

**Board of Governors Meeting**

June 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** 2020 Fall Framework

**UNIVERSITIES AFFECTED:** All

**BACKGROUND:** All 14 State System universities are preparing to provide some form of face-to-face instruction on campus in the fall of 2020. Those plans are being developed by each university working in consultation with key local constituencies and by sharing insights with one another.

The State System and its sister institutions are learning from each other and collaborating as a system, with universities sharing plans and pressure-testing each other's ideas. The universities' plans are expected to differ in ways that reflect the institutions' unique local circumstances and the particular needs of the students and communities they serve.

A 2020 Fall Framework is being developed by the Office of the Chancellor with input from the university presidents and other leaders as well as input from stakeholders such as union leadership. The framework is intentionally designed to provide flexibility for universities to respond and plan locally while doing so in a coordinated fashion that meets systemwide standards.

The framework requires all university plans to support all students' progress towards their degrees while mitigating health and safety risks that exist for students, employees, and their host communities. Plans must also adhere to health and safety standards provided by federal and state agencies and comply with guidelines from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. And while all State System universities are planning for some on-campus instruction in the fall, each university will have a contingency plan for alternate modes of operation should the pandemic evolve in such a way as to require it.

In addition to following federal and state health and safety guidelines, the framework requires all 14 university plans to conform to State System guidance that fosters consistency in key areas such as:

- Expectations for students, faculty, and staff with respect of their roles in helping to mitigate health and safety risks;
- Curtailment of institutionally sponsored travel unless deemed essential;
- Support for employee readiness for engagement in telework including remote instruction if needed;
- Standardized processes for meeting requests from employees for flexible work arrangements;
- Steps to be taken in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19; and
- Circumstances requiring a university to curtail or suspend face-to-face instruction independently of any action taken by a local, state or federal government agency.

**MOTION:** That the Board of Governors hereby endorses the development of the State System's 2020 Fall Framework and affirms its use by all 14 institutions within the State System. The Board further affirms the Chancellor's authority to modify the framework as needed to enable the State System and its sister institutions to nimbly respond to the evolving circumstances in a timely manner.

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**Supporting Documents Included:** 2020 Fall Framework (Draft)

**Other Supporting Documents Available:** None

**Reviewed by:** Board Chairperson; Office of the Chancellor

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