



Draft Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting
Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Alger Hall
Rhode Island College
Providence, RI

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015, at Alger Hall, Rhode Island College, Providence. At 5:40 p.m. Chair Michael Bernstein welcomed everyone. He then took roll call and noted most Council members were present.

Present: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John Rainone, and John J. Smith Jr.

Absent: Dr. Jeffery Williams

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bernstein entertained a motion to accept the agenda. On a motion duly made by Senator Izzo and seconded by Dr. Barajas, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of January 7, 2015 as revised and posted.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr.

NAYS: 0

2. OPEN FORUM

Chair Bernstein reported that no one had signed up to speak at the Open Forum.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a) Minutes of the Facilities Committee's December 17, 2014 Meeting

On a motion duly made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Dr. Barajas, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 Facilities Committee meeting.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr.

NAYS: 0

b) Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's January 7, 2015 Meeting.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rafanelli, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the January 7, 2015 meeting.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr

NAYS: 0

c) Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's January 21, 2015 Work Session.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the January 21, 2015 work session.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr

NAYS: 0

4. CHAIRS' REPORTS

Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso:

Chair Mancuso confirmed that Commissioner Deborah Gist will be moving on to her new role in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is currently there negotiating her contract with them. She reported that the full Board of Education will ultimately vote on the new Commissioner and will be working with the Governor's office throughout the search.

Chair Mancuso also reported that the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education is interested in the timeline for the Postsecondary strategic plan.

In conclusion, she announced that she will be participating in the 5Kwalk/run at CCRI on April 26th. She urged all of the members of the Council to take part in these on campus activities as their presence is much appreciated by the campuses – and it is fun!

Chair Michael Bernstein:

Chair Bernstein announced to the Postsecondary Council that he will be stepping down from the Chair's position effective immediately. He said that it was an agreement that he had with Governor Chafee to serve as the Chair of the new Council. But he believes that the new Governor will want to appoint her own Chair and he is very happy to go back to his former duties as a Board member.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Commissioner notified the Council that Rhode Island College is now offering a Certificate of Graduate Study in Non-profit Leadership, a Certificate of Graduate Study in Child and Adolescent Trauma, and the undergraduate certificate in long-term care. Per statute and Council regulation, programs of these types require notification only to the Council on Postsecondary Education.

The Commissioner also shared demographic statistics on Rhode Island with the Council. He reported that Providence County is the most densely populated area of Rhode Island but that the highest percentage of high school and postsecondary educational attainment is in Washington and Newport counties. Economists say that the communities with the higher levels of educated citizens have the greatest potential of becoming "economic engines".

The problem in the Rhode Island demographics, however, is that the southern counties also have the higher income with much of that income produced through retiree benefits. This income does NOT produce gross domestic product.

So in Rhode Island, Providence County has the highest population, the least educated citizenry, and the highest level of poverty in the state. All of these factors are financial stressors on the state's economy. The easiest (and least expensive) path out of poverty is education.

6. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a) University of Rhode Island - Update from last report and current events

Dr. Dooley reported that URI has just completed its second "J-term" which is the January term that allows students to take single, for-credit and not-for-credit courses. He said that enrollment was up as more students are interested in doing J-term with over 900 students participating in courses on campus, in Indonesia, and in Cuba.

He also reported that the Business Engagement Center is offering new ways to partner with private companies in Rhode Island to help them grow and be profitable. Its first year has been very positive and both services and staffing is expanding to meet its goals. He believes that the Council will be very happy with the number of contacts and the success of the Center's efforts.

b) Rhode Island College - Update from last report and current events

President Carriuolo reported that the RIC RN to BSN program has been included in the top 10 of 700 institutions offering such programs according to RNtoBSN.org. She also reported that the RIC Simulation Lab is one of only two such facilities accredited in New England. (The other sim lab is located at Yale University.)

President Carriuolo reminded Council members that February is African American Month and that RIC has many events planned on campus. She encouraged Council members to attend.

A RIC physicist, Dan Snowman, was quoted in the Smithsonian Magazine as he offered information and insight into the building of the perfect snowman. His contribution to this article may be seen at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/do-you-want-build-snowman-physics-180954024/?no-ist>

c) Community College of Rhode Island – Update from last report and current events

President DiPasquale told the council members that he wanted to build upon a couple of ideas that the Commissioner had presented in his report. He reminded the Council that, when they are looking at many of the high demand-high wage job categories that had been included in the Bureau of Labor Statistics studies, CCRI provides the only training programs in the state for several of those categories including dental hygiene. He meets with businesses leaders regularly (particularly in the healthcare areas) to discuss the needs of the market for highly skilled personnel.

Mr. DiPasquale also reported that CCRI's theater program's students had been honored recently in during the Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

He informed the Council that approximately 1,500-2,000 students who cannot pay their bills had received financial aid counseling from CCRI staff. Formerly these services had been provided outside the college. However, the in-house services are expected to be more successful in keeping students in school.

Mr. DiPasquale also announced that a "Celebrating Alumni for 50 years" event is taking place on March 26, 2015 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. The evening will include an awards program celebrating 26 distinguished alumni. He invited the Council members to consider attending the celebration which is part of the 50th anniversary of the College.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM

a) Proprietary School Fees.

The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is responsible for the review and approval of proprietary schools that are operated for the purpose of providing training for business, trade, technical, industrial or other occupations in Rhode Island. The fees for the initial approval process as well as the annual re-approvals have not been increased for many years and are significantly below the level of our neighboring states' authorizing agencies. In addition, these fees though insignificant disappear into the state's General Fund rather than subsidizing higher education purposes.

The initial pre-application process requires significant examination of the financial proposal submitted by the entity. The Office provides that its CPA staff makes an assessment of the financial condition of the proposed school to determine that the entity has the ability to provide its training for at least its first business cycle.

Once this level of financial viability is acceptable, the academic staff works significantly with the new entity to review such items as:

- Personnel information for the proposed school's chief administrator and all instructors
- Proposed catalogs, circulars, applications forms and student enrollment agreement forms
- Schedule of proposed tuitions and fees
- Proposed calendar for a complete year showing semesters or terms, normal enrollment dates, vacation periods and holiday
- Proposed curriculum for each program, showing content of courses to be taught and types of knowledge and skills to be learned
- Proposed certificate or diploma formats to be used
- Proposed forms to be used for record maintenance purposes
- Proposed advertising and other promotional materials
- Business plan for the school

The staff also examines any lease agreements pertaining to instructions or other physical facilities, certifications from the deputy fire marshal and local building inspectors and state health department, certifying letter from the State Building Commission indicating compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act and all applicable federal and state statutes. The academic staff also examines the initial collaboration with one or more currently approved institutions to create a teach-out plan.

In addition the Office's academic staff performs a site visit to inspect all physical facilities.

Once all of the initial compliance activities have successfully occurred, the OPC brings the proprietary school's application to the Council on Postsecondary Education for approval.

Survey of Neighboring States: The initial application fee of \$1,000 was designed originally to cover most of the staff costs for this process. However, this amount has failed to do so in recent years. Massachusetts, for example, charges \$2,500 for the initial approval process for a for-profit school with the not-for-profit school fee at \$1,250. Connecticut's fees are \$2,000 for this initial application for all schools regardless of tax status.

The annual recertification fees are 0.49% of the school's annual adjusted gross income for either school category in Massachusetts and \$200 for schools in Connecticut with an additional \$200 for each branch location. There are additional fees for these schools in Connecticut as well as the annual recertification fees including a \$500 annual out of state school representative fee.

Recommended Fee Structure for Rhode Island:

Initial Application Fee:	\$2,000
Annual Renewal Fee:	\$ 200
Change of Ownership	\$1,000

CPE Discussion and Approval: This information is presented for discussion with the Council members and interested campus representatives. The fee structure and related revisions to the Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island will be presented for CPE approval at its April 1, 2015 meeting.

b) Overview of transfer and articulation agreements

The Commissioner asked representatives from the three institutions as well as Dr. Phyllis Harnick from OPC to provide the Council with an overview of transfer and articulation agreements among the three institutions.

The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner has a significant role in the Rhode Island higher education transfer system. The goal is to provide options that meet students' needs for the efficient transfer of credits with a clear focus on helping students reach their academic and career goals. The system recognizes that students are best served by having alternate transfer patterns.

The role of the OPC is to implement interpret evaluate and recommend revisions to the Council on postsecondary education transfer articulation policy.

The Office works with the institutions to develop articulation agreements under the transfer articulation policy. It includes three perspectives: course transfer which seeks to link equivalent courses between two institutions; general education equivalencies that seeks to transfer courses that may be accepted as meeting the target institution's General Ed requirements; and program transfer agreements which articulates program to program transfer plans between CCRI with RIC and CCRI with URI.

Dr. Harnick then explained what the Joint Admission Agreement (JAA) does for students who participate. JAA students graduating from CCRI with a 3.0 GPA are eligible for a 10% - 30% tuition discount for their first year at RIC or URI. This tuition discount may be renewed based on the GPA earned once at the target institution. Participation levels have grown from 81 students in 2006 to 1,282 students in 2014. There are 63 majors available through JAA: 39 to URI and 24 to RIC.

Dr. Harnick explained that the office also serves as the coordinator for the data that is contained in an online program funded through a grant entitled RI Transfers which is located at www.ritransfers.org.

She provided the Council members with a quick demonstration of this website.

c) Legislation of interest to higher education

The Commissioner reviewed proposed legislation that has potential interest or bearing on the operations of public higher education:

H7777 Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles - Driving under the Influence (Amore) House Health, Education, and Welfare - This act would allow the court and the college or university involved in providing drive re-training courses to set the fee for this course.

H5034 Relating to Education - Reporting Campus Sexual Assault (Ackerman) House Judiciary - Requires institutes of higher education to report allegations of sexual assault to law enforcement.

H5077 Relating to Education - The Complete College Rhode Island Act (McNamara) House Health, Education, and Welfare - Would mandate comprehensive compilation of data showing academic progress among students and develop strategies for increasing the jurisdiction rate.

S Res.7 Joint Resolution to Approve and Publish and Submit to the Electors a Proposition of Amendment to the Constitution - Right to an Adequate Education (Picard) Senate Education

This amendment to the state constitution would provide the paramount duty of the general assembly, department of education and other governmental agencies to provide Rhode Island residents equal opportunities to receive adequate high levels of education.

S122 Relating to Taxation (Pearson) - Senate Finance - Creates the Stay Invested in RI Tax Credit authorizing a tax credit against state personal income tax for up to ten (10) years after graduation from an institution of higher education, for graduates who reside and work in Rhode Island.

H5068 Relating to Criminal Offenses - Computer Crime (Fellela) House Judiciary Prohibits computer, phone or like device to make threats endangering students at a daycare facility, school or university in RI and upon conviction would be a felony with fines &/or imprisonment and restitution to the state, municipality &/or school.

H5113 Relating to Taxation - Personal Income Tax (Melo) House Finance Increases the deduction from the state income tax for contributions to the tuition savings program from \$500 to \$1,000 for an individual and from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a joint return.

H5168 Relating to Public Officers and Employees - Retirement System - Contributions and Benefits (Casey) House Finance - Adds tutoring to the list of functions which may be performed at a state college or university by a retiree without forfeiture or impairment of retirement benefits, subject to an annual limitation of \$15,000.

He also reported that additional legislation related to the following issues may be filed in the upcoming session:

- Single employee classification for Higher Ed employees
- Naming of buildings
- Flexibility for hiring State Crime Lab personnel
- Performance funding
- SARA

8. ACTION ITEMS

a) National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA)

Overview

The state public and private colleges and universities are interested in Rhode Island participating in the National Council State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, or

NC-SARA. SARA was created in response to a 2010 U.S. Department of Education rule that made each state responsible for authorizing online education offered to its residents from institutions outside the state. This regulation had major implications:

- Institutions of higher education would have to begin expensive and time-consuming processes to request authorizations for each state;
- States faced the prospect of requests from thousands of institutions.

Accreditors, government agencies and higher education organizations have joined together to develop a nationwide reciprocity agreement to address these challenges. The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, or SARA, requires each participating accredited, degree-granting institution be authorized by its home state which then eliminates the need to obtain individual approvals in all of the states where they serve distance education students. Institutions in states participating in SARA are recognized to deliver online offerings in other participating states, which are assured that the programs have been reviewed and approved under the same standards. To participate in SARA, institutions agree to the distance education requirements that all of the regional accreditors now use. An institution's home state is responsible for verifying that the institution meets the requirements and for resolving student issues. A copy of the SARA application is attached for your information.

Currently, eighteen states are approved as SARA states nationally and an additional six are moving toward approval. Of the six New England states, Connecticut introduced legislation to participate, Vermont passed legislation, New Hampshire is an approved SARA state, and Maine and Massachusetts have taken no action.

In order to participate, Rhode Island law and Postsecondary Council policy on distance education will need to be changed. In an effort to encourage the development of legislation which would allow Rhode Island to participate in SARA, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is speaking with the state's legislative leaders. The Council is being asked to approve a motion supporting Rhode Island's participation in SARA.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education affirms its support of the State of Rhode Island and its higher education institutions joining the National Council State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA), recognizing the benefits afforded to Rhode Island students taking online courses and programs, and to Rhode Island

institutions of higher education wishing to offer distance education nationally.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr

NAYS:

b) Approval of a Naming Opportunity at the University of Rhode Island

On behalf of the University, President Dooley is requesting the consideration of the Council in regard to a naming opportunity for one of its buildings, the International Engineering Program House.

In his attached memo, President Dooley notes that Dr. John Grandin, Professor of German and Executive Director of the International Engineering Program (IEP) is the co-founder of IEP in 1986. He has served as its director since that date. This naming will recognize his years of outstanding leadership, achievements, and advocacy to establish and sustain an exemplary IEP at the University of Rhode Island. This program has attracted substantial funding, outstanding students, and international acclaim from educators, global businesses, and the German government.

Per the regulations of the previous Board of Governors and now under the authority of the Council, the Council retains the authority "to approve proposals for the naming of new buildings, bridges, edifices and other state constructions, existing buildings and wings, thoroughfares and portions of the campus."

Upon review and approval of the renaming recommendations from the institutions, the Council's staff will forward the recommendation to the Permanent Joint Committee on Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions for final approval per RI GL 22-7.4.

On a motion duly made by Chair Mancuso and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr.

NAYS: 0

Ms. Ouellette asked to be recused.

All non-Council members in the audience were excused with the exception of:

- Dr. Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education;
- Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Council;
- Douglas Tingle, Executive Assistant;
- Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel;
- Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner, Finance & Management
- David Dooley, President, URI;
- Nancy Carriuolo, President, Rhode Island College;
- Ray Di Pasquale, President, CCRI; and

The Council reconvened in open session at 7:21 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Barajas and seconded by Mr. Duffy, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on February 4, 2015.

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr

NAYS: 0

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a) The next Work Session of the Council on Postsecondary Education is Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at RIDE.
- b) The next Meeting of the Board of Education is March 2, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at CCRI.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Mr. Rafanelli and seconded by Dr. Barajas, it was:

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourns its meeting.

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Dr. Antonio Barajas, Dennis Duffy, Senator Thomas Izzo, Eva Marie Mancuso, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.