

Pennsylvania Association of State Colleges and Universities (PASCU)

- You have reached the homepage of PASCU, the Pennsylvania Association of State Colleges and Universities.
- PASCU's primary goal is to preserve the mission of public higher education in Pennsylvania, as specified by Act 188 of 1982: "High Quality Education at the Lowest Possible Cost to the Students." Act 188 is the enabling legislation for the system of fourteen (14) state universities now known as the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).
- PASCU is an association of groups and individuals committed to preserving that mission, through education and advocacy, by reaching out to all of its stakeholders including: students, parents, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and elected officials.
- PASCU will collect, analyze and disseminate data and information on public higher education in Pennsylvania to all of its many stakeholders, with the goal of fostering open discussion, civil debate, and effective public policy.
- PASCU is a non-partisan association of citizens committed to preserving the historic mission of public higher education in Pennsylvania so that individual citizens, as well as society at large, may be enriched in perpetuity.

Background

Public higher education in Pennsylvania has seen much change since the mid-19th century when it first began to flourish.

But the most dramatic change in recent time has been the steady erosion of the Commonwealth's share of its funding over the last three decades, as an ever-larger share of the total educational cost has been shifted onto students, families, and alumni donors. Between 1983 and 2012, the State share of public university operating budgets fell from 63% to 27% while, at the same time, tuition rates quadrupled, and the number of students attending PASSHE universities grew 50%.

The State of the "Mission"

The data show that, under PASSHE's current political leadership, both ends of public higher education's historic mission have suffered. Specifically, academic quality has been undermined, while three decades of politically expedient but educationally unwise decisions have failed to provide public higher education at anything like the lowest possible cost to the students. On the contrary, PASSHE policy currently saddles poor students with punishing debt and foolishly rewards wealthy students with state subsidies.

And because of that flagrant dual failure—directly attributable to the flaws inherent in total political control—PASCU’s first and highest priority is to educate stakeholders to advocate for reducing the current 100% political control of PASSHE to the 30% level while, at the same time, raising the control level of students and alumni from zero% to 70%, in rough proportion to their respective levels of annual funding, even as the unrelenting privatization of public higher education in Pennsylvania continues, and students, parents and alumni are forced to pick up an ever-larger share of the financial burden of "public" higher education in Pennsylvania.

Contact us below for more Information.

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