



**PRESIDENT**

Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Trustee  
Slippery Rock University of  
Pennsylvania

April 6, 2020

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Mr. John "Jack" Wabby, Trustee  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

Dear Trustees,

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Ms. Milissa S. Bauer, Trustee  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania

Wow. It seems like a lifetime ago since I sent out my last update last month. At that time, the PACT Executive Committee and Council Chairs had just met to discuss the proposed ACT 188 legislation and I remember asking one of my friends after the meeting, "is this Corona thing going to be as bad as some people are saying?"

**SECRETARY**

Ms. Mary Coploff, Trustee  
Lock Haven University of  
Pennsylvania

And here we are, our students are all attending class on-line, summer programs are starting to be cancelled, and no one knows what the fall will bring. This has not been the spring that I was looking forward to.

**TREASURER**

Ms. Karen Russell, Trustee  
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

Another loss to the Covid-19 is the annual PACT meeting which was scheduled for the end of this month in Harrisburg. The PACT conference planning committee has been discussing its options and it tentatively appears that the PACT conference will be delayed until September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be moved from Harrisburg to the Hershey Lodge.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Mr. Ed Edwards, Trustee  
Bloomsburg University of  
Pennsylvania

Mr. James Raith, Trustee  
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

Mr. Stephen DeFrank, Trustee  
California University of Pennsylvania

If your Council of Trustees has not yet scheduled your fall COT meeting date, please schedule around these dates.

Mr. Marcus S. Lingenfelter, Trustee  
East Stroudsburg University of  
Pennsylvania

Ms. Kathy Pape, Trustee  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Normally, the PACT officers are elected at the PACT Conference in April so that they can take office on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Because the meeting has been delayed until September, PACT will be conducting an electronic vote for its officers in May. You will be receiving more information about the nominating committee's recommended slate and the voting process in the near future.

Mr. Nathan T. Spade, Trustee  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Richard L. Frerichs, Trustee  
Millersville University of  
Pennsylvania

Mr. Mike Ross, Trustee  
Shippensburg University of  
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Honorable Stephen Kinsey, Trustee  
West Chester University of  
Pennsylvania

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Last week I had the chance to talk with the Chancellor about the future of the system. He really didn't tell me anything that you have not read in the newspaper, but I think that it is worth repeating.

Before the Covid-19 virus hit, our system was facing a \$60 - \$80 million shortfall, system-wide. The system is now expecting an additional \$100 million deficit due to refunding room and board payments to our students. Each University has the challenge of addressing those losses by finding money from within their own budgets. For some of our schools, this will be a nearly impossible task.

A year ago, we thought that the PASSHE system was going to be facing tough times as the Chancellor presented his "System Redesign" plans to us. While there was not universal support for his "systemness" efforts, everyone agreed that the status quo wasn't working and that something needed to be done.

As the systemness plan has moved forward and it has started to evolve from conceptualization to implementation, some questions have inevitably been raised about the specific approach. Last month's meeting of the PACT Executive Committee and the Council Chairs was one such example.

Today, PASSHE is no longer facing a crisis. It is now facing a disaster. It is important that we all band together and support the Chancellor and his efforts to get us through the next year.

The system will likely have to make some very difficult decisions to preserve our universities. I don't know what they will be, but I trust the Chancellor will do what is best for PASSHE. To not do so, would simply create chaos. I hope you will have faith in him during these trying times and give him your full support as he tries to chart a course through uncharted waters.

Stay safe,

