley expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to have worked with the Board and thanked them for their service.

President Carriuolo, thanked the Board for their service, especially towards students, and added that she appreciated the opportunity to get to know each of the Board members and looks forward to the opportunity to work with members of the Board again in the future.

a. Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.

As part of the Academic and Student Affairs division, Commissioner Di Pasquale presented the new portal called "RI Transfers.org." This portal will allow transfer students to look at all three institutions and will provide them with the information they need regarding transfers.

The three presidents met with the Department of Administration on the budget submitted by the Board. The budget will have an impact if it is approved with a full seven percent cut and no tuition increase. We will know in just a few short weeks from the Governor's Office just what we face in terms of consequences of our finances.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of a 2013 Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation (RIHEBC) Refunding Bond.

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne presented her request for permission to continue investigating the possibility of refunding a certain number of bonds that are currently outstanding. At this point we have had a number of conferences with financial advisors and have been advised that this is a very good time in the market to begin this investigation. As indicated, we have been advised that we could potentially save between \$500,000 and \$600,000 per year for refunding certain bond issuances.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Jane Sherman it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education authorizes the appropriate financial officials of the Office of Higher Education and the three Institutions to examine any and all opportunities to achieve savings through the refunding of RIHEBC Bonds and to report back with recommendations regarding their findings.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

b. Approval of a Utility Easement for Electrical Connection to the Indoor Climbing Building Site.

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne presented to the Board the University's request to apply for a utility easement for the electrical installation that would serve the upcoming construction of the indoor climbing wall building. This building is being funded via the University's Memorial Union Student Leadership Program. The auxiliary fund balance and the student activity fees revenue will be committed to the building of this particular building. However, we know by past experience that it takes approximately a year before this application to be acted upon and this utility easement can be put into place. At this point in time, that would allow us to keep the construction timeframe as we would like to project it.

Robert Weygand, the University's Vice President for Administration explained that the utility easement will not cost anything, but the building itself was put out for a public bid, the low bid was approximately just under \$500,000 for the building and the elements within the building. As Dr. LaPanne indicated, it is being funded by the Memorial Union Fund Balance, and student funds.

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Antonio Barajas it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education grants permission to the University of Rhode Island for the Utility Easement for the electrical connection to the Indoor Climbing Building Site on the University's Kingston Campus. Upon approval, this request will be forwarded to the State Properties Committee for review and approval.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael

Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

c. Discussion and recommendation for the acceptance of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Governors/URI-Graduate School of Oceanography and the Town of Coventry.

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board/URI-Graduate School of Oceanography and the Town of Coventry. This is a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Coventry for the installation of sonic detection and ranging devices that will allow the Graduate School of Oceanography to determine wind speed and direction at various locations across the state. This MOU does not involve any transfer of funds with the only stipulation that URI not be charged by the Town but is required by the Town of Coventry to provide proof of insurance.

On a motion duly made by Joan Abrams and seconded by Tessa Constant it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education accepts the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Governors/URI-Graduate School of Oceanography and the Town of Coventry subject to review and approval by the State Properties Committee thereafter.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

d. Approval of a Lease associated with a Request for Proposal (#7048) for a University of Rhode Island Coffee Shop Program.

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne presented the University's request for a proposal for a long-term relationship with a private firm to provide coffee and pastry on the campus. The services entail a rental lease agreement with the chosen vendor. Intrinsic to this lease is some amount of revenue sharing that would mean that the vendor would be delivering some amounts back to the University at certain levels, 2% at the \$300,000 sales level, 4% at the \$600,001 level. The lease would be for a period of five years with an extension of an additional five years, solely dependent on the University's decision to go forward with that extension.

Vern Wyman explained that the base rent included for both locations was set so that it corresponds with a baseline commercial rate, roughly \$16.60 sq. ft. per year. The percentages of revenue sharing that Associate Commissioner LaPanne mentioned would be in addition to the base rent. The revenue generation on this in the base alone is appropriate for commercial

space, but this has features that could potentially drive higher revenues for the use of the space.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Rockett and seconded by Amy Beretta it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the Lease associated with the Request for Proposal (#7048) for the University of Rhode Island's Coffee Shop Program.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

e. Discussion and approval of an amendment to the Board's 403(b) Plan-The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education Restated Defined Contribution Retirement Plan.

General Counsel Cavallaro explained that in the process of reviewing plan language and speaking with the staff at the institutions and tax counsel, a historical scenario was prescribed whereby Board employees who have remained in the State's Retirement System have traditionally been allowed to open voluntary accounts in the Board's 403(b) plan. Tax counsel felt that the Plan did not clearly address this, so it was his recommendation that the Plan be amended to specifically address this scenario, so that going forward all Plan provisions are properly administered. The amendment to the plan would amend Section 4.1 of the existing plan.

On a motion duly made by Joan Abrams and seconded by Jane Sherman it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approved and adopts Exhibit D amending certain language in its 403(b) plan-The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education Restated Defined Contribution Retirement Plan.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

f. Approval of a Facility and Real Estate License Agreement between the Board of Governors for Higher Education/University of Rhode Island and the Ocean State Waves, LLC for Improvements and Use of the Bill Beck Baseball Field on the Kingston Campus.

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne recalled that the University has received significant private funding for the upgrade of the baseball facilities on campus. The University has been in discussion with the principles from the Ocean State Waves, LLC in regard to potentially operating their league at the University's ball park.

Vice President Weygand indicated that the University has been working with Ocean State Waves at their suggestion to provide them with a license agreement for a limited amount of time during the summer and the fall to use the baseball facility, Beck Field, at the University of Rhode Island. The Ocean State Waves would be provided the opportunity to use the facility during the months of June, July and August and weekends during September and October. With the signing of this agreement, Ocean State Waves would provide physical improvements to the baseball facility which would include lighting for the entire facility, new bleachers and other improvements.

On a motion duly made by John Walsh and seconded by Antonio Barajas it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the Facility and Real Estate License Agreement between the Board of Governors for Higher Education/University of Rhode Island and the Ocean State Waves, LLC for Improvements and use of the Bill Beck Baseball Field on the Kingston Campus

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

g. Approval of a Lease Agreement with the Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN), Inc. for Office Space in the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons on the Kingston Campus.

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne indicated that the Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN) is looking to locate its administrative space within the confines of the second floor of the Carothers Library and Learning Commons. The University has been in discussion with HELIN's administration in regard to that space and how it could be constructed to offer the greatest utility. They are looking for approximately 1412 square feet; of which 295 square feet will be a conference room that will be shared with the University. Rental will be approximately \$13 per square foot, estimate yearly annual rent receipt to be \$14,500.

On a motion duly made by Jane Sherman and seconded by Thomas Rockett it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the proposed Lease Agreement with the Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN) for office space in the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons on the Kingstown Campus. Upon approval by the Board, the final Lease Agreement will be brought to the State Properties Committee for review and approval.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

h. Discussion and approval of a One-Year and Subsequent Nine-Year Extension of the Lease of Space in Independent Square on the Kingston Campus for the University of Rhode Island's Communicative Disorders Program.

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne indicated that this is a request for the Communicative Disorders Program for a one-year extension with continued negotiations and ultimately the request to the legislature for permission to enter into a nine-year extension of this lease. Currently the base rent is \$45,408. Because there is some sharing of common expenses that increases that base rate and this lease is potentially for ten years, we are getting very close to that level of \$500,000 worth of debt in which the legislature is required to review the lease arrangement and the indebtedness in order to grant permission.

On a motion duly made by John Walsh and seconded by Joan Abrams it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the attached one-year extension and the subsequent nine-year lease upon approval by the Legislature for 4,300 square feet of space in the Independence Square II facility on behalf of the University's Communicative Disorders Program. Upon approval by the Board, the document will be forwarded for approval by the State Properties Committee. The accompanying resolution will be forwarded to the Legislature for action during the upcoming session.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael

Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

8. BOG COMMITTEE REPORTS and RELATED CONSENT AGENDA

Governor Walsh thanked the Academic and Student Affairs staff at the Office of Higher Education for the tremendous work they have done, and for making it possible for the Board to do their work.

At the Committee's last meeting on November 27th, 2012, there were a number of informational items and approval items. One of the informational items, the RI Transfer website, at www.ritransfers.org is an amazing tool for students to be able to look at and see what courses they have taken at a specific institution and how it aligns to courses at other institutions, which removes guesswork on how to transfer. Also at the meeting there was a presentation on enrollment and admission highlights for the fall 2012 from CCRI, RIC and URI. CCRI is almost exactly where they were last year, RIC had a minimal decline and URI shows a modest increase, a record enrollment.

At the request of Governor Jane Sherman the Academic and Student Affairs staff discussed an Office Protocol concerning the review and monitoring of the institutions that are governed by the regulations governing institutions of higher education operating in Rhode Island. The staff was able to review the protocol and clarify the steps that would occur should such a request be made of OHE in the future.

a. Academic and Student Affairs

1. Approval of a Proposal for a Hybrid Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Youth Services at Rhode Island College.

Chair Walsh presented Rhode Island College's proposal to offer a Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Youth Services for cohorts of individuals working in out-of-school youth service sites. The Certificate will utilize a hybrid learning model, approximately 50-60% of the proposed program will be conducted on line and over half of the total course work will be delivered and facilitated on-line by faculty who are skilled in the use of the College's on-line learning management system.

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Thomas Rockett it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves a proposal for a Hybrid Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Youth Services at Rhode Island College.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

2. Conditional Approval of a Proposal from Mater Ecclesiae College Seeking Full Approval to Operate and to Offer a B.A. Degree in Religious and Pastoral Studies

Chair Walsh stated that Mater Ecclesiae College is looking for the Board to grant full approval to operate in Rhode Island and to offer the bachelors degree in Religious and Pastoral Studies. Mater Ecclesiae College is a religiously sponsored institution that offers a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious and Pastoral Studies. The College has been operating with initial approval from Board of Governors since August 2004 and it was also granted initial accreditation status by NEASC effective November 10, 2010. For reasons beyond the School's control, Mater Ecclesiae has weathered several difficult years in terms of declining student enrollments and financial uncertainty. The uncertainty remains as to whether the College can change the declining enrollment and move toward greater financial independence. As outlined in the Board of Governor's Regulation Governing Institutions of Higher Education Operating in Rhode Island, if the Board of Governors has a reservation concerning the ability of an institution to meet some of the criteria specified in section 3 of the Regulations, the Board of Governors may grant a period of conditional approval. Members of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee gave careful consideration to the proposal from Mater Ecclesiae and the various possible responses by the Board.

On a motion duly made by Joan Abrams and seconded by Antonio Barajas it was

- VOTED:** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education grant conditional approval to Mater Ecclesiae College to operate as an independent institution and to offer the Bachelor Degree in Religious and Pastoral Studies in Rhode Island. That the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education instruct the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education to receive and review quarterly reports from Mater Ecclesiae College to assess the extent to which:
- a. The college has made substantial progress toward qualifying for full approval; and
 - b. that estimates and assertions contained in the original proposal have been filled; and
 - c. further that Mater Ecclesiae College must apply for and the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education may grant full approval or renew conditional approval after one year contingent on the College demonstrating that it is in conformance with regulations. Thereafter, periodic re-evaluation may be conducted to determine whether the school is financially stable and whether the College and its approved program are continuing to meet the review criteria and are operating as proposed and authorized.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

b. Facilities, Finance and Management

Chair Tikoian indicated that the Committee's work has concluded. No report was presented.

c. Government Relations

Chair Mancuso was not present. No report was presented.

d. Personnel

As Chair of the Personnel Committee, Chair White indicated that he was charged with two main tasks. The first was to assist in the management review process addressing each one of the institutions' Presidents. The Committee has completed this process twice during their tenure on the Board. The second task was to address any vacancies in the position of president for each one of the three institutions, and when necessary, to make recommendations for contract renewal. The Committee has also gone through that process for each institution.

Chair White noted that the system is very blessed to have three very competent individuals leading its three institutions. The Presidents have a vision for each of their institutions; they have a plan to work together, to collaborate and to build a stronger higher education system in Rhode Island. It was a pleasure to serve on this Committee and certainly a pleasure to serve on this Board.

e. Quality, Continuous Improvement and Innovation

Chair Beretta thanked Susan LaPanne, Deborah Grossman-Garber, and Hope Schachter for all of their hard work. The Committee's mission was to keep in mind that tuition dollars that students and their parents were paying was in return for providing a quality education; not just in the classroom in terms of academics, but for the whole person as a good community citizen. Governor Beretta presented the Board with a copy of the *Presentation of the Dashboard Metric Project*, December 2012. This report details the work that has been done specifically on the Committee's task related to the establishment of the dashboard indicators for tracking performance and trends among the three institutions of public higher education in Rhode Island.

f. Student Advisory

Governor Constant Thanked Commissioner Di Pasquale for all of his support. She thanked Governor Carcieri and Governor Chaffee for her appointment to the Board. Governor Constant shared a personal heartfelt thank you to each of the Board members for their work and wisdom and recognized the diligent and hard working efforts of all the personnel at the Office of Higher Education. She thanked the Presidents, staff and students at the institutions for their support.

Before introducing Item 9, Governor Barajas took a moment to thank the Presidents of the institutions, their staff and fellow members of the Board. He spread a farewell wish of health and happiness to all.

Governor Abrams thanked everyone. She looks forward to hopefully someday returning to the institutions as a student.

Governor Sherman, recognized how much everyone learned this year as new members of the Board. She shared her appreciation for the professionalism and patience of the staff and the Presidents. It has been a wonderful experience, and she has enjoyed all the new friends she has made.

Governor Rockett expressed how his 9 years on the board have been a wonderful experience. He sincerely hopes that his presence has resulted in some value added for higher education in the state. Dr. Rockett thanked everyone for all their support.

9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Awarding of Tenure for Faculty by the Community College of Rhode Island**
- b. Approval of Awarding of Honorary Degrees at the University of Rhode Island**
- c. Approval of Awarding of Honorary Degrees at Rhode Island College.**
- d. Approval of Awarding Degrees at the University of Rhode Island**
- e. Approval of Awarding of Degrees at Rhode Island College**
- f. Approval of Awarding of Degrees at the Community College of Rhode Island**

Commissioner Di Pasquale explained that these items are the approval of tenure at the Community College, honorary degrees to prepare for commencement, and the awarding of degrees on behalf of the three institutions.

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by John Walsh it was unanimously agreed that items 9a-f be taken as one item. It was then

- VOTED:**
(Item 9a) That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of tenure to:
- Effective January 1, 2013
Sheryl MacDougall, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at the Community College of Rhode Island; and
- (Item 9b)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of honorary degrees to the individuals selected by the University of Rhode Island; and
- (Item 9c)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of honorary degrees to the individuals selected by Rhode Island College; and
- (Item 9d)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Fall 2012 semester and who will be approved by the faculty of the University of Rhode Island; and
- (Item 9e)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of undergraduate and advanced degrees to the candidates who meet degree requirements at the end of the Fall 2012 semester at Rhode Island College; and
- (Item 9f)** That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the awarding of appropriate degrees, diplomas and certificates to the candidates who meet the requirements in each category at the end of the Fall 2012 semester at the Community College of Rhode Island.
- Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White
- NAYS: 0

10. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley shared his report with the Board earlier this evening.

b. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo highlighted some of the items in her written report which she shared with the Board:

The College has had a number of transitions in the College Advancement and External Relations divisions. Many existing positions saw replacements.

- With the passing of Question #3 on last month's ballot, the College is now working with Director Licht on a Project-Labor Agreement while finishing the feasibility study for the nursing addition. The feasibility studies for Craig Lee and Gaige Hall are completed, and the College is now looking for a project manager.
- In November the College started a campus shuttle service. In addition, there was a ribbon cutting for the Yellow Cottage and the new bus shelter, the Keefe Transportation Center.
- President Carriuolo invited the Board to the College's holiday party on December 12th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale presented the Board with a written report highlighting current events at the Community College:

- The College's nursing graduates taking the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses have the highest pass rate among the three public institutions of higher education this year. CCRI, the largest provider of health care workers in the state, also had the most nursing graduates of all degree-granting institutions in the state.
- The College's Foundation held its sixth annual Changing Lives Celebration honoring Judge Frank Caprio, John Hazen White, Jr. of Taco, Inc. and Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian. The event held on November 29th raised \$70,000 to help students achieve their dreams.
- CCRI's Players' October production of "The Receptionist" has been invited to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Region 1 Festival in January and will compete on the national level.
- The College's Women's basketball team, the Lady Knights, is off to a competitive start this season. They are ranked No. 13 in the country with a 10-1 record.

President Di Pasquale announced Vice President Shea's departure from CCRI and wished him well on his new appointment with the National Association of College and University Business Officers as a senior fellow. He thanked him for his service to the College.

Commissioner Di Pasquale addressed all the Board members and shared a special "thank you" as the last meeting of the Board of Governors came to an end. To each and every one of the members, he noted the great work that they have done, and all that they brought to the table. The colleges are in great shape because of the great work the Board has done. There is only one way to describe it, the Board represents 45,000 students, and on behalf those students, employees and staff at the Office of Higher Education, Commissioner Di Pasquale personally thanked each and every member for their service. He looks forward to our continued relationships in whatever capacities they might be. On behalf of all of us, congratulations. The Board was given a standing ovation at this time.

As his last public act in serving the Board, Chair Adrain noted that he had shared a lot of thanks earlier in the meeting but he wanted to reserve this for the very end he extended, an incredible word of thanks to a man who has been his mentor, become a friend and a guide during many humps and bumps along the way, as he did his best to serve the Board and the system. Chair Adrain shared his heartfelt thanks to Commissioner Di Pasquale for the many ways he helped him and the many ways which they have become friends.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Adrain indicated that he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss an Update on Pending Litigation/ULP Complaint – AAUP pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2); Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) – update on negotiations with the URI Part-Time Faculty United (PTFU); and an Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) – Ratification of Tentative Agreement with the RIC Adjunct Faculty.

On a motion duly made by Joseph White and seconded by Jane Sherman 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: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

After a short break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Ray M. Di Pasquale, Commissioner and President of the Community College of Rhode Island; University of Rhode Island President David M. Dooley; Rhode Island College President Nancy Carriuolo; Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Board; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations; Michael Trainor, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner for Finance & Management, Deborah Grossman-Garber, Associate Commissioner for Academic Planning & Policy and Michael Chittick, Esquire, Adler, Pollock & Sheehan.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:59p.m.

On a motion duly made by Joseph White and seconded by Thomas Rockett it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the ratification of the tentative agreement with the Rhode Island College Adjunct Faculty as discussed in executive session.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Joseph White and seconded by Joan Abrams it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education seal the minutes of the executive session held this evening.

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

14. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Jane Sherman and seconded by Thomas Rockett it was

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

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

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, Thomas Rockett, Jane Sherman, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh, and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Sherman, Secretary