

TICUA Policy Update

May 6, 2009

Transfer of Credit Bill Moved to Study Committee

The House Higher Education Subcommittee voted this week to move the transfer of credit bill to a summer study committee. The bill would have codified the SACS position statement on transfer of credit. Concerns have been raised by the for-profit colleges that regionally accredited institutions do not fairly evaluate transfer courses from their schools.

The results of a brief survey conducted by TICUA indicate that private colleges do adhere to the SACS position statement of not using institutional accreditation as the sole criteria for transfer of credit. The results also indicate that students have the right to appeal transfer of credit decisions and that few member institutions have been approached by non-regionally accredited institutions to develop articulation agreements.

TICUA, once again, testified against the bill by reporting the results of the TICUA survey and outlining the differences between national and regional accreditation. Some committee members feel as if unfair discrimination persists and would like to take the summer to study the issue.

Student Life Bills Rolled to 2010

After weeks of work with Senator Roy Herron on his two student life bills he agreed yesterday to not move the bills any further this session. Senator Herron accepted a TICUA amendment to SB1782 which made permissive a college's adoption of a mandated one year suspension of anyone instigating or participating in hazing. It was noted yesterday, however, that the bill may actually limit discipline to "one year." Depending on the severity of the situation, many campuses impose disciplines that extend beyond one year. Noting this possible interpretation, the Senator agreed to examine the issue more closely over the summer.

The second bill (SB1825) which would have amended current law mandating parental notification of students transgressing any campus alcohol or drug policies was also deferred to 2010. Many TICUA presidents communicated with the Senator the need to have flexibility with parental notification depending on the circumstances of the offense. TICUA agreed to work with the Senator over the summer months to reach a mutually satisfactory position on this issue.

State Revenues Continue to Dive

It was reported this week that State's revenue projections may actually be worse than once thought. Revenues may be as much as \$1.2 billion lower than last year. Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz

indicated that K-12 and higher education would not suffer cuts largely due to Tennessee's participation in the Federal stimulus package. It has yet to be determined how this will impact the Governor's proposed \$3.2 million improvement in the State's need-based aid program.