



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 7c2
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 Proposed Directive to Deposit and Use Fees for
Program Support

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 will be called upon to review new applications from in-state degree-granting institutions that wish to become a part of our multi-state agreements, as well as annual renewal applications from approved institutions. This process is not unlike our program review for an institution that wishes to become a recognized postsecondary degree-granting institution in Rhode Island.

Karin Forbes

Jo Eva Gaines

Marta V. Martinez

Lawrence Purtill

Joyce L. Stevos, Ph.D.

**Council on Postsecondary
Education**

William Foulkes
Chair

As presented during the Council meeting on October 14th and during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on November 12th, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner anticipates a number of expenses related to program review activities. In order to ensure that these programs become self-sufficient, rather than supported via the general fund and thus become a public burden, I recommend that the OPC retain in an account with the RI General Treasurer all fees collected as part of the SARA review or any program review and use these fees exclusively to support the full range of SARA and other program review operations.

Michael Bernstein

Dennis Duffy, Esq.

The Honorable Thomas Izzo

Judy Ouellette

Kerry I. Rafanelli, Esq.

John J. Smith, Jr.

Dr. Jeffery A. Williams

Motion:

THAT the Council on Postsecondary Education direct the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to deposit RI-SARA institutional fees and any other program review fees into an account kept by the Rhode Island General Treasurer, as permitted by RIGL § 16-59-18, in order to support the operation of any and all program reviews, applications, and renewals carried out by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.