

TICUA Policy Update - Jan. 14, 2005

Greetings!

Welcome to TICUA's Policy Update newsletter for the 104th Tennessee General Assembly! You will receive this newsletter toward the end of each week of the 2005 session of the 104th Assembly. The newsletter will contain policy information pertaining to independent higher education in Tennessee.



State Education Committees Selected

The biggest story to start to the 104th General Assembly is the control of the State Senate. For the first time since reconstruction the Republicans hold a one seat majority in the Tennessee Senate. In spite of their majority status, Senator John Wilder (D) was elected to his 18th consecutive term as Senate Speaker which carries the title Lt. Governor.

Governor Wilder kept the chair of the **Senate Education Committee** in the hands of the Republicans but switched leaders. Senator Randy McNally (R) moves from Chair of Education to Vice Chair of the powerful Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. Newly elected Senator Jamie Hagood (R), who, as a State Representative served on the House Education Committee, has been appointed Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Other members include Don McLeary (D) Vice Chair, Jim Tracy (R) Secretary, Jim Bryson (R), Charlotte Burks (D), Rusty Crowe (R), Ward Crutchfield (D), Roscoe Dixon (D), and Bill Ketron (R).

In the House, Jimmy Naifeh was re-elected to his post as Speaker. The **House Education Committee** retained it's leadership team from the 103rd General Assembly. Rep. Les Winningham (D) Chair, Tommie Brown (D) Vice Chair, and Joe Towns, Jr., (D) Secretary. Democratic members include: Barbara Cooper, John Hood, Ulysses Jones, Jr., and Larry Turner. Republican members include: Harry Brooks, Steve Godsey, Delores Gresham, Beth Harwell, Mark Maddox, Gerald McCormick, Richard Montgomery, and Eric Swafford.



Bush Calls For Changes to the Pell Grant

President Bush has announced significant funding changes for the Federal Pell Grant. First, he plans to eliminate the current \$4 billion shortfall. Second, the President's plan calls for the Pell to be budgeted for as other federal entitlement programs. Which means that the annual appropriation would fund all eligible students; thus eliminating the possibility of future deficits. Third, the president will seek an additional \$100 for the maximum grant each of the next five years, bringing the maximum grant to \$4,550 by 2010.

Senator Alexander to Speak at NAICU

Senator Lamar Alexander will give the morning keynote address on February 1, 2005 at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) in Washington, DC. TICUA member presidents are invited to sit at the head table with Senator Alexander during his speech. It's not too late to register!

[Register for the NAICU Annual Meeting](#)



TICUA Annual Meeting

Changing Lives: Supporting Opportunity in Tennessee Higher Education Register today for TICUA's Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 15 and 16, 2005 at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville. This year's focus is on state-based student financial aid.

[For more information and to register online](#)