

Board of Governors Resolution 2022-01
February 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Role of Councils of Trustees at integrating universities

UNIVERSITIES AFFECTED: Integrating institutions

BACKGROUND: The integrations plans call for the new integrating universities to retain the accreditation of California University (in the west) and Bloomsburg University (in the northeast). By using the existing accreditation of those universities rather than seek new/initial accreditation for the integrated institutions, their students will benefit from seamless accreditation (e.g., uninterrupted federal financial aid)—upon approval by the accrediting agency.

Because the west and northeast integrations will retain only CALU and Bloom accreditations, the existing Councils of Trustees for those institutions will become the integrating universities' councils by default. That being said, the System remains committed to ensuring voices from all six integrating universities continue to be heard. As such, the following resolution calls for the creation of separate quasi-council bodies at Clarion, Edinboro, Lock Haven and Mansfield with which the Chancellor and President must consult regarding those matters that the official Council of Trustees influences. This will ensure equity in representation for all six campuses until such time the statutorily controlled composition, structure, or membership of the Councils of Trustees accounts for such equitable representation.

The following resolution calls for the Chancellor to promulgate a Procedure & Standard to operationalize this action.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2022-01

WHEREAS, California University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Clarion University of Pennsylvania are integrating/consolidating into one university (to be named Penn West) pursuant to Act 50 of 2020;

WHEREAS, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and Mansfield University of Pennsylvania are integrating/consolidating into one university (name TBD) pursuant to Act 50 of 2020;

WHEREAS, each set of three institutions will become one institution on July 1, 2022, contingent upon approvals by the accrediting agency, Middle States Commission on Higher Education;

WHEREAS, pursuing new/initial accreditation for the integrated entity would disadvantage students (e.g., hindering their ability to secure federal financial aid); however, retaining the existing accreditation of California University of Pennsylvania (for the west) and Bloomsburg

University of Pennsylvania (for the northeast) would ensure seamless accreditation on behalf of the two respective integrated institutions—all to the benefit of students;

WHEREAS, because the accreditation of CALU and Bloomsburg would continue as the accreditation of the integrated entities, the Councils of Trustees currently associated with CALU and Bloomsburg University would also continue and become their respective integrated institution's Council of Trustees beginning July 1, 2022;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 188 of 1982 (Section 2008-A Councils of Trustees), the “council of each of the institutions shall consist of eleven (11) members . . . ”

WHEREAS, the Councils of Trustees at Clarion University, Edinboro University, Lock Haven University and Mansfield University shall cease to be a legally recognized body pursuant to Act 188 of 1982 as amended by Act 50 of 2020;

WHEREAS, the current role of those four Councils of Trustees as set forth in Act 188 of 1982, as amended, is important and desired to continue notwithstanding that those councils will no longer exist as recognized governing bodies under the law (as of July 1, 2022);

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: The Board desires that entities be created at Clarion, Edinboro, Lock Haven, and Mansfield for the sole benefit of the new integrated institution for the purpose of providing continued input and support and to fulfill a quasi-council of trustees role at Clarion, Edinboro, Lock Haven, and Mansfield. The Chancellor and President shall be required to seek input from these entities regarding matters that fall under the purview of the statutory roles of the the Councils of Trustees. Further, the Chancellor's Office shall promulgate a Procedure & Standard to operationalize this resolution, which shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the Legislature amends 24 P.S. §20-2008-A or otherwise changes the composition of the Councils of Trustees for the integrated institutions, and/or this is otherwise superseded by Board action.

Supporting Documents Included: Draft resolution

Other Supporting Documents Available: None

Reviewed by: Office of the Chancellor

Prepared by: Randy A. Goin Jr.

Email: rgoin@passhe.edu