



## **SUNY Federal Relations Update Tuesday, July 29, 2008**

This week is the run-up to the month-long August congressional recess and, as I reported yesterday, the House and Senate could act this week on a conference report on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Upon our initial review of a revised draft of the conference agreement, it seems that the package includes many significant improvements to the first-draft conference report. Significantly, the revised draft reinstates provisions to prohibit the Department of Education from regulating, thereby setting, accreditation standards. While the new draft does not eliminate certain new proposed regulations, there are, at the very least, improvements to the original proposals we saw in the first draft related to college costs, peer-to-peer file sharing, alumni outcomes, textbooks, graduation rates, and campus safety.

The Senate hopes to bring up several must-pass bills before August recess, including tax extender legislation and a fix for the alternative minimum tax. In addition to the business and energy provisions that are the heart of the proposed tax measure, the new bill also includes a one-year extension of two expired tax incentives of importance to the higher ed community—IRA rollovers and the qualified tuition deduction. (The IRA charitable rollover was a tax incentive in effect in 2006 and 2007 that allowed individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income. The qualified tuition provision allows for an “above-the-line” deduction of up to \$4,000 in tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution.)

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) told CongressDaily that Democratic leaders voiced expectations that Congress will consider by October children’s health insurance legislation, the FY09 Defense appropriations bill, and an FY09 continuing resolution (CR) that would fund federal agencies and programs into early next year.

In other words, it is likely that, except for Defense, you will not see Congress pass any individual appropriations bills before the November election and possibly not even before early next year.

See below for more on:

- **House Appropriations Committee to Move FY09 Defense Bill on Wednesday**
- **Study Abroad Bill Likely to Pass Senate**
- **USDA Board Seeks Nominees**
- **Update on S&T in the 2008 Presidential Election**
- **Report Highlights Troublesome Clauses and Restrictions on Research Awards**
- **Reminder: Upcoming Federal Relations, Capitol Hill & Other Washington Events**

### **House Appropriations Committee to Move FY09 Defense Bill on Wednesday**

After a month of delay, the House Appropriations Committee is preparing to move forward on the FY09 Defense appropriations bill. The bill will be marked up in subcommittee on Wednesday, July 30. Full committee markup will be held the first week of September, with floor action the following week.

However, none of the remaining 10 FY09 appropriations measures is expected to be approved separately by the House this fall. Congress is expected to pass continuing resolutions that would fund programs at current levels through early next year.

### **Study Abroad Bill Likely to Pass Senate**

A Senate omnibus legislative package (S. 3297) expected to move this week includes the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007 (H.R. 1469/S. 991). The [Simon bill](#) is designed to help provide students in all sectors of higher education with the opportunity to study abroad, particularly in non-traditional destinations. The goal is to send one million students abroad over the next 10 years. The study abroad measure was approved last year in the House by voice vote and was reported favorably this year from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Both Senator Schumer and Senator Clinton are cosponsors of this legislation.

### **USDA Board Seeks Nominees**

The Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board is soliciting nominations to the Board for six categories. The deadline for the application is Monday, August 25, 2008. The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB) provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and colleges and universities on top priorities and policies for food and

agricultural research, education, extension and economics. The new farm bill recently called for a vast number of changes for USDA research entities and this may be an interesting point in the organizations history to become involved with this USDA board. To find out more about the NAREEE Advisory Board, please visit our website: <http://nareeeab.ree.usda.gov/>

## **Update on S&T in the 2008 Presidential Election**

A July 2008 AAAS Newsletter is now available for viewing at: [http://election2008.aaas.org/news/election\\_newsletter\\_july08.shtml](http://election2008.aaas.org/news/election_newsletter_july08.shtml). *Compiled by the AAAS Center for Science, Technology and Congress, the newsletter summarizes the latest science-related news on the presidential election.*

## **Report Highlights Troublesome Clauses and Restrictions on Research Awards**

AAU and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) last week formally issued our [report](#) showing that federal agencies and federal contractors are adding clauses to fundamental research contracts and grants that inappropriately restrict publication of research results and participation of foreign nationals.

Preliminary results from the report, "Restrictions on Research Awards: Troublesome Clauses 2007/2008," had already had an impact at DOD. The report follows up on an AAU-COGR report of four years ago and shows that, despite concerns and recommendations contained in the [earlier report](#), the situation among federal funding agencies, particularly DOD, has not improved over the past four years. Federal research funding agencies have not only expanded the nature of the controls imposed in award terms but also extended such terms beyond contracts to grants and cooperative agreements.

The findings of the AAU-COGR report reinforce those of the National Academies of Science 2007 [report](#), "Science and Security in a Post 9/11 World," which similarly found increasing use of the "sensitive but unclassified" category and other restrictive language in DOD contracts for fundamental research.

In response to the NAS report, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates directed that DOD conduct an internal review of contracting, the results of which led Undersecretary of Defense John Young to issue a [memorandum](#) to the military services and defense agencies reiterating that the publication of fundamental research results should remain unrestricted.

**~REMINDER: UPCOMING FEDERAL RELATIONS, CAPITOL HILL & OTHER WASHINGTON EVENTS~**

### **SAVE THE DATE: SUNY Federal Relations Summit**

The annual SUNY Federal Relations Summit, a meeting for SUNY campus-based federal relations representatives, has been scheduled for **September 15-16, 2008** in Albany, NY. The meeting will begin at noon on the 15<sup>th</sup> and end around noon on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Additional details are forthcoming.

### **Congressional August Recess**

With the August recess approaching, many Capitol Hill staffers have the opportunity to get back to the congressional district their boss represents—as do members of congress themselves. Now is the time to inquire again with any staff you may have worked with earlier this year to see if they, or your local member of congress, might be interested in visiting your SUNY campus. Angie Anderson, SUNY Assistant Director of Federal Relations, has already suggested this to all NYS congressional education staffers, but a personal invitation from you would be welcome as well.

### **Office of Naval Research (ONR) 2008 Naval Science & Technology Partnership Conference**

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) is hosting the 2008 Naval Science & Technology Partnership Conference at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC, **August 12-14, 2008**. The theme for this eighth annual conference is 'Sustaining the Edge: Serving the Next Generation Warfighter, Now.' The primary objectives for this conference are to broaden our Science and Technology partnership base, deepen existing relations and explore new ideas with small business, industry and academia by providing unprecedented access to ONR's program officers. Click on this link to learn more about the unique features of this year's conference including our \$1 million dollar CNR Challenge and request an appointment to meet with a program officer. <http://www.onr.navy.mil/>

### **National Science and Technology Summit**

The [America COMPETES Act](#) directs the President to "convene a National Science and Technology Summit to examine the health and direction of the United States' science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enterprises," and to issue a report on the Summit results. The Summit will be convened by Dr. John Marburger, science advisor to President Bush and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The Summit's primary goal will be to review the progress that has been made toward meeting the goals set out by the [American Competitiveness Initiative](#) and develop recommendations and action steps to address future challenges. **August 18-19, 2008**; Oak Ridge, TN; <http://www.ornl.gov/sci/natlscitechsummit/>

### **American Association of Community Colleges Washington Institute**

Designed expressly for community college presidents, government relations directors, and other senior campus officials who want an insider's view on how Washington works, the Institute will be held at the Liaison Capitol Hill hotel on **September 21-23, 2008**. The Washington Institute will feature sessions with a variety of Congressional and Executive Branch officials, and media representatives. These briefings are designed to give you timely insights about current political and policy developments affecting community colleges and their students, as well as insights on how you and your college can be more effective in your federal advocacy efforts. Detailed information is available on AACC's Web site at <http://www2.aacc.nche.edu/WashingtonInstitute/index.html>

### **Senator Clinton's Annual NYS Farm Day**

Save the Date: Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> on Capitol Hill

### **Buffalo Nite on Capitol Hill**

Save the Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

### **AASCU Grants Resource Center External Funding Conference**

The AASUC GRC hosts semi-annual meetings in Washington where members can meet federal program officers and learn first-hand how specific grant-makers operate. The meeting is open to non-members,

although registration is discounted for GRC members. The AASCU Grants Resource Center: "Helping You Compete: External Funding Conference" will be held **October 5-8, 2008**.

Program: <http://www.aascu.org/grcinfo/f08/fall08Program.pdf>

Registration form: <http://www.aascu.org/grcinfo/f08/f08regform.pdf>

About the AASCU GRC: <http://www.aascu.org/grcinfo/>

### **2008 AAAS Leadership Seminar in Science and Technology Policy**

The AAAS Leadership Seminar in Science and Technology Policy is a "crash course" in science and technology (S&T) policy, designed for those who need to know how S&T policy works. The meeting will be held **November 17-21, 2008** in Washington, DC. It is modeled after the highly acclaimed orientation program that AAAS provides for its new S&T Policy Fellows each fall, but distills the key material into 4 1/2 days instead of two weeks. Space is limited to only 30 to 35 participants--the small group setting provides an ideal opportunity to learn about the challenges and solutions of S&T policy from the experts. Join AAAS to learn firsthand from key people in S&T policy, in settings ranging from Capitol Hill to White House staff offices. Registration is now open, with discounts available for AAAS members. For registration forms, program information, and other information, go to the Leadership Seminar web page: <http://www.aaas.org/spp/leadership/>