

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

**333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

March 12, 2025

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education (Council) was called to order by the Hon. Pedro Rivera, Chairman of the Council, at 1:24 p.m.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Naina Bhatia
Brenna Chernich
Katherine Christiano
Rep. Bryan Cutler
Aarushi Dedhiya

Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Jeffrey Keeling
Maureen Lally-Green
Robert Mitchell

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Monica Taylor
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams
Sen. Lindsey Williams
Benjamin Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 14, 2024, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Hetrick** motion.

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

Dr. Lynette Kuhn, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided an update on initiatives within the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education. Dr. Kuhn discussed various initiatives, including PA MASLOW, It's On Us, the EmpowerU: Postsecondary Student Support Online Resource Clearinghouse, parent pathways grants, and dual credit innovation grants. She also provided an update on FAFSA completion rates and plans for returning the processing of state grant applications by PHEAA to the Legacy system. Dr. Kuhn also shared updates from the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality on the approval of apprenticeship programs, the pilot of an updated PDE-430, and plans for the next PDE Advancing Together Summit to bring together school administrators and higher education deans from educator preparation programs.

Sen. Lindsey Williams noted that the State Board of Higher Education will hold public hearings on its strategic plan shortly and asked if the State Board of Education would be invited to attend. Sen. Williams also requested that Dr. Kuhn provide an update about the Department's discussions with The Pennsylvania State University regarding its announcement of the closures of branch campuses across the commonwealth. Dr. Kuhn responded that a meeting is scheduled with Dr. Neeli Bendapudi on March 19, 2025, and that she would provide an update at the next Council meeting. Sen. Williams also expressed disagreement with the meeting format being livestreamed on PAcast and objected to public comments not being permitted via Zoom or on the phone.

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 1:42 p.m. on a **Hetrick/Mitchell** motion.



Michelle Simmons
Administrative Assistant