

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

Meeting Minutes

311th Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Alexander Grass Campus

ATTENDING:

Board of Governors:

Robert W. Bogle
Representative Tim Briggs
Dr. Quintin Bullock
Richard Caruso
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)
Marian Moskowitz
Mark-handy Phanor, student member
Representative Brad Roae
Dr. Cynthia D. Shapira (Chair)
Samuel H. Smith (Vice Chair)
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 reflected that the academic year is wrapping up. To graduating students, she encouraged them to stay focused and thanked the faculty and staff for their daily efforts in supporting students. She expressed appreciation for the work done at the Capitol to secure funding that keeps PASSHE universities affordable. She also updated the Board on the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), which is working to enhance coordination across sectors.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Full remarks in video archive)

- Dr. Stephen Oross, Kutztown University
- Dr. Jill Craven, Millersville University
- Linda Zuniga, student, Kutztown University

REMARKS BY UNION LEADERS (Full remarks in video archive)

- Dr. Ken Mash, President, APSCUF

CONSENT AGENDA

- Meeting minutes – February 6, 2025
- Committee assignments
- Authorization to issue refunding bonds in FY 2025/26
- Loan repayment schedule adjustment
- Quarterly report of academic program changes (provided as information only)

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

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

ALI ZAIDI AWARD (Full remarks in video archive)

Student Success Committee Chair Maser moderated the 2025 Ali Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence presentation. The Board of Governors honored Kutztown University student and Pennsylvania Air National Guard Staff Sergeant [Aidan La Penta as the 2025 Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence recipient](#). He was also presented with a \$2,500 award. Funding for this academic excellence award was made possible through gifts from Dr. Ali-Zaidi, Highmark Inc., and the State System Foundation, Inc.

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), and President Karen Riley (non-voting president liaison).

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HEREBY APPOINT AINSLEE GREEN TO THE ESU COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.

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

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HEREBY APPOINT AIDEN DOUGAN TO THE PENNWEST COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.

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

BOARD CONSIDERATION (Full remarks in video archive)

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

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR & STAFF (Full remarks in video archive)

Interim Chancellor Chris Fiorentino introduced Natalie Cartwright, Advanced Data Analytics Director and Chief Data Officer, to share insights about enrollment patterns and market share. Interim Chancellor Chris Fiorentino then commented on the power and promise of the State System.

FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT (Full remarks in video archive)

Dr. Tina Chiarelli-Helminiak reflected on her role as a faculty liaison, noting she considers her time as faculty liaison a career highlight.

CHANCELLOR SEARCH (Full remarks in video archive)

Chair Shapira announced that the Board completed its nine-month search for a new chancellor. She expressed gratitude to the hundreds of students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, union leaders, elected officials, and others who participated in the process. The search attracted a talented and diverse pool of candidates, more than half of whom were recent or current presidents and chancellors from around the nation. After interviewing the final candidates recommended by the search committee, the Board identified interim chancellor Dr. Chris Fiorentino as “the right person at the right time,” to quote Shapira. This appointment will help continue PASSHE’s forward momentum as it works to be a premier higher education system, she remarked. She said Fiorentino is a proven leader with an undeniable passion for the role.

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. CHRISTOPHER FIORENTINO AS THE CHANCELLOR OF PASSHE EFFECTIVE APRIL 11, 2025.

Roll call vote. 17 voted yes and 1 voted no. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS (None)**ADJOURNMENT**

For the record, Chair Shapira reported that the Board of Governors met in executive session on April 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. to discuss personnel, legal and contractual matters.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randy A. Goin, Ph.D.
Deputy Chancellor

Meeting webcast is available here: [BOG Meeting 4-10-2025](#)