

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

**Virtual Meeting**

**September 9, 2021**

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education was called to order by Council Chair Dr. Jonathan Peri at 10:06 a.m.

**Attending:**

James Agras	Pamela Gunter Smith	Jonathan Peri
Hon. Carol Aichele	Sarah Jordan	Eva Rankin
Nathan Barrett	Jeffrey Keeling	Hon. Curt Sonney
Jamie Bracey-Green	Hon. Maureen Lally-Green	Taiba Sultana
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Hon. Mark Longietti	Karen Farmer White
Reva Gandhi	Hon. Scott Martin	Lee Williams
		Hon. Lindsey Williams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 14, 2021, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Hon. Lindsey Williams** motion.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

Sandra Dungee Glenn, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day and approved final amendments to Chapter 49 (Certification of Professional Personnel). The Committee transmitted its final amendments to Chapter 49 to the Council of Higher Education for consideration with a recommendation that the Council approve the changes. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the final amendments reflect input from stakeholders through the Committee's review and consideration of public comment on the Board's proposed revisions to the Chapter. She noted that amendments to Chapter 49 would establish new requirements for educator training in culturally relevant and sustaining education, structured literacy, professional ethics. Ms. Dungee Glenn then reviewed the final amendments approved by the Committee. In addition to approving final amendments to Chapter 49, Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Committee also made a number of recommendations to the Department to address related issues that are not directly under the scope of the Chapter. Among those, the Committee recommended that the Department open Chapter 354 for review once changes to Chapter 49 are promulgated, that the Department update the student teaching evaluation, and that the Department explore issues related to reciprocity for experienced teachers who come to Pennsylvania from other states.

## **REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER FOR POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION (OPHE)**

Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Acting Deputy Secretary, provided updates regarding development of a new Master Plan for Higher Education and the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee. She stated that updating the Master Plan for Higher Education will provide an opportunity to develop a roadmap for reaching the Commonwealth's postsecondary attainment goal. Dr. Garcia said Pennsylvania needs to increase credential completion through college affordability and increasing transparency of the value of postsecondary credentials in order to erase equity gaps while innovating and redesigning our postsecondary institutions for today's learners.

Dr. Garcia then shared data presented at the most recent meeting of the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee. She said a study conducted by the U.S. Public Interest Research group in September 2020 showed that postsecondary students continued to skip buying assigned textbooks and access codes to courses online even though they knew it would impact their grade. Dr. Garcia said the study recommended that state policymakers should provide funding for open educational resources (OER) and address inequities in internet and technology access. She noted that Pennsylvania already has taken steps to address these recommendations by providing grants through the State Library to initiate projects on OER and by investing in broadband infrastructure. Dr. Garcia said the study also recommended that institutions continue to build out capacity for OER, add price transparency for course materials into the course catalog during registration, and establish emergency grants for students experiencing unexpected hardships. Dr. Garcia concluded by providing information on the role that student government and student leaders can play in increasing college textbook affordability.

### **PRESENTATION** **ANNUAL HUMAN CAPITAL REPORT**

Dr. Garcia presented the Department's the Annual Human Capital Report in response to a requirement in Chapter 49 that directs the Department to make an annual report on the status of certification in the Commonwealth. The 2021 Annual Human Capital Report was organized around the following four topics: 1) Educator Workforce Update, 2) American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER), 3) 2020-21 Year in Review, and 4) Current and Future Initiatives.

Dr. Garcia reviewed data on high school graduate's postsecondary enrollment patterns and educator preparation program enrollment trends, which demonstrated declining enrollment between 2013-2018 with a current uptick in recent years. She discussed how ARP ESSER funds will help the Department to upgrade the PA Information Management System (PIMS) and Teacher Information Management System (TIMS) to help local education agencies (LEAs) anticipate and plan for staffing needs and to share data with college and university educator preparation programs to better align the postsecondary sector to the needs of our schools. Finally, Dr. Garcia shared that the Department released the new certifications in 2020-21 for Computer Science 7-12, Special Education PK-12, and School Social Worker PK-12. She

concluded by providing a status update on various initiatives, such as Aspiring to Educate, and discussing the focus of OPHE's future initiatives pertaining to educator certification.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**  
**MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr. Peri reported that the Council met jointly with the Master Plan for Higher Education Advisory Committee earlier in the day. He provided an update to the Council on the request for all postsecondary institutions to share their strategic plans or long-range plans for review in development of a new Master Plan. Dr. Peri said 65 institutions submitted documents in response to the request (reflective of 12 community colleges, 7 institutions within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, all four state-related universities, and 42 independent colleges, universities, and proprietary schools). He noted that the morning Working Session of the Council focused on the first strategic priority to be addressed in a new Master Plan – *Increasing Credential Completion to Meet the Commonwealth's Need for Talent*. Dr. Peri highlighted data shared by Dr. Garcia at the Working Session on postsecondary attainment rates both in Pennsylvania and nationally.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Thomas Foley, President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, stated that the Master Plan for Higher Education is a 10-year plan with specific goals to meet in that timeframe. He referenced current federal legislation that would double the amount offered in Pell Grants and said this legislation would provide funding to be able to accomplish many of the goals established in a new Master Plan. Dr. Foley encouraged support of federal legislation to double the amount of Pell Grant awards.

**ACTION ITEM**  
**FINAL-FORM AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 49**

A motion to adopt final-form amendments to Chapter 49 (Certification of Professional Personnel), as recommended by the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee, and to transmit the final-form amendments to the State Board of Education for its consideration was made by Ms. Dungee Glenn and seconded by Dr. Bracey-Green.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. on a **Dungee Glenn/Hon. Lindsey Williams** motion.



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Karen Molchanow  
Executive Director