

# TICUA Policy Update

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*March 14, 2008*

## ***Technology Bill Includes TICUA Members***

The recording (RIAA) and motion picture (MPAA) industries have colleges in the cross-hairs once again. Three years ago a bill was introduced that held campuses responsible for illegal downloads and file transfers. Ultimately the bill was defeated and a resolution was passed asking for campuses to make every effort to stop the practice among students.

This year the RIAA and MPAA joined together to introduce yet another bill to require public institutions to implement technological solutions to thwart illegal transfer of intellectual property. At one point TICUA was successful in having the private colleges explicitly removed from the bill. On Wednesday morning, however, the lobbyist for the RIAA notified TICUA that they were offering an amendment to include TICUA members but with softened language.

The new language requires institutions to adopt and reasonably implement a policy that prohibits infringement of copyrighted materials; post signs in appropriate locations remind the campus community of the policy; and, if the campus receives 50 or more legal notices of infringements they would “reasonably attempt to prevent the infringement of copyrighted materials.”

## ***Lottery Revenue Projections Revised***

The Senate Education Committee determined that the previous projections on recurring lottery funds did not include nearly \$7 million in administrative expenses. Consequently, the previously accepted \$22 million expenditure cap has been revised down to \$15 million. This means that even fewer recommended scholarship modifications will survive the committee process.

## ***House Higher Ed Subcommittee Cuts Lottery Bills***

The House Higher Education Subcommittee took significant steps toward trimming the proposals on altering the lottery scholarship. During the subcommittee’s work over 40 bills were voted off notice leaving just a handful for the full committee to consider. The more expensive proposals surviving the subcommittee were to lower the renewal grade point average to 2.75 for all benchmarks, scholarship aid for recent war veterans, an allied health loan forgiveness program, and the \$200 million reserve for the State’s need based aid program (TSAA). There were a few additional administrative clean-up bills that survived as well as a K-12 capital outlay bill that would utilize a portion of the lottery reserve funds.

The full House Education Committee will now begin working on the bills with the ultimate goal of rolling everything into the omnibus bill that was passed during last session.

## ***Congress Extends Higher Education Act***

The Senate and House conference committee to reauthorize the Higher Education Act has yet to reach consensus. The current Act was scheduled to expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> but has now been extended to the end of April. It is anticipated that the committee will finish its work prior to the new deadline.

NAICU is working with the staff of the conferees to express the concerns of the higher education community. It is important that TICUA members continue to articulate their concerns to their members of Congress.

Talking Points [http://www.naicu.edu/doclib/20080220\\_heacnf-naicu.pdf](http://www.naicu.edu/doclib/20080220_heacnf-naicu.pdf)