

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 52

WHEREAS, while it is of paramount importance in New Jersey ("State") to support strong autonomous institutions of higher education, it is also essential to maintain appropriate State oversight and coordination in order to ensure that the State's higher educational needs are being met and the taxpayers' investment in these institutions are being protected; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to improving the current system of higher education in New Jersey, as well as its statewide coordinating structure; and

WHEREAS, to this end, the Higher Education Task Force ("Task Force") was established by Executive Order No. 26 on May 7, 2010 to assist in identifying challenges facing New Jersey's institutions of higher education and to offer recommendations to the Governor to further the quality and success of these institutions and the overall system of higher education in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force issued a report which, among other things, recommended the reformation of New Jersey's statewide coordinating structure for higher education by eliminating the Commission on Higher Education and replacing it with a Secretary of Higher Education and a new advisory Governor's Higher Education Council; and

WHEREAS, this Administration concurs with the findings of the Task Force that New Jersey needs to reform its statewide coordinating structure for higher education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby created the Governor's Higher Education Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council."

2. The Council shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Governor who shall serve at his pleasure. All members of the Council shall serve without compensation and shall organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of its members. The Governor will appoint its members to 5-year staggered terms. A vacancy occurring among any of the members, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term only and in the same manner as the original appointment. A member may serve until a successor is appointed. The Governor will designate the Chair and Vice-Chair, and membership to the Council shall include individuals of high distinction with significant experience and knowledge in the area of higher education. The Council should meet not less than quarterly.

3. The Governor's Higher Education Council shall: (a) serve as an advisory body to the Governor on higher education issues; (b) make recommendations to the Governor on higher education initiatives of statewide significance; and (c) provide advice to the Secretary of Higher Education ("Secretary") and assist the Secretary in carrying out his or her duties. The Council may be tasked with other duties as requested by the Governor.

4. The Council shall be authorized to call upon any department, office or agency of State government to provide such information, resources or other assistance deemed necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this Order. Each department, officer, division and agency of this State is hereby required, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate

with the Council within the limits of its statutory authority and to furnish The Council with such assistance on as timely a basis as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Order.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

5. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
4th day of January,
Two Thousand and Eleven,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Fifth.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa

Chief Counsel to the Governor