MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
May 9, 2012

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

Attending:

James Barker	Francine McNairy	Ed Sheehan
Wendy Beetlestone	Francis Michelini	Shannon Sullivan
David Collins	Jonathan Peri	Karen Farmer White
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Senator Jeffrey Piccola	A. Lee Williams
Kirk Hallett	Colleen Sheehan	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Beetlestone/Dungee Glenn** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION

Deputy Secretary L. Jill Hans provided a summary report to the Board on the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee.

The College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee has just completed the year; the report is final and being circulated for review within the Department. The following is a summary of the process and recommendations.

College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee is comprised of:

- Deputy Secretary for Higher Education, Department of Education
- Chairman of the State Board of Education
- One faculty member each from the State System of Higher Education, the State-related Institutions, Community Colleges and the Private and Independent Colleges and Universities
- The Chairman and Minority Chairman of the Education Committee of the Senate and the Chairman and Minority Chairman of the House of Representatives
- Nine members appointed by the Chairman of the State Board of Education, including three members representing college bookstores, two members representing textbook publishers, four students members, one member possessing a background in information technology.

The College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee Process:

- Review Act 104 as well as State and Federal Legislation
- Reviewed lifecycle and decision-points in the textbook adoption process
- Committee began developing recommendations around textbook affordability
- Committee Reviewed first draft of the report
- Committee reviewed second draft of the report
- Final draft of the textbook affordability report

Act 104 was passed and legislatively this addressed the need for a comprehensive framework to be developed. The frame work would consider the rising cost of college textbooks and the need to study the issue on both the state and national level.

There were six legislative directives:

1. Ensure students have access to affordable course materials by decreasing costs to students
   - Faculty members are encouraged to adopt course materials as early as possible to allow the students alternative purchasing options

2. Identify ways to decrease the cost of college textbooks and supplemental materials while supporting the academic freedom of faculty members.
   - Institutions of higher education are encouraged to add an evaluation of the required texts/course materials to the faculty evaluations completed by the students. The committee also recommends that all institutions participate in printed and E-Textbook rental programs.

3. Encourage college textbook publishers and distributors to work with faculty members to promote understanding of the cost to students of purchasing faculty-selected college textbooks
   - Publishers are encouraged to provide faculty members with a list of their company's best-selling texts in their given field.

4. Encourage innovation in the development and use of open-sourced college textbooks and course materials, including other open-sourced educational resources.
   - The Department is encouraged to develop a resource that provides faculty members with information on existing initiatives regarding alternative course delivery models.

5. Ensure faculty members are informed of accurate and relevant pricing information for course materials, and students are protected as a consumer group
   - Higher Education Deans and Administrators are encouraged to obtain pricing and cost information from publishers.

6. Make recommendations to the General Assembly and the State Board of Education on how to strengthen existing state laws and regulations and to propose any additional and necessary state laws and regulations.

- The committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt a resolution encouraging a change in the federal tax code to allow textbooks to be deducted regardless where they are purchased.

After the report is circulated, it will be posted on the website for review.

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 Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant