



NEWS

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APSCUF REGRETS NECESSITY OF TUITION INCREASE

HARRISBURG – The 14 universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) are charged with providing a high quality education at the lowest possible cost.

While worried that tuition increases are harmful to students, the president of the union representing over 6,000 faculty members and coaches at the PASSHE universities today indicated that the system's \$436 tuition hike for 2011-12 was necessary to help fill serious funding gaps.

"Our universities will receive over \$111.6 million less in funding this coming year, and a tuition increase was the only viable alternative available to the Board," Steve Hicks said. "Quality education is our mission, and despite the tuition increase, our universities are still the best value for the money in Pennsylvania.

Our faculty members and coaches are committed to providing a top-notch education to our 120,000 students."

Hicks noted that PASSHE has featured the lowest tuition increases in the country for a public system over the past six years.

"Compared to our regional competition, our tuition is \$2,600 below the average," Hicks said. "We are the lowest-cost alternative, but we can't be the lowest quality. Pennsylvania's citizens deserve the best education possible."

Repeated state cuts and low tuition increases have already led to fewer educational opportunities, cramped classes, and faculty layoffs. State spending per student has declined over \$2,000 in recent years, and university efficiency is at its maximum.

"APSCUF has always fought for increased funding for PASSHE and we have always fought for our students," Hicks said. "The bottom line is: Pennsylvania must do a better job supporting its institutions."

When PASSHE was formed in 1983, the Commonwealth provided 67 percent of the funding needed to operate the 14 universities. Today, the state provides less than a third of the necessary operating dollars.

"APSCUF wants all PASSHE students to graduate with a high quality education. Regretfully, these circumstances require a significant tuition increase," Hicks lamented.

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