MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
July 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Francis Michelini at 1:00 pm.

Attending:

James Agras	Maureen Lally-Green	Mollie Phillips
James Barker	Kirk Hallett	Edward Sheehan
Kevin Bates	Francis Michelini	Karen Farmer White
Wendy Beetlestone	Jonathan Peri	Lee Williams
		Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 9, 2012 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Beetlestone/Williams** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. L. Jill Hans, Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary/Higher Education provided the following report:

Governor's Advisory Commission for Postsecondary Education:

- The Commission recently held four field meetings throughout the state, as well as two meetings in Harrisburg.
- Field meetings provided a venue for Commonwealth citizens to have their voices heard.
- Representatives from business, nonprofit organizations and professional associations, college and university students, presidents and administrators have all attended at various locations.

Additionally the commission has engaged in dialogue with two presenters regarding national and global trends:

- Deloitte Consulting presented information on the top 10 trends in higher education.
- Pew Research Center presented findings of research which addressed the question, "Is College Worth It?"

Distance Education Update

- New federal regulations went into effect July 1, 2011 that require distance education providers to produce evidence that the institution is authorized in each state from which students enroll and receive federal financial aid. Prior to this, Pennsylvania did not regulate the activity of distance education providers who did not have a physical presence in the state.
- States are required to approve each institution by name and maintain a list of approved institutions (34 CFR 600.9).
- The U.S. Department of Education has provided an extension for this requirement until July 1, 2014 before it will take action to deny financial aid to students if the institution has not received proper authorization.
- The Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education (OPHE) has provided provisional authorization to institutions that made a request and provided information via a questionnaire; These provisional authorization have been extended for the 2012-13 school year.
- OPHE is finalizing a policy that would formalize the authorization process. This authorization does not and will not include degree-granting authority or authorization to have a physical presence in Pennsylvania.

Teacher Information Management System (TIMS)

- TIMS is the software application that facilitates the educator candidate certification and hiring process and the certified teacher's continuing education recordkeeping in the Commonwealth.
- There have been three major software releases to improve the quality of TIMS since March, and there is one additional major software release scheduled for August.
- Recognizing the difficulties and challenges we have dealt with since first implementing the TIMS software last December, we have accomplished much with these releases.

SB 1406

- This legislation eliminates the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) program approval responsibility for not-for-profit colleges and universities that have been in continuous operation for at least 10 years. This bill was signed by the Governor on June 22, 2012.
- The legislation enabled PDE to eliminate a .8 staff position through attrition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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 1:20 p.m.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant