This document seeks to answer some frequently asked questions as the integrations planning process continues. It is updated frequently to reflect the latest developments.

### Integrations FAQs

**Who are the stakeholders in the integration process?**

Everyone. We have already done extensive outreach to stakeholders and will continue to do so throughout the process. All stakeholders had a voice in the planning process, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, legislators, and other members of the community.

**Why is PASSHE integrating these six universities, and is the System considering any other multi-university integrations?**

Yes. The outcome of university integration is purposeful in its intent to retain a campus’ name and preserve its historical identity, brand, campus experiences and value proposition. Integrations are an important means of supporting System Redesign by stabilizing the System financially and ensuring our universities together are able to meet the changing needs of students and the state. The decision to integrate these six universities was based on a comprehensive analysis of financial sustainability, operational efficiencies, and educational opportunities.

**How close are we to having integrated institutions?**

As of now, we are in the planning stages and working groups are engaged in collaborative planning. Implementation plans are not yet available for review.

**Are implementation plans available for review?**

No. We entered into this process understanding how important it is to respect the value of institutional identities and what they mean to stakeholders like students, alumni, donors, and other members of the community. The planning process is still ongoing, and we will provide updates as they become available.

**What is the key to the success of integrating universities?**

Yes. Integrations are an important means of supporting System Redesign by stabilizing the System financially and ensuring our universities together are able to meet the changing needs of students and the state. The goals of the integrating universities, including California, Clarion and Edinboro in the west and Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Mansfield in the northeast, are to maintain or expand premier educational opportunities for students across the state, position institutions for growth, and meet regional economic and workforce needs.

**How will the cost of attendance change?**

Yes. Integrations provide the best chance to continue this mission and to expand the breadth of educational opportunities available across the state.

**What are the expected outcomes of this integration?**

Integrating campuses are pursuing a path with the NCAA that allows each campus to retain and continue its current complement of sports and existing sports teams.

**Will the cost of attendance change?**

Yes, financial aid and scholarship commitments will carry over. As always, privately funded scholarships will be awarded and disbursed based on the donor’s criteria.

**Can I continue my current studies as an existing university student?**

Yes. Current students will be able to complete the program in which they are currently enrolled, and it is the intent of integrating universities to honor each campus identity, including cultures, traditions, programs, and academic strengths.

**Is there a single application process anticipated?**

Yes, a single application process is anticipated to be available for students across the integrated universities as part of a seamless admissions process for students enrolling in Fall 2022 and through individual working group engagement.

**Will students have access to all programs and courses at the integrated universities?**

Yes. Western campuses will continue providing a wide range of academic programs and courses, including those that are unique to each campus. Students can expect to see the benefits of these changes in Fall 2022, when the integrated universities begin enrolling their first class of students.

**Will it be possible to access online or remote courses at any of the campuses?**

Yes. Western campus locations, online, or through a combination of online and in-person classes at the campus of their choice. University integration is also intended to expand academic opportunities available across the state.

**What programs are currently offered by the universities?**

Programs typically require students to take a mix of in-person and online/remote learning courses as they progress toward their degree. It is important to note that the specifics of these programs may vary depending on the individual institution.

**Will transfer students be required to complete additional coursework?**

Yes. The transfer process will remain simple and maximize the credits a student can transfer to an integrated university. A transfer student will be able to complete their declared major at the campus in which they are enrolled. Students will also have access to many new opportunities, experiences, and degree programs that will arise from university integration.

**Will the financial aid process change?**

Yes. Financial aid and scholarship commitments will carry over. As always, privately funded scholarships will be awarded and disbursed based on the donor’s criteria.

**Will there be a change in campus name?**

Yes. The outcome of university integration is purposeful in its intent to retain a campus’ name and preserve its historical identity, brand, campus experiences and value proposition.

**Will the System be able to deliver the same educational opportunities?**

Yes. While the System has traditionally featured 14 largely independent public universities, we are a single corporate structure. If one or more universities are struggling financially, the System can work together to increase efficiencies and ensure that all campuses are able to meet the changing needs of students, the state, and other stakeholders.

**Will the funding model change?**

Yes. Opportunities for cost savings (thanks to scale) that enhance financial sustainability.

**Will the Act 50 of 2020 be implemented in its entirety?**

Yes. Act 50 of 2020 was approved by Pennsylvania’s General Assembly with near unanimity and was signed by the Governor in June 2020. The Act provides the Board of Governors with the authority to make changes to the system to ensure its sustainability.

**Will the board authorize the transfer of assets to independent third-party institutions?**

No. We entered into this process understanding how important it is to respect the value of institutional identities and what they mean to stakeholders like students, alumni, donors, and other members of the community. The planning process is still ongoing, and we will provide updates as they become available.

**Will the student experience change?**

Yes. delivery uses tools such as Zoom or other web conferencing tools to let students participate in a class in real time from a remote location. For example, a student at one campus can attend a class on another campus using these tools, allowing for more flexible and accessible educational opportunities.

**How can I access the planning documents?**

Opportunities for cost savings (thanks to scale) that enhance financial sustainability.

**What is the role of the Act 50 of 2020?**

Act 50 of 2020 was approved by Pennsylvania’s General Assembly with near unanimity and was signed by the Governor in June 2020. The Act provides the Board of Governors with the authority to make changes to the system to ensure its sustainability.

**Will students be able to earn a degree from the campus in which they are enrolled?**

Yes. A current student will be able to complete the program in which they are currently enrolled, and it is the intent of integrating universities to honor each campus identity, including cultures, traditions, programs, and academic strengths.

**Can students complete any of their coursework remotely?**

Yes. In fact, this effort is intended to expand the academic supports and opportunities available to students by taking advantage of the greater scale that results from institutional integration.

**How will the change affect existing partnerships?**

Western campuses will continue providing a wide range of academic programs and courses, including those that are unique to each campus. University integration is also intended to expand academic opportunities available across the state.

**What is the role of the Planning Group?**

The role of the Planning Group is to facilitate the collaboration and alignment of the integrating universities. They will work to identify and address any potential challenges and to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

**What is the timeline for implementation?**

The timeline for implementation is still under development and will be shared as it becomes available.

**Who have been involved in the integrations planning?**

Everyone. We have already done extensive outreach to stakeholders and will continue to do so throughout the process. All stakeholders had a voice in the planning process, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, legislators, and other members of the community.

**What steps have been taken to involve stakeholders?**

Everyone. We have already done extensive outreach to stakeholders and will continue to do so throughout the process. All stakeholders had a voice in the planning process, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, legislators, and other members of the community.

**What challenges have been identified in the planning process?**

Yes. Integrations provide the best chance to continue this mission and to expand the breadth of educational opportunities available across the state.

**How has the planning process evolved?**

The planning process started with an Open Forum in early 2020 and ended with public meetings in late 2020. Consulting firms were engaged in the planning process to provide expertise and guidance. The integrations planning process did not end there. Throughout this ongoing process, students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, legislators, and other members of the community will continue to be involved through various engagement efforts such as working groups and public meetings.

**What is the current status of the integrations planning?**

The planning process started with an Open Forum in early 2020 and ended with public meetings in late 2020. Consulting firms were engaged in the planning process to provide expertise and guidance. The integrations planning process did not end there. Throughout this ongoing process, students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, legislators, and other members of the community will continue to be involved through various engagement efforts such as working groups and public meetings.

**What is the intended outcome of the integrations planning?**

Integrations are an important means of supporting System Redesign by stabilizing the System financially and ensuring our universities together are able to meet the changing needs of students and the state. The goals of the integrating universities, including California, Clarion and Edinboro in the west and Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Mansfield in the northeast, are to maintain or expand premier educational opportunities for students across the state, position institutions for growth, and meet regional economic and workforce needs.

**What steps have been taken to ensure the success of the integrations planning?**

Integrations are an important means of supporting System Redesign by stabilizing the System financially and ensuring our universities together are able to meet the changing needs of students and the state. The goals of the integrating universities, including California, Clarion and Edinboro in the west and Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Mansfield in the northeast, are to maintain or expand premier educational opportunities for students across the state, position institutions for growth, and meet regional economic and workforce needs.