

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

Virtual Meeting

May 5, 2021

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

Attending:

James Agras	Jeffrey Keeling	Hon. Curt Sonney
Hon. Carol Aichele	Hon. Maureen Lally-Green	Taiba Sultana
Nathan Barrett	Hon. Scott Martin	Karen Farmer White
Anne Griffin	Jonathan Peri	Lee Williams
Pamela Gunter-Smith	Eva Rankin	Hon. Lindsey Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 10, 2021, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on an **Agras/Gunter-Smith** motion.

**REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER FOR
POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr. Tanya I. Garcia provided updates to the Board on the following topics: Wallace Foundation Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative Grant, U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grant, School Social Worker certification, COVID-10 vaccinations, and postsecondary stakeholder engagement related to Spring 2021 commencement, Summer 2021 plans, and Fall 2021 planning.

Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith noted that the Governor Wolf recently announcement that COVID-19 mitigation efforts, with the exception of face masks, will be lifted after May 31. She asked how that announcement will impact social distancing requirements as institutions prepare for the summer and upcoming fall semesters. Dr. Garcia stated that her office is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) to confirm what is going to change regarding social and physical distancing and is currently waiting for guidance from DOH.

DISCUSSION ITEM
MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINEE

Dr. Jonathan Peri noted that the Council appointed a Master Plan for Higher Education Advisory Committee at its last meeting in March and, at that time, determined to add an additional member to the Advisory Committee who represents workforce development. Dr. Peri recommended that the Council consider adding Carrie Amann, Executive Director of the

Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association, as the final Advisory Committee member. Dr. Garcia then provided background for the Council on Ms. Amman's qualifications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEM

MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINEE

A motion to appoint Carrie Amann to the Master Plan for Higher Education Advisory Committee was approved on a **Gunter-Smith/Agras** motion.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. on a **Sen. Williams/Gunter-Smith** motion.

Karen Molchanow/slj

Karen Molchanow
Executive Director