

TICUA Policy Update

April 8, 2010

Lottery Stabilization Committee

Last week Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey named a Lottery Stabilization Task Force to be chaired by Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Jamie Woodson. According to Ramsey's office, "The task force will make recommendations to keep the scholarship program viable over time. Its initial focus will be to limit the use of lottery reserves and ensure the scholarships are there for students who earn them." The Task Force is expected to begin its work in within the next couple of weeks with the goal of presenting a recommendation to the legislature in the fall.

TICUA President Claude Pressnell has been named as a member of the Task Force along with the state's Constitutional Officers, Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Senate Education and Financial Committees, and the heads of UT, TBR, and THEC. House Speaker Kent Williams indicated to TICUA that he will name House members to the Task Force in the near future.

Direct Lending Training

TICUA has received a number of requests to assist in coordinating training opportunities for institutions to make the transition from FFELP to Direct Lending (DL). With the transition deadline looming at July 1, 2010, TICUA will seek to partner with the Tennessee Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) to provide immediate and timely training.

The upcoming TASFAA Conference will devote a number of sessions to the issue of transitioning to DL. The meeting will be held in Franklin at the Marriott Cool Springs on April 18 – 21, 2010. Once the meeting is complete, TICUA will work with the TASFAA leadership to evaluate future training needs.

More information about the conference can be found at http://tasfaa-tn.org/docs/toc_conferences.html

Legislature Desires to Move on to Budget Issues

Both the House and the Senate are moving quickly to shut down committee work so that they can deal with the state's budget. Talk in the legislative halls indicates that they are seeking to adjourn sometime in mid-May. Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Chair Randy McNally announced that his committee would like to complete bill review and begin budget deliberations as early as this next week.

TICUA and the Tennessee Student Aid Alliance are advocating to preserve Governor Phil Bredesen's budget request for a \$3.2 million improvement to the state's student need-based aid program. The improvement is necessary to replace a one-time improvement from last year thus keep the funding level with the current program.