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**Effective:** December 1, 2017

Page 1 of 2

## **Policy 2017-01: *Students Affected by Disasters***

### **See Also:**

Board of Governors' Policy 1999-02-A: *Tuition*

Board of Governors' Policy 1985-03: *Student Domicile Regulations*

**Adopted:** November 13, 2017

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### **A. Purpose and Scope**

Significant disasters may result in affected postsecondary education institutions suspending operations and displacing students. This policy enables Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education universities to meet the educational needs of students who have been displaced from postsecondary institutions that suspended their operations due to a disaster.

### **B. Definitions**

- **Disaster--** An event such as a flood, tornado, fire, earthquake, or hurricane that causes substantial damage such that a college/university in a particular region is inoperable for an extended period of time pursuant to declaration by appropriate legal authority.
- **Eligible Displaced Students—**Students, not domiciled in Pennsylvania, who have had their enrollment disrupted at an accredited college or university within the United States or its territories that has suspended operations due to a disaster. Universities are encouraged to work in good faith with students who are not immediately able to provide official college/university transcripts.
- **Out-of-State Tuition—**Tuition and the technology tuition fee charged to students who are not domiciled in Pennsylvania.

### **C. Policy**

The university presidents may waive a portion of out-of-state tuition to eligible displaced students who attend postsecondary institutions that have suspended their operations due to a disaster. Students who meet admission requirements may be offered enrollment on a space available basis and may be charged a reduced out-of-state tuition rate that is at least 102% of the in-state rate. University presidents may waive any and/or all other associated fees.

The chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the Board of Governors, is authorized to waive any policies as necessary to ensure the successful matriculation of eligible displaced

students. The chancellor shall promulgate procedures, standards, and guidelines that will ensure compliance with federal and state financial aid requirements, as well as enrollment expectations and window of eligibility for reduced tuition.

**D. Effective Date**

This Policy is effective December 1, 2017.