

TICUA Policy Update

January 29, 2010

Legislatures Moves into Regular Session

After the rush of the Special Session on Education the Legislature wasted no time convening the regular session. Both the House and Senate Education Committees had bills on their calendars and heard presentations. With 2010 being an election year, legislators are moving quickly to make the most of their time so many of them can hit the campaign trail.

Governor Phil Bredesen is scheduled to deliver his budget to the General Assembly on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 6 p.m. CST. No word yet on his proposed funding levels for the student aid or contract education budgets. With overall proposed budget reductions in the 9 percent range however, it will be hard for these programs to go untouched.

Bills to Assist TICUA Members are Filed

Three bills have been filed this year to assist TICUA member institutions. In last week's update the bills were more fully described but had yet to receive filing numbers. The first bill (SB2793/HB2847) removes the prosecutorial liability of TICUA members based on lost or misused data once it is successfully submitted to the state. The second bill (SB3046/HB3047) changes the UPMIFA law by increasing from \$25,000 to \$150,000 the value of an institutional fund for which modification of a restricted donor gift is permitted. The final bill (SB3512/HB3618) entitles TICUA members to purchase from contracts negotiated by the state's department of general services on all materials, supplies, equipment and services.

TICUA Accompanies TSAC to DC

TICUA President Claude Pressnell accompanied THEC's Executive Director Rich Rhoda and a team from the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation to Washington DC to meet with officials with the US Department of Education. The focus of the meeting was to determine the ongoing viability of TSAC's loan guarantee function in the midst of the Department's desire to transition all student loans to Direct Lending. Of concern for the team is making sure that the US Department of Education provides quality service to both students and institutions during and after the transition. The Department appeared impressed with TSAC's current financial position and the demonstrated commitment to financial aid awareness for Tennesseans.

TICUA Annual Meeting February 16 and 17.

“Managing the Modern University” is this year’s theme for the TICUA Annual Meeting. The two main workshops feature scholar Dr. Peter Lake. The event will also include a federal policy update by NAICU Vice President Sarah Flanagan, state policy update by TICUA President Claude Pressnell, and a Legislative Reception. Nearly 60 legislators are expected to attend the event. This year’s meeting will be held in the conference facilities of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis in the Nashville City Center which is located across the street from the Legislative Plaza. The following morning Education Chairs Senator Dolores Gresham and Representative Harry Brooks will join the presidents for a breakfast discussion at the Homewood Suites.

Register today by going to www.ticua.org/annual_meeting