



April 3, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

Only the House of Representatives is in session this week.

Last week in the Senate, the chamber unanimously confirmed student leaders from California, Indiana and Slippery Rock Universities of Pennsylvania to serve on the Board of Governors of the State System.

The new student Board members are Shaina Marie Hilsey of Garnet Valley, president of the Student Government Association at Cal U.; Brian Swatt of Jermyn, president of the Student Government Association at IUP; and Logan L. Steigerwalt of Northampton, president of the Student Government Association at Slippery Rock.

The three student members who serve on the Board are selected from among the sitting student government presidents at the universities at the time a vacancy occurs. Once appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, a student member may serve until he or she is graduated. The three student members participate in all discussions of the Board and have the same voting rights as all other members. [READ >>](#)

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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The Senate stands in recess until Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

In recent committee activity, the Senate Education Committee approved resolution [SR 34](#) (Argall) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a study and issue a report relating to the long-term sustainability and viability of the State System. Before passage, the resolution was amended to move the date for the LBFC report from September 1, 2017 to December 1, 2017. The delayed completion deadline is intended to enable the LBFC committee to consider the results of the Board of Governors' review as part of its study. The earliest that this item could be considered by the full the Senate is mid-April.

Earlier this month, the State System selected the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) to assist the Board of Governors in conducting a strategic review of the System's overall operations--including those at each of the universities and in the Office of the Chancellor. The study will make recommendations for changes that may be necessary to help ensure the System's long-term future. [READ>>](#)

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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The House convenes today at 1PM followed by Tuesday and Wednesday. The conclusion of this week's legislative session, the chamber will stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 18th.

The House calendar includes consideration of the following bill of interest:

[HB 785](#) Amends the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act, in capital facilities, further providing for bonds & notes, maturity, interest, for appropriation & limitation on projects & for administration; & providing for capital budgets.

In committee activity, the House Education committee convenes Wednesday to hold an informational meeting to hear a presentation from the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) to discuss the role private colleges and universities play in higher education and issues facing these institutions.

Also on Wednesday, the House State Government Committee will receive a presentation from the Department of General Services regarding the laws under the jurisdiction of the committee.

State System

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 Senate:

[SB 167](#) A Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania prohibiting the Executive Department and school districts from making payroll collections of dues, fees and political contributions. Last Action: 04-18-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

SR 34 A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and issue a report relating to the long-term sustainability and viability of the State System. Last Action: 04-18-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Actions in the House:

HB 110 Joint Resolution regarding the Taxpayer Protection Act. Last Action: 04-03-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

HB 410 An Act providing for performance-based budgeting; establishing the Performance-Based Budget Board & providing for its powers & duties; conferring powers & imposing duties on the IFO; & providing for performance hearings & reviews. Last Action: 04-03-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

HB 792 Amends the Public School Code, providing for gambling policy in institutions of higher education. Last Action: 03-10-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 981 Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act raising the threshold for applicability. Last Action: 03-27-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

HB 1022 Expands on the Transfer and Articulation Program. Last Action: 03-28-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

Co-sponsorship Memos:

HCO1699 Reforms pension plan design affecting retirement plans of future state and school district employees of Pennsylvania using the stacked hybrid concept. Last Action: 03-27-17 H Filed

HCO1711 A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and issue a report relating to the long-term sustainability and viability of the State System. Last Action: 03-28-17 H Filed

SCO 761 Expands on the Transfer and Articulation Program. Last Action: 03-30-17 S Filed

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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