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April 25, 2011

Legislator's Name

Address

Harrisburg, PA zip

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

The ___(name of your campus's faculty organization)___ joins with the ___number___ other faculty committees listed at the bottom of this letter to protest Governor Corbett's proposal to cut funding to Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) campuses by over 50%. We believe that this budget, if passed, would compromise the educational mission of the PASSHE system to make an affordable high-quality education available for all Pennsylvanians. Currently, PASSHE institutions offer an outstanding education at a very low cost. **Follow here with two or three points (not in bullet form) about the quality of a PASSHE education...**

This kind of quality, at this kind of price, is possible because of the Commonwealth's long-term financial commitment to ___your institution here___ and to the 13 other universities in the PASSHE system. The ___(name of your campus's faculty organization)___ appreciate this support and recognize its many important consequences and benefits, including:

- The affordability of a ___your institution here___ education for working families who might otherwise not be able to send their sons and daughters to college.
- High retention and graduation rates, especially among lower-income and at-risk students.
- Varied course offerings that provide students comprehensive training in their chosen fields, thus preparing them for a competitive job market.

Quality of classroom instruction is also directly impacted by State support. PASSHE institutions pride themselves on the quality of their teaching, but this quality rests on faculty's ability to give students individualized attention. In particular, the smaller class sizes that ___your institution here___ students enjoy is a direct consequence of the State's financial contributions, and results in the following practices essential to student success:

- Opportunity to provide detailed feedback on student work in order to strengthen their communication and writing skills.
- A focus on complex and multi-faceted assignments designed to assess students' learning gains in critical thinking and problem solving.
- The ability to model "best teaching practices" for our students, particularly our education students.

Vigorous State support promotes a positive educational environment in other ways as well, by ensuring the following:

- A wide range and high frequency of course offerings so that students can complete their degrees on time.
- The recruitment of outstanding faculty attracted by opportunities to teach courses in their areas of expertise.
- A relatively small student-to-faculty ratio so that students can receive personalized

