October 2, 2017

Legislative UPDATE
Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education

"Lawmakers are to return to the Pennsylvania Capitol amid a three-month-old budget stalemate and expect to be briefed on the details of an evolving proposal to fill a $2.2 billion revenue gap," the Associated Press reports. "The House and Senate scheduled sessions to begin Monday afternoon. Rank-and-file members expect to get closed-door briefings about [the] proposed package..."

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

The Senate convenes this week, starting at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. Most conversations will likely center around budget negotiations. These bills of interest remain on the Senate Calendar:

**SB 168**
An Act providing for notice and disclosure of proposed collective bargaining agreements and related documents and for open records.

**SB 503**
Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions.

**SB 504**
Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to meet Monday afternoon to consider **HB 599** (Dunbar), creating the Results First Act and authorizing the Independent Fiscal Office to collect information from Commonwealth agencies, including independent agencies, to be analyzed and used in cost-benefit reports. Reports will be compiled as directed by the General Assembly.

The re-appointments of Mr. Donald Houser of Coraopolis and Mr. David Maser of Philadelphia and new appointments of Ms. Marion Moskowitz of Malvern, the Honorable Samuel Smith of Punxsutawney, Mr. Neil Weaver of York and Ms. Molly Gallagher of Kutztown remain on the Senate Executive Nominations Calendar for consideration by the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. These nominations require confirmation by the full Senate.
The House convenes in legislative session today at 1:00 p.m., tomorrow and Wednesday, working to potentially reach an agreement and conclude the FY 2017-18 state budget. Non-preferred appropriations for state-related universities have not yet been finalized.

There are no committee meetings of interest scheduled at this time.

**Bill Tracker Report**

This tracking information is updated during legislative session weeks. Bills of interest on which action has occurred since the last Legislative UPDATE include:

**Actions in the House:**

- **HB 1095**: An Act requiring the identification of lawful presence in the United States as a prerequisite to the receipt of public benefits, which is defined to include postsecondary education. Last Action: 09-26-17 H Final Passage (Vote Y: 139/N: 58)

- **HB 1822**: Amends Title 24 (Education) providing for suicide prevention in institutions of higher education. Last Action: 09-26-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

- **SB 325**: Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. Last Action: 10-02-17 H Set on the House Calendar

- **SB 326**: Supplement to the act to accept grant of Public Lands, by the US, to several states, for endowment of Agricultural Colleges making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; & providing for basis for payments of appropriation. Last Action: 10-02-17 H Set on the House Calendar

- **SB 327**: Supplement to the University of Pittsburgh - Commonwealth Act making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; & providing for a basis for payments, for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 10-02-17 H Set on the House Calendar

- **SB 328**: Supplement to the Temple University - Commonwealth Act making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments; for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 10-02-17 H Set on the House Calendar

- **SB 329**: Supplement to the Lincoln University - Commonwealth Act making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; & providing for a basis for payments, for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 10-02-17 H Set on the House Calendar
This update is provided as a courtesy of the Office of the Chancellor as a preview of upcoming legislative activity and a review of action on legislative issues of interest to the State System. The Legislative UPDATE is distributed during legislative session weeks.

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