



Preliminary Statement

Act 188 of 1982 is the enabling legislation that created and, as amended, statutorily controls the public corporation now known as the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).

PASSHE is the 14-University system of taxpayer-supported institutions of higher education that includes Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock and West Chester Universities.

In PASSHE's first 30 years (FY 1984 to FY 2013), the State share of PASSHE's budget fell from 63% to 25%, while the share paid by the students, parents and donors, primarily alumni, grew from 37% to 75%.

This 30-year shift in funding-shares created a corresponding shift in Majority and Minority financial stakeholder status, with the State becoming the Minority (25%) financial stakeholder, and the students, parents and donors, primarily alumni becoming the Majority (75%) financial stakeholders by FY 2013.

During that same period, PASSHE experienced a 58% increase in FTE student enrollment (from 71,091 to 112,180), and a 50% decrease in State funding per FTE Student (from \$7,386 to \$3,697), in 2013 dollars.

These two conflicting trends created dilemmas for the PASSHE Universities and the PASSHE students—more and more students to educate and fewer and fewer State dollars with which to educate them, putting great pressure on the Universities to deliver the statutory purpose of “High quality education.”

That 50% decrease in State dollars per FTE student was accompanied by a 127% increase (from \$4,347 to \$9,864) in the private dollars paid per FTE student by means of tuition and fees, in 2013 dollars.

Over those first 30 years, PASSHE's resident undergraduate tuition grew by 94% (from \$3,318 to \$6,428) in 2013 dollars, putting great pressure on students to pay their tuition and fees. That total increase of 94% equates to an average annual increases of 2.31% per year, compounded over 30 years.

The burden of PASSHE University funding has been shifted from the State to the majority financial stakeholders, with the result that a 63%-37% split in 1984 rapidly became a 25%-75% split by 2013.

Despite this huge transfer of *funding responsibility* from the State to the Majority financial stakeholders, there has been zero transfer of *governance opportunity* to the Majority financial stakeholders in return.

PASCU sees the current disparity between funding-shares and governance-shares as a gross injustice in which the appointees of the Minority (25%) financial stakeholder make all key decisions, while the Majority (75%) stakeholders now choose zero appointees who would give voice to their best interests.

Questionnaire

The context for each of the following questions is the Preliminary Statement on the previous page. PASCU considers each one of the eleven individual statements to be factually correct, and therefore, a valid premise on which to provide answers to the questions below. But in answering those questions, the Candidates should feel free to challenge both the premises and the questions if they so wish.

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The purpose of the fourteen PASSHE universities, according to Act 188, is to provide: "High quality education at the lowest possible cost to the students." Official PASSHE data show, however, that the Act 188 statutory purpose of the PASSHE universities has not been delivered to the students since 2002. And in January of 2014, PASSHE unveiled its new strategic plan entitled "*Strategic Plan 2020: Rising to the Challenge*," which makes no mention of PASSHE's Act 188 statutory purpose. [Questions 1, 2 & 3]

1. If elected Governor of Pennsylvania on November 4, 2014, will you publicly endorse and support the Act 188 statutory purpose of the fourteen PASSHE universities cited above?
2. During this election campaign for Governor of Pennsylvania, will you publicly endorse and support the Act 188 statutory purpose of the fourteen PASSHE universities cited above?
3. In view of the dual failure cited above—PASSHE's failure to deliver Act 188's statutory purpose to the students, and PASSHE's failure to even commit publicly that it is trying to deliver it—what public assurances, as a Candidate for Governor, can you give to PASSHE's students, parents and alumni that, if elected Governor, you will use the power of your office to help correct both failures?

PASCU's Mission is "To ensure that the statutory purpose of public higher education in Pennsylvania as specified by Act 188 of 1982: 'High quality education at the lowest possible cost to the students' is indefinitely preserved and faithfully delivered." [Questions 4, 5 & 6]

4. As a Candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, are you willing to campaign publicly in support of PASCU's Mission?
5. In your opinion, is it appropriate for the State, the 25% financial stakeholder in the 14 PASSHE universities, to control 100% of the 174 PASSHE governance seats, while the students, parents and alumni donors, the 75% financial stakeholders, control 0% of PASSHE's 174 governance seats?
6. As a candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania and, in view of the great funding/governance disparity that exists between the Majority and Minority stakeholders, are you willing to campaign publicly in support of changing Act 188 to align the governance-shares of the Majority and Minority financial stakeholders to more closely match their respective funding-shares, as advocated by PASCU?
7. Are you willing to meet with PASCU's Executive Committee to discuss your answers to these questions?