



Enclosure 3.
June 17, 2015

Draft Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Community College of Rhode Island
Room 4090
Warwick, RI

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Room 4090, Warwick. At 5:35 p.m. Chair Michael Bernstein welcomed everyone. He then took roll call and noted that all Council members were present.

Present: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy (arrived at 5:52 p.m.), William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo (arrived at 5:54 p.m.), Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

Absent: John Rainone

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bernstein entertained a motion to accept the agenda. On a motion duly made by Ms. Ouellette and seconded by Mr. Smith, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of May 20, 2015 as revised and posted.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, William Foulkes, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

2. OPEN FORUM

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's May 6, 2015 Meeting.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes for the meeting of May 6, 2015.

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, William Foulkes, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

4. CHAIRS' REPORTS

Chair Barbara Cottam updated the Council on the Commissioner Search currently in progress to identify the new Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education which is ongoing.

Chair Cottam also thanked the Council members who had attended all of the commencement exercises at the three institutions in the past week. She noted how pleased both students and parents were to see Council members in attendance and how proud she was of the number of members who attended.

Chair Michael Bernstein echoed Chair Cottam's appreciation for Council members' attendance at graduation ceremonies this week. He also indicated that he was anticipating the need to update the meeting schedule for the upcoming summer months as well as for the academic year especially in light of the Council's desire to form supporting committees such as Finance, Facilities, etc.

5. Reports from the Committees

There were no reports from either the Personnel Committee or from the Facilities Committee.

6. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Purcell reported that the Senate voted 37/0 in support of the performance funding bill which will now go to the House for consideration.

He also gave a brief update on the pending bills that had had any action since the Council's last meeting. The bills being tracked in this legislative session include:

- RIHEAA/OPC Merger
- FY 2016 Appropriation
- Complete College Rhode Island
- Performance and formula funding
- Distance Learning (NC-SARA)
- Career and Technical Education

The Commissioner also presented data related to net tuition and its relationship to total educational revenue. He commented on the total educational revenue per FTE in Rhode Island which is 28% higher than the national average. In later slides, the Commissioner presented some historical data related to state grants and the sources of money that has gone into funding it.

7. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

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

Dr. Dooley thanked the Council members for attending the commencement ceremonies last weekend and provided some additional information about the graduations. He disclosed that 546 students received a Masters or Doctoral degree while approximately 3,600 students received their undergraduate degrees. Dr. Dooley reported that there were 12 sets of twins, 123 veterans, and the oldest graduate was 67 years old. The youngest graduate was 19 years old.

Dr. Dooley also discussed the Academic Health Collaborative which is a new structure that will include all of the allied health sciences. He believes that this will position the University for grants, research, and policy work.

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

Dr. Carriuolo also thanked the Council members for attending the commencement ceremonies at the College. She reported that approximately 1,500 students graduated in this past weekend.

She also notified the Council that the College had received a Lumina Grant to support the Latino cohort. This grant included the Providence Public Schools in collaboration with the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet. It will involve a pilot program to improve the transition of Latino students to college and to support their success in college.

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

President Di Pasquale offered similar thanks to the 9 Council members attending the CCRI graduation ceremonies indicating that approximately 1,850 students received their degrees or certificates. He reported that it was the conclusion of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Community College which started last September.

He also invited the Council members to attend a special showing of “Miracle on Promenade” which is an historic film that looks back at the early years of Rhode Island Junior College/CCRI on Thursday, June 11th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenwich Odeum.

In addition he invited Council members to attend “Hello Broadway” which is the culmination of a five-week intensive rehearsal/workshop at CCRI’s Bobby Hackett Theater next month.

8. ACTION ITEM

College Unbound Program Application for approval to operate in Rhode Island and grant BA degrees in Organizational Leadership and Change.

The College Unbound program application was brought to the Council at its last meeting on May 6, 2015 for its first presentation and discussion. It is now on this evening’s agenda as an action item seeking a Council vote allowing its initial approval to open.

The College Unbound program is located on the Met School Campus at 325 Public Street, Providence. The program has been offering college curriculum since 2009 through affiliations with other institutions, including Roger Williams University,

Southern New Hampshire University, and most recently Charter Oak State College. The program admits students with some college – a minimum of 9 credit hours which must include College English.

Their mission is to “reinvent higher education for underrepresented returning adult learners, using a model that is individualized, interest-based, project-driven, workplace-enhanced, cohort-supported, flexible, supportive and affordable.”

The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner has been reviewing the program proposal documents as well as making site visits to the program as it is currently running. Their findings include the following:

- The entity appears to be financially sound.
- It is backed by The Big Picture Company in regard to a loan guaranty and the use of net assets as an initiative of Big Picture.
- They have a pragmatic business plan included in their proposal.
- Tuition for the bachelor’s degree will be \$330 per credit hour or \$9,900 annually. (There is a \$100 application fee.)

The Commissioner reviewed the questions from the Office to the program officials and reported on the College Unbound responses. He reported on the strengths of the program:

- The management team has a good track record for national grant support.
- The development of a clear vision of the digital library.
- The positive feasibility study of the program’s sustainability provided by The Capacity Group.

Dr. Dennis Littky also provided some introductory comments prior to his availability for questions from the Council members.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, it was:

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the proposal to grant initial approval to College Unbound to offer the Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership and Change for a period of five years. This approval is contingent upon the institution remaining in conformance with the CPE’s Regulations Governing Institutions of Higher Education Operating in Rhode Island

- THAT** And further,
Any additional academic programs or changes will be presented to CPE for approval in accordance with the Regulations Governing Institutions of Higher Education Operating in Rhode Island
- THAT** And further,
The CPE instructs the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) to review the programs(s) annually to assess the extent to which the estimates and assertions contained in the original proposal have been fulfilled, and the extent to which appropriate progress is being made toward achieving NEASC accreditation
- THAT** And further,
At the end of five years, the institution must apply for and the CPE may grant full approval if the school has secured accreditation from the regional accreditation agency (NEASC) and if the school demonstrates that it remains in conformance with the regulations; thereafter, periodic re-evaluations may be conducted to determine whether the school is financially stable and whether its approved programs(s) are continuing to meet the review criteria and operating as proposed and authorized.
- VOTE:** 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS:** Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
- NAYS:** 0

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:05 p.m. Chair Michael Bernstein entertained a motion to enter into executive session for:

- a) Discussion regarding CCRI personnel action pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(1).
- b) Discussion and authorization concerning the GAU (Graduate Assistants Union) negotiations pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2).
- c) Discussion and authorization concerning the PTFU (part-time Faculty Association/ AAUP) and RIC / Adjunct negotiations pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2).
- d) Update, discussion, and authorization on the negotiations with the higher education union coalition and the AAUP pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2).

Chair Bernstein reported to the Council that the employee has been notified in writing of the right to have these discussions held in open session and that the employee indicated no objection to proceeding in Executive Session.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education convenes in executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) and §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: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

Ms. Ouellette asked to be recused in the matters related to bargaining unit discussions.

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
- Ray Di Pasquale, President, CCRI

The Council reconvened in open session at 8:05 p.m.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on May 20, 2015.

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

10. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM

Discussion regarding CCRI personnel action pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(1).

On a motion duly made by Senator Izzo and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was

VOTED:	THAT	<p>That the Council accepts and agrees to the proposal from President Di Pasquale that was presented in Executive Session regarding his decision not to seek a renewal of his employment agreement as President of the Community College of Rhode Island.</p> <p>Namely that he will continue to serve as President of the college until June 30, 2016 or upon the Council's appointment of a new President whichever is first to occur</p>
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		<p>AND that should a new President be appointed prior to June 30, 2016, he will no longer perform the duties of President of the College as set forth in his present employment agreement and will assume the duties as advisor to the Council and to the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (and assist with the transition process until June 30, 2016.) As such advisor, he will continue to receive the salary and benefits that he received as President until June 30, 2016</p> <p>AND that he waives any rights that he may have pursuant to his employment agreement to assume the title and duties of the full time position of Distinguished Lecturer at the College upon the expiration of this employment agreement</p> <p>AND that should the Council appoint a new President of the College before June 30, 2016, he will vacate the President's residence on the Knight Campus with 30-days prior notice from the Council</p> <p>AND that should he begin employment with any third party prior to June 30, 2016, his employment agreement shall terminate as of the date of such employment.</p>
	VOTE:	9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.
	NAYS:	0

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a) The next Meeting of the Board of Education is June 9, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at CCRI, Warwick.
- b) The next Work Session of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island.
- c) The next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

YEAS: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.