



SUNY Federal Relations Update Tuesday, November 25, 2008

The House and Senate convened in lame-duck session last week and at the end of the week, only an unemployment extension (H.R. 6867) had been approved. Democratic leaders had hoped to also move a bailout package for the ailing domestic auto industry and possibly a second economic stimulus package.

Senate Democratic leaders sought to bring up a \$100-billion economic stimulus package, but they were unable to overcome objections. Of interest to university researchers, the Senate plan included \$1 billion for the National Institutes of Health and \$175 million for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

Democrats now intend to wait until the new Congress convenes in January—the 111th Congress convenes on Tuesday, January 6— to move a stimulus package, working with the new President. However, House and Senate leaders may call Members back for another abbreviated lame-duck session during the second week of December to reconsider aid to the auto industry.

See below for more on:

- **FY 2009 Update**
- **SUNY Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Request Deadline**
- **Defense Department Plans To Invest Additional \$400 Million in Basic Research**
- **Department of Education Update and Opportunities**
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FY 2009 Update

A number of different sources are reporting that the remaining FY2009 appropriations bills are likely to be completed by Congress in January, immediately after the new President is inaugurated. It is also being reported that Congressional leaders hope to present an omnibus for his signature almost immediately after he takes office to wrap up the FY2009 appropriations cycle. This will, in turn, enable the FY2010 budget process to start as soon as possible.

With the target of January in mind, it is believed that the Appropriations Subcommittees in both chambers that have not had their respective bills signed into law have been asked to produce a "pre-conferenced" bill by mid-December.

SUNY Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Request Deadline

Tomorrow, Wednesday, November 26, is the deadline for campuses to submit their federal fiscal year 2010 SUNY appropriations request forms. Completed forms should be sent to mike.spencer@suny.edu.

Defense Department Plans To Invest Additional \$400 Million in Basic Research

Earlier this month, the Department of Defense announced that it plans to invest an additional \$400 million in basic research at universities over five years to "sustain and strengthen the nation's commitment to long-term basic research." The agency's press release notes that this type of investment is in line with recommendations made by the National Academies' 2005 report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" and "numerous other independent national security and scientific advisory groups."

Department of Education Update and Opportunities

Last week, Sara Martinez Tucker announced she was resigning her post as under secretary of Education, where she was responsible for postsecondary, vocational, and adult education programs. Her primary focus in recent months had been reforming the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). She is succeeded by Kent Talbert, current Department General Counsel.

The Department's Office of Postsecondary Education is inviting applications for the U.S.-Brazil Higher Education Consortia Program for 2009. This program is administered within the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Priority will be given to exchanges between Brazilian universities and U.S. Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). Approximately \$500,000 is available for these awards, which can last up to 4 years. Applications are due December 18.

More information is available at ed.gov/programs/fipsebrazil/index.html.

A Technical Assistance Workshop designed to assist potential applicants successfully prepare grant applications for several Department programs will be offered February 2-3, 2009 in Arlington, VA. Internationally-oriented programs will be covered, including the graduate-level Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships.

More information is available at ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2008-4/110308b.html.

Who might replace Hillary Clinton in the United States Senate?

Washington Post:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/23/AR2008112302366.html>

New York Times:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/25/nyregion/25nyc.html?_r=1&ref=nyregion

New York Daily News:

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2008/11/24/2008-11-24_cuomo_the_elder_should_fill_hillary_cl.html?print=1&page=all