

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
January 14, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Board of Higher Education (Board) was convened in-person at 607 South Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17120, and virtually via MS Teams on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Act. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Dr. Cynthia Shapira, Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Lubna Mian, Chief of Staff, performed roll call. A quorum of members was present as follows:

Ms. Diane Acri (for Hon. Jesse Topper)	Dr. Christa Heyward
Dr. Brenda Allen	Dr. Kara Laskowski
Dr. Ann Bieber	Mr. Kenneth Long
Ms. Hayley Butler	Dr. Cheryl McConnell
Hon. Jay Costa	Hon. Dr. Pedro A. Rivera
Ms. Gwenn Dando (for Hon. Wayne Langerholc)	Dr. Cynthia Shapira
Ms. Angela Fitterer (for Hon. Dr. Carrie Rowe)	Hon. Paul Takac
Ms. Marylouise Esten	Dr. Michael Wade Smith
Mr. Will Hatcher (for Hon. Nancy Walker)	Mr. Michael G. Warfel
	Mr. Kevin Washo
	Ms. Bobbie Jo Zapor

Absent: Ms. Andrea Shirk

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Byron Fleck addressed the Board and requested that the Board review a proposed resolution in response to the University of Pittsburgh's use of tuition and student fees toward the payment of student athletes.

There were no additional public comments.

IV. WELCOME REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Dr. Shapira announced that the bulk of the meeting would be focused on public comments on the draft strategic plan.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda Item (Minutes from December 19, 2025, meeting)

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to approve the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Fitterer and seconded by Senator Costa.

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

VI. Public Hearing on Draft Strategic Plan

Dr. Kate Shaw, Executive Director, then led the public hearing portion of the discussion.

There were no public questions or comments.

Dr. Shapira reiterated that the public comment period would remain open, and information was available on the Board's [Strategic Plan web page](#).

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dr. Shapira adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 19, 2026