Enclosure 3a.
October 14, 2015

RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Room 4090
Community College of Rhode Island
400 East Avenue
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

The Council on Postsecondary Education met on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at CCRI in Room 4090 in Warwick, RI. At 5:32 p.m. Chair William Foulkes welcomed everyone. He then asked for the roll to be taken.

Present: Michael Bernstein, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy (arrived at 5:38 pm), William Foulkes, Senator Thomas Izzo, Kerry Rafanelli, John Rainone, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

Absent: Judith Ouellette

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Foulkes entertained a motion to accept the agenda. On a motion duly made by Mr. Smith, and seconded by Dr. Williams, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of September 16th, 2015 as presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

2. OPEN FORUM

Chair Foulkes reported that twelve speakers had signed up to speak at Open Forum. The twelve speakers represented faculty and administrators from the nursing programs at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. Of these twelve speakers, four people spoke in opposition to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at RIC, while eight spoke in favor of Rhode Island students having a choice of doctoral programs. All speakers were present to address this issue which appeared later on this meeting's agenda.

Chair Foulkes entertained a motion to extend the open forum. On a motion duly made by Mr. Bernstein and seconded by Mr. Rafanelli, it was

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the motion to extend the open forum on September 18th, 2015 as presented.

VOTE: 8 members voted in the affirmative and no members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Council on Postsecondary Education's August 13, 2015 Meeting.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the minutes for the meeting of August 13, 2015.

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

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

NAYS: 0

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEES

Chair Barbara Cottam reported on two items. First, she reported that the U. S. Department of Education approved Rhode Island's Equity Access to Excellent Teachers Plan, which was among the first 16 states to be approved ensuring equitable access to excellent educators. She commented that RIDE did an outstanding job.

Second, a video was shown of students who received the Rhode Island Promise Scholarships. Rhode Island will be awarding $10M in scholarship funds, an increase of 25%. A thank you was given to President Carriuolo for hosting the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship event.

Chair Bill Foulkes

Chair Foulkes reported on CCRI's ribbon cutting at the new Art Center that took place immediately prior to this meeting. Congratulations on CCRI's press coverage and good work.

Second, he discussed the article that was in the *New York Times* Sunday's paper regarding the link between K-12 and higher education.

He also met with the State Budget Office staff with the Commissioner to discuss the budget process.

He reminded the CPE of the Council's Retreat to be held at the URI Alton Jones Campus.

Finance and Facilities Committee
Michael Bernstein stated it was an honor to work with committee members.

The committee is currently reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan & budget issues with their goal of providing leadership and oversight.

He is guiding the committee using three principles: maintain a good working relationship with the colleges and university; require transparency and research the issues to assure that the committee is meeting its responsibilities.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

Personnel Committee
Mr. Rafanelli stated that the next Personnel Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Purcell reported that there are no notices of new programs or changes submitted by the institutions.

He delivered a report to the Council related to the timeline and status on the Operating and Capital Budgets for the upcoming Committee and Council meetings for July, August, September and October.

- **July**
  Determine budget assumptions for the development of the institutional operational budgets.

- **August**
  Review of the system's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan with requests from each of the institutions.

- **September**
  Continuing review the system's Capital Improvement Plan for approval to submit to the state with any adjustments required by the Finance and Facilities Committee or the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Finance and Facilities Committee reviews operational budget requests making revisions and will forward to Council for approval.

6. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

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

President Dooley provided the following update from the University:

He was delighted to see everyone back on campus after Labor Day weekend. He said that enrollment is up and that the entering class has higher academic scores and greater diversity than previous classes.

- The incoming class has about 3,630 new students, including 3,130 first-year students and 500 who have transferred. When combined with returning students, the University will have 16,795 undergraduate and graduate students.

- About 48% of the new students are from Rhode Island and 52% are from out of state or foreign countries. About 56% of the total student body is from Rhode Island.

- URI will award $82 million in financial aid.

- Top 10 majors in terms of undergraduate enrollment last fall are: Nursing, Kinesiology, Communication Studies, Psychology, Biological Sciences, Human

Development & family Studies, Mechanical Engineering, Accounting, Applied Sociology and Computer Science.

In addition, Dr. Dooley reported the following:

- *The Providence Business News* has selected the University of Rhode Island's Business Engagement Center as the winner of its 2015 Innovative Company Award in the education category which is being awarded on September 17, 2015.

- The University of Rhode Island Division of Research and Economic Development has appointed a new leadership team for the Rhode Island Small Business Development Center.

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

President Carriuolo reported the following update on items related to Rhode Island College:

- Annual opening coffee hour was held on August 25, 2015.
- The college instituted new metamajors as a way to help students advance toward a degree while determining their majors.
- Rally4Recovery Month kick-off took place September 4, 2015.
- Rhode Island College's Bee Education Center has partnered with WPRI 12 to host a campus-based weather station and bee cam.
- RIC has expanded its workforce development efforts through a college partnership with Mystic Aquarium for five paid internships for RIC Students.

In response to a question from Mr. Duffy, President Carriuolo noted that enrollment numbers would be presented on Friday at the Council Retreat.

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

President Di Pasquale thanked the Council members for attending the ribbon cutting ceremony earlier for the Art Studio. In addition, he reported the following updates:

- Opening Day Convocation was held on Thursday, August 27 as CCRI began its 51st academic year.
- Manufacturing Day will be held October 1, 2015 at the Knight Campus in Warwick. Council members were invited to attend.

- CCRI's Early Childhood Education associate degree is the first in the state to receive accreditation from the national Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- CCRI was named to NurseJournal.org's America's Best Nursing Schools for the Eastern Region. They ranked in the top 14% of two- and four-year colleges and universities in the region.
- Monday, September 21, is the 21st annual CCRI Fall Classic at the Warwick Country Club which benefits CCRI students.
- There was a 5-10% decline in enrollment this year; similar statistics were also reported nationally by community colleges. More information would come on Friday at the Council Retreat.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7a) Discussion on Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC) Bonds – Terms of the Debt Indentures.

At the request of Council member, Dennis Duffy, the Council's bond counsel, Paul Campellone of Adler, Pollock and Sheehan, presented a written summary of the bond covenants and debt service requirements. These bond issuances are through the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC) and support various projects on all three of the public institutions of higher education.

- Debt Service Requirements
- Covenants
- Continuing Disclosure

Mr. Duffy thanked Mr. Campellone.

Senator Izzo found the presentation interesting but asks for more support for laymen in understanding the details of the agreements.

Senator Izzo asked about the various bond ratings enjoyed by the University and the system. Dr. LaPanne will provide an update of those bond ratings to the Council members but indicated that the fixed rate bonds are only affected by the ratings at issuance.

8. ACTION ITEMS.

8a. Review of the By-laws for the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Commissioner Purcell indicated that the Council on Postsecondary Education was established pursuant to amendments that were enacted to Chapter 59 of Title 16 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is presenting a revision of the existing Bylaws (of the prior Board of Education) in response in these statutory changes. These Bylaws were developed by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, revised with input from Council members, and reviewed by the General Counsel.

The proposed revision of the Bylaws was introduced for discussion at the August 13th meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education. Further discussion and a motion to approve the Bylaws were included on this evening's agenda.

Chair Foulkes stated that two objectives for the Bylaws revision were to reflect the legislative changes to the role of the Council and to coordinate the Bylaws of Council on Postsecondary Education and the Council on Elementary Secondary Education.

The Commissioner then presented the proposed revisions of the Bylaws with reference to the redlined copy of the proposed revision of the Bylaws and the chart outlining the changes, which were included in the Council's meeting packet.

A discussion followed on the following proposed or recommended changes.

- Adding that the Board of Education chair would assume the duties of the Council chair in his absence eliminating the references to the election of a vice-chair. Senator Izzo expressed the belief that it was in the best interests of the Council to retain the position of Vice Chair and that this position be elected by members of the Council or appointed by the Governor. He expressed concerns that this change established precedent and eroded the authority of the Council.

- Retaining the Open Forum as optional. Chair Foulkes noted that this would allow for the streamlining of the agenda in very specific circumstances and that the Council members could always request that the Open Forum be added. Senator Izzo suggested that optional be removed in the interests of promoting transparency regarding the work and deliberations of the Council.

- Not adding new business to the agenda. General Counsel Ron Cavallaro noted that listing new business without more specific information included on an agenda would violate the Open Meetings Act.

A motion was made by Michael Bernstein and seconded by Dennis Duffy to accept the bylaws as presented.

A motion to amend was proposed by Senator Thomas Izzo to add to Article I, section 1, "the vice chair of the Council will be elected by members of the Council for a period of one year" and to strike references to the Chair of the Board of Education serving as chair of the Council in the absence of the chair.

On the motion to amend was duly made by Thomas Izzo, seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was:

VOTED: THAT **The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) approve the Vice-Chair be appointed by the Chair on an annual basis.**

VOTE: 2 members voted in the affirmative and 6 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Senator Thomas Izzo, Dr. Jeffery Williams.

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

The motion to amend was not approved.

A motion to amend to remove optional in reference to the Open Forum was proposed by Senator Izzo. The amendment did not receive a second.

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

VOTED: THAT **The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) approve the By-Laws as presented.**

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 1 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: Thomas Izzo

8b. Review of State Grant Policy and Procedures for the Division of Higher Education Assistance.

The Council discussed the Postsecondary Student Financial Assistance Policy at the August 13th, 2015, meeting in anticipation of approving the policy change at this evening's meeting.

The existing Rhode Island State Grant program was replaced with a new program that will support and reinforce the affordable, local, and accessible pathways to higher education while sending a clear message of encouragement to needy Rhode Island students.

Participating institutions have the flexibility to design a program to fit their unique student populations. The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner will evaluate and review institutional proposals; collect and analyze information; and report the status of the program on an annual basis.

The revised policy was included in the Council's meeting packet for this evening's meeting.

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

VOTED: **THAT** **The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) approve the State Grant Policy and Procedures for the Division of Higher Education Assistance as presented.**

VOTE: 8 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, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

8c. Scope Modification for Rhode Island College.

The Commissioner reminded the Council that, in 2014, the state legislature granted increased authority to the college and university presidents when a new or altered academic program or other academic change was within the approved role, scope and mission of the institution. However, the same legislation gave specific authority to the Council of Postsecondary Education for the following:

- Any new or proposed eliminations of departments, divisions, programs of study that are outside the role and scope approved by the council shall require review and approval of the council on postsecondary education. (§16-33-2.1)
- To approve the role and scope of programs at public institutions of higher learning with the assistance of the commissioner of postsecondary education which shall include but not be limited to populations to be served, the type and level of programs and academic fields offered. (§ 16-59-4.11.i)
- To approve a clear and definitive mission for each public institution of higher learning with the assistance of the commissioner of postsecondary that is consistent with the role and scope of programs at public institutions. (§ 16-59-4.11.iii)
- To promote maximum efficiency, economy, and cooperation in the delivery of public higher educational services in the state and cooperation with independent institutions of higher education. (§ 16-59-4.11.iv)

Rhode Island College has submitted a proposal to offer the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. Unlike other new programs that have been presented as Notices of Change, this program, the establishment of the MSN to DNP program requires approval from the Council. According to the current mission, role, and scope document, RIC is not empowered to offer a practice doctorate which includes the DNP.

For the Council on Postsecondary Education to approve RIC offering the DNP also would require an alteration to the college's mission, role, and scope.

This item was presented as a discussion item for the August 13th Council meeting with the intention of bringing it to this evening's Council meeting for further discussion and approval.

Mr. Duffy commented that he feels that this change is the right way to go.

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

VOTED: THAT **The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) approve a revision to the mission, role, and scope statements for Rhode Island College to include the ability of the college to offer selected practice doctorates as specifically approved by the Council.**

THAT **The revised Array of Programs and Services for Rhode Island College include: "Select practice doctorate programs, as approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education".**

VOTE: 8 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, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

8d. Request from Rhode Island College to offer the MSN to DNP degree.

Rhode Island College has submitted a proposal to offer the Master of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Unlike other new programs that were presented as Notices of Change, this program raises questions regarding mission, role and scope, duplication of effort, and efficiencies within the Rhode Island system of public higher education which are among the areas of authority specifically granted to the Council on Postsecondary Education.

- Any new or proposed eliminations of departments, divisions, programs of study that are outside the role and scope approved by the council shall require review and approval of the council on postsecondary education. (§16-33-2.1)

Therefore, the establishment of the MSN to DNP program would require approval from the Council. This proposal was brought to the Council at its August 13th meeting for discussion and reflection and returns to this evening's agenda as an action item after any remaining discussion.

The Council packet for this evening's meeting contained a summary of the proposal as submitted by Rhode Island College along with reviews of the proposal by Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner staff and by an expert, external reviewer.

Recommendation

The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner recommends that the Council vote to approve the request by Rhode Island College to offer the MSN to DNP program. Further, the intent of the college is to transition from a MSN to DNP program to offering the BSN to DNP by fall 2019.

This is stated as a means of assuring that MSN-NA (nurse anesthesia students) meet the Council on Accreditation requirement that nurse anesthesia students graduate with a DNP by 2022. The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner recommends that the transition from the MSN to the DNP to the BSN to DNP be approved in principle.

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

VOTED: **THAT** **The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) approve the proposal from Rhode Island College to offer the MSN to DNP program, conditional to the Council's approval of a revision to the college's role, scope, and mission to include: "that Rhode island College may offer select practice doctorate programs upon approval of the Council of Postsecondary Education."**

THAT **The Council on Postsecondary Education approve in principle the transition of the MSN to DNP to the BSN to DNP in the fall 2019.**

VOTE: 8 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, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

* During the meeting there was a question of the wording of the motion in the original vote. To alleviate any confusion, the Council reaffirmed the correct motion immediately after Executive Session. The vote was identical.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:18 pm Chair William Foulkes entertained a motion to enter into executive session for:

a) 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).

- Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) –
  - CCRI Faculty Association (NEA)
  - AAUP

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education convenes in executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reasons set forth above.

VOTE: 8 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, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

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;
- Lisa Shevlin, Executive Assistant;
- Ron Cavallaro, General Counsel;
- Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner, Finance & Management
- David Dooley, President, URI

- Nancy Carriuolo, President, RIC
- Ray Di Pasquale, President, CCRI

The Council reconvened in open session at 7:30 p.m.

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

VOTED: **THAT** The Council on Postsecondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on September 16, 2015.

VOTE: 8 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, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith Jr., and Dr. Jeffery Williams.

NAYS: 0

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

a) The Annual Retreat for the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Friday, September 18, 2015, at the Alton Jones Campus, URI from 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

b) The next meeting of the Committees of the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick.

c) The next meeting for the Council on Postsecondary Education is on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at the Rhode Island College at 5:30 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

VOTE: 8 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, Kerry Rafanelli, and John J. Smith Jr.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.