

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

313th Meeting
Thursday, July 17, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Alexander Grass Campus

ATTENDING:

Board of Governors:

Robert W. Bogle
Representative Tim Briggs
Richard Caruso
Dr. Brandon Danz
William Gindlesperger
Abigail Hancox, student member
Jude Husein, Designee for Senator Art Haywood
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)
Cindy Urban, Designee for Senator Lynda Culver

Also, in attendance was Faculty Liaison, Dr. Jamie Phillips.

Chair Cindy Shapira called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

CHAIR'S REMARKS (Full remarks in video archive)

Chair Shapira called the meeting to order and welcomed the new president of Kutztown University, Dr. Phil Cavalier. She also welcomed Dr. Jamie Phillips back as the faculty liaison. Chair Shapira reminded the audience that the Board had approved Dr. Chris Fiorentino as chancellor at its April meeting. Before proceeding with the oath of office, she acknowledged Chancellor Fiorentino's wife, Dr. Sue Fiorentino.

OATH OF OFFICE (Full remarks in video archive)

Chair Shapira administered the oath of office to Chancellor Chris Fiorentino.

REMARKS BY CHANCELLOR (Full remarks in video archive)

Chancellor Fiorentino expressed gratitude to supporters of PASSHE's mission, thanked faculty, staff and university leaders for their contributions, acknowledged PASSHE's partnership with the Administration and General Assembly, and recognized union leaders and students.

In the fall, Chancellor Fiorentino will travel to all PASSHE universities to gather insights from students, faculty, and staff regarding the system's emerging priorities. He aims to maximize and fully realize the benefits of system redesign and is focused on ensuring that every PASSHE

student succeeds. His passion for running inspires him to help students run their race and maybe change the world as they do it.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

BOARD CONSIDERATION (Full remarks in video archive)

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES AN UNDERGRADUATE TUITION INCREASE OF \$139 PER SEMESTER AND THE CORRESPONDING BASE GRADUATE TUITION IN ACCORDANCE TO POLICY AND COMMITTED TO ROLLING BACK THE TUITION INCREASE IF SUFFICIENT FINDING IS RECEIVED IN THE APPROPRIATION.

Roll call vote. 13 voted yes and 1 voted no. The motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS (Full remarks in video archive)

Chair Shapira presented Dr. Tina Chiarelli-Helminiak, former faculty liaison to the Board of Governors, and Dr. Kenneth Hawkinson, who recently retired as president of Kutztown University, with resolutions honoring their contributions to their universities and the Board of Governors and advancing the cause of public higher education and the State System.

REMARKS BY UNION LEADERS (Full remarks in video archive)

- Dr. Mario Majcen, APSCUF, on behalf of President Ken Mash

CONSENT AGENDA

- Meeting minutes – April 10, 2025 and April 30, 2025
- Committee assignments – Sen. Linda Schlegel-Culver is added to the Student Success Committee
- Update to Policy 1988-04-A *Cooperating Faculty Stipend*
- Academic program changes – The informational material indicates academic program changes since last quarter.

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

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: Cynthia Shapira (ex-officio) and President Karen Riley (non-voting president liaison).

Act 50 of 2020 empowers the Board of Governors to appoint students to serve on the Councils of Trustees for universities within the State System. The universities utilize a thorough and inclusive recruiting process to identify and vet potential candidates and recommend student trustee appointments.

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

UNIVERSITY SUCCESS COMMITTEE (Full remarks in video archive)

Roll call was conducted at the request of Chair Shapira on behalf of Committee Chair Bullock, and the following members were present: Rich Caruso, Brandon Danz, William Gindlesberger, Brad Roae, Ali Sina Sharifi, and President Charles Patterson (non-voting president liaison).

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 PRELIMINARY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE STATE SYSTEM UNIVERSITIES AND OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR, REFLECTED IN ATTACHMENT 1.

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

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY'S REQUEST TO RENOVATE AND EXPAND SOUTH CAMPUS APARTMENT BUILDINGS USING \$92.1 MILLION IN SYSTEM BOND FINANCING; AND THAT THE BOARD APPROVES KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY'S REQUEST TO RENOVATE JOHNSON HALL USING \$20.0 MILLION IN STATE SYSTEM BOND FINANCING; AND THAT THE BOARD ADOPTS THE ATTACHED "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS" UP TO \$114.0 MILLION IN BONDS IN ONE OR MORE SERIES; AND THAT THE BOARD ADOPTS THE ATTACHED "RESOLUTION DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT BONDS."

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

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD DELEGATES TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THE APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATION ALLOCATION FOR THE UNIVERSITIES AND SYSTEMWIDE INITIATIVES TO BE FUNDED BY FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL APPROPRIATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SYSTEM'S FORMULA.

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

BOARD CONSIDERATION (Full remarks in video archive)

MOTION: GOV. SMITH MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HEREBY APPOINT MORGAN EASON TO THE CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.

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

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 PRELIMINARY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE STATE SYSTEM UNIVERSITIES AND OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR, REFLECTED IN ATTACHMENT 1.

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

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BOARD ADOPTS THE ATTACHED “RESOLUTION DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT BONDS.”

Roll call vote. 11 voted yes and 1 voted no. The motion passed.

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD DELEGATES TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THE APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATION ALLOCATION FOR THE UNIVERSITIES AND SYSTEMWIDE INITIATIVES TO BE FUNDED BY FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL APPROPRIATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SYSTEM’S FORMULA.

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY INTERIM PRESIDENT

(Full remarks in video archive)

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JEFFREY OSGOOD AS THE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2025 AND AUTHORIZES THE CHAIR AND CHANCELLOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

OFFICER ELECTIONS (Full remarks in video archive)

Governor Gindlesperger moderated the Board Officers Elections based upon the bylaws.

MOTION: GOV. GINDLESPERGER MOVED THAT THE BOARD REELECT CINDY SHAPIRA AS CHAIR AND SAM SMITH AND DAVID MASER AS VICE CHAIRS.

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

For the record, Chair Shapira reported that the Board of Governors met in executive session on July 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randy A. Goin, Ph.D.
Deputy Chancellor

Meeting webcast is available here: [BOG Meeting 7-17-2025](#)