



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 8C.  
September 16, 2015

Barbara S. Cottam  
Chair

Council on Elementary and  
Secondary Education

Daniel P. McConaghy  
Chair

Amy Beretta, Esq.

Colleen A. Callahan, Ed.D.

Karin Forbes

Jo Eva Gaines

Marta V. Martinez

Lawrence Purtill

Joyce L. Stevos, Ph.D.

Council on Postsecondary  
Education

William Foulkes  
Chair

Michael Bernstein

Dennis Duffy, Esq.

The Honorable Thomas Izzo

Judy Ouellette

Kerry I. Rafanelli, Esq.

John J. Smith, Jr.

Dr. Jeffery A. Williams

To: Council on Postsecondary Education

From: Commissioner Jim Purcell, Ed.D.

Date: September 4, 2015

Subject: Scope modification for Rhode Island College

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 on 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 education 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, the establishment of the MSN to DNP program requires approval from the

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or address.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

Faint, illegible text on the right side of the page.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Harvey' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Faint, illegible text in the middle section of the page.

Faint, illegible text in the middle section of the page.

Faint, illegible text in the middle section of the page.

Faint, illegible text in the middle section of the page.

Faint, illegible text in the middle section of the page.

Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page.

**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 scope statement.**

**This item was presented as a discussion item at the August 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and will be presented for further discussion and voted upon at the September 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.**

**Motion:**

**That the Council on Postsecondary Education 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."***