

Street Address:
City, State, and Zip:
Date:

Governor Tom Wolf
225 Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

As an alumnus of Cheyney University, I am outraged by its plight, which has been caused by decades of racial discrimination by PASSHE as documented by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and other official entities. Examples of this plight include, but certainly are not limited to, the following:

1. An all-time high budget deficit along with an all-time low student enrollment:

The solution is complete debt forgiveness and an aggressive marketing plan combined with attractive academic programs.

2. An interim instead of permanent president:

The solution is obvious. In order to send a message of permanence to the public about an institution, that institution must have a permanent leader. An interim anything is merely a placeholder until something else is established. Cheyney needs that establishment, that stability, that permanence. Therefore, an official search for a permanent president must commence within 30 days.

3. Neglected dormitories unfit for human habitation and other decaying facilities:

The solution is "parity through equity." In other words, provide Cheyney with much more. While only two new buildings have been constructed at Cheyney- a Historically Black College/University (HBCU)- during the past 30 years, PASSHE's 13 Traditionally White Institutions (TWI) averaged several new buildings during that period.

4. A "collaboration" plan with West Chester that appears to be a takeover scheme:

The solution is to abide by federal law (e.g., Title III.B of HEA, 20 U.S.C 1001, 1051, 1060, et. seq. [2008] and Executive Orders 12232 of 1980 and 13532 of [2010]), which makes clear that collaborations between HBCUs and TWIs must benefit the HBCUs.

5. A refusal by PASSHE officials to properly respond to legitimate concerns raised by Heeding Cheyney's Call, which is the leading advocacy group on behalf of Cheyney alumni, students, and their parents:

The solution is to treat the representatives of the Cheyney family with respect.

The only explanation for these problems is racial discrimination since PASSHE has never treated the 13 TWIs so dismissively. If you agree, please explain. If you disagree, please explain. Either way, please address the five aforementioned problems and proposed solutions in your explanation. And I ask that you please do so in writing within ten calendar days of receipt of this letter.

Respectfully,

Name and Graduation Year (Print and Sign):

cc: PASSHE Chancellor Frank T. Brogan
Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus
Heeding Cheyney's Call