

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

**Meeting Minutes**

309th Meeting  
Thursday, October 10, 2024  
9:00 a.m.  
Alexander Grass Campus for Jewish Life  
Harrisburg, PA

**ATTENDING**

**Board of Governors:**

Robert W. Bogle  
Representative Tim Briggs  
Dr. Quintin Bullock  
Richard Caruso  
William Gindlesperger  
Abigail Hancox, student member  
David Maser (Vice Chair)  
Katie Merritt, Designee for Governor Shapiro  
Representative Brad Roae  
Mark-handy Phanor, student member  
Ali Sina Sharifi, student member  
Dr. Kate Shaw, Designee for Secretary of Education  
Senator Judith Schwank  
Dr. Cynthia D. Shapira (Chair)  
Samuel H. Smith (Vice Chair)  
Dr. Robert Traynham  
Secretary Neil R. Weaver

Also, in attendance was Faculty Liaison, Dr. Tina Chiarelli-Helminiak.

Chair Cindy Shapira called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 welcomed all in attendance, reviewed the meeting agenda and extended appreciation to the staff at the Alexander Grass Campus for hosting our meeting.

Chair Shapira reflected on the start of the academic year and remarked on the dedication of faculty and staff. She said the downward slide in overall enrollment since 2018 has leveled out. On average, PASSHE had been losing 3,000 students every year over the last decade. This fall, universities reduced that number to around 180. What's more, graduate enrolment is up, transfer enrollment is up, and student retention is likewise anticipated to show improvement.

She said that students' experiences at a PASSHE university will forever change lives. Finally, she noted the Board's October meeting would be Chancellor Greenstein's last meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Full remarks in video archive)

- Dr. Heather Garrison, former professor, East Stroudsburg University
- Dr. Rose Heilman-Houser, faculty, Slippery Rock University
- Dr. Timothy Miller, retired faculty, Millersville University
- Dr. Jeremy Carbo, faculty, Shippensburg University
- Dr. Stephen Oross, faculty, Kutztown University
- Alumnus, Shippensburg University
- Dr. Jill Craven, professor, Millersville University

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

- Rita Miller, Vice President, SCUPA
- Mike Sukal, President, AFSCME
- Dr. Ken Mash, President, APSCUF

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

- Dr. Rich Frerichs, President, PA Association of Councils of Trustees

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

- Meeting minutes of July 11, 2024, and July 17, 2024
- Reappointment of student board member Abigail Hancox
- Committee assignments – Student Success; University Success; Governance and Leadership; Audit, Compliance, and Risk
- PennWest property disposition of 724 Orchard Street, California, PA
- Audited financial statements (information only)

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

**2024-25 SYSTEM PRIORITIES** (Full remarks in video archive)

Chancellor Greenstein presented priorities, reminding the Board the priorities are grounded in the needs of the state. 60% of today's jobs require someone with postsecondary education, but only 51% of Pennsylvanians have a degree. The system's redesign had two goals: 1) financial sustainability and 2) getting more students into and through postsecondary education. The size of the high school leaving population is shrinking. If PASSHE only focuses on the population, not the mission, PASSHE cannot serve the state's needs. PASSHE universities must continue to serve the traditional population well and better, but it must also serve others.

A few years ago, the Board identified 5 priorities for a three-year period. System-level priorities for 2024-25 include: 1) Expanding student opportunity, 2) Improving learner outcomes, 3) Stabilizing financially, 4) Investing in people, and 5) Investing in infrastructure. A couple of highlights: A student information system enables students to benefit from courses systemwide and moving students into and through postsecondary education requires equipping faculty and staff to work effectively for the benefit of student success.

Greenstein said PASSHE can't achieve its objectives unless universities include all Pennsylvanians. They must feel welcomed and supported. We've had tremendous support in the legislature in ensuring that we're focused in that vital way. He acknowledged Senator Haywood's work in this regard.

On behalf of the Governor's office, Katie Merrit shared remarks, reminding the Board that students must feel safe and empowered on PASSHE campuses and should foster an environment where everyone can learn from each other. As an Administration, it encourages all universities to embrace Sen. Haywood's January 2024 report.

**GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE** (Full remarks in video archive)

Roll call was conducted at the request of Committee Chair Smith, and the following members were present: David Maser, Abigail Hancox, Teresa Hoffert (Designee for Senator Judith Schwank), Cynthia Shapira (ex-officio), Robert Traynham, and President Karen Riley.

Based on input from the university president of Kutztown University, and the Office of the Chancellor, the Committee recommended the student appointment to the University Council of Trustees.

**MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HEREBY APPOINT PAYTON MENTZER TO THE KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.**

Voice vote of the committee. No opposition. The motion passed.

**UNIVERSITY SUCCESS COMMITTEE** (Full remarks in video archive)

Roll call was conducted at the request of Committee Chair Bullock, and the following members were present: Neil Weaver, Richard Caruso, William Gindlesperger, Katie Merritt (Designee for Governor Shapiro), Brad Roae, Ali Sina Sharifi, and President Charles Patterson.

**MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FY 2024-25 FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGETS FOR STATE SYSTEM UNIVERSITIES AND OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR AS PRESENTED.**

Voice vote of the committee. No opposition. The motion passed.

**MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FY 2024-25 CAPITAL SPENDING PLAN AS PRESENTED.**

Voice vote of the committee. No opposition. The motion passed.

**MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE 2025-26 EDUCATION AND GENERAL (E&G) APPROPRIATION REQUEST OF 6.5% INCREASE TOTALLING \$661.1 MILLION WITH THE CONSIDERATION TO MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.**

Voice vote of the committee. No opposition. The motion passed.

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

**MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ACTIONS AS PRESENTED:**

- **FY 2024-25 final annual operating budgets:** The Board approved the FY 2024-25 final annual operating budgets for State System universities and Office of the Chancellor. In July 2024, the Board of Governors approved preliminary budgetary information. Universities have since finalized their FY 2024-25 budgets, reflecting the following updates from the July preliminary budgets: final appropriation allocation and tuition data; fall enrollment census data; and subsequent determinations of revenues and expenditures.
- **FY 2024-25 capital spending plan:** The Board approved the FY 2024-25 capital spending plan. Earlier this year, the universities provided input for the capital spending plan in accordance with Policy 2000-02-A: Capital Facilities Planning, Programming, and Funding, and the procedures in volume IV of the State System's Facilities Manual. Projects submitted were evaluated, prioritized, and compiled into the spending plan, considering various elements. The General Assembly previously authorized most projects in this spending plan in capital itemization acts. Projects that may need authorization, upon Board approval, will be submitted in the next itemization act.
- **FY 2025-26 appropriation request:** The Board approved a FY 2025-26 Education and General (E&G) appropriation request of \$661.1 million, an increase of \$40.3 million (or 6.5%), to continue the focus on student affordability while acknowledging the increasing costs due to current and projected inflation. In the development of the appropriation request, the System considered the overall financial sustainability of its universities, the need to continue to operate in alignment with the Board of Governors sustainability objectives, and the need to maintain student affordability given the revenue sources for these functions.
- **Appointment of student trustee:** The Board appointed Payton Mentzer to the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

**POLICY UPDATES** (Full remarks in video archive)

Dr. Denise Pearson presented updates to policies 2021-01: Faculty Council; 2000-03-A: Emeritus status; 1984:12-A: Honorary degrees; 1986-13-A: Presidential appointments; and 1983-14-A: Interim CEOs. The revisions reflect the recommendations of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which facilitated a formal process of reviewing all Board policies to support the development and maintenance of an equitable State System through its policies, standards, and procedures.

**MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO POLICIES AS PRESENTED.**

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHANCELLOR** (Full remarks in video archive)

Board of Governor's Policy 1983-14-A: Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executives provides for the temporary appointment of an interim chancellor by the Board until a permanent chancellor is appointed by the Board following a national search.

**MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPOINT DR. CHRIS FIORENTINO AS INTERIM CHANCELLOR, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 11, 2024.**

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

**FACULTY LIAISON REMARKS** (Full remarks in video archive) Dr. Tina Chiarelli-Helminiak offered remarks acknowledging public comment from several current and retired university faculty. She also highlighted the importance of addressing student mental health and extended appreciation to Chancellor Greenstein for including a faculty voice on the Board.

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

See Chancellor's Blog, "[The choices we make.](#)"

**RESOLUTIONS** (Full remarks in video archive)

- Katie Merrit, Assistant Deputy Secretary, presented a letter from Governor Shapiro commending Chancellor Greenstein's service.
- Student Governors Ali Sina Sharifi, Abigail Hancox, and Mark-Handy Phanor of the Board thanked Chancellor Greenstein for his servant leadership.
- Representatives Briggs and Roae presented a legislative citation, commenting that Chancellor Greenstein has been an excellent ambassador for PASSHE. Rep. Briggs thanked Chancellor Greenstein for his contributions to the system. (Likewise, Senators Schwank and Argall presented a legislative citation at an earlier gathering.)
- Board chair Cindy Shapiro presented a resolution commending Chancellor Greenstein for his leadership and naming him Chancellor Emeritus.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

For the record, Chair Shapira reported that the Board of Governors met in executive session on October 11 at 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and legal matters.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Randy A. Goin, Ph.D.  
Deputy Chancellor

Meeting webcast is available here: [BOG Meeting 10-11-24](#)