



November 20, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

The House holds its only legislative session this week. **Capitolwire** reports the chamber may turn its focus to imposing a severance tax on natural gas. "More than 370 amendments have been introduced to [House Bill 1401](#), a bill that would amend the state's Tax Code and is predicted to generate upwards of \$200 million in revenue for the state's General Fund."

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

[Senate Session Days](#) | [Watch Session Live](#) | [Senate Calendars](#) | [Senate Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

The Senate stands in recess until Monday, December 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

During its legislative session last week, the chamber did not take action on any bills of interest on the Senate calendar, e.g., [SR 228](#) (Eichelberger) regarding a global education task force.

The Chamber has announced its 2018 session schedule. Dates of voting session are as follows:

<u>January</u>	2, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31
<u>February</u>	5, 6, 7
<u>March</u>	19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
<u>April</u>	16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30
<u>May</u>	1, 2, 21, 22, 23
<u>June</u>	4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

In committee activity, The Senate and House Education Committees held a joint hearing last Wednesday focusing on the State System's Strategic System Review. [ARCHIVED VIDEO>>>](#)

Executive Vice Chancellor Peter Garland represented interim chancellor Dr. Karen Whitney, who had a prior commitment out of state and is not able to attend Wednesday. On behalf of her and the Board of Governors, Dr. Garland [spoke](#) with the committee about the recommendations contained in the strategic system review report by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and, more importantly, how the System has now shifted from "system review" to "system redesign" mode in

order to achieve the most positive results on behalf of and for our students, universities and the System as a whole/

NCHEMS' President Sally Johnstone also participated as well as [East Stroudsburg University President Marcia Welsh](#) and [West Chester University President Christopher Fiorentino](#). Written testimony was submitted by [California University of Pennsylvania President Geraldine Jones](#) and [Millersville University](#).

"As part of the hearing, members of the committees asked important questions related to their concerns about the strategic review report after hearing from university presidents, the chancellor's office, and the faculty union." [READ MORE >>](#)

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

[House Session Days](#) | [Watch Session Live](#) | [House Calendars](#) | [House Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

The House convenes in voting session Monday and Tuesday, beginning today at 1:00 p.m. There are no bills of interest on the voting calendar.

In committee activity, the House Majority Policy Committee and House Minority Policy Committee will hold a bipartisan hearing today at 10 a.m. to learn about several distinguished STEM-based programs and "learning ecosystems" that are gaining recognition and educating youth across Pennsylvania. [READ MORE >>](#)

State System

Bill Tracker Report

Tracking information is updated during legislative session weeks. There has been no new action on bills of interest since the last Legislative UPDATE.

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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