

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA  
May 9, 2018**

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education was called to order by Council Chairman Jonathan Peri at 3:13 p.m.

**Attending:**

James Agras <i>(via phone)</i>	Ellie DeWitt	Shirlann Harmon
Andrew Ahr	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Jonathan Peri
James Barker	Donald Fey	James Roebuck <i>(via phone)</i>
Nathan Barrett <i>(via phone)</i>	Pamela Gunter-Smith <i>(via phone)</i>	Karen Farmer White
Nicole Carnicella	Kirk Hallett	A. Lee Williams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 14, 2018, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Gunter-Smith/Carnicella** motion.

**COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Dr. Peri announced that Arynn Pratt was selected as the new junior student member-elect to begin a two-year term on the Council of Higher Education in July. Ms. Pratt attends Cheyney University and will represent the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education on the Board. Dr. Peri went on to congratulate the senior student member of the Council of Higher Education, Andrew Ahr, on his graduation from The Pennsylvania State University. He then thanked Mr. Ahr and Shirlann Harmon, the departing senior student member of the Council of Basic Education, for their service to the Board.

Next, Dr. Peri acknowledged Deputy Secretary Noe Ortega for his report.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY  
POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

Mr. Ortega, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, opened his report by highlighting the mission of the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education and commenting on the importance of postsecondary access both as a means of social mobility and for its contributions to the public good.

The Deputy Secretary then provided updates on the work of the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education (OPHE). He spoke to efforts related to educator effectiveness, including

strategic investments in educator preparation programs to develop year-long clinical residency programs for new teachers and principals with priority given to applicants seeking to improve educator diversity.

Deputy Secretary Ortega next reported on the Department of Education's collaboration with cross-sector leaders from the PA Reach Higher Campaign to develop an aligned, statewide strategy for supporting school counselors.

Mr. Ortega then addressed OPHE's expanded assignment under Act 55 to extend the State College Credit Transfer System to include standards for awarding credit for prior learning, such as AP, IB, CLEP, and DAN TES exams. He reported that the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee approved a process and timeline for the implementation of that assignment. Finally, he reported that subcommittee members are being identified by the respective higher education sectors to review the various exams and determine uniform standards, beginning with the AP and CLEP exams.

The Deputy Secretary next reported that a subcommittee of the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee is beginning to prepare the Committee's 2018 report. He further noted that the Department is using Pennsylvania-specific data to engage the Pennsylvania State Team for Complete College America (CCA) and postsecondary education leaders to determine which college completion strategies can deliver optimal results toward the commonwealth's attainment goal.

Finally, Mr. Ortega reported that applications submitted for Adult Basic Education programming grants were scored by a team of reviewers. He said the Division of Adult Education currently is reviewing the scores to determine which agencies will be awarded funds.

Mr. Ortega then introduced his Executive Assistant, Dan Welsh, for an update regarding the postsecondary attainment goal.

Mr. Welsh reminded the Council that, in 2016, it approved a motion to support the adoption of a statewide postsecondary attainment goal of 60% by 2025. He said the Council's motion required the Department to provide annual and long-term benchmarks before the Board would fully adopt the statewide goal. Mr. Welsh noted that, over the past 18 months, the Department has sought financial support to help accelerate its postsecondary attainment efforts statewide, but has faced difficulty in securing resources because of a lack of full adoption.

Mr. Welsh then presented state-level data that represented three pipelines into the workforce population: high school graduates, the currently-enrolled postsecondary population, and the working adult population ages 25-64. He demonstrated how the historical data accumulated on these groups makes it reasonable to identify trends and patterns and to set annual attainment targets through 2025. He also noted that data available to the Department can be used to geographically and regionally tailor activities to the specific needs of different areas within the Commonwealth. Based on this data, Mr. Welsh identified the priority areas within each of the pipelines he'd described earlier and identified the breakdown of the expected 60% attainment goal by credential type.

Mr. Welsh said that since 2010, Pennsylvania's attainment rate increased from 38% to 45.7%. He noted that in 2014 the estimates began to include non-degree credential holders, which represents approximately 3-3.5% of the population. Mr. Welsh then discussed additional metrics and projections related to regional workforce projections, student subgroup attainment gaps, and the population of adults with some college but no degree that the Department can utilize to strategically focus its efforts to improve postsecondary attainment.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.



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Karen Molchanow  
Executive Director