

Board of Governors
Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education
Meeting Minutes
314th Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Slippery Rock University

ATTENDING:

Board of Governors:

Dr. James Ayrton, Designee for Secretary of Education
Robert Bogle
Representative Tim Briggs
Dr. Quintin Bullock
Richard Caruso
William Gindlesperger
Abigail Hancox, student member
Senator Art Haywood
David Maser (Vice Chair)
Katharine Paisley, Designee for the Governor
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 Schlegel Culver
Secretary Neil Weaver

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

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

Attendance was taken; a quorum of the Board was present.

WELCOME BY HOST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Dr. Karen Riley, the 18th president of Slippery Rock University, welcomed the Board of Governors and outlined the university's goals to become the top choice for students and employers. (Full remarks in video archive)

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Cindy Shapira thanked President Riley for hosting the meeting and announced that this fall, PASSHE has seen its first systemwide enrollment increase in more than a decade, with universities reporting growth and improvements in retention rates. *(Full remarks in video archive.)*

REMARKS BY UNION LEADERS

- Dr. Ken Mash, President, on behalf of the Association of Pennsylvania State College & University Faculties (Full remarks in video archive)

REMARKS BY PACT PRESIDENT

- Dr. Rich Frerichs, President, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees *(Full remarks in video archive)*

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Voice vote. No opposition. The motion passed.

REMARKS BY CHANCELLOR

Chancellor Chris Fiorentino thanked the staff for their hospitality and support during his campus visits. For the first time in over a decade, system enrollment has increased this fall, said Chancellor Fiorentino. With nearly 90% of students coming from the commonwealth, PASSHE is the top choice for in-state students. Underrepresented minority enrollment stands at 22%, the highest level since 2004, and transfer enrollment has increased significantly due to collaboration between community colleges and PASSHE universities. Retention rates have reached a record 81%, driven by data-driven strategies. Chancellor Fiorentino also outlined PASSHE's long-term priorities, including expanding student opportunities, improving outcomes, stabilizing finances, and investing in people and infrastructure. Short-term goals focus on optimizing academics, finances, and engagement.

(Full remarks in video archive)

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Roll call was conducted at the request of Committee Chair Smith, and the following members were present: Abigail Hancox, Cynthia Shapira (ex-officio) and President Karen Riley (non-voting president liaison).

MOTION: GOVERNOR HANCOX MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPOINTS NATHAN BRINKER TO THE COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.

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

UNIVERSITY SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Roll call was conducted at the request of Committee Chair Bullock, and the following members were present: Neil Weaver, Rich Caruso, William Gindlesberger, Katharine Paisley, Brad Roae, Ali Sina Sharifi, Cynthia Shapira (ex-officio) and President Charles Patterson (non-voting president liaison).

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 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 THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 CAPITAL SPENDING PLAN AND REVISIONS AS PRESENTED.

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

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES A FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 E&G APPROPRIATION REQUEST OF A 5% INCREASE (AS PRESENTED).

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 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE AND UNIVERSITY SUCCESS COMMITTEE ACTIONS AS PRESENTED:

- Student trustee appointment
- Budget
- Capital plan
- Appropriations request

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

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD RATIFIES THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE PASSHE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AND AUTHORIZES THE CHANCELLOR AND THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS.

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

ADJOURNMENT

For the record, Chair Shapira reported that the Board met in executive session on October 15 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randy A. Goin, Ph.D.
Deputy Chancellor

Meeting webcast is available here: [BOG Meeting 10-16-2025](#)