

TEMPLE TIMES

www.temple.edu/newsroom

Temple's biweekly newspaper for the university community

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Joseph V. Labolito

Temple University President Ann Weaver Hart responds to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett's budget address, which calls for a more than 50 percent reduction in funding to the Commonwealth's state-related institutions, including Temple.

A TIME for ACTION

President Hart responds to proposed reductions to Pa. support

On Tuesday, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett delivered his budget address to members of the state General Assembly. In video remarks, Temple President Ann Weaver Hart offered the university's response to proposed reductions in Commonwealth support for Temple and other state-related universities. At right is the transcript of her address, which can be viewed at www.temple.edu/newsroom.

Today, Gov. Corbett gave his budget address to the state General Assembly, marking the beginning of Pennsylvania's budget process. As expected, the proposed budget includes a major reduction in the Temple University Commonwealth appropriation. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania faces a \$4 billion revenue shortfall, which makes it very difficult to pass a balanced budget as mandated by the constitution. As a state-related university, Temple receives a significant portion of its operating budget from the Commonwealth.

In the coming months, lawmakers must make difficult budget choices that will directly affect every Temple student, faculty and staff member. That is why I am asking each and every

one of you to take action and play a vital role in communicating with our elected officials about the importance of Commonwealth support for Temple University and higher education.

I am asking you to do three things.

First, stay informed on what is taking place in Harrisburg. The governor's budget address paves the way for deliberation by state lawmakers, and I encourage you to closely follow the budget debate. By educating yourselves, you will learn exactly what is at stake and what the final budget decisions will mean for each of you.

Second, let legislators know

President continued on 2

TALON launches petition drive, rally

By Andrew McGinley
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The news that Gov. Tom Corbett's proposed budget would cut funding for Temple University and the rest of the Commonwealth's state-related universities by more than 50 percent surprised many. Yet before the governor had read the final words of his address, the Temple Advocates Legislative Outreach Network (TALON) was already mobilizing the Temple community to respond to his proposal.

In the coming weeks, TALON will roll out a comprehensive effort to communicate the importance of the Commonwealth's investment in higher education to members of Pennsylvania's General Assembly, showcase and celebrate the accomplishments of the Temple community and inform the public of the tremendous opportunities created by state-related education.

TALON has launched Stand with Temple, a broad-based petition drive. TALON has asked the entire university community to let Pennsylvania's elected officials know they support Temple by signing a petition that will be shared with the state's House and Senate appropriations committees. To sign the petition, visit www.temple.edu/government.

Temple President Ann Weaver Hart will meet with the House committee on March 16 and the Senate committee on March 28 to discuss how Gov. Corbett's proposal could affect Temple students.

In addition, TALON is planning Cherry and White Day in Harrisburg on April 26. This rally in the State Capitol is designed to communicate the importance of Pennsylvania's support for higher education to elected officials and highlight the Temple community's important work across Pennsylvania. Unlike February's Rally for Higher Education, Cherry and White Day will focus solely on Temple. While details of the event are still being planned, information is available on the Office of Government Relations' web site at www.temple.edu/government/rally.

"The entire Temple Community can work with TALON to secure a fair appropriation for Temple," said Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., senior vice president for government, community, and public affairs. "The voices of our students, faculty, alumni, staff and friends will be critical in this year's budget process."

Lawrence urged the Temple community to follow the Office of Government Affairs on Twitter at www.twitter.com/TUGovtAffairs for regular updates on the budget process and opportunities to get involved. u

'Day of reckoning' means dramatic cuts for Temple

By Ray Betzner
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Saying that "the day of reckoning has come," Gov. Tom Corbett on March 8 presented a sobering budget proposal that will have a dramatic effect on Temple University and the other state-related universities if approved by the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

In an unprecedented move, the governor recommended that the Commonwealth appropriation for Temple be cut more than half, from \$178.5 million in the current fiscal year to \$82.5 million in the new fiscal year, which starts July 1. Similar reductions are being proposed for the other state-related universities: the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State

University and Lincoln University.

If the General Assembly goes along with the cuts, it will be the largest decline in Commonwealth support for the state-related universities since the state-related system was created in the 1960s. In fact, the reduction would take the Commonwealth's support for Temple back to 1980-81 levels.

When discussing the state budget proposal in general, Corbett said the cuts were needed for two reasons: "One, we have to spend less, because we have less to spend. Two, we must tax no more, because the people have no more to give."

In his prepared remarks, the governor said the fiscal crisis is a

Governor continued on 2



Joseph V. Labolito

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett presents his budget proposal to the General Assembly on March 8 in Harrisburg.

COMMONWEALTH BUDGET SPECIAL EDITION

State-related universities point the way to economic recovery

An open letter from state-related university leaders Ann Weaver Hart, Temple; Ivory V. Nelson, Lincoln University; Mark A. Nordenberg, the University of Pittsburgh; and Graham Spanier, Pennsylvania State University. The letter was sent to newspapers across the Commonwealth for publication.

Ask most experts about how to end the economic recession and job creation is at the top of the list, followed closely by quality education and creating opportunities for investment. If that's true, then Pennsylvania's state-related institutions of higher learning may prove more valuable than ever in leading the way out of the recession.

Most of us think of them as popular schools that provide outstanding higher education at an affordable price for tens of thousands of students each year. Penn State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Lincoln University and Temple University together provide high quality higher education each year for more than 170,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 150,000 of whom are Pennsylvania residents. That's powerful economic impact all by itself, considering tuition and student, faculty, staff and visitor spending each year.

But consider these facts that demonstrate our institutions' growing importance to the state's economy:

n Penn State is one of the largest non-government employers in Pennsylvania, with 44,000 full and part-time employees who generate more than \$800 million in research spending each year. It is a leader in the state and ranks in the top 10 in the nation in total science and engineering research expenditures, including over \$100 million annually in industry sponsored R&D. Overall, Penn State is one of the biggest economic engines in this or any state, generating more than \$17 billion a year in economic impact.

n Pitt was awarded \$737 million in research funding in fiscal year 2009, more than \$700 million of which came from non-Pennsylvania sources. Such a staggering sum offers tremendous opportunities for new research, but it also supports — all by itself — more than 26,000 jobs in Pennsylvania and represents a \$4 return on every \$1 of Pitt's state appropriation.

n Temple has embarked on a campus investment initiative called Temple 20/20, based in fulfilling its Academic Strategic Compass which will transform its North Philadelphia campus and generate \$1.2 billion worth of new construction and jobs over the next decade. More than \$300 million

in projects are planned for 2011.

n Lincoln University, the nation's first HBCU, operates on a much smaller scale than the other three state-related institutions, but it is no less important to the local economy of southeastern Pennsylvania, where in addition to its historic campus it operates the esteemed Urban Center of Philadelphia as a job-training and employment opportunity hub in the inner city.

Our institutions are the "steady employers" whose consistent growth continues to provide new job and investment opportunities statewide — opportunities most of us don't normally think about when it comes to measuring the impact of colleges and universities.

In August, for example, the federal government announced that a research consortium headed by Penn State led a coalition of universities including the University of Pittsburgh, Princeton, Rutgers, the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel and other institutions which bested more than 100 other competitors nationwide to earn a \$129 million grant for development of an "energy innovation hub" at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The grant, the largest in the university's history, is aimed at developing new sustainable technologies for saving

energy and reducing pollution. Experts believe that these technologies will in turn create new businesses and as many as 100,000 "green sector" jobs in the next decade.

In addition to being the sixth largest provider of professional education in the United States, Temple is a leader in translational research, spending more than \$97 million in 2010 to discover innovative ways to improve lives. Temple's School of Medicine, through the Keystone Institute for Translational Medicine, serves one of the most diverse patient populations in the nation, working to cure diseases that disproportionately affect urban and rural Pennsylvanians, including primarily lung disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity and specific cancers. This fall Temple's School of Pharmacy announced that it will build the first integrated drug discovery center in Greater Philadelphia which when complete, will become a vital partner in the region's renowned pharmaceutical industry by collaborating with business and other academic institutions to speed the research and development of new drugs.

And at Pitt, which ranks in the top 10 nationwide among university recipients of federal science and engineering research awards, the university's Office of Technology Management has taken a

leadership role in creating new business opportunities out of the ideas that emerge from the lab and the classroom. In the last seven years, the OTM's efforts have formed the basis of more than 40 new start-up companies in Pennsylvania — companies that create employment and generate tax revenues for local and state coffers. And during the past three years, the university has averaged \$140.7 million in construction projects annually, which generated 1,300 jobs and \$51 million in personal income. Much of this new construction is for facilities that benefit and are available to Pitt's local communities, such as the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford's Blaisdell Hall, which is also serves as a cultural venue for the surrounding area.

So in addition to their extraordinary impact on Pennsylvania's students, the state-related institutions are vital economic engines that support more than 68,000 full-and part-time faculty and employees across the Commonwealth.

In pointing the way toward economic growth and recovery, as well as providing top-quality education to the next generation of Pennsylvania's leaders, our state-related universities continue to demonstrate the tremendous value they represent for state taxpayers as well. u

Governor

From page 1

time to re-think spending on higher education as a whole.

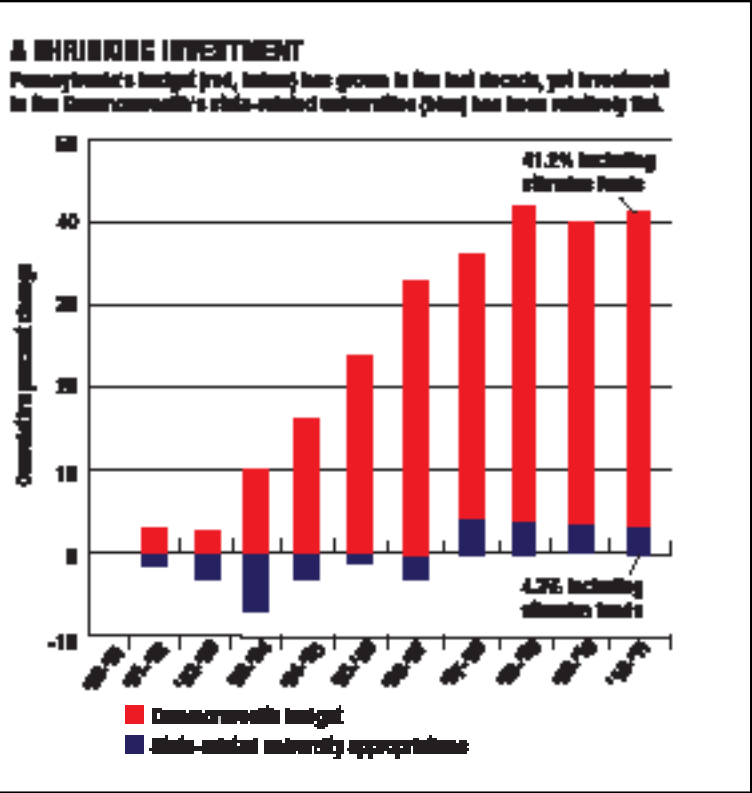
"Despite state subsidies over the past decades, tuition has continued to increase. If the intent was to keep tuition rates down, it failed," he said. "We need to find a new model."

Temple President Ann Weaver Hart reacted quickly to the proposal. "The governor's budget proposal cutting the Commonwealth appropriation to state-related universities by more than 50 percent dramatically alters the relationship between the Commonwealth and these schools," the president said.

"For the last five decades, Commonwealth support has helped the four state-related schools provide access to a high quality education at an affordable value, while building research enterprises that have driven the Pennsylvania economy," Hart said.

Although he wants to dramatically reduce the Commonwealth appropriation for state-related universities, the governor's budget plan actually goes to some length to describe the high value schools like Temple bring to Pennsylvania, especially in the area of research.

In describing the need for the state-related research universities,



Corbett's budget document describes them as "an essential ingredient for a healthy economy and the creation of new jobs in any region."

"The research university not only provides new ideas, technologies and product to industry but also educates and motivates graduates to turn those ideas, technologies and products into industry and jobs," according to the budget document.

President Hart agrees that the state-related universities are valuable for Pennsylvania and plans to work with legislators as the budget moves through the General Assembly.

"We will ask legislators to continue their investment in higher education to benefit Pennsylvania's young people and strengthen the Commonwealth's economic well-being," said the president. u

President

From page 1

about your concerns. Informed engagement inspired Temple students last month to board buses bound for the Capitol and participate in the Rally for Higher Education. They were joined by students from Penn State University, the University of Pittsburgh and Lincoln University to advocate for funding and celebrate the contribution of Pennsylvania's state-related universities.

Make your voices heard by joining the Temple Advocates Legislative Outreach Network, or TALON.

By signing up for TALON, you will join many other Temple supporters in receiving updates about the budget process. Most importantly, you can quickly and easily contact your elected officials and express your support for Temple University.

And finally, you can educate others. Talk with your classmates, co-workers, friends and family about the budget situation facing the Commonwealth and urge them to join TALON in advocating for Temple.

Temple has been a state-related university for five decades. We are proud to be one of the Commonwealth's great urban research universities and are grateful for the Commonwealth's continued

IMPACT

With an economic impact of more than \$3 billion annually, Temple enhances the economic vitality of Pennsylvania.

support for higher education. Please join with me, and the members of the Temple community, in making your voice heard during the weeks to come. On behalf of everyone at Temple, thank you. u

COMMONWEALTH BUDGET SPECIAL EDITION

Student Government leaders mobilize in support of Temple

By Hillel J. Hoffmann
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At the height of the Rally for Higher Education last month, hundreds of students from Temple, Penn State, Pittsburgh and Lincoln — Pennsylvania's four state-related universities — crammed the rotunda of the State Capitol to celebrate their schools' contributions to the Commonwealth. Applause swelled with each student speaker. A crowd of elected officials, aides and tourists gathered to watch. The sound of students singing echoed down the marble hallways. For those who were there — even for those who only watched on video — the electricity of the moment was unforgettable.

So who flipped the switch and unleashed all that energy? It was a small but dedicated group of Temple students who form the core leadership of Temple Student Government (TSG).

Starting last fall, TSG officers under the guidance of President Natalie Ramos-Castillo began to rally students to support Temple as the university prepared to advocate for continued state funding. TSG leadership spearheaded campaigns to get students to write their elected officials, signing up hundreds of



Temple Student Government President Natalie Ramos-Castillo leads hundreds of students representing Pennsylvania's four state-related universities in the singing of Temple's fight song, "T for Temple U," at the Rally for Higher Education in Harrisburg last month.

Temple students to the Temple Advocates Legislative Outreach Network, or TALON. They reached out to their counterparts at the other three state-related organizations, championed the idea of a rally in Harrisburg, led the charge in organizing the rally, mobilized nearly a hundred Temple students to attend (more than Penn State and Pitt combined) and invited President Ann Weaver Hart to speak to students at a "State of the Campus" address.

"Temple students have always

had a reputation for leadership and engagement; this year's TSG team is a shining example of this tradition," said Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Temple's senior vice president for government, community and public affairs. "Their advocacy activities are crucial moving forward."

In addition to Ramos-Castillo, TSG members who have taken the lead in building support for Temple include Eva Alkasov (office manager); Jarred Davidson (chair, local affairs); Vanessa Destime (chair, community

affairs); Alyssa Ecker (chair, university life); Jillian Kochis (Supreme Court chief justice); Mark Quien (chair, allocations; senator, Fox School of Business); Brandon Rey Ramirez (senator, College of Liberal Arts); Colin Saltry (Senate president); Alex Shelow (vice president, services and accounting); Taylor Whitson (chief of staff); and Damon Williams (vice president, external affairs and communications).

Ramos-Castillo, a senior from Allentown, didn't run for office knowing that advocacy for continued state support for higher education would dominate her administration's agenda. But rallying students to fight for Temple has come naturally to her team.

"Why not support and protect something that you love, something that contributes so much to local economies throughout the state?" she said. "Why not protect our funding so that generations after us can enjoy what we've enjoyed?"

To accomplish their goals, Ramos-Castillo and her team reached out to student leaders at other state-related institutions. Last December, TSG traveled to Harrisburg to meet their counterparts from Penn State, Pitt and Lincoln. The Harrisburg session was followed by similar spirited meetings at Temple and Penn State.

At those sessions, TSG leaders successfully pushed for the creation of the Pennsylvania Association of State-related Students, and the idea of a Rally for Higher Education was born.

In January and early February, TSG turned their attention to signing up students to attend the rally. Using social media and other less high-tech tools — including three days of old-fashioned pavement advocacy at the Bell Tower in the bitter cold of February, a time when TSG leaders were struggling with illness and studying for graduate school entrance exams — TSG mobilized busloads of students to attend the rally and signed up hundreds more to advocate for Temple via TALON.

The effort was worth it. The rally on Feb. 15 was a stunning success.

"It was awesome — the most memorable moment of my Temple career. The energy and camaraderie was amazing and being in the Capitol was uplifting," said junior Vanessa Destime, TSG community affairs chair and one of the speakers at the rally.

With the rally behind them, TSG's leaders are busy preparing for the next phase of advocacy.

"The fight is still going on," said senior Damon Williams, TSG's chair of external affairs and communications. "We are not going to stop." u

REACTIONS TO GOV. CORBETT'S PROPOSED BUDGET

"Eds and meds are the economic driving forces in southeastern Pennsylvania, and they're taking the hits. [This budget was] constructed on the backs of working families and children."

— State Sen. Vincent J. Hughes (D, Philadelphia), PCN television

"For many students who go to college and in some cases really stretch to do that...you're now saying to them, 'you just can't go.'"

— State Rep. James R. Roebuck Jr. (D, Philadelphia), *Philadelphia Inquirer*

"There would have to be a very significant increase in the in-state tuition."

— University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"At some point, we'll allow the governor to articulate his vision for higher education, so he can tell us why they think this is appropriate. Is it a math issue, or just a policy issue? I try to refrain from saying 'I'm for this or against this' this early in the budget process."

— State Sen. Jake Corman (R, Centre County), *Philadelphia Inquirer*

"There have been some very large proposed cuts from governors this year, but this is so far off the charts it doesn't even seem plausible."

— Daniel Hurley, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"These are our schools of higher learning, our colleges and universities, hospitals and medical schools. Those cuts will have a significant impact. Those are growth industries for us."

— Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter, KYW News Radio

"A funding gap this large is going to fundamentally change the way we operate, from the number of students we can educate, to the tuition we must charge, to the programs we offer and the services we can provide, to the number of employees and the research we undertake."

— Penn State University President Graham Spanier

"It's even worse than I thought it would be."

— Ron Cowell, President of the Harrisburg-based Education Policy and Leadership Council
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"The governor's plan for state-owned and state-related universities is unconscionable."

— Editorial
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"In his budget speech, Corbett said people voted in November for his promise of no tax increases. It turns out they also voted for tuition increases that will put college out of reach for more working families."

— Editorial
Philadelphia Inquirer

"Corbett's proposed cuts could be devastating for state-owned and state-related universities that are seeing their funding slashed in half. Penn State is calling it 'the most dramatic appropriation cut in the history of American higher education.' Even community colleges, which are experiencing unprecedented enrollment, saw their budgets chopped. Plus, there is less money for student grants. In other words, higher tuition and less student aid."

— Editorial
Harrisburg Patriot-News

Cuts to higher ed in Pa. deeper than neighboring states'

By Andrew McGinley
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This week, Gov. Tom Corbett announced his plan to cut the university's appropriation by more than 50 percent, further diminishing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's investment in higher education — already the nation's eighth lowest as of last year.

While no state in the region is free from making difficult economic choices like those facing the Commonwealth's leaders this year, Pennsylvania's proposed cuts in its investment in higher education this year have been far more drastic than its neighbors'.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has listed the funding of higher education as one of the core priorities in his spending plan for the next year. Rather than cutting New Jersey's investment, he has proposed leaving last year's funding plan intact for state colleges and universities, increasing aid to students by nearly 20 percent, and slightly increasing aid to community colleges.

Currently, no other mid-Atlantic state is proposing a plan as supportive of higher education as Gov. Christie's, and each is proposing a moderate cut. In New York, where investment in higher education has grown by more than 13 percent in five years, leaders intend to decrease spending on state colleges and universities by roughly 10 percent for the next fiscal year. In Delaware, Gov. Jack Markell has proposed a \$6.5 million reduction in state funding of higher education. Maryland — a state that has increased its investment in higher ed by more than 25 percent over the last five years — is planning on cutting spending on state colleges and universities by just 2 percent this year.

While Gov. Corbett's proposal would affect Pennsylvania's colleges and universities dramatically, his plan is not set in stone. In the weeks to come, Pennsylvania's leaders will hold budget hearings and deliberate over the governor's proposal before settling on a final budget for the next fiscal year. Members of the Temple community are encouraged to get involved in these deliberations through the Temple Advocates Legislative Outreach Network (TALON) at www.temple.edu/government. u

COMMONWEALTH BUDGET

SPECIAL EDITION

Faculty experts
respond to
Gov. Corbett's
budget proposal

By Kim Fischer
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Gov. Tom Corbett's budget proposal for 2011-12 cuts the Commonwealth appropriation to state-related institutions by more than 50 percent. Temple faculty experts weighed in on the governor's address, his proposed budget and what it means for higher education.

Joseph P. McLaughlin

Director of Temple's Institute for Public Affairs

"This budget reflects Gov. Corbett's campaign promises by holding the line on taxes and cutting deeply into state programs. If enacted in substantially this form, the budget will have a profound impact on thousands of institutions across the Commonwealth — not just counties, municipalities and school districts, but colleges and universities, hospitals and other service providers that the state funds and regulates. Citizens may be surprised at the results. Even if the legislature provides these institutions with the flexibility and mandate relief he is seeking, reduced services levels and higher local taxes, fees and tuitions seem inevitable.

"Those who depend on state services have to hope that the economy comes back faster and stronger than expected so that the legislature is able to restore some of the cuts."

William W. Cutler III

Professor of history and professor of educational leadership

"Looking at the governor's budget proposal through the lens of history highlights the ambiguous relationship we have had in this country with public higher education. State involvement in grade 1-12 education actually goes back to the beginning of the 20th century. While we have always been willing to pay 100 percent for basic education, the commitment to higher ed has not been the same — but today a college degree is as important as a high school diploma was 60 years ago.

"We invest in public education not for the good of individuals but for the common good. Today, the need to invest in higher education has grown because the need for a college degree has grown."

Michael G. Hagen

Associate professor and graduate chair, Department of Political Science

"Very near the start of his address, Gov. Corbett said, 'The day of reckoning has come.' On one hand, 'reckoning' merely means doing the math. 'We have to spend less, because we have less to spend,' Corbett put it. But 'the day of reckoning,' sometimes used as a synonym for 'judgment day,' invokes much more than math, dividing the world into good and evil.

"The principles his budget reflects include not simply fiscal discipline — the math — but also limited government, free enterprise and reform. Whether or not Pennsylvania's current fiscal circumstances make these cuts necessary in some actuarial sense, these are cuts that, in the governor's view, ought to be made under any circumstances."

Temple prepares for cuts to state appropriation

By Eryn Jelesiewicz
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Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett's fiscal-year 2012 budget proposes an unprecedented reduction of more than 50 percent in the state appropriation for Temple University and its fellow state-related institutions, Pitt, Penn State and Lincoln.

A cut this dramatic would reduce last year's \$178.5 million appropriation, or 21 percent of Temple's operating budget, to \$82.5 million (a 53.8 percent cut), or 9.6 percent of the budget. As a state-related institution, Temple's major sources of revenue are state support and tuition dollars.

While it was widely expected that the governor would propose a smaller state appropriation for Temple, the magnitude of the cut was a surprise, and would radically alter our relationship with the Commonwealth, said Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Temple's senior vice president of government, community and public affairs.

In anticipation of continuing declines in state support and fallout from the economic recession, university officials have worked diligently to carefully manage the budget, said Anthony E. Wagner, executive vice president, Temple's chief financial officer and treasurer.

"Still, the proposed budget will require us to scrutinize all expenses, and consider everything across the board, including tuition, programs and jobs," said Lawrence.

State support for higher education and the proportion of Temple's budget it comprises have been in decline for more than three decades. In 1972, for example, two-thirds of the university's budget came from the state.

The first and most critical step in carefully managing the university's finances was permanently reducing the operating budget by 5 percent, or \$40 million, starting in 2010. That year the university also froze hiring and travel as well as salaries

for non-bargaining employees. One-time stimulus funds were used solely for one-time expenses rather than recurring expenses.

"Ours was a more aggressive cut than that taken by many others, but we looked at the long-term trajectory of what was happening in both the federal and state governments and saw that this was the beginning of the problem, not the end of the problem," said Wagner.

Since then, Temple has continued to be conservative in its budget planning and management. This year, a university-wide process was initiated so that faculty, staff and students could collaborate and think about ways to control expenditures and increase revenues. And for the past several months, the finance staff has been planning for various scenarios in anticipation of the governor's budget proposal.

Going forward, administrative leaders plan to work closely with the Board of Trustees, the Faculty Senate's Budget Review Committee

and school and college deans to plan next year's university budget. Typically, a university budget — including a final decision on tuition — cannot be finalized until the state General Assembly has passed its budget.

"As always, our first priority is maintaining the academic quality we have promised to our students," said Wagner.

The university also will continue to make its case that investment in higher education is incredibly important even during difficult economic times.

The budget proposal will now go to the Pennsylvania House and Senate for hearings. Later this month, President Ann Weaver Hart will join the presidents of Pennsylvania's other state-related schools to testify before the appropriations committees in Harrisburg.

The final state budget must be completed by the end of June according to the Pennsylvania Constitution. u

Budget cuts would hit TU Hospital's patients hard

By Rebecca Harmon
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Eight months ago, 46-year-old Fareed Tucker was told he needed to have his right leg amputated — immediately. The Delaware County resident sought a second opinion from Temple vascular surgeon Eric Choi. Today, Tucker has both of his legs and can walk without the aid of crutches. He's grateful not only to Choi, but for the fact that the Commonwealth's Medical Assistance (or Medicaid) program enabled him to get sophisticated limb-salvage surgery while reimbursing Temple for a portion of his total healthcare costs.

Gov. Tom Corbett's proposed 2011-12 budget includes hospital funding cuts of \$333 million. For the hospitals and ancillary provider facilities in the Temple University Health System,

these cuts could approach \$83 million — a setback that would jeopardize the level of clinical services and programs available to uninsured or underinsured patients like Tucker.

Temple University Health System's flagship hospital, Temple University Hospital (TUH), serves the greatest volume and highest percentage of Medicaid patients in Pennsylvania. In recognition of its role as the Commonwealth's leading safety-net hospital, TUH receives government funding that helps offset the cost of care provided for burn victims, obstetrics patients, infants in TUH's Intensive Care Nursery and trauma patients.

The proposed cuts also would have a negative effect on TUH's ability to sustain jobs for its employees, many of whom are Philadelphia residents.

Temple's partial reliance on state

support has been a catalyst for hospital-based initiatives and programs designed to increase quality-of-care while decreasing costs.

"Temple University Hospital has successfully reduced expenses and improved care by streamlining operational efficiencies and reducing or eliminating redundancies and variations that lead to waste," said Sandra L. Gomberg, president and chief executive officer of TUH.

Despite TUH's improvement efforts, no hospital that is the safety-net institution for Pennsylvania's largest city — the largest city in the nation without a public hospital — can achieve financial stability without stable Commonwealth support for care provided to Medicaid patients.

"Unlike hospitals that have a large commercial payer mix, we are not able to offset low Medicaid reimbursements

by shifting costs to the higher payments from private insurers," said Gomberg, who noted that nearly 52 percent of the hospital's inpatients depend on Medicaid coverage.

"We're proud to serve some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable and underserved citizens, but we can't do it alone," she added. "That's why we're going to advocate vigorously for the continuation of levels of state support that will protect our patients' access to quality healthcare, protect our tradition of providing progressive medical education and research and protect our position as one of the largest employers in Southeastern Pennsylvania."

TUH leaders said they would continue to work with the Commonwealth on strategies and initiatives that would sustain access to care for patients. u

President Hart to meet with appropriations committees

On March 16 and 28, Temple President Ann Weaver Hart will travel to the State Capitol in Harrisburg to meet with members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House appropriations committees to update elected officials on the many accomplishments of the Temple community over the last year and inform the legislature of the potential effect of the governor's proposal to reduce funding for higher education by more than 50 percent.

The hearings are part of the university's annual effort to secure the Commonwealth's support for Temple. Each year, after Pennsylvania's governor announces his proposal for the Commonwealth's budget, legislative leaders hold budget hearings on a wide range of issues to learn how the governor's proposal will impact Pennsylvanians.

Hart will be joined by leaders of each of Pennsylvania's four state-related universities: Lincoln, Pittsburgh, and Penn State. The four leaders intend to demonstrate the tremendous value of an education at state-related universi-

Featured Events

ties and the massive return on the Commonwealth's investment in higher education.

The Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on March 16 will begin at 1 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 in the North Office Building. Hart's meeting with the House Appropriations Committee on March 28 will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Main Capitol Building, room 140. Both hearings are open to the public.

Students to showcase Temple research in State Capitol

On Monday, April 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the East Wing of the Pennsylvania State Capitol, Temple students from across the university will showcase their research to leaders in Harrisburg and visitors to the State Capitol as part of Temple's fourth annual Undergraduate Research Day.



President Hart addresses Pennsylvania's House Appropriations Committee in the State Capitol last year along with leaders of the Commonwealth's three other state-related universities.

Each presenter is a participant in one of Temple's undergraduate research programs, which include Diamond Research Scholars, Undergraduate Research Incentive Fund and Summer Research Opportunities Program. The programs provide students an opportunity to engage

in a focused, mentored research or creative arts project with the financial support of the university.

Each student's state representative and state senator will be invited to stop by, meet their constituent and learn about Temple research.