MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

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

Attending:

Erin Agnew	Paul Ferrera	Colleen Sheehan
James Agras (via phone)	Sandra Dungee Glenn (via phone)	Edward Sheehan
James Barker (via phone)	Maureen Lally-Green (via phone)	Karen Farmer White (via phone)
Kevin Bates	Kirk Hallett	Lee Williams
Emily Clark	Francis Michelini	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Williams/Michelini** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Act 24, Section 118, Reporting of Data and Postsecondary Advisory Council:

- The enactment of Act 24 in summer 2011 placed a moratorium on the collection of postsecondary education data in the Commonwealth. The Department was permitted to collect only federally- and state-mandated data elements.
- In summer 2012, statute was amended to provide for the voluntary collection of data from higher education sectors who wanted to provide the information; additionally, there have been changes to federal FERPA regulations which facilitate and support the sharing of data.
- The Department will begin a process with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) schools to discuss the particular elements that lend themselves to providing good feedback in support of student success.
- Also with Act 24, a provision was included to allow students to opt out of nonmandated data elements.
- An additional provision in Act 24, Section 118, called for the creation of an Advisory Committee to meet quarterly and provide recommendations to the Secretary of Education

regarding data collection. This committee began meeting last fall and has continued to meet and engage in meaningful conversation.

- All education sectors are represented on the committee, regardless of whether they choose to participate in data submission. All members have been interested and helpful in articulating the important questions, examining best practices and providing some direction to the committee.
- A summary of the committee's meetings and recommendations will be provided to the Secretary in the next month.
- The student data that will be collected will seek to connect data on student success in the workforce to K-12 student data.

Governor's Advisory Commission on Postsecondary Education

- The Advisory Commission has continued to meet and is now in the phase of articulating ideas which have been determined by members or by the public at the listening sessions, as having merit to warrant further exploration.
- Members and the public have weighed in with suggestions, and those suggestions have gone through several iterations of refinement.
- Commission members are working in subcommittees and are exploring resources which provide best practices and models to learn from.
- With a focus on a student-centric postsecondary education system, there are five overarching themes of the Committee's deliberations:
    - College and Career Readiness
    - Transparency and Accountability
    - Innovation and Research
    - Affordability and Accessibility
    - Efficiency and Sustainability of the Postsecondary Sector
- The Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education is working on a document which will form the beginning part of the final report.

College Access Challenge Grant

- Pennsylvania has participated in the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant for the past several years.
- Pennsylvania will not be a Challenge Grant recipient because it was one of many states who were unable to meet the maintenance of effort test, and who had subsequently applied for a waiver which was denied. The Commonwealth plans to continue to stay engaged with other states and hopes to reapply in the future.

- In the past, the Department partnered with Project GRAD USA, the Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency to administer the grant.
- The grant provides resources and support to college access services in the way of tutoring, mentoring and financial counseling, as well as FAFSFA application support.

- The Department will continue working with the partners in the short term as they work through the budgets, as some of them are operating under extensions and will be able to provide services for a good part of this year.

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