



NEWS

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State Faculty Association President Calls for Action to Fight Off Critical Cuts

HARRISBURG – The president of the organization representing the 6,000 faculty members and coaches at Pennsylvania’s 14 state-owned universities today called on all students, their families, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the community to take action to prevent Governor Tom Corbett’s proposed 54 percent cut to Pennsylvania’s publically owned universities.

“The Commonwealth made a commitment to its citizens to provide an affordable college education to help them achieve the American Dream,” State APSCUF President, Dr. Steve Hicks announced. “We must all work together to prevent that dream from becoming a nightmare. I encourage everyone to visit, call, or write the members of the General Assembly.”

The potentially fatal cuts would reduce the state support for the system to 1983 funding levels. When the State System was created, student tuition accounted for less than one-third of the universities’ budgets, but because of steadily declining state support, tuition revenue now accounts for over two-thirds of the budget.

Halving the state appropriation for Pennsylvania's public colleges and universities could translate to a tuition increase of 33 percent, putting a quality college education out of reach for many students.

"It is abundantly clear that the loss of state funds would have a crushing impact on the hopes and dreams of thousands of Pennsylvania's working class families," Hicks explained. "The math simply doesn't work. Our universities have kept tuition extremely affordable largely by cutting back to the essentials. There just isn't room to cut more."

The governor's rash initiative sends a clear message to working families across the state. Without support from students, parents, alumni and the campus communities to stop the devastation, these historic cuts to higher education could decimate the State System. At a time when student enrollment is at a record high, at least one member of the Board of Governors has even suggested that a few of the universities might need to close their doors.

"The time is short," Hicks insisted, "we must all stand together to fight off these cruel cuts."

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