

TICUA Policy Update
March 24, 2006

For Profit Colleges Want Lottery Scholarships

Nationally accredited for-profit certificate granting colleges are asking the Tennessee General Assembly to allow their students to have access to the TELS' Wilder-Naifeh Technical Grants. This move is strongly opposed by TICUA, Tennessee Board of Regents, University of Tennessee and THEC.

TICUA is asking YOU to take action on this issue! Talking points are available on the TICUA Action Center. Feel free to use the points provided or edit them in your own words. Both the House and Senate will take up the bill within the next two weeks.

TAKE ACTION NOW! <http://capwiz.com/ticua/state/main/?state=TN>

Chair Woodson Appoints Sub-Committee for Lottery Scholarships

Senate Education Chair Jamie Woodson, appointed a sub committee to review all lottery scholarship bills before bringing them to the full committee. She stated that this will serve as a "vetting process" for the numerous lottery bills.

Senator Steve Cohen was appointed as Chair of the sub committee. Other members include Senators Bill Ketrone and Don McLeary. Senator Cohen has requested TICUA to comment on each of the bills prior to the sub committee's first meeting.

House lottery bills remain in the Higher Education Sub Committee and will not be considered for at least another week.

New Minimum Wage for Tennessee?

Both the Senate and the House are considering bills that would supersede the Federal minimum wage law by raising the hourly wage to \$6.50 or higher. The Federal minimum wage is currently \$5.15 per hour.

Vanderbilt's Betty Nixon and TICUA President, Dr. Claude Pressnell, testified before the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee requesting that student workers be exempted from the bill. Pressnell testified that work study is a key tool in student retention. Students who work ten to fifteen hours per week tend to persist to graduation at a higher rate than those who do not work or work off campus. Since work study funds are limited, and decreasing at the Federal level, it is important that the minimum wage requirement not exceed the Federal level. Ultimately, increasing the minimum wage would mean less students would benefit from the campus work programs.

Changes in TSAA Awarding to be Discussed After TASFAA

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation's Director Dr. Bob Ruble has appointed a committee to examine the Tennessee Student Assistance Award. The committee is examining the potential changes in the current awarding formula for TSAA.

The committee will host a meeting for higher education community input following the TASFAA Spring Conference. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2006 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin Tennessee.

TICUA strongly urges all member financial aid officers to attend.