February 28, 2020

Legislative Budget UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

"We have delivered on every one of [our] promises – every one – making demonstrable progress in each area they address," Chancellor Greenstein recently told the Senate Appropriations Committee. Those five areas: accountability, transparency, student affordability, aligning cost with revenues, and getting the Board's arms around low-enrolled System schools.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, Chancellor Dan Greenstein will make the same case when he'll appear before the House Appropriations Committee, starting at 10 a.m., to discuss the State System's appropriations submission.

Watch the live video stream >>

The System is seeking:

- A modest increase of 2 percent ($9.5 million) for a total general appropriation increase of $487 million.
- A $20 million investment--part of a five-year $100 million request--to support three one-time System Redesign-related initiatives.

- Enactment of three bills--House Bill 2171, 2172, and 2173--legislation that will relieve the System of burdensome statutory and regulatory constraints, improve governance, and empower the System to respond more nimbly and effectively to its challenges as well as better meet new demands from students and employers.

In comparison, the governor's FY 2020-21 budget proposes more than $2.11 billion for higher education of which $12.95 million or 2.71 percent is linked to System Redesign, falling short of the System's combined $29.5 million requested increase by $16.6 million.

Chancellor Greenstein appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee on February 22nd, asking for additional investment in the State System to support the health and well-being of the commonwealth.

"In order to redesign ourselves into the public higher education system that the people of this commonwealth need, we have asked for what we need," Chancellor Greenstein said.

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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