

# TICUA Policy Update

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March 13, 2009

## State SGA Presidents Testify

Student Government Association Presidents representing the public universities testified before the Senate Education Committee this week. The Presidents expressed concern over the proposed plan to begin charging per credit hour instead of a flat rate for 12-15 hours per semester. The students testified that they would much rather have a sizable flat tuition increase rather than move to the per hour tuition assessment. The University of Tennessee SGA President went on to testify that the average income of a family sending a student to UT Knoxville is \$120,000 per year, which, if accurate, would be double that of the average income of families attending a private college in Tennessee.

## House Hears More About Stimulus

Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz testified before the House Education Committee that Tennessee's portion of the federal stimulus package should be headed to the State within the next few weeks. Goetz indicated that nearly two thirds of the \$770 million of the first round of funds will go to restoring K-12 and public higher education.

Goetz also indicated that Governor Phil Bredesen hopes to deliver his budget to the General Assembly on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## TICUA Testifies Before House Higher Education

TICUA President Claude Pressnell testified before the House Higher Education Subcommittee on the status of independent higher education in Tennessee. TICUA testified alongside the Board of Regents, University of Tennessee and the Higher Education Commission. Pressnell outlined the overall enrollment growth, degree production, and economic impact of Tennessee's private colleges and universities. As well, he spoke briefly as to how the current economic crisis is impacting member campuses.