

System Strategic Review

No closures, mergers recommended for Pa. state colleges

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The highly anticipated report on restructuring Pennsylvania's struggling state university system perhaps was more noteworthy for what it didn't recommend than what it did. Pennsylvania should keep all 14 state universities rather than close or merge institutions to solve ongoing financial and enrollment woes, a national consultant told the system's governing body

Wednesday.

By Susan Snyder, The Philadelphia Inquirer

Consultant makes sweeping recommendations for troubled State System

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

None of Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities should close or be merged, but the weakest among them ought to be reconfigured to help them thrive in a system with an overhauled governance structure, a consultant said Wednesday. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), saying governance, funding allocation and decision-making within the State System of Higher Education are inadequate, said the system's board of governors should be abolished and replaced by a board of regents made up of lay members.

By Bill Schackner, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

No Closings, Mergers Recommended for State-Owned Colleges

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

A consulting firm issued a bleak assessment Wednesday of Pennsylvania's state-owned university system, recommending a series of changes but not dramatic steps such as closing or merging any of its 14 institutions. The report by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems said the universities need better top management, more of a spirit of cooperation and a greater focus on their educational mission, as opposed to their status as regional centers of employment.

By Mark Scofforo, The Associated Press

Consultant releases cost-cutting tips for Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

A consultant hired by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education came down strongly against closing or merging any of the 14 universities in the system. Dennis Jones, president emeritus of the National Center for Higher Education Management System, instead told the PASSHE Board of Governors on Wednesday that the system should embrace a culture of collaboration.

By John Finnerty, CNHI Harrisburg Bureau

Consultant recommends collaboration for Pennsylvania state schools' survival

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education doesn't need to close or merge any of its 14 universities, but it must change from the top down to survive, a consultant reported Wednesday. Collaboration, not competition, will be key to the schools' survival, Dennis Jones, president emeritus of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, told the system's board of governors. That should begin with changes to the enabling legislation that

established the system more than three decades ago, starting with the dissolution of the system's oversight board, Jones said.

By Debra Erdley, The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

[PASSHE report: Don't close any colleges, improve leadership](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Silence filled the board room Wednesday at the Harrisburg headquarters of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education during a presentation on a highly anticipated report about the system's rising costs and falling enrollments. At the same time, a collective sigh of relief may have wafted across small towns that rely on PASSHE for good jobs and cultural activities.

Despite months of fear over possible shutdowns, none of the state's 14 taxpayer-funded public universities should be closed or merged, a consultant told a committee of PASSHE's Board of Governors.

By Steve Esack, The (Allentown) Morning Call

[Consultant recommends revamp of Pennsylvania's state university system, but no closures](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

A higher education consultant said Wednesday that Pennsylvania's 14-school state university system is in dire need of a makeover. But, despite years of stagnant state funding, a shrinking pool of college-bound students, and increased competition, it should to try emerge from that process with no closures of existing colleges.

By Charles Thompson, The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News

Tuition

[University leaders propose statewide tuition increase](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Leaders of Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities are proposing a 3.5 percent increase in the base tuition across the 105,000-student system for the 2017-18 academic year. The increase of about \$250 per year for in-state undergraduates was described by board of governors members meeting in committee Wednesday in Harrisburg as a reasonable way to balance rising costs with a desire to minimize price increases.

By Bill Schackner, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

[PASSHE has answer to closing budget gap: Raise tuition](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Students attending universities in the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education may want to consider applying for extra grants and scholarships this year. The PASSHE Finance, Administration, and Facilities Committee met Wednesday and passed a motion to raise tuition rates in the state school system by 3.5 percent for the current fiscal year.

By Logan Hullinger, The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News

Opioid Treatment Certificate Program

[Wolf hails new program in opioid treatment](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Gov. Wolf on Wednesday joined Clarion University officials to announce the launch of an online certificate program in opioid treatment, which they said is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania.

By Karen Langley, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

[Wolf, Clarion University officials unveil online program for opioid treatment](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Gov. Tom Wolf and several members of Clarion University's administration held a press conference Wednesday to announce the creation of an online Opioid Treatment Specialist certificate program. The program, the first of its kind in the state, is the university's response to the growing epidemic in the state.

By Paul Vigna, The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News

[Clarion University announces opioid treatment specialist certificate](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Gov. Wolf held a press conference in the Governor's Reception Room along with Clarion University representatives to announce the Opioid Treatment Specialist Certificate that will now be offered by the university.

By Nicole Trayer, Pennsylvania Legislative Services