

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

VIRTUAL MEETING

September 12, 2024

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education (Council) was called to order by the Hon. Pedro Rivera, Chairman of the Council, at 1:00 p.m.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele	Aarushi Dedhiya	Monica Taylor
Sen. David Argall	Ernest Hadrick	Rep. Jesse Topper
Nathan Barrett	Amanda Hetrick	Karen Farmer White
Naina Bhatia	Jeffrey Keeling	Lee Williams
Brenna Chernich	Maureen Lally-Green	Sen. Lindsey Williams
Katherine Christiano	Robert Mitchell	Benjamin Wilson
Yadira Cupeles	Hon. Pedro Rivera	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 11, 2024, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Hetrick/Mitchell** motion.

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairman Rivera introduced Act 69 of 2024, legislation enacted in July that establishes a new State Board of Higher Education (SBHE). Mr. Rivera highlighted key aspects of the legislation that impact the work of the Council and the State Board of Education (Board), including transferring certain policies governing community colleges to the new SBHE and requiring the Board and the new SBHE to consult in developing recommendations for the Governor and General Assembly that will address the appropriate delineation of authority related to higher education. Mr. Rivera invited Kate Shaw, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, to provide an overview of Act 69 more broadly.

Dr. Shaw presented data on demographic trends in the Commonwealth, on the higher education landscape in Pennsylvania, and on the workforce credential gap that demonstrated the need for establishing a new SBHE. She said the SBHE will serve as a coordinating body to strengthen higher education in Pennsylvania. Dr. Shaw addressed key functions of the new SBHE. Those key functions include developing a statewide higher education strategic plan, providing for seamless transfer of credits and degree programs, creating a comprehensive student-level data system, forming a council to recommend a performance-based funding formula for state-related universities, and developing procedures for when postsecondary institutions close. Dr. Shaw reviewed the ambitious timelines established in Act 69 for meeting

these key responsibilities and noted that the SBHE will work to meet the most immediate goals over the next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m. on a **Hetrick/Taylor** motion.

Hemalatha Raja

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Administrative Assistant