

TICUA Policy Update

March 20, 2008

Technology Bill Moves in Both Chambers

The technology bill requiring TICUA members to take action on illegal downloads passed through the Senate Education Committee and the House Special Initiatives Committee. The bill's language requires institutions to adopt and reasonably implement a policy that prohibits infringement of copyrighted materials; post signs in appropriate locations remind the campus community of the policy; and, if the campus receives 50 or more legal notices of infringements to the campus from the recording industry they would "reasonably attempt to prevent the infringement of copyrighted materials." TICUA's survey of member campuses indicates that nearly all members have adopted satisfactory policies and that many already have technological solutions to illegal downloads.

Student Express Thanks

Nearly 400 thank you emails have been sent to members of the General Assembly to express appreciation for the financial support through the Tennessee Student Assistance Award. Students from Milligan to Vanderbilt onto Christian Brothers University have written heart-warming notes of thanks to their Legislators.

Please continue having student send their expressions of thanks by clicking on:
<http://capwiz.com/ticua/issues/alert/?alertid=11051686>

Senate Subcommittee Acts on Lottery Reserve

The Senate Education Subcommittee on the Lottery Reserve met Wednesday to take action on bills impacting the nearly \$460 million in one-time reserve funds. The committee approved the Administration's initiative to set aside \$200 million in a "lock box" for the Tennessee Student Assistance Award. The set aside should produce an estimated \$9 million of recurring funds for the need-based grant program. The committee also approved another set aside of \$25 million to produce revenue for the "Helping Heroes Act of 2008" which provides scholarships for veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraqi conflicts; \$35 million for the K-12 "Energy Efficient Schools Initiative;" \$100 million for K-12 capital projects; and leave a \$100 million for the lottery reserve. Receiving a neutral recommendation were two additional bills, one to assist students with 90 hours or more to return and finish college and another bill to entice health care graduates to serve in rural areas. All the bills will now move onto the full committee.

General Assembly Considers Transparency Measure

Senators Rosiland Kurita and Jamie Woodson have introduced a bill that would require colleges and universities to inform accepted applicants of transfer of credit policies. According to the current draft, a document explaining the transfer policy would need to accompany letters of acceptance to the students. As well, campuses will be required to report extensively about graduation and placement rates. TICUA is currently working with the sponsors to reach an agreement on the bill's language.