



FY2015-16 Budget Hearing Recap Tuesday, March 24, 2015

State-Related Universities

Testifying: Dr. Eric Barron (Penn State), Dr. Patrick Gallagher (University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Valarie Harrison (Lincoln), Dr. Neil Theobald (Temple)

For FY 2015-16, the Governor is proposing to fund Penn State at \$328.8 million. This is an increase of \$50.85 million or 18.3%. The funding increase will be directed at General Support and for the Pennsylvania College of Technology. The Transfer to the Ag College Land Scrip Fund for Agriculture Research and Extension Services is proposed to be level funded.

Penn State's 2014-15 school year full-time undergraduate tuition at University Park for PA resident freshman and sophomores is \$16,572. The total enrollment at Penn State in Fall 2014 was 95,973 students.

Penn State was asked about the recent NCAA court case in regards to the \$60 million fine. Penn State will be reimbursing the Commonwealth for all legal fees. The \$60 million is paid out of the Athletic Fund which is completely separate from tuition and state tax dollars.

For FY 2015-16, the Governor is proposing to fund the University of Pittsburgh at \$151 million. This is an increase of \$15 million or 11%.

University of Pittsburgh's 2014-15 school year full-time undergraduate tuition at main campus ranges from \$16,392 to \$28,882. The total enrollment at the University of Pittsburgh in Fall 2014 was 34,934 students.

For FY 2015-16, the Governor is proposing to fund Temple University at \$155 million. This is an increase of \$15 million or 11%.

Temple's 2014-15 school year full-time undergraduate tuition for PA residents was \$14,006 to \$19,276 depending on course of study. The total enrollment at Temple in Fall 2014 was 37,788 students.

For FY 2015-16, the Governor is proposing to fund Lincoln University at \$14 million. This is an increase of \$921,000 or 7%.

Lincoln's 2014-15 school year full-time undergraduate tuition for PA resident freshman is \$7,160. The total enrollment at Lincoln University in Fall 2014 was approximately 2,000 students.

The testifiers were asked about the Governor's proposed sales tax increase and base expansion and the effect it would have on cost to students. Under the Governor's proposal tuition would remain exempt from sales tax, but fees, meal plans, and textbooks will now be taxed. Members expressed concern about the increased costs on students.

Testifiers were asked about student debt and what the universities were doing to help lower the amount of debt students were taking on. The Universities are first working on making sure they offer the lowest possible tuition while still offering a quality education. They are also working on making sure students graduate in four years to limit unnecessary debt being taken on by stretching out the time it takes to graduate. Finally, the Universities are having conversations with students on how to borrow smartly and to help students ensure they are only taking on the necessary debt.

Department of State

Testifying: Acting Secretary Pedro Cortes; Thomas Weaver, Executive Deputy Secretary; Justin Cowan, Director Finance and Operations

For FY 2015-16, the Governor is proposing to increase General Fund support for the Department of State by \$854,000 or 7.7%.

Act 67 of 2013 allowed the Department of State to charge businesses for expedited filings in the Corporation Bureau. The purpose of this legislation was to help businesses incorporate in Pennsylvania in a quick and efficient manner. So far the Department of State has realized an annual collection of \$1 million in expedited fees.

The Department believes that it has the current statutory authority to set up online voter registration. The Department does not have the authority to capture a new voter's signature when the new voter first votes at a polling place. The Department wants to work with the Legislature to see if that authority can be granted.

The Acting Secretary was asked about regulating non-profit entities and how much these entities actually spend on philanthropic activities. The Acting Secretary stated that because of court rulings it is very difficult to require these entities to spend a certain percentage of the money they take in on philanthropic activities.

Thaddeus Stevens College

Testifying: Dr. William Griscom, President; Dr. Robert Nye, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Alex B. Munro, Executive Director of the Thaddeus Stevens Alumni Association

For FY 2015-16, the Governor is proposing to increase funding for Thaddeus Stevens by \$863,000 or 7%.

Thaddeus Stevens 2014-15 school year full-time undergraduate tuition is \$7,400. The total enrollment for Thaddeus Stevens in Fall 2014 was approximately 900 students.

Thaddeus Stevens College job placement rate is 100% in most programs (95% Overall).

There is a high demand for admission into Thaddeus Stevens College. Currently the College can only accept 1 out of 5 applicants.

Thaddeus Stevens' students have an average debt load of \$8,975. Approximately 55% of students finish their program in two years.