



SUNY Federal Relations Update Tuesday, September 2, 2008

Congress remains in recess this week and on its annual "Summer District Work Period". Both the Senate and the House will return on September 8 with the goal of possibly passing 1-3 appropriations bills and a continuing resolution to temporarily fund the federal government into 2009 and until the next President is sworn in.

CQ reported today that the likelihood of a post-election, lame duck session of the 110th Congress is increasing. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, on Sunday, cited potential deadlocks over fiscal 2009 spending and offshore oil and gas exploration. Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md., said "We're engaged in discussions with the White House about what they believe needs to be in the CR, for the short term and the long term, and also, what they would consider signing. We won't send them something they say they're not going to sign."

CQ also reported that Clyburn said public opinion polls showing a tight contest have emboldened members of both parties to take tough stands on issues in play in the closing weeks of the session and that many rank-and-file Republican lawmakers are calling on President Bush to veto a continuing resolution if it contains the customary extension of an offshore drilling moratorium.

As I reported in my last update, before leaving for recess, Democratic leaders suggested that they may try to pass another economic stimulus package in the remaining weeks of the congressional session. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-WV) unveiled a plan that would add \$1.28 billion for several science agencies as a part of this package. However, some in Washington already doubt the ability to pass such legislation in September. Congress will look to two reports in September that will help it judge the need for, and its ability to pass, a second stimulus package. The Labor Department on Sept. 5 will release its latest update on unemployment and CBO on Sept. 9 will release its annual summer update to "The Budget and Economic Outlook."

I am looking forward to meeting with the SUNY campus-based designated federal relations officers on September 15-16 in Albany, NY at the annual SUNY Federal Relations Summit. Registration materials have already been distributed; please contact me or [Teare VanDenburgh](#) if you would like any additional information.

Please see below for more on:

- **Grassley, Welch Plan College Endowment Roundtable**
- **ACE Releases Analysis of New Higher Education Act**
- **Federal Spending on Academic Research Continued Downward Trend in 2007**
- **Presidential Campaigns Outline Higher Education Proposals**
- **ACE Submits Comments on E-Verify Rules**
- **IRS Releases Final Instructions for Form 990 for Tax-Exempt Organizations—ACE Checklist Available for Colleges and Universities**
- **The Research Foundation, University Faculty Senate, and University at Buffalo Sponsor Grants Workshop**
- **2008 Advanced Energy Conference at Stony Brook University**

Grassley, Welch Plan College Endowment Roundtable

On their first day back in Washington, Senators Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) will sponsor a roundtable on college and university endowments and costs on Monday, September 8. The session, entitled "The Use of Endowment Funds and Making Higher Education More Affordable," will take place at 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building and run from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. The press release states that Members of the public may attend on a space-available basis and may submit comments or papers to endowments@finance-rep.senate.gov. There will be three panel discussions on the following topics: Understanding College Costs, What is an Endowment? and Are Mandatory Payouts Beneficial?. Participants in the three sessions include American Council on Education President Molly Corbett Broad and John Walda, President of the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

ACE Releases Analysis of New Higher Education Act

President Bush signed legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) on Aug. 14, concluding an effort which has been in process for six years and through three different Congresses. The new law ([PL 110-315](#)) will be complex to implement and contains many undesirable provisions, including a number of new reporting and regulatory requirements. It also creates an unprecedented number of new programs—approximately 70—which will encounter intense competition for scarce resources in order to become operational. The American Council on Education (ACE) has compiled an [analysis](#) to help campuses begin understanding the new law. The summary focuses on programs and provisions with broad application to all aspects of higher education and intentionally excludes programs and provisions that, however meritorious they may be, have a narrower or more targeted reach.

Link to ACE HEA Analysis: http://www.acenet.edu/e-newsletters/p2p/ACE_HEA_analysis_818.pdf

Federal Spending on Academic Research Continued Downward Trend in 2007

An August 2008 National Science Foundation study reported that although total spending on academic scientific research grew slightly in 2007, the subtotal financed by the federal government fell, after inflation was factored in. The federal government is the largest source of funds for academic research, and the 2007 fiscal year represented the second straight year of decline after inflation, according to the report. The federal total was \$30.44-billion, a net drop of 1.6 percent compared with 2006. Such a two-year decline had never before occurred since the NSF began tracking those figures, in 1972.

Link to NSF Report:

http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf08320/?govDel=USNSF_178

Presidential Campaigns Outline Higher Education Proposals

Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, the Democratic nominee and Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the presumed Republican nominee have offered a range of proposals focused on higher education. Links to a recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* story on their proposals, as well as campaign documents from both nominees are linked below.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

"Higher-Education Platforms Develop as Convention Season Begins"

http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/08/4334n.htm?utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

John McCain's Higher Education Policy

<http://www.johnmccain.com/informing/news/PressReleases/ed12978d-a54f-471e-aeed-65c65bcba6da.htm>

Barack Obama's College Affordability Fact Sheet

<http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/CollegeAffordabilityFactSheet.pdf>

From ACE: *ACE Submits Comments on E-Verify Rules*

Aug. 25, 2008—ACE has submitted [comments](#) to the General Services Administration regarding the proposed rule that would require all federal contractors to use the Department of Homeland Security's [E-Verify](#) system.

Link:

<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HENA&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=28640>

From ACE: *IRS Releases Final Instructions for Form 990 for Tax-Exempt Organizations—ACE Checklist Available for Colleges and Universities*

Aug. 25, 2008—After a four-month comment period, the IRS last week released final instructions for the [new Form 990](#) for tax-exempt organizations. This marks the first revision of the form since 1979. The new form is 11 pages long and includes 16 supporting schedules that nonprofits may have to include.

Link:

<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HENA&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=28640>

The Research Foundation and the University Faculty Senate Sponsor Grants Workshop

Monday, October 6, 2008, Buffalo, NY

Having a great idea isn't enough. To increase your chances of securing funding in today's competitive environment you need to understand the key ingredients for success and potential pitfalls to avoid. New investigators should carefully structure their research plan, objectives and outcomes and effectively present the value of their work to potential funders. The Research Foundation of State University of New York and the University Faculty Senate will sponsor an all-day workshop that will provide essential information to increase the number of successfully funded SUNY faculty research proposals. The workshop will be hosted by the University at Buffalo.

What: "How to Get Your Proposal Funded"

Where: Buffalo Marriott Niagara, 1340 Millersport Highway, Amherst, NY 14221

Date: Monday, October 6, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: No cost to attend, but space is limited. Lunch and refreshments provided.

2008 Advanced Energy Conference at Stony Brook University November 19-20, 2008

The newly established Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC) at Stony Brook University, in partnership with academic institutions, utilities and industry, recently announced a two-day event to discuss technical and educational issues on energy. The conference is focused on identifying technical issues that will hasten the introduction of energy technologies in the marketplace. Contributions are solicited to review recent developments, driven by both fundamental research and technology, in areas of solar, biofuels (synthesis and combustion), wind, geothermal, energy conservation /efficiency, energy storage, and other related topics. An exciting line-up of invited speakers will be attending. Please check with the www.aertc.org website for periodic updates.

