

**Board of Governors  
Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education**

**Meeting Minutes**

297th Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
9:00 a.m.  
Hilton Harrisburg Hotel

**ATTENDING**

**Board of Governors:**

Senator David Argall  
Representative Tim Briggs  
Deputy Secretary Steve D'Ettorre, Designee for Acting Secretary of Policy and Planning, Akbar Hossain  
Deputy Secretary Tanya Garcia, Designee for Acting Secretary of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin  
William A. Gindlesperger  
Abigail Hancox  
Darrek Harshberger  
Allison Jones  
Daniel Klingerman  
Marian Moskowitz  
Representative Brad Roae  
Senator Judith Schwank  
Cynthia D. Shapira (Chair)  
Larry C. Skinner (Vice Chair)  
Samuel H. Smith (Vice Chair)  
Skylar Walder  
Neil Weaver

Also in attendance was Faculty Liaison, Dr. Amanda Morris.

Chair Cindy Shapira called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance taken at the direction of Chair Shapira established that a quorum of the Board was present.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS** (Full remarks in video archive)

Chair Shapira extended a warm welcome to all participants and introduced the newly appointed members to the Board of Governors. Chair Shapira remarked that there is now a full complement of members, all 20 seats are now filled.

Chair Shapira reviewed the agenda and other business items for discussion and action. She noted that the Board Workshops held yesterday were of immense value and wealth of information and thanked all who presented and participated in the sessions.

Chair Shapira addressed the recent racist social media posting by a student at IUP and thanked President Driscoll, the IUP community and the System leaders for their thoughtful and quick response to mitigate the issue. She said that such actions of hatred are not indicative of the type of inclusive communities the System is fostering and will not be tolerated. Additional comments were also shared by Senator Schwank and President Driscoll.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **REMARKS BY PACT** (Full remarks in video archive)

Dr. Rich Frerichs, PACT President and Vice Chair, Millersville University Council of Trustees, thanked the System leaders and university presidents for their overall support of the PACT and the opportunity to attend yesterday's workshops.

Dr. Frerichs provided an update on the changes to the PACT leadership and its board, and other business that the PACT will be addressing in the coming months.

## **REMARKS BY UNION LEADERS** (Full remarks in video archive)

APSCUF President – Dr. Kenneth Mash

SCUPA President – Frances Cortez Funk

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Shapira moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2022
- Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2022
- Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2022
- Standing Committee Assignments
- Three-year meeting calendar

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

## **REMARKS BY CHANCELLOR AND STAFF** (Full remarks in video archive)

Chancellor Greenstein and respective staff offered remarks on the following items included in the meeting materials:

- **Insights on Innovation** – Ms. Hope Lineman, Strategic Advisor on Workforce Innovation led the discussion and presentation from the Burning Glass Institute representatives, Dr. Courtney McBeth, SVP and Chief Program Officer, Strada Education Network, and Mr. Matt Sigelman, President, The Burning Glass Institute. Additional discussion and presentation was offered by Dr. Joshua Battin, Senior Associate Dean for Public Safety Training Institute and Workforce Development, Commonwealth University; and Sylvester Williams, Dean of the College of Business Management, East Stroudsburg University.

- **Update on one-time ARP funds investment** – Update provided by Molly Mercer, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Chancellor
- **Update on Board Approved Metrics (BAMs)** – Update provided by Dr. Kate Akers, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Data Officer, Office of the Chancellor
- **Update on DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) review of system-level policies** – Update provided by Dr. Denise Pearson, Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer.

**BOARD CONSIDERATION** (Full remarks in video archive)

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD – INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

Chancellor Greenstein gave an overview of the resolution's purpose, which is to support the System's work and provide the necessary tools and resources to foster inclusive communities for all System university campuses and its students. Chair Shapira said the resolution's purpose is also an expression of the Board's expectations of managing such policies that support an inclusive environment for the System and its universities.

**MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVES THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION STATEMENT:**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT PASSHE UNIVERSITIES AND/OR THE SYSTEM OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND PROCEDURES THAT PROMOTE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF REGARDLESS OF THEIR RACE, COLOR, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, DISABILITY, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. SYSTEM-LEVEL AND/OR UNIVERSITY-LEVEL POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND PROCEDURES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

- NON-DISCRIMINATION
- STUDENT CONDUCT
- EXPECTATIONS OF CIVILITY
- PROTECTION OF MINORS
- AMOROUS RELATIONS

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CHANCELLOR, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENTS, SHALL SEEK TO ACHIEVE COMMONALITY IN LANGUAGE AMONG THE VARIOUS POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND PROCEDURES DEVELOPED TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION.**

Voice Vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

**RATIFICATION OF SIDE LETTER WITH APSCUF FACULTY**

Brian Mbuu, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Labor Relations,, provided a brief overview of the agreement,that will create a process for PennWest and Commonwealth faculty to request a change to their primary work location at the consolidated university.

**MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS RATIFY THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT SIDE LETTER AND AUTHORIZE THE CHANCELLOR TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS.**

Voice Vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM PRESIDENT FOR PENN WEST** (Full remarks in video archive)  
Chair Shapira thanked Dr. Dale Elizabeth Pehrsson for her leadership not only as President of Clarion, but Penn West University and for navigating through the integration process.

As a result of Dr. Dale’s transition into a new role in the System office, the Board appointed Dr. Lorraine “Laurie” Bernotsky, Executive Vice President of West Chester University, as Interim President of PennWest University.

**MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT DR. LAURIE BERNOTSKY AS INTERIM PRESIDENT OF PENNWEST UNIVERSITY EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023, AND AUTHORIZES THE BOARD CHAIR AND CHANCELLOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS**

Voice Vote. No opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Bernotsky thanked the Board for their action today, and assured the Board and System leaders that she is committed to ensuring success across Penn West’s three campuses. Chancellor Greenstein noted that Dr. Bernotsky will assume the duties of Acting President on March 1 so that she and Dr. Pehrsson can affect a smooth transition.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 11:26 a.m.

For the record, the Board met in executive session on February 15, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. to discuss contractual and personnel matters and on February 16, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

**ATTEST:**

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Randy A. Goin, Ph.D.  
Deputy Chancellor

Meeting webcast is available here: [BOG Meeting 2-16-23 - YouTube](#)