

Rally at the Rotunda

Penn State students participate to rally against state tuition raise

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Students across the commonwealth stood up to have their college costs brought down on Tuesday, March 14, 2006. The Rally at the Rotunda, which has been going on for the past five years, is to show PA lawmakers that students do care about tuition increases and should fight for a higher amount of state appropriations for all of public higher education.

In PA, there is currently a discouraging trend that higher education is no longer a concern of state legislators. These students, however, are our nation's future! More and more, students and parents alike are digging deeper into their pockets to pay for college.

All universities have begun to feel the "pinch" of tighter budget proposals. This issue involves all families across PA and as tuition continues to rise due to less appropriations, the amount of money families will have to spend on tuition will increase.

We, as students, must take the initiative to address the current funding shortages allocated to higher education in order to improve financial conditions for students in the future.

Did you know that PA has the sixth largest budget in the United States? However, compared to other states, PA ranks number 42 when it comes to funding higher education. Also, if there are more college students living, eating, shopping, and working in PA, many will remain in the area after graduation and continue to spend money in PA.

Mike Edwards, SGA President,

attended the rally. "I was disappointed that only four students represented Penn State Harrisburg." While PSH only had a few students who attended the rally, other campuses brought buses to the capital in support of increases of state appropriations.

While many students could not attend, most are thankful that efforts are being made to increase appropriations. Tony Stewart, senior criminal justice, said, "As tuition goes up, you have to cut into your own living expenses and you must put in more hours at work, which will in turn cut into your study time."

State representative Lynn B. Herman, Tom H. Killion, and John T. Yudichak took the time out of their busy schedules to address the crowd gathered inside. Killion and Yudichak both noted that they were graduates of Penn State University.

As the state representatives made their speeches, it was amazing to see the student body stand together and represent Penn State University as a whole. We were not from "University Park" or from "Harrisburg." We are "Penn State." We are college students just trying to pay our way through college.

The CCSG Governmental Affairs committee helped make this event the success that it was. Kyle Templin is the Governmental Affairs chair. The event was co-sponsored by Penn State Undergraduate Student Government, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, Lincoln University, and SSHE.

If you would like to get involved, you are encouraged to join the Penn State Grassroots Network.

Also, get to know your state representatives and write letters

to them stating that you care about tuition increases in PA. Meet with your administrators and ask questions. Most importantly, get out and vote! You have the power to choose the candidates who support higher education!

We want students to call PA "home," but in order to get them here, something needs to be done about tuition appropriation. The students who rallied at the rotunda are making those efforts to ensure a change; a change which will make everyone a winner.

Tuition. How much higher can it go?

Is Penn State public?

- Penn State is one of 4 State-Related Schools in Pennsylvania
- Penn State has the highest tuition of any public university in the country
- President Spanier has said we are moving more and more towards being a private institution
- Tuition has gone up 43.02% over the past 4 years

Quick facts:

- Pennsylvania has the 4th largest budget in the United States
- Pennsylvania is ranked 47th in funding for higher education
- Penn State's twenty-four campuses serve more than 82,000 students

Pennsylvania's Economy:

Some state legislators ask, "What does Penn State do for the economy,

that deserves them an increase in appropriations?"

- There are currently more than 439,371 living Penn State alumni, 251,297 live in Pennsylvania, over 7008 in Luzerne County

- Penn State is the largest single contributor to the Pennsylvania State Economy

- For every \$50 in your pocket, \$1 is from Penn State

We make a difference:

- This year the increase will be nearly 1.3 percentage points higher than last year's increase of approximately 2 percent.

- 2005-06 state budget appropriation for Penn State is \$323.6 million.

- 2004-05 it was \$317.2 million, reflecting the first appropriation increase for Penn State in three years.

- 2003-04 appropriation of \$307.8 million was \$14.7 million less than the previous year's and reflected a cumulative \$43.5 million loss in funds since 2001-02.

- Gov. Edward G. Rendell proposed a 2006-07 appropriation to Penn State of \$322.4 million.

- This represents an increase of 3.3 percent for PSU -- a funding level nearly equal to the appropriation received by the University five years ago.

Find out who your legislators are: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/index.cfm>

This information was found on the SGA website at <http://www.hbg.psu.edu/clubs/SGA/>

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1993, he worked at four other Penn State campuses and likes working at Penn State Harrisburg the best. "I love teaching and I think that Penn State Harrisburg is a gem system," he said. Young said that this campus has terrific students who are very dedicated, serious and capable, which makes for an optimum combination. And he sees no less in his colleagues. "They have exceptional diverse combinations of abilities and seem to work well together," said Young.

Young attended three different universities, all in different states, to receive his academic degrees. To obtain his bachelor's degree in operations management, he studied at Rider University in N.J. For Young's master's degree, he attended The State University of New York in Albany. And finally, for his doctorate degree, he attended Penn State University. Even Young's choice for college in three different states shows his love for travel.

Math was Young's favorite subject in high school, mainly because he did well in it. "It really is true that people like a subject simply because of the reason that they're good at it," he said. In college, transport economics was his favorite subject. Some subjects that Young teaches include an undergrad study course, a graduate elective course and an MBA capstone course in strategy. A capstone course is the final course students have to take before they can get their master's degree in business. This course cumulates everything students have learned in their graduate program and sums it all up.

But perhaps something Young's students did not know about him is that he thinks in terms of a spreadsheet; in rows and in columns. "I consider myself to be more

organized than the average person."

This is also one of the reasons he enjoys listening to classical music. "There are clearly patterns in it," said Young. These days he's been listening to Dvorak's symphony "From the New World."

Young lives in Lancaster with this wife. He's been living in Pennsylvania for 14 years and said that there is a lot more traffic than there used to be in the early 1990's. "There are not as many cornfields or farms than there were," he said. "I like the cornfields and farms though," he mentioned quickly. He said that there is no one else related to him anywhere in Pennsylvania. Of the other places he has lived including Mass., and N.J., he likes living in Pennsylvania the best because he enjoys its climate and change in seasons.

Young thinks of himself as a very introspective person. "I'm very comfortable with my own thoughts," he said. He values being in his car while listening to classical music and thinking. While he drives, he keeps a note pad in the passenger's seat where he writes his "to-do" list, as he remembers things he has to do that day or in the near future. "I'm a list maker, so my note pad is really helpful," he said.

As far as food is concerned, Young's favorite food is yellow-fish tuna sushi and his favorite drink is gewürztraminer wine because of its spiciness and flexibility to be able to drink with anything.

Living life through a philosophy is a good idea for most people. Young's philosophy is one that he finds simple to believe. He says, "Life is a journey, not a destination. So no matter what you do, hopefully you'll enjoy it." And Young enjoys what he does indeed. "It's one of the best jobs anyone can have," he said.

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