

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

318th Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2026
9:00 a.m.

System Office | 2300 Vartan Way Suite 207 | Harrisburg, PA 17110

ATTENDING:

Board of Governors:

Robert W. Bogle
Representative Tim Briggs
Dr. Quintin Bullock
Richard Caruso
Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver or Designee
Dr. Brandon Danz
William Gindlesperger
Senator Art Haywood or Designee
Brenna McGowan, student member
Representative Brad Roae
Dr. Cynthia D. Shapira (Chair)
Ali Sina Sharifi, student member
Sade Taylor, student member
Samuel H. Smith (Vice Chair)
Dr. Robert Traynham

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

Chair Cindy Shapira called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

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

Chair Cindy Shapira thanked faculty and staff for their work in supporting our students, 90% of whom come from Pennsylvania, with nearly 80% choosing to remain in the state after graduation. She expressed satisfaction with the progress made in advancing strategic priorities over the past year. All goals set for the year have been met, and initiatives have been completed or are on track for completion.

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

Dr. Michael Maguire, Legislative Director for AFSCME 13, on behalf of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Dr. Ken Mash, President, on behalf of the Association of Pennsylvania State College & University Faculties

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

Angèle Stoebener, President, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees

PUBLIC COMMENT *(Full remarks in video archive)*

None

CONSENT AGENDA *(Full remarks in video archive)*

- Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2026
- Committee Assignments - Sade Taylor, a PennWest student, was appointed to the Student Success Committee, while Brenna McGowan, a Kutztown student, was appointed to the Governance and Leadership Committee.
- Bond Refunding - Authorizes future issuance of refunding bonds when market conditions permit and after the executive vice chancellor consults with the chair of the University Success Committee.
- FYI (no action required): Academic program changes

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: Brenna McGowan, Cynthia Shapira (ex-officio), Robert Traynham, and President Karen Riley (non-voting president liaison).

MOTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPOINTS KELLI GRAHAM TO THE COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES.

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

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

Chancellor Chris Fiorentino emphasized the need to challenge long-standing assumptions and embrace change to fulfill PASSHE's mission. Efforts will focus on improving affordability, expanding access, and enhancing the value of a PASSHE education.

Regarding ADA compliance, the Chancellor reported progress in strengthening accessibility efforts through collaboration with campuses and experts, including the standardization of documents and the improvement of processes.

Finally, he discussed the PASSHE Pledge, a new student affordability and accessibility initiative that, starting in Fall 2027, ensures that all in-state undergraduate students receiving Federal Pell Grants and PA State Grants will receive a last-dollar scholarship covering the remaining tuition costs. This initiative aims to boost enrollment and retention, ultimately helping to address Pennsylvania's projected workforce shortage of 218,000 workers by 2032.

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE PASSHE PLEDGE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED.

Voice vote of the Board. 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 ACTIONS AS PRESENTED.

- Student trustee appointment

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

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS PRESENTED.

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

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 EDUCATIONAL & GENERAL APPROPRIATION ALLOCATION AS PRESENTED.

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

MOTION: CHAIR SHAPIRA MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE 2026-27 TUITION RATE INCREASE OF \$172 PER SEMESTER FOR IN-STATE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, AND THE CORRESPONDING BASE TUITION RATE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS, AS WELL AS TENTATIVE TUITION RATES FOR 2027-28, IN ACCORDNACE WITH POLICY, AND COMMIT TO ROLL BACK THE TUITION RATE INCREASE IF SUFFICIENT FUNDING IN STATE APPROPRIATION IS RECEIVED.

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

RESOLUTION HONORING SERVICE (*Full Remarks in video archive*)

Dr. Jamie Martin, the Immediate Past President of APSCUF, was awarded a posthumous honor for her substantial contributions as a distinguished professor, scholar, and leader.

ADJOURNMENT

For the record, Chair Shapira reported that the Board of Governors met in executive session on June 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randy A. Goin Jr., Ph.D.

Deputy Chancellor

Meeting webcast is available here: [BOG Meeting 07-09-2026](#)