



State System Response to COVID-19

Chancellor Dan Greenstein
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Pennsylvania's
STATE SYSTEM
of Higher Education

Spring 2020 Overview of Response

- COVID-19 teams activated in the OOC and at all 14 universities; daily updates provided across the system
- Employees were advised to follow county-level restrictions established by the Commonwealth; guidance provided for implementing emergency telecommuting/remote work; use of paid administrative leave implemented where appropriate;
- Chancellor directed that all universities suspend in-person instruction and experiential learning; all universities transitioned to remote instruction for more than 90,000 students systemwide
- Universities provided prorated refunds to students for fees related to services that were suspended due to the pandemic
- Chancellor provided a directive regarding post-pandemic financial strategy planning efforts
- Universities received and began distribution of CARES act funds to students
- Universities have begun planning for fall re-opening

Financial Impacts (through Summer 2020)

This accounts for financial impacts thus far; it does not account for continuing financial impacts for the rest of the calendar year.

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Fees Refunded in FY 2019-20 Due to COVID-19 and Funds Received Through CARES Act

Fee Refunds Provided to Students

| University | E&G-Related Fee Refunds ¹ | Auxiliary-Related Fee Refunds ² | Housing Fee Refunds ³ | Dining Fee Refunds | Total Fee Refunds |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bloomsburg | \$517,625 | \$948,469 | \$4,815,094 | \$2,888,339 | \$9,169,527 |
| California | 69,349 | 1,133,140 | 1,769,705 | 1,039,367 | 4,011,561 |
| Cheyney | 0 | 0 | 353,597 | 197,451 | 551,048 |
| Clarion | 0 | 361,638 | 2,099,604 | 856,243 | 3,317,485 |
| East Stroudsburg | 892,862 | 411,192 | 816,163 | 1,569,761 | 3,689,978 |
| Edinboro | 233,375 | 435,096 | 1,780,910 | 694,148 | 3,143,529 |
| Indiana | 548,719 | 0 | 477,774 | 3,305,422 | 4,331,915 |
| Kutztown | 51,767 | 1,094,354 | 5,427,815 | 2,859,860 | 9,433,796 |
| Lock Haven | 11,159 | 257,147 | 1,281,835 | 710,260 | 2,260,401 |
| Mansfield | 339,694 | 184,461 | 1,284,590 | 579,918 | 2,388,663 |
| Millersville | 608,740 | 1,259,100 | 514,510 | 2,111,300 | 4,493,650 |
| Shippensburg | 0 | 1,155,481 | 3,459,603 | 2,817,690 | 7,432,774 |
| Slippery Rock | 965,769 | 1,088,107 | 640,854 | 2,354,022 | 5,048,752 |
| West Chester | 1,842,052 | 1,992,011 | 2,937,694 | 3,504,877 | 10,276,634 |
| Total | \$6,081,111 | \$10,320,196 | \$27,659,748 | \$25,488,658 | \$69,549,713 |

CARES Act Funds

| Emergency Aid for Students from HEERF | Institutional Share of HEERF | Strengthening HBCUs | Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) | Coronavirus Relief Funds | Total CARES Act Funds | CARES Act Funds for University Use (less Emergency Aid) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| \$3,953,393 | \$3,953,393 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,720,924 | \$10,627,710 | \$6,674,317 |
| 2,156,294 | 2,156,294 | 0 | 211,486 | 2,142,544 | 6,666,618 | 4,510,324 |
| 331,808 | 331,808 | 975,252 | 0 | 193,525 | 1,832,393 | 1,500,585 |
| 1,612,138 | 1,612,138 | 0 | 157,969 | 1,472,726 | 4,854,971 | 3,242,833 |
| 3,234,662 | 3,234,662 | 0 | 316,494 | 1,945,888 | 8,731,706 | 5,497,044 |
| 2,090,843 | 2,090,843 | 0 | 205,106 | 1,454,876 | 5,841,668 | 3,750,825 |
| 5,025,231 | 5,025,231 | 0 | 494,133 | 3,330,619 | 13,875,214 | 8,849,983 |
| 3,712,483 | 3,712,483 | 0 | 0 | 2,567,483 | 9,992,449 | 6,279,966 |
| 1,697,923 | 1,697,923 | 0 | 166,388 | 990,167 | 4,552,401 | 2,854,478 |
| 966,059 | 966,059 | 0 | 94,103 | 527,025 | 2,553,246 | 1,587,187 |
| 2,808,651 | 2,808,651 | 0 | 0 | 2,447,861 | 8,065,163 | 5,256,512 |
| 2,718,100 | 2,718,100 | 0 | 0 | 1,908,937 | 7,345,137 | 4,627,037 |
| 3,677,035 | 3,677,035 | 0 | 0 | 2,757,562 | 10,111,632 | 6,434,597 |
| 5,996,058 | 5,996,058 | 0 | 0 | 5,539,863 | 17,531,979 | 11,535,921 |
| \$39,980,678 | \$39,980,678 | \$975,252 | \$1,645,679 | \$30,000,000 | \$112,582,287 | \$72,601,609 |

HEERF = Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds

¹ Examples include, but are not limited to, Health Center, Parking, and Transportation Fees.

² Examples include, but are not limited to, Student Union and Student Recreation Center Fees.

³ Some universities did not report refunds associated with affiliates (privatized housing and student activity fees).

The State System Approach to Fall 2020

- University presidents will determine whether, how, and to what extent their universities will engage in face-to-face instruction in Fall 2020 and will utilize guidance from federal, state, and local authorities and the State System in developing those plans.
- University plans for fall 2020 will be made available publicly on the university's website.
- University plans for fall 2020 will be developed by university presidents in consultation with local stakeholders, with the presidents of other State System universities, and with the Chancellor's office.
- State System universities' plans will differ in ways that reflect the universities' unique local circumstances and the particular needs of the students and communities they serve.
- Despite differences, the plans of every State System university will:
 - Support all students' progress towards their degrees while mitigating health and safety risks that exists for students, employees, and our host communities;
 - Adhere to health and safety standards provided by federal and state agencies, and comply with guidelines from the Pennsylvania Department of Education; and
 - Include contingency plans for alternate modes of operation should the pandemic evolve in such a way to require it.
- University plans for fall 2020 will comply with the State System's collective bargaining agreements and with its academic, operational, and other policies and procedures. They will also comply with any new guidelines that are developed in consultation with the universities to take account of unique circumstances occasioned by the pandemic.

Overview of University Approaches

While universities are considering different models, a number of commonalities exist:

- Enable social distancing during face-to-face instruction e.g., by providing students with flexible (face-to-face and synchronous and asynchronous online access to instruction), inviting specific student cohorts to campus while asking others to remain remote
- Introduce flexibility into the approach in case the university needs to convert to remote instruction mid-semester
- Support faculty in effective delivery of remote instruction
- Modify the academic calendar to distribute students differently across the curriculum, and/or curtail the semester for potential increase in flu and COVID-19 outbreaks over winter months

Most universities will announce their preferred approach no later than early July.

Accelerated System Redesign

- For the past 18 months, our System Redesign effort has focused intensively on building a “sharing system” as a means of affordably and sustainably extending educational opportunities across the Commonwealth. That work was accelerated by the financial pressures created by the pandemic.
- Universities are identifying and conducting initial diligence on a variety of high-potential opportunities for combining business, administrative and other operational functions, staff lines, and academic programs across two or more universities. That includes exploring opportunities that result from operationally and academically integrating institutions while each maintaining their identity.
- This process is being led by the Executive Leadership Group (chancellor and 14 presidents) and is deliberately exploratory and pre-decisional in nature. The outcome is expected to be a series of options that may be discussed with the Board of Governors at its meeting in July 2020—options that are meant to ensure greater financial sustainability.
- Any such discussions would seek Board direction and would launch an extensively consultative planning process to inform any decisions that would need to be taken by the Board at a future meeting.