



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Council on Postsecondary Education
OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER
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Enclosure 5b2
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TO: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

FROM: Jim Purcell, Ed.D, Commissioner for Postsecondary Education

DATE: May 18, 2016

RE: **Formation of the Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) at URI; granting CEPS the authority to certify and grant the following degrees: Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies; Bachelor of Arts with Majors in Elementary and Secondary Education; and Bachelor of Science with majors in Elementary and Secondary Education**

Background

The University of Rhode Island (URI) is proposing the formation of the new Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS); the new college is the outcome of merging the School of Education with the new School of Professional and Continuing Studies (which replaces the academic program unit in the Feinstein College of Continuing Education). CEPS will include the Office of Strategic Initiatives which will create educational and industry-related professional development and academic programs for the university and external constituencies. In addition, the University plans to create the Institute on Urban Education and Policy, which will be housed at CEPS, and is intended to facilitate the collaboration between URI and other scholars to support research and data-driven research projects on urban education.

Additionally, the University is requesting that the Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies have the authority to certify and grant the following degrees: the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies; the Bachelor of Arts with majors in Elementary and Secondary Education; and the Bachelor of Science with Majors in Elementary and Secondary Education. These majors were previously offered by the Feinstein College of Continuing Education and the School of Education in the College of Human Science and Services; both colleges are now being eliminated.

Rationale

The proposal states that CEPS will be a unique two-campus college (Providence and Kingston) that will bring together four currently separate units: the Feinstein College of Continuing Education (located in Providence), the School of Education (located in Kingston), the Office of Special Programs, and the Center for Human Services (in Kingston and Providence). According to URI, the merging of these entities will create a collective unit designed to meet the educational needs of teachers, adult learners and professionals who wish to advance their careers and leadership abilities.

The URI proposal states that the new Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies will create a more interconnected approach to serving students in all phases of their lives across the educational continuum than was possible under the previous configuration. In addition, the new entity will focus on learners who seek continuing workforce development and professional education.

The School of Education will continue to be responsible for developing, administering, evaluating and revising all undergraduate and graduate professional education degree programs, as well as offering teacher certifications at both the undergraduate and graduate levels including:

- undergraduate degrees in early childhood, elementary, secondary, music, and health/physical education;
- extended certification for middle-level education and English As A Second Language;
- graduate degrees and/or initial certification in elementary, secondary, and adult education; certifications in school library/media, speech/language pathology, school psychology, adult education, reading, special education, digital literacy;
- advanced certifications in reading or initial certification in special education, and the joint URI- RIC Ph.D. in Education.

The Allan Shawn Feinstein School of Professional and Continuing Studies on the Providence campus will be the primary entry point for adult and non-traditional students seeking flexible programs that fit their lives, including the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS), a degree-completion program with focus areas in health, business and communication. The degree programs offered at the Feinstein School of Professional and Continuing Studies will offer accessible course schedules with integrated support services in a convenient urban setting. The Evening Division for matriculating and non-matriculating students and the programs developed by the Office of Strategic Initiatives will be run through the Feinstein School of Professional Studies.

The Office of Strategic Initiatives will be the program planning entity for the College of Professional Studies and will create innovative education and industry-related professional development and academic programs which will include: certificates, online programs, blended courses and programs, evaluation, and executive training offered weekends, evenings, online, and on-site. The Office of Strategic Initiatives is a reinvention of the Office for Special Programs which was part of the College of Continuing Education. Partnerships developed with the Office of Special Programs will be continued and enhanced by the Office for Strategic Initiatives.

The Institute for Urban Initiatives will conduct research projects in urban education (such as on the intersection between education and health) and will provide training for teacher educators to help urban students to succeed.

To streamline resources between the two campuses, college-wide services will include marketing, experiential learning, fundraising and development, and finance (budgets, payrolls, contracts, and purchasing). Due to geographical constraints and union contracts, other resources, such as library services, student services and career services will be campus specific.

URI asserts that the new Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies will result in:

- better meeting the educational and professional development needs of RI residents;
- an enhanced Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies;
- expanded external partnerships;
- growth opportunities and innovation in teacher preparation and adult education;

- a more interconnected approach to serving students across the educational continuum;
- more intentional efforts on learners seeking continuing workforce development and professional education;
- greater synergy across the Kinston and Providence campuses around preparing teachers, adult learners, and professionals to be leaders in their careers and communities.

Institutional Role

This change is within the mission, role and scope of URI.

Interinstitutional Considerations

The Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies will service traditional and non-traditional students including Finish What You Started and transfer students from the Community College of Rhode Island.

Programs

The School of Education (SOE) with majors in Elementary and Secondary Education will move from the College of Human Science and Services (which is being dissolved June 30, 2016) to the new Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies as of July 1, 2016. In addition, the Feinstein College of Continuing Education is transitioning to the Feinstein School of Education and Professional Studies as of July 1, 2016. Therefore, the Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies needs to have the ability to certify and grant the following degrees to students who complete the following programs of study: Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Bachelor of Arts with majors in Elementary and Secondary Education, and Bachelor of Science with majors in Elementary and Secondary Education.

Staff and Administration

The Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies will be administered by a Dean, an Associate Dean and an Assistant Dean with Directors in the School of Education and the Office of Strategic Initiatives.

RIOPC Review

RIOPC staff reviewed the information on the proposal from URI to form the Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies by merging the School of Education, the Feinstein College of Continuing Education, the Office of Special Programs and the Center for Human Services. The new Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies will include the School of Education, the Feinstein School of Professional Studies, the Office of Strategic Initiatives and the Institute on Urban Education and Policy. URI is also requesting that the Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies have the authority to certify and grant the following degrees: Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies; Bachelor of Arts with Majors in Elementary and Secondary Education; and the Bachelor of Science with majors in Elementary and secondary Education. The changes presented are within the mission, role and scope of the University of Rhode Island and do not require Council approval.