MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

333 Market Street| 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

September 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Council of Basic Education Chairman James Barker, acting on behalf of State Board Chairman Larry Wittig, at 1:05 pm.

Attending:

James Agras	Sandra Dungee Glenn *(via phone)*	Justin Reynolds
Carol Aichele	James Grandon	Colleen Sheehan
Jay Badams	Kirk Hallett	Craig Snider *(via phone)*
James Barker	Donald LeCompte	Karen Farmer White
Wendy Beetlestone	Jonathan Peri	A. Lee Williams

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Mr. James Grandon, Council Chairman, opened the meeting of the Council of Higher by welcoming and introducing Theresa Barnaby, the newly appointed Acting Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary and Higher Education. Mr. Grandon also expressed gratitude for the service of former Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary and Higher Education, Ms. Jill Hans, particularly for her efforts in chairing the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee and building a bridge for students affected by changes in the GED exam.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on an **Agras/Peri** motion.

REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. Theresa Barnaby, Acting Deputy Secretary, provided the following report:

Veterans Education

Two new laws – one state and one federal – aim to provide additional assistance to veterans enrolled in public colleges and universities.

- Signed into law on May 14, 2014, by Governor Corbett, Act 46 requires Pennsylvania community colleges, state system universities and state-related universities to provide veteran students residing in the Commonwealth with course scheduling preference.

- Effective July 1, 2015, a new federal law known as the Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 will require public institutions of higher education to grant in-state tuition to veterans within three years of the veterans' discharge from active duty, irrespective of the veteran's current state of residence. Some dependents of veterans also will qualify. The in-state rate applies as long as the student is continuously enrolled at the institution. Institutions that do not offer the reduced rates risk being ineligible to receive Chapters 30 and 33 G.I. Bill payments. PDE's Division of Veteran's Education is helping to inform public institutions in Pennsylvania about the new law.

Process of Grandfathering of 2002 Version GED Test Scores

- In mid-May, PDE's Division of Adult Education rolled out a process to grandfather the scores of students who took the 2002 version of the GED exam and to assess whether those scores could be applied toward earning the credential in light of changes to the GED that took effect in 2014.
- Since that time, more than 2,400 individuals have submitted requests to have their 2002 Series GED test scores reviewed for eligibility. Over 1,500 of those individuals have one or more test scores that meet the eligibility criteria
- To date, 27 individuals have successfully earned their Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma under the grandfathering process.
- The grandfathering option is available to current Commonwealth residents who have qualifying scores from 2002 Series GED tests taken in any state. The program will be in place through December 31, 2015.

Transfer and Articulation

The Acting Deputy Secretary invited Julie Kane, a Higher Education Associate in PDE's Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education, to present an update on the Department's work related to the Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC) website. Ms. Kane provided the following update:

- The statewide college credit transfer system currently consists of:
  - 36 Pennsylvania higher education institutions (14 community colleges, 14 state system and four state-related universities, as well as four independent institutions that elected to join)
  - 944,000 course transfers, including a menu of courses called the "30-Credit Transfer Framework" that are guaranteed to transfer and count toward graduation

- 663 statewide program-to-program articulation agreements that allow students to transition seamlessly from an associate's degree to a bachelor's degree in 25 popular majors

- PA TRAC is a free interactive website (PAcollegetransfer.com) that enables students to easily identify courses and degrees that transfer among the colleges and universities that participate in the statewide transfer system.
- Each year approximately 35,000 people use PA TRAC to:
  - Find out how courses they have taken – or plan to take – transfer
  - Compile their course history from multiple colleges in one place and explore their transfer options
  - Learn about the statewide college credit transfer system and participating colleges
- PDE recently redesigned PA TRAC to include the following features, thus making it even easier for students to take their credits with them when they transfer:
  - A mobile-friendly design that offers 24/7 access from any device, resulting in 33% more table users and 27% more smartphone users visiting the site compared to the same timeframe the year prior
  - Streamlined navigation that guides students and advisors through the transfer process
  - Reformatted and updated content
  - A searchable database that shows students how colleges award credit for subject exams such as Advanced Placement (AP) and CLEP
  - New sections that inform veterans, high school students, and career and technical education students how they may be able to earn credit toward a degree

American College Application Campaign

- The American College Application Campaign (ACAC) is a national effort supported by the American Council on Education (ACE) to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. The primary purpose is to help high school seniors navigate the complex college admissions process and ensure they apply to at least one postsecondary institution. The effort occurs during the school day, with a focus on students who might not otherwise apply to college.
- Pennsylvania is currently in the preparation and training stage for a small pilot of this initiative, with an estimated 10 high schools statewide participating. Intentions are to build on the first year's success in the future.
- Pennsylvania's ACAC week will coincide with the national week: November 10-14, 2014.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Council Chairman Grandon updated the Council on the passage of Act 108 of 2014, which the General Assembly passed in June. The Act provides Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) with greater flexibility in negotiating the amount of funds that sponsoring school districts contribute to the college's annual operating costs and capital expenses in their role as

local sponsors of the institution. Mr. Grandon said the legislation states that such local agreements for the financial support of the college should be set forth in the institution's community college plan and noted that, per the School Code, community college plans and amendments to them must be approved by the State Board. Mr. Grandon said he will provide updates to the Council as information is received from HACC about its plans to address Act 108.

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 1:28 p.m.

Karen Molchanow
Executive Director