

TICUA Policy Update

February 27, 2009

Education Chairs Meet With TICUA Presidents

The Chairpersons of the Senate and House Education Committees met over breakfast with those TICUA Presidents in attendance for the TICUA Annual Meeting. Both, Senator Delores Gresham and Representative Harry Brooks, expressed their support for independent higher education. Chairman Brooks urged the Presidents to develop a pact with students that assure them that they can graduate in four years if they follow a well-defined academic plan. He went on to ask the Presidents to think creatively about how they can partner with local high schools to create courses that could work as dual credit courses.

Legislators Push for Consideration of a UT/TBR Merger

Democratic Senate Leader Jim Kyle and House Finance Chairman Craig Fitzhugh have introduced legislation that would sunset both Boards of the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents by July 1, 2010. Elected officials are leveraging the sunset provisions, the recent resignation of UT President John Peterson, and the announced retirement of TBR Chancellor Charles Manning to take a hard look at public higher education governance.

THEC Executive Director Richard Rhoda has spent the past year examining ways to increase administrative efficiencies between THEC and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. This occurred after the resignation of TSAC Executive Director Robert Ruble. The examination has resulted in a number of administrative consolidations and may conclude with a merger of the two organizations.

Nearly 60 Legislators Visit with TICUA Presidents

This week a number of TICUA Presidents gathered for the Association's Annual Meeting in Nashville. On Tuesday evening the President's hosted the TICUA Legislative Reception where nearly 60 State Legislators attended. The casual event allowed the Presidents to talk with elected officials about the key legislative priorities for the upcoming session.