



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Office of Higher Education
80 Washington Street, Suite 524
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 2d
November 7, 2013

Eva-Marie Mancuso, Esq.

TO: Members of the RI Board of Education

Patrick Guida, Esq.
Vice-Chair

FROM: Clark Greene, Authorized Agent
Office of Higher Education

Colleen A. Callahan, Ed.D.
Secretary

RE: Granting of Tuition Waivers

Antonio Barajas, M.D.

Michael Bernstein

Karin Forbes

Jo Eva Gaines

Michael Grande, CPA

William Maaia, Esq.

Lawrence Purtill

Mathies Santos

At your work session scheduled for Thursday November 7, 2013, discussion item 2d concerns a request for the Board to consider granting tuition waivers.

In the enclosed letter dated September 9, 2013, John E. Chartier, EFO, CFI, the State Fire Marshall, requests that members of his division who are employed as "Fire Investigators" attend courses in criminal investigation offered by the University of Rhode Island on tuition waivers.

At present, tuition waivers are only granted through specific statutory provisions, the Board's Personnel Policy, and through negotiated collective bargaining agreements. Any non-statutory modification or expansion of the Board's existing policies would require full Board approval.

Given tuition waivers were subject to new legislation last term, which conditioned employee receipt of waivers on consent to public disclosure, and were subject to a system-wide audit that was requested by the Governor, the findings of which are presently being reviewed by this office, the Board may wish to refrain from addressing individual requests on an ad-hoc basis and rather address this issue from a system-wide policy standpoint. Such an approach would better reflect the Boards' value of tuition waivers, and assure their consistent, fair and equitable application.

Accordingly, it is my recommendation that the Board not take up this individual request, or similar requests, prior to its opportunity to consider a system wide policy for granting waivers not currently allowed through statute, personnel policy or collective bargaining.



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

State Fire Marshal

118 Parade Street, Providence RI 02909
Telephone: (401) 462-4200 — Fax: (401) 462-4250

Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police

John E. Chartier, EFO, CFI
State Fire Marshal
Division of the State Fire Marshal

September 9, 2013

Ms. Eva Marie Mancuso
Chairwomen
Rhode Island State Board of Education
80 Washington St – Suite 524
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairwomen Mancuso:

An agreement that was put in place in October of 2008 that allows members of this Division, who are employed as "Fire Investigators", to attend courses in criminal investigation offered by the University of Rhode Island on "tuition waivers". Our office provides many services to URI at no cost such as fire inspections of all the properties, and numerous other projects related to the enforcement of the fire code on campus property. This agreement approved by former Chairman Frank Caprio and Commissioner Warner has allowed Investigators from this division to gain knowledge in forensics, which we then use to serve the University and the State.

In March of this year, we asked you to continue this past practice, which you graciously did. As a result of the continuation of this policy, we registered two members of this Division into the class for the fall semester. This week, I was informed by Mr. Clark Greene that the policy on tuition waivers has changed, and that waivers now require a vote of the full board to be approved.

The practice of granting a tuition waiver for members of this division has proven itself to be a beneficial practice for all involved and I hope that it will be continued. As continuation of this practice now requires approval by the full board, I respectfully ask that this issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the board for it consideration. I would be happy to attend that meeting to address any questions that either you or other members of the board may have.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. If you need any additional information please contact me directly at 401-462-4245.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Chartier, EFO, CFI
State Fire Marshal

CC: Captain Brian K. Casilli RISP – RI Department of Public Safety