

PSH will merge with Schuylkill Merger result of change in CES mission

By Brian LaBonte
Contributor

New changes are in store for the Penn State Harrisburg community.

Due to a proposed change in the mission of the Commonwealth Education System (CES), the Schuylkill campus will merge with PSH (referred to as Capital College under the CES). The merger will be complete by this time next year according to Dr. John Bruhn, provost and dean of Capital College. It is part of a five-year strategic plan to restructure the CES.

This five-year plan (1997-2002) asks each campus of the Commonwealth Educational System (CES) "to review its history and to recommend how it can best serve its local region," according to a October 1995 study entitled, "Commonwealth Educational System: A Plan For Planning."

The University feels that changes in economic, demographic, and enrollment trends require Penn State to "intensely scrutinize its current mission," according to a press release placed on the Internet.

The way CES is structured now, there is little academic cooperation between the CES campuses and University Park, Behrend, and Harrisburg. The proposed five-year plan hopes to change that. By increasing cooperation, President Graham Spanier feels that Penn State will then fit the needs of the local communities.

During a meeting with the CES Caucus, Spanier said that no new resources would be going to support the mission changes. Since Schuylkill and Harrisburg decided to merge, they must already have the resources to support the student body.

This doesn't mean that programs will be dropped or faculty will have to be let go, however. It does mean that, with the merger, PSH will have to become "enrollment driven," Dr. Bruhn said. The college will have to introduce new programs and perform research in order to attract students to pay the bills since it will have more students, faculty and staff, but not extra funds.

Dr. Spanier tried to ease tensions during a press conference in October of last year when he said that the change in mission is "about getting Penn State organized in a fashion so we are delivering the right kinds of educational services, to the right people, at the right places, at the right time."

The change in demographics

is another reason for the overhaul. The minority population in Pennsylvania has grown by 334,660 from during the past 15 years and more of them are graduating high school and want to attend college.

With the change in mission, Penn State hopes to attract those students who can't afford to leave their region to attend University Park. Also, the total number of Pennsylvania high school graduates that are attending college is rising, and that number will continue to rise into the 21st century. Penn State wants to attract them.

In "A Plan For Planning," the administration assures the faculty that those with tenure will not be released, but they, along with the staff, will be provided the opportunity for retraining. Where retraining is not appropriate, reassignment will be offered. For those who refuse both, early retirement will be offered.

Penn State also assures the students that they "will have the opportunity to complete the work they originally planned for that campus."

Capital College is taking an active role in the development of a regional campus for south-central Pennsylvania. It will offer new programs in Environmental Engineering (B.S.) and Electrical Engineering (Masters). It is also expanding to private liberal arts colleges in the area to allow students to earn degrees in programs not available at Penn State; for example, a J.D./M.P.A. or J.D./M.B.A. program with Dickinson Law School.

"We've got to reach out and not rely on the Penn State name," Dr. Bruhn said.

Other areas include the expansion of the Eastgate Center in downtown Harrisburg so government employees can take courses over their lunch hour or after work. New ways of learning, like self-paced- and computer learning, are also featured.

"It's a major thrust for the future of Penn State," Bruhn said.

Although the first satellite campus was opened in Allentown in 1912, the CES as we know it wasn't born until the depression era. It was during this time that the University realized that the only way for students to attend college, was for the college to go to them. The system was suspended during World War II, but reopened with the overwhelming number of veterans who returned to attend college. Since then it has altered its mission or administration four times.

CCSG delivers petition to legislators with message that students do care

By Danielle C. Hollister
Co-Editor

Ten Council of Commonwealth Student Government (C.C.S.G.) representatives from three universities in Pennsylvania told lawmakers at the State Capitol that students do care and an increase in state appropriations to universities is necessary.

On Jan. 3, Penn State University, Temple University and University of Pittsburgh representatives presented a petition to legislators with over 15,000 student signatures on it.

"I think we opened up their eyes a little bit," Director of Government Affairs, CCSG at Penn State University Park, Jason Getz, said at a press conference held at Penn State Harrisburg following the day long meetings with legislators.

"This was the first major effort with three universities coming together," Getz said.

Each university had the issues specific to their college, but they shared the same ultimate goal. Some of the main issues they expressed concern over were:

- Last year, Gov. Tom Ridge reduced the tuition challenge grant from \$212 to \$100 per student.
- Pennsylvania public schools have second highest tuition in the United States.
- Pennsylvania ranks 47th in financial support to higher education.

Facts specific to state support for Penn State include:

- PSU receives the lowest appropriation per student of any public school in the state.
- Despite having 14,000 more students than the Big Ten average, PSU receives \$78 million below the Big Ten average appropriation to public schools.
- Tuition has increased at PSU every year since the 1967-1968 academic term.
- PSU's internal budget reduction has totaled \$87 million since 1992.
- In 1975, the appropriations covered 56 percent of a full-time PSU student's tuition, today that figure is only 36 percent.
- After inflation adjustment, PSU's appropriation has decreased by 7.0 percent since 1992.
- PSU educates one of every eight Pennsylvania college students.

Getz said another concern about PSU is that the university will not be presenting an exaggerated budget this year. In the past, the budget was inflated in order to withstand anticipated cuts. This year, there is no excess built in to the budget.

"This means that if the university does not get what it requests, it will not be able to meet the minimal expenses," Getz said.

The meeting gave the CCSG representatives an opportunity to tell lawmakers, students are aware of the reductions



Jason Getz, CCSG director of government affairs, speaks at press conference at PSH on Jan. 3, 1996

and the effects on students.

"There seems to have been a notion that we are the slackers of Generation X," Temple University Student Government Association President, Kamal Latham, said. "We totally dispelled that myth."

Some of the legislators who met with the CCSG representatives include:

- Jan Bissett, House Democratic Committee Director
- Tom Starke, Senate Republican Appropriations Committee Director
- Tom Glock, Senate Democratic Committee Director

- Paula Hess, House Republican Committee Director
- Robert Bittenbender, Secretary of the Budget
- Mary Soderberg, House Democratic Appropriations Committee Director

"Another issue we stressed to them was the services that we give back to the state and local communities," Getz said. "The significance of our symbiotic relationship should not be forgotten."

If students have questions about these issues or want to offer support, they may contact CCSG, 217 Hetzel Union Bldg., University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-0697.

Students offered unique opportunity to work at the Summer 1996 Olympics

By Tina Shearer
Co-editor

If you didn't get tickets to the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, there is still an opportunity to be a part of the games.

A company called Borg-Warner is accepting applications from Penn State students interested in being low-level security monitors.

Participants will receive admission to available Olympic events, an official Olympic pin set, free security and first-aid training, and free uniforms.

An individual can work for hourly wages and are then responsible for housing and food. There will be travel and lodging assistance available. The hourly rate is \$6/hr with benefits and \$8/hr without benefits.

The no pay option provides the individual with housing and two meals a day.

The event can also be used for college credit. Criminal justice majors or anyone with a free elective can take Criminal Justice 495, Olympic Games Protective Concepts for 3 credits.

The dates of the event are July 18 to Aug 4 and the work schedule consists of five 12 hour days followed by two days off.

Applicants must submit an application by Feb 22. The following week, Borg-Warner will be on campus to answer questions and verify the applications are filled out correctly. For more information or for an application, contact Karl Martz, Coordinator of Career Services, in W-117 or at (717) 948-6260.

Job Fairs introduces PSH students to several prospective area employers

By Tina Shearer
Co-editor

The time has come to print the resume out and dry clean the suit.

The 9th Annual Central Pennsylvania Employment Consortium (CPEC) Job Fair is bringing together approximately 100 employers recruiting for post-graduate positions.

The Job Fair will be held at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center in Lebanon, Pa. on Wednesday, Feb 28, 1996 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The 1996 Job Fair will include internship opportunities for the first time. According to CPEC, "real life work experience is a critical component in finding a job after graduation and the fair provides a great way to arrange an internship to begin getting this valuable experience."

Some of the employers scheduled to attend include: AMP Incorporated, Capital Blue Cross, Fulton Bank, PA Department of Environmental Resources, PHEAA, and Sherwin-Williams Company.

There are employer profiles located in Career Services to research the companies that will be in attendance.

"Sometimes this is the only way for students to have access

to these companies," Karl Martz, Coordinator of Career Services at Penn State Harrisburg said.

Participants can also attend the following seminars: "The State Civil Service Hiring Process", "How to Obtain An Internship", and "Surviving Your First Year On The Job". A resume review service will be offered by Career Services Professional at the Fair also.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1996, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the 12th Annual Cumberland Valley Consortium (CVC) Job Fair will be held in Frederick, Maryland.

"We joined CVC in order to open up opportunities in the Maryland, Baltimore and Washington corridor for students," Martz said.

To register, stop by in Career Services, W-117 and pick up a registration form, an employer guidebook and a nametag. Attendance is restricted to students and alumni from participating institutions.

Registration for CVC is Monday, Jan. 29 through Monday, Feb. 12 and for CPEC Monday, Jan. 29 through Monday, Feb. 26.

The Capital Times

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