



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Council on Postsecondary Education
OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER
560 Jefferson Boulevard Suite 100
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-1304

Enclosure 7c1
December 2, 2015

Barbara S. Cottam
Chair

To: Council on Postsecondary Education

**Council on Elementary and
Secondary Education**

From: Commissioner Jim Purcell, Ed.D.

Date: November 25, 2015

Daniel P. McConaghy
Chair

Re: Approval of RI-SARA In-state Institutional Fees

Amy Beretta, Esq.

Background:

Colleen A. Callahan, Ed.D.

NC-SARA designed the state portal process to ensure that institutions offering distance learning meet agreed-upon standards for authorization, monitoring, and consumer protection. In assuming the responsibilities of the portal agency for Rhode Island, the Council on Postsecondary Education and its Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner must enhance their monitoring and consumer protection activities.

Karin Forbes

Jo Eva Gaines

Marta V. Martinez

Lawrence Purtill

OPC anticipates the following expenses related to its role as the portal agency for SARA:

Joyce L. Stevos, Ph.D.

- Creating website content and ongoing support
- Handling student complaints related to RI-SARA institutions
- Fielding questions and providing responses to non-SARA institutions
- Processing first-time and renewal applications for RI-SARA
- Overall burden rate for service (administrative cost)

**Council on Postsecondary
Education**

William Foulkes
Chair

Michael Bernstein

As presented during the Council meeting on October 14th and during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on November 12th, the Council may approve fees as part of the RI-SARA application process in order to make sure the program is self-sustaining. The following fee structure has been proposed:

Dennis Duffy, Esq.

The Honorable Thomas Izzo

Judy Ouellette

Rhode Island – SARA (RI-SARA) initial fees for in-state institutions:

Kerry I. Rafanelli, Esq.

- **\$3,500 -- Enrolled FTE – under 2,500**
- **\$6,000 -- Enrolled FTE – 2,500 – 9,999**
- **\$8,500 -- Enrolled FTE – 10,000 or more**

John J. Smith, Jr.

Dr. Jeffery A. Williams

Rhode Island – SARA annual renewal fees for in-state institutions

- **\$1,500 -- Enrolled FTE – under 2,500**
- **\$4,000 -- Enrolled FTE – 2,500 – 9,999**
- **\$6,000 -- Enrolled FTE – 10,000 or more**

Telephone: (401)736-1100 Fax: (401)732-3541 TDD: (401)734-9481 Website: www.ribghe.org

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Motion:

THAT the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the fee structure for those institutions whose first-time and renewal applications are approved for Rhode Island – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement authorization (RI-SARA), as presented.