

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2025

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 Friday, February 21, 2025. 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. Lubna Mian, Chief of Staff, performed the roll call. A quorum of members was present as follows:

Ms. Diane Acri (Designee for Hon. Jesse Topper)
Dr. Ann Bieber
Hon. Jay Costa
Ms. Gwenn Dando (Designee for Hon. Wayne Langerholc)
Ms. Marylouise Esten
Dr. Kara Laskowski
Mr. Kenneth Long
Dr. Cheryl McConnell

Ms. Carol Momjian (Designee for Hon. Nancy Walker)
Hon. Dr. Pedro Rivera
Dr. Carrie Rowe
Hon. Peter Schweyer
Dr. Cynthia Shapira
Ms. Andrea Shirk
Mr. Michael G. Warfel
Mr. Kevin Washo
Ms. Bobbie Jo Zapor

Absent: Dr. Brenda Allen, Mr. Sean Eden, Dr. Michael Wade Smith, and Ms. Skyler Wrubleski

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2025, meeting was made by Mr. Kevin Washo and Mr. Michael G. Warfel.

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 announced that the bulk of the meeting would be focused on reporting out the Strategic Planning Committee's six draft goals, followed with a Board discussion.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Kate Shaw welcomed Dr. Carrie Rowe, newly appointed Acting Secretary of Education. Dr. Shaw followed with updates on announcements regarding the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Shaw also provided an update on the Governor's 2025 budget proposal, which will include a \$120.1 million increase in support for higher education in PA, including:

- \$60 million through the Performance Based Funding Formula for Pennsylvania State University, Temple University and University of Pittsburgh.
- \$40.4 million for PASSHE institutions
- \$13 million for community colleges
- \$1.7 million for Pennsylvania College of Technology
- \$1.1 million for Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
- \$1 million for Lincoln University

The budget includes \$7 million for a Dual-Credit Innovation Grant, along with continued grant funding for several aspects of Collegiate Basic Needs including the following initiatives: Hunger-Free Campus, It's On Us, and Parent Pathways initiatives. An additional \$20 million in financial aid will be available for student teacher stipends.

Finally, Dr. Shaw announced that Carrie Amann, current Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association, will soon join the Board as Director of Economic and Workforce Development.

VII. UPDATE ON COMMITTEES

Dr. Shapira introduced the respective committee chairs and requested their reports.

Performance-Based Funding Council

Chair: Hon. Jesse Topper

Ms. Diane Acri, on behalf of Rep. Topper, reported that the council met on January 30 and February 19, 2025. The council is now working on its report of recommendations, due April 30, 2025.

Transfer of Authority

Chair: Dr. Ann Bieber

Dr. Bieber reported that the committee has met a total of three times and is reviewing the overlap of duties and powers with the State Board of Education (SBE). The committee continues to seek feedback from the SBE and will have recommendations ready for the Board's April meeting.

Bylaws

Chair: Mr. Kevin Washo

Mr. Washo reported that the committee has met a total of four times and is completing its sequential review of draft bylaws in three segments. The committee had reviewed two of the three segments.

Postsecondary Data

Chair: Mr. Kenneth Long

Mr. Long reported two meetings: one of the Technical Advisory Group, which was formed to provide technical input and guidance to the Committee regarding data; and the other of the Data Committee as a whole. In the last meeting, the committee and the Technical Advisory Group reviewed higher education systems from the states of Louisiana, Kentucky, and Virginia.

VIII. STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

Dr. Shapira, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, introduced a set of Draft Strategic Plan Goals developed by the Committee. Dr. Shaw provided context and rationale for the individual goals. The draft goals are as follows:

- Increase postsecondary credential attainment
- Ensure affordable pathways to postsecondary credentials
- Support the economic development needs of the commonwealth
- Support the workforce development needs of the commonwealth
- Ensure accountability and efficient use of state funds
- Strengthen the fiscal health and stability of the higher education sector.

A motion to approve the Draft Strategic Plan goals was made by Dr. Cheryl McConnell, seconded by Dr. Pedro Rivera. Members of the Board discussed each of the draft goals and then to a vote to approve the draft goals as written.

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

Dr. Shapira reminded the Board that six public hearings on the plan will be held throughout the commonwealth, seeking public comment, and encouraged Board members to attend as many as possible.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dr. Shapira adjourned the meeting at 2 p.m.

NEXT MEETING WITH BOARD BUSINESS: March 27, 2025