



# PA State System of Higher Education Board of Governors

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**Effective:** October 15, 1992

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## **Policy 1992-01: Designation of State System Collaboratives**

**See Also:**

**Adopted:** October 15, 1992

**Amended:**

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### **A. Background**

In *Priorities for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education during the 1990s*, the State System Planning Commission devoted an entire section to "Increasing the Benefits of State System Linkage for Faculty, Staff, and Students." Noting that the 1984 Strategic Direction Statements contained a similar emphasis and that a number of significant initiatives have been taken to increase collaboration within the State System, the Commission observed that "Much has been done. Still, the potential for creative sharing and interaction, as well as cost-savings, is so great that this priority merits reiteration and expansion with an emphasis on enabling students, faculty, administrators, and others to benefit more fully from the resources available within the State System."

Several more specific recommendations follow, one of which calls for the chancellor to "solicit and approve proposals for State System centers and institutes," which are collaborative.

### **B. Purpose**

To provide policy and criteria for implementation of the State System priority calling for establishment of "System-wide programs, centers, and institutes that serve and involve faculty and students from sister universities." Such collaboratives do not necessarily depend on, nor do they establish, preeminence of the host university in a particular field. Their purpose, rather, is to facilitate collaboration among universities and, thus, to increase the benefits of State System linkage.

### **C. Definition**

A State System Collaborative is an entity hosted and housed by one or more State System universities, but designed to involve faculty and staff from sister

universities in planning and advisory capacities and to utilize faculty and staff, and, in some instances, student resources from sister universities in fulfilling its mission. Any of three types of missions (or a combination) would be appropriate for such a collaborative:

1. Providing resources, educational or professional development programs, and services in a particular area primarily to benefit internal constituencies, i.e., faculty, staff, and/or students across the State System.
2. Providing faculty development and professional service through applied research, integration, and dissemination of knowledge in a particular disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or professional field in which substantial interest and expertise exist within the State System.
3. Providing service, consultation, and applied research in a particular field of specialization primarily for external constituencies.

Designation as a State System Collaborative does not imply that State System funds will be allocated to support the program. The host university(ies) will be responsible for securing appropriate funding.

#### **D. Criteria for Designation as a State System Collaborative**

The Office of the Chancellor may solicit proposals for a State System Collaborative with a particular focus, or universities may initiate proposals. Following review and recommendations by a panel of internal and external reviewers appropriate to given proposals, the chancellor will determine designation as a State System Collaborative on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Rationale for establishing a State System Collaborative, rather than a regional or local program for the intended purpose;
2. Significance of the mission and focus of the proposed collaborative;
3. Need for, and potential value of, the intended programs and services to the collaborative's primary clientele(s);
4. Degree of potential impact of the proposed program;
5. Extent of interest expressed by sister universities and potential for productive involvement of faculty, staff, and possibly, students from other State System universities;
6. Availability of appropriate expertise at both the host university and other institutions interested in participating;
7. Feasibility of the plan provided in the proposal;

8. Plans for ongoing evaluation of the collaborative's activities and outcomes;
9. Reasonableness of total funding requirements; and
10. Attractiveness to potential sources of funding.

**E. Review**

At the end of the first three years, and then at a minimum of every five years, State System collaboratives should undergo formal review by an appropriate review team, including representatives from within and outside of State System universities. The team should make recommendations to the chancellor concerning continuation of the particular State System Collaborative.