

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

**Meeting Minutes**

310th Meeting  
Thursday, February 6, 2025  
9:00 a.m.  
VIA ZOOM

(Note: the meeting was moved online due to inclement weather)

**ATTENDING**

**Board of Governors:**

Representative Tim Briggs  
Dr. Quintin Bullock  
Dr. Brandon Danz  
Steve D'Ettorre, Designee for Governor Shapiro  
William Gindlesperger  
Abigail Hancox, student member  
Senator Art Haywood  
Lynette Kuhn, Designee for Acting Secretary of Education  
David Maser (Vice Chair)  
Mark-handy Phanor, student member  
Representative Brad Roae  
Dr. Cynthia D. Shapira (Chair)  
Ali Sina Sharifi, student member  
Samuel H. Smith (Vice Chair)  
Dr. Robert Traynham  
Cindy Urban, Designee for Senator Lynda Culver  
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 was 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 two new legislative appointments to the Board: Senators Linda Schlegel Culver, Majority Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and Art Haywood, Minority Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. They succeed Senators Dave Argall and Judy Schwank, who recently completed their service to the State System. Shapira also announced new designees for Secretary of Education and Governor positions: Lynette Kuhn and Steve D'Ettorre. Finally, she mentioned this was the first meeting under Interim Chancellor Fiorentino's leadership.

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

Chair Shapiro read resolutions honoring the service of Senators Dave Argall and Judy Schwank.

### **MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTIONS.**

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (None)**

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

- a. Dr. Ken Mash, President, APSCUF

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Shapiro thanked university leadership, staff, and faculty for their dedication. She remarked that Governor Shapiro's budget proposal endorses PASSHE's request for a 6.5% funding increase, enabling PASSHE to freeze tuition again.

- a. Meeting minutes of October 10, 2024
- b. 2027 Board of Governors meeting calendar: February 10-11, April 14-15, July 14-15, and October 13-14
- c. Various side letters: APSCUF regarding the Enhanced Sick Leave Payout, SCUPA regarding Dues Deduction, and Chancellor's authorization to execute related documents
- d. Policy updates:
  1. 1986-04-A: Program Review
  2. 2009-02: Acceptable Use of Technology

### **MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED WITH ONE CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES.**

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

## **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, Cynthia Shapira (ex-officio), Robert Traynham, and President Karen Riley.

Based on input from the university president of IUP 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 JACKSON WHITE TO THE IUP COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.**

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

Based on input from the university president of PennWest, 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 TIMOTHY MARCUS TO THE PENNWEST COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.**

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

**REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR** (Full remarks in video archive)

Interim Chancellor Chris Fiorentino emphasized his commitment to advancing public higher education while guiding the State System in its search for a new chancellor. He thanked the System office staff for their support during his transition.

Regarding Governor Shapiro's budget request, Fiorentino expressed appreciation for the funding that could help freeze tuition for another year. Fiorentino highlighted enrollment stability and financial sustainability improvements, ensuring that PASSHE continues to provide affordable higher education that prepares graduates for high-demand jobs.

Finally, Fiorentino introduced Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs to present information on a voluntary faculty training initiative aimed at enhancing universities' efforts to increase the availability of courses for students across the State System. Dr. James Fisher, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at PennWest University, explained that the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) faculty development opportunity provides research-backed teaching certifications in higher education endorsed by the American Council on Education. The certification program equips faculty with evidence-based practices to engage students more effectively and promote deeper learning, which has been shown to improve student grades and retention rates.

**PASSHE FOUNDATION ANNUAL UPDATE** (Full remarks in video archive)

Dr. Shelley Scherer, President, highlighted the Foundation's mission and impact while outlining future plans. The Foundation focuses on securing funding to support the System's goals and university priorities and administering programs that assist students.

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

The Board unanimously approved the following student trustee appointments:

- a. Jackson White to the IUP Council of Trustees
- b. Timothy Marcus to the PennWest University Council of Trustees

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

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS** (None)**ADJOURNMENT**

For the record, Chair Shapira reported that the Board of Governors met in executive session on December 4 at 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to discuss contractual matters and February 5 at 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and legal matters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Randy A. Goin, Ph.D.  
Deputy Chancellor

Meeting webcast is available here: [BOG Meeting 2-6-25](#)