

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
December 19, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Board of Higher Education (Board) was convened both in-person at 607 South Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17120, and virtually via MS Teams on Thursday, December 19, 2024. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Act. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Dr. Cynthia Shapira, Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Alaina Koltash, Deputy General Counsel, Governor's Office of General Counsel, performed the roll call. A quorum of members with 100% attendance of the full Board was present as follows:

Dr. Brenda Allen	Hon. Peter Schweyer
Dr. Ann Bieber	Dr. Cynthia Shapira
Hon. Jay Costa	Ms. Andrea Shirk
Mr. Sean Eden	Dr. Michael Wade Smith
Dr. Marylouise Esten	Hon. Jesse Topper
Ms. Angela Fitterer	Mr. Michael Warfel
Dr. Kara Laskowski	Mr. Kevin Washo
Mr. Kenneth Long	Ms. Vicki Wilken (Designee for Hon. Wayne Langerholc)
Dr. Cheryl McConnell	Ms. Skyler Wrubleski
Dr. Carol Momjian (Designee for Hon. Nancy Walker)	Ms. Bobbi Jo Zapor
Hon. Pedro Rivera	

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Michael Warfel and seconded by the Hon. Jay Costa.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

V. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Dr. Shapira reported that since the October 31 meeting, all committees have met at least once to begin their work and have established meeting schedules for the remainder of the year as appropriate.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Dr. Kate Shaw provided an overview of major national and state developments in the higher education sector. She also announced the appointment of Ms. Lubna Mian to serve as the Board's Chief of Staff.

Ms. Mian provided brief remarks.

VII. UPDATE ON COMMITTEES

Dr. Shapira introduced the respective committee chairs and asked for their reports.

Bylaws

Chair: Mr. Kevin Washo

Mr. Washo reported that the committee had met twice and anticipates presenting a draft of Board bylaws at the February 20, 2025, full Board meeting.

Postsecondary Data

Chair: Mr. Kenneth Long

Mr. Long reported that the committee has met twice to begin to determine the data and information needs of the Board. The committee plans to recommend leveraging existing data collection sources wherever possible to minimize burden on higher education institutions. The committee will also form a technical advisory group that will assist the committee in reviewing data needs and determining data collection recommendations. The advisory group will consist of a representative from each of the four major sectors of higher education in Pennsylvania.

Transition of Authority

Chair: Dr. Ann Bieber

Dr. Bieber reported that the committee has met twice. It is working with General Counsel and the State Board of Education to identify areas of authority that the committee will recommend be transferred to the State Board of Higher Education. She also indicated that the committee is likely to deliver recommendations to the full Board in stages, with an initial set of recommendations in March 2025.

Performance-Based Funding Council

Chair: Hon. Jesse Topper

This Council is not formally connected to the State Board of Higher Education, but several of its members also serve on the Board and the work of the Council is highly relevant to the Board and its duties. Rep. Topper reported that the Council's first public hearing is scheduled for January 14, 2025, at the Capitol. The next three will be held at the following institutions:

- Pennsylvania State University (January 21)
- Temple University (January 30)
- University of Pittsburgh (February 19)

VIII. STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

Dr. Shapira, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, reported that the committee has met twice and is planning six regional public meetings to solicit input and receive feedback to inform the plan. Dr. Shapira and SBHE staff are working to develop proposed schedules and workplans to share

with the committee. The committee will provide additional detail and timing at the next full Board meeting.

The Board as a whole discussed the strategic planning process, both potential goals of an eventual Plan and format of the planning. Needs for effective use of public hearings and multiple methods of soliciting public feedback were discussed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 23, 2025.