

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
September 12, 2018**

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education was called to order by Council Chairman Jonathan Peri at 1:05 p.m.

Attending:

James Agras	Caroline DeWitt	Jonathan Peri
Carol Aichele	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Arynn Pratt
James Barker	Donald Fey	Ashley Svec
Nathan Barrett (<i>via phone</i>)	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Karen Farmer White
Nicole Carnicella	Kirk Hallett	A. Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 11, 2018, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on an **Agras/Dungee Glenn** motion.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Karen Farmer White, Chair of the State Board of Education, opened the meeting of the Committee of the Whole. She introduced and welcomed Arynn Pratt from Cheyney University, the new Junior Student Member of the Council of Higher Education.

Ms. Farmer White then recognized Dr. Peri for the meeting of the Council of Higher Education.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

Noe Ortega, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided a series of updates on the postsecondary initiatives that the Department of Education (PDE) is presently undertaking.

Deputy Secretary Ortega informed the Board that, in July, the Department held three regional stakeholder convenings to gather input from the educational community on key themes and issues related to Chapter 49. He further shared that the Learning Policy Institute is preparing a report that aims to ground stakeholder input gathered at those forums in research

and evidence-based practice. Mr. Ortega said this work will inform PDE's effort to propose amendments to the Board prior to initiating a major review of Chapter 49.

The Deputy Secretary then reported that a grant initiation webinar was held at the end of July for the eight universities that recently were awarded nearly \$2 million to develop and implement year-long residency programs for teachers and principals in partnership with high need Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

Mr. Ortega also said plans are underway to conduct a symposium for school counselors this fall focused on best practices in conjunction with the PA Reach Higher initiative and the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association.

Deputy Secretary Ortega next spoke about the Governor's It's On Us PA Grants. Since 2016, Governor Wolf has secured a total of \$3 million to provide grants to colleges and universities to develop evidence-based prevention, reporting, and response systems to address campus sexual assault.

Mr. Ortega also discussed the Statewide College Credit Transfer System that was expanded to include awarding credit for prior learning by Act 55 of 2017. In collaboration with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, Mr. Ortega said the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee has identified a subcommittee to develop standards for awarding credit for prior learning with work of the subcommittee set to begin on September 14.

The Deputy Secretary noted that the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee developed and approved an update to its last report and said a colleague would present that document later in the meeting.

Mr. Ortega then presented data in response to the Statewide Postsecondary Attainment Goal's call to focus on closing attainment gaps for historically underrepresented populations. He reviewed with the Board data and metrics on postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion that were disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and economic disadvantage.

At the conclusion of Mr. Ortega's report, Seth Jacobson, Special Advisor in the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education, presented the updated report adopted by the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee. Dr. Jacobson reviewed the Committee's statutory charge given to update its report every three years and then reviewed the process by which the committee has completed its responsibilities since its last report was issued in 2015. Dr. Jacobson highlighted findings from the Committee's 2018 Report, including data on decreased spending on course materials and numerous innovations in students' acquisition of course materials. In summary, he stated that the Advisory Committee did not eliminate or add recommendations to the 2018 Update.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

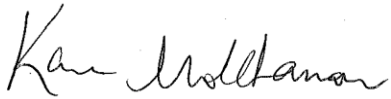
Jay Hertzog, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE), invited Board members to attend PAC-TE's annual conference to be held later in the fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.



Karen Molchanow
Executive Director