MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
January 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Dr. Francis Michelini

Attending:
Francis Michelini
Wendy Beetlestone
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Kirk Hallett
Erin Agnew
Colleen Sheehan
Shannon Sullivan
Lee Williams
Larry Wittig

Via Phone:
Jim Agras
Mollie Phillips
Karen Farmer White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 15, 2011 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Beetlestone** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. L. Jill Hans, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided an update on the following:

Textbook Affordability Committee

- This committee, established in 2010 by Article XX-F of Act 104 is concluding its work
- The final product is a report with recommendations for students, institutions of higher education, bookstores, publishers and faculty members
- The first draft of this report is being reviewed by committee members
- The report and findings will be presented to the State Board and transmitted to the Pennsylvania General Assembly in May 2012

Transfer and Articulation

- On December 23, 2011, eight additional statewide program-to-program articulation agreements were approved by the state's Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee (TAOC) in art, communications, criminal justice, history, modern languages, political science, sociology and theatre
- These articulation agreements must be honored by participating institutions by Fall 2013
- The total number of approved statewide program agreements is now 22
- Starting in Fall 2012, students will begin benefitting from the first 14 agreements approved by TAOC.
- The legislative deadline for completing this work was December 31, 2011; at this time five agreements are outstanding. Work related to geography, music and social work is expected to be approved by January 31, 2012. Work related to education (grades 4-8) is expected to be approved by March 1, 2012, and work related to secondary education is expected to be completed by May 1, 2012.

PRESENTATION

Michael Westover, Bureau Director, Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education made a presentation to the Board on the 30 College Credit Program as a follow-up to information presented to Board subcommittees in May 2010 on growth in the number of credentials being awarded through the program. Mr. Westover presented data on institutions that utilized the program during 2011 and the total number of credentials awarded through the program over the past decade. Data showed that the number of credentials earned through the program had leveled off between 2010 and 2011 after a spike was seen between 2009 and 2010.

Mr. Westover also provided members with the following overview of how the 30 College Credit Program is structured and administered:

Policy

The 30 College Credit Program is established in Chapter 4 and provides an avenue for Pennsylvania residents to earn a Commonwealth Secondary School diploma. Through this program, the credential may be issued to any PA resident who:

- Does not possess a secondary school diploma
- Is at least 18 years of age upon presentation of evidence of full matriculation
- Satisfactorily completes a minimum of one full year or 30 semester house of study at an accredited institution of postsecondary education located in the United States
- Provides an official transcript from a postsecondary institution as acceptable evidence for awarding of the diploma
- For applicants between 16-18 years of age, the age restriction may be waived if they have a written recommendation from their school district

Application Procedure

- Application form must be signed and completed by the applicant certifying they meet the Commonwealth Secondary School diploma criteria
- Application form and proof of Pennsylvania residency must be provided to the Registrar's office at the postsecondary institution from which academic credits were earned
- Applicants then request that the Registrar's Office send the application, proof of residency and official transcript to the Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education

Application/Transcript Review Process

The process for reviewing the application for the 30 College Credit Program consists of:

- The application must be complete, legible and signed by the applicant
- The address on the applicant's Proof of Pennsylvania Residency must match the address on the application
- The applicant's official transcript must be sent directly from an accredited institution of postsecondary education or delivered by the applicant in a sealed envelope
- The official transcript is evaluated against 10 criteria that assesses the transcript for applicable course credit
- Applicants are notified by phone, letter or email if their application is incomplete or inaccurate and provided instructions for resubmission

Applicants that meet the above criteria based on 30 College Credits are issued the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma and a copy of their transcript that reflects the same.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOUNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned.

Karen Molchanow

Karen Molchanow
Acting Executive Director