February 3, 2020

**Legislative UPDATE**

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf will present his budget proposal for the next fiscal year on Tuesday, February 4th, at approximately 11:30 a.m., to a joint session of the House and Senate.

Information about the proposal will be available on the [Office of Budget's website](#). Here, you can learn more about the budget process, too.

Watch the Governor's Budget Address on [PCN](#) or stream it using the PCN Select app. Viewers may also stream the Governor's Budget Address LIVE [here](#) or [here](#).

Then, on February 18th, budget hearings will begin. Tune in again to PCN or any of the live streams provided.

On February 20th, 10:00 a.m., Chancellor Dan Greenstein will lay out before the Senate Appropriations Committee the state of the System and discuss the fundamental transformation that continues, and he will meet with members of the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, March 3rd, 10:00 a.m.

Before both committees, Greeinstein will discuss the difficult steps taken already to transform and redesign the System so that it sustainably continues its historic mission of social mobility and economic
development for all Pennsylvanians. In specific, he will share how the System has made demonstrable progress in five foundational areas:

- Radical transparency
- Real accountability
- Freezing tuition
- Aligning costs with our revenues
- Addressing the challenges faced by low-enrolled universities

Having responded to concerns about cost, value, and sustainability, the chancellor will reaffirm with both appropriations committees the Board of Governors' requested investment, the purpose of which is to begin to deliver concretely on redesign efforts:

- A two percent increase in the System's yearly appropriation for 2020; and
- An initial $20 million installment on the $100 million the System will need over five years to become a sharing system that delivers for the people and employers of the commonwealth state.

"[T]his request, this investment, is critical to the success of our efforts and the future of the State System," said the chancellor in his State of the System Address.

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**Senate**

### Session & Committee Activity

The Senate convenes in session today at 1:00 p.m., and is expected to recess on Wed., Feb. 5th until Mar. 16th. Budget hearings will be held in the interim.

The chamber could consider the following bill of interest on final passage:

- **HR 1050** (Burns): Provides for residency and enrollment requirements to qualify for in-state tuition related to public institutions of higher leaning, State-related or State-owned institutions and community colleges. Prospective students are considered a resident for in-state tuition provided "on the date of deposit confirming their intent to enroll, begins enrollment within the corresponding term for which the deposit was made and remains in continuous enrollment at the institution."

In other activity, the Public Higher Education Funding Commission will hold its next hearing on Thursday, Mar. 6th, at 9:30 a.m. to hear testimony from Chancellor Greenstein. His comments will focus on the current public higher education landscape and offer policy recommendations, among other things. Watch live...
The 19-member Public Higher Education Funding Commission, which was established in Act 70 of 2019, is tasked with developing a higher education funding formula and identifying factors that may be used to determine the distribution of funding among the public institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania.

The commission is co-chaired by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Pat Browne (R-Lehigh), House Appropriations Committee Chairman Stan Saylor (R-York) and Education Secretary Pedro Rivera.

Finally, we extend congratulations to the following nominees who were confirmed by the Senate last week; click here for pending nominations:

**BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY**: Duane Greenly, Mechanicsburg (in place of Ramona Alley, term expired) and Ray Zaborney, Harrisburg (in place of Charles Schlegel, term expired)

**CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY**: James Harris, Mechanicsburg (in place of Sarah Cassin, term expired) and Barry Niccolai, California (in place of Annette Ganassi, term expired)

**CLARION UNIVERSITY**: Milissa Bauer, Clarion; Joy Dunbar, State College; and Brendan Shepherd, Wexford (in place of Syed Ali-Zaidi, deceased)

**EDINBORO UNIVERSITY**: Daniel Higham, Meadville

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**: Jennifer Baker, Worthington (in place of James Miller, term expired); and Albert Cejka, Latrobe

**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY**: Phillips Armstrong, Whitehall (in place of Anthony Iannelli, term expired); Dennis Giorno, Harrisburg; and Guido Pichini, Wyomissing Hills

**LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY**: Michael Hanna, Lock Haven; and Angela Smith, Lock Haven (in place of Jerry Swope, resigned)

**MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY**: Patrick Henderson, Harrisburg; Susan Kefover, Galeton; and Bobbi Kilmer, Towanda

**MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY**: Thomas Baker, Pittsburgh (in place of Ann Womble, term expired); and Amber Sessoms, Hummelstown (in place of Gerald Robinson, term expired)

**SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY**: Glen Grell, Mechanicsburg; Douglas Harbach, Chambersburg; and George McElwee, Fairfax, VA (in place of Andrew Paris, term expired)

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**: Domenic Ionta, New Castle (in place of Mary Jo White, term expired); and Matthew Lautman, Esq., Seven Fields

**WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY**: Susan Yoder Schick, West Chester (in place of Eli Silverman, term expired)
The House stands adjourned until Mon., Feb. 3, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., and will likewise adjourn Wed. until Mon., Mar. 16th for the purposes of holding budget hearings.

The chamber is expected to consider:

- **HB 2046** (Murt): Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, to permit the Department of Education to continue to issue a special education PK-8 or special education 7-12 certification to any student enrolled in a teacher preparation program at an institution of higher education or approved alternative preparation program prior to December 31, 2021.

In committee activity of interest, the House State Government Committee is scheduled to meet to consider:

- **HB 978** (Hickernell): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in access, further providing for requests; and, in procedure, further providing for redaction. Providing that an agency may make any otherwise exempt record available for inspection and copying if it does not contain a person's Social Security Number. Provides that an agency may redact a Social Security Number to make the record available. Provides that this shall apply to online records.

Last week, the House Democratic Policy Committee met in Philadelphia, with Rep. Kenyatta (D-Philadelphia) on hunger free campus legislation. **HB 2205**. Read more...

Ms. Pam Frontino, Assoc. Director of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs, West Chester University, offered testimony on behalf of the System, sharing her insight and perspective on eliminating college hunger, based on her role managing West Chester’s on-campus Resource Pantry, and the opportunities a Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program could provide to universities and the students they serve.

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**Bill Tracking Report**

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the Senate:

**HB 283** (Simmons): Amends the Right-to-Know Law to permit an agency to require a requester to certify
whether the request is for a commercial purpose. In responding to a request for records that will be used for a commercial purpose, an agency may charge a requester additional standard fees for the search, review and duplication of the records. The fees for records to be used for a commercial purpose must be reasonable, must be approved by the Office of Open Records and may not be established with the intent or effect of excluding persons from access to records or duplicates thereof or of creating profit for the agency. The bill also provides for alternative fee arrangement. Last Action: 1-24-20 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate State Government

HB 305 (Snyder): Creates the State-owned Assets and Mobile Broadband Services Act and requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to determine if existing state-owned property or assets can be used to provide broadband service in underserved areas. Last Action: 1-27-20 S Set on the Senate Calendar

HB 1050 (Burns): Amends an act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in PA, further providing for residency of students. Last Action: 1-27-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

SB 166 (Hughes): Provides for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and for limitation on redevelopment assistance capital projects; and making a related repeal. Last Action: 12-18-19 S Received as amended in Senate and rereferred Senate Rules and Executive Nominations

SB 905 (Browne): Provides for the Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of FY 2019-2020. It establishes the categories under which capital projects may be funded, in part or in whole, through the issuance of general obligation debt or current revenue. Last Action: 12-18-19 S Received as amended in Senate and rereferred Senate Rules and Executive Nominations

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.

Jennifer Hoover
Director of Governmental Relations
jhoover@pasahe.edu
(717) 720-4021