

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

**333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

September 14, 2022

The Council of Higher Education (Council) was called to order by the Hon. Pedro Rivera, Chairman of the Council of Higher Education, at 1:05 p.m.

Attending:

James Agras	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Hon. Pedro Rivera
Hon. Carol Aichele	Natalie Imhoof	Rep. Curtis Sonney
Nathan Barrett	Sarah Jordan	Lee Williams
Nicole Carnicella	Jeffrey Keeling	Hon. Lindsey Williams
Claire Chi	Hon. Lally-Green	Karen Farmer White
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Rep. Mark Longietti	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 13, 2022, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Gunter-Smith** motion.

DISCUSSION ITEM
MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, presented an overview of the final draft of the Master Plan for Higher Education. She reviewed the process through which the final draft Master Plan was developed and discussed how the five strategic priorities around which the Master Plan is centered support a roadmap for reaching Pennsylvania’s postsecondary attainment goal. She acknowledged the numerous participants who contributed to the Master Plan and thanked them for their time and input. Dr. Garcia then reviewed the revisions made to the draft of the Master Plan that was reviewed by the Council in July in response to feedback provided on that draft from Council members, members of the Master Plan Advisory Committee, and other postsecondary leaders. She also reviewed the recommendations included in the final draft of the Master Plan that were informed by input from Council members and other stakeholders.

Upon completion of Dr. Garcia’s presentation, Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith remarked that the Master Plan should include a sentence that expands on what is meant by workforce development in the document. Dr. Gunter-Smith said it is important to recognize both short-term and long-term goals. She noted that the state’s attainment goal is focused on 2025 and asked what a realistic milestone is for the next three years. Dr. Gunter-Smith also shared that follow-up engagement will be necessary with a broader network after the Master Plan is adopted to get buy-in for the Plan.

Ms. Sandra Dungee-Glenn agreed that including information regarding workforce development could help contextualize the Master Plan, and she suggested that workforce development be addressed in the executive summary. Ms. Dungee-Glenn further suggested that language on page 30 of the draft that described the demographics of today's postsecondary students and the financial responsibility they carry should be replicated in the Executive Summary of the document.

Rep. Curt Sonney raised a concern regarding the proposed metrics in the draft Master Plan and said the School Code doesn't require the development of metrics. Rep. Sonney further expressed a concern that the Master Plan Advisory Committee did not have enough time to review and comment on the final draft of the Master Plan. He asked whether the Department of Education would provide technical assistance to institutions that aren't meeting the metrics and said the metrics will be an unfunded mandate.

Dr. Garcia shared that the Metrics Workgroup was assembled to identify data to support the goals of the Master Plan. She noted that the State Board of Education previously tasked the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education with providing annual updates on benchmarks toward meeting the state's attainment goal and said the information identified through the Metrics Workgroup could help improve the qualitative data available to support this request. Dr. Garcia noted that the majority of the proposed metrics will come from public sources and that data will not be posted at the individual institution level. Council Chair Rivera spoke in support of the qualitative metrics proposed in the draft Master Plan. Upon further discussion, Mr. Rivera asked if GI Bill use could be identified as part of ongoing work related to the proposed metrics. Dr. Garcia stated that staff are working to identify data related to Pennsylvania veterans.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to amend the Executive Summary of the draft Master Plan for Higher Education to define and provide context for workforce development and to include language reflected in the second paragraph of page 30 of the draft was approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Gunter-Smith** motion.

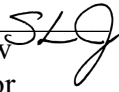
A motion to approve the Master Plan for Higher Education, as amended, for adoption by the State Board of Education was approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Agras** motion with Rep. Sonney dissenting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m. on a **Dungee Glenn/Gunter-Smith** motion.

Karen Molchanow 
Executive Director