

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, January 26, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Summary of Major Actions and Discussion

(These are not official minutes of the CHEA Board of Directors.)

Chair Cevallos called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The board of directors:

- Received FY26 first and second-quarter financial reports.
- Received an update on FY26 institutional membership.
- Approved a drawdown from the Board-designated reserves.
- Approved a membership dues increase effective July 1, 2026.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The board of directors, upon recommendation from the Committee on Recognition, acted to approve recognition for a period of seven years, with an interim report due at the midpoint of the recognition term to the Interinstitutional Committees for the Evaluation of Higher Education (CIEES).

During the working session, President Nasser Paydar updated the board on current CHEA initiatives. The board discussed the current state of accreditation, what it might look like in the future, and CHEA's opportunities and areas of focus.

Government Affairs Report

Senior Vice President for Government Affairs Jan Friis reported that CHEA had a productive meeting with Under Secretary Nicholas Kent, stating that there is the possibility of working with the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) moving forward.

Friis reported that the USDE has announced plans to pursue new regulations on accreditation. The AIM committee will address: deregulation, student outcomes, merit, and integrity.

Friis also reported that the USDE has announced partnerships that transfer responsibilities and detail employees to the Departments of Labor, Interior, Health and Human Services, and State to reduce the size of the Department.

He discussed the USDE Request for Information (RFI) seeking feedback on potential updates to the Accreditation Handbook. CHEA has submitted comments in response to the RFI.

Finally, USDE has announced seven priorities under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), including encouraging accreditation reform. There were 10 accreditation-related grant award activities announced.

President's Update

2026 Annual Conference

Chief of Staff Joel Espinoza updated the board on the 2026 CHEA/CIQG Annual Conference taking place January 26 – 29, 2026, in Washington, DC.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

**The next meeting of the CHEA Board of Directors will take place
May 4, 2026, in Washington, DC.**