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OFFICE FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

OVERVIEW

Congress continues to debate their respective versions of the FY 99 budget while working to complete action on the House and Senate versions of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Compromise language is expected to be completed in mid-June.

The State Legislature continues to work on the FY 99 state budget. Administration and fiscal agency officials project very little revenue growth due to the implementation of tax cuts and a projected slowdown in the national economy. A movement to place the affirmative action measure on the statewide ballot has been delayed until 2000.

Community affairs continues to support the University's outreach into the community through appearances by President Reid and special projects.

Additional details on these and other key state, federal, and community issues are provided below.

STATE AFFAIRS

APPROPRIATIONS

Higher Education -- The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education is continuing its hearings on the Governor's FY 99 budget recommendation and the Senate passed version of the Higher Education budget.

President Reid testified before the House subcommittee on April 29 providing background on Wayne State, outlining his ten point agenda for the University and its FY 99 funding priorities. Also highlighted in his testimony was the importance of recognizing the University's unique cost structure as an urban research institution. The School of Medicine Dean, Robert Sokol, joined President Reid in responding to committee questions concerning the Governor's proposed five percent reduction in the Graduate Medical Education (GME) program.

The committee addressed several questions to each university president with regard to the amount of deferred maintenance, the impact of the Governor's proposed GME funding cuts, each institutions' affirmative action programs, and the efforts being made to attract and assist minority students.

The committee will hear testimony from the remaining university presidents and is expected to provide a recommendation by May 20. It is anticipated that the committee recommendation will provide an across-the-board increase (2-3 percent), a funding floor, and additional dollars earmarked for deferred maintenance projects. We remain cautious about the level of funding proposed by the Legislature until budget targets have been agreed to by the administration and legislative leadership.

Revenue Estimating Conference – On May 21 Department of Treasury and House and Senate Fiscal Agency representatives will meet to determine FY 98 and FY 99 state revenue levels. Once the revenue figures are established, administration officials and legislative leaders will begin meeting to set target funding levels. Administration and fiscal agency officials estimate FY 99 state revenue will not increase significantly over their January 1998 projections. Representative Morris Hood (D-Detroit) and Senator Joe Schwarz (R-Battle Creek) continue to work with their respective members of the House and Senate leadership to make higher education a top budget priority.

Community Health -- The House Community Health Appropriations Subcommittee has held several committee hearings addressing the Governor's FY 99 budget recommendation. The Senate passed version of the FY 99 budget provides for \$1 million from the Michigan Healthy Fund for cancer outreach activities at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. The Senate also approved the restoration of full funding for GME. We anticipate the House will concur with the Senate.

OTHER STATE ISSUES

Affirmative Action – Due to the limited time available to collect the necessary 309,000 signatures, a petition drive spearheaded by Representative Deborah Whyman (R-Canton) to place a constitutional amendment on the November 1998 ballot to eliminate affirmative action programs in all state departments and agencies, including universities will wait until the year 2000. The Legislature is anticipated to address this issue in 1999 and we expect a proposed constitutional amendment will be placed on the November 2000 ballot by the Legislature or through a petition drive. The Office for Governmental and Community Affairs continues to work with other university representatives to develop a strategy to counteract any legislation that may be developed.

FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act – On May 6 the U. S. House of Representatives completed work on H. R. 6, the Higher Education Act reauthorization, by passing the measure by a vote of 414 to 4. Debate focused on several key issues. Amendments, which would have eliminated affirmative action programs in admissions at public colleges and universities, were defeated.

In addition, an amendment was passed eliminating language requiring universities to report and justify the elimination of any sports teams four years in advance of the actual reduction. The legislation retains \$4.9 million in funding for the Urban Community Service Program, which the University participates in, under Title II (previously Title XI).

The Senate is expected to consider S. 1882, the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998, before the Memorial Day recess.

Appropriations

The House Republicans continue to debate the FY 99 budget resolution and whether to seek further spending and tax cuts this year. Despite the actions by the House, the Senate has approved a FY 99 budget resolution, which continues the discretionary spending caps agreed to in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. Congress appears supportive of increasing in FY 99 the amount of dollars earmarked for research purposes.

National Science Foundation – The Senate passed H. R. 1273, which reauthorizes the National Science Foundation (NSF) and provides for FY 99 and FY 00 funding levels. The legislation increases NSF authorized funding levels by 10 percent to \$3.8 billion in FY 99 and to \$3.9 billion in FY 00. The bill is expected to be approved by the House prior to the Memorial Day recess.

Copyright and Intellectual Property – Congress is considering legislation concerning copyright provisions in the digital environment, on-line service liability, fair use, distance education, and database protection. This legislation would update copyright law to address the issues raised while accessing information via the Internet. This legislation would assist in protecting University libraries when providing information to students and faculty for teaching and research purposes. The bill is expected to be considered by the end of May.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

A highlight of the current activities in community affairs has been the numerous appearances that President Reid is making in the community. This has included a presentation to the New Detroit Board of Directors, the Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club, and the Rotary Club of Mount Clemens. President Reid has also met with City of Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer. In the near future President Reid will meet with the Detroit City Council and the Executive Board of the New Center Area Council.

An enthusiastic group of Wayne State students participated in the Detroit Clean Sweep project on April 18, 1998 and they made a significant difference in the appearance of the Lodge entrances and exits immediately adjacent to campus. Working with student organizations, including the Student Council and Alpha Phi

Alpha Fraternity, Community Affairs created a visible sign of the University's commitment to the community.

This past January, the President's Council on Sustainable Development announced that Detroit was selected to host a national summit on sustainable development in May of 1999. This event represents a significant opportunity for the southeast Michigan region as the summit is expected to draw over 3,000 participants from around the country. Ten national goals toward sustainable development have been identified and a subcommittee has been established for each one. Vice President Faye Nelson is serving on the Education Subcommittee. The Office of Community Affairs will host a planning symposium for the summit at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center in June of 1998.

One of the elements that will assist in devising a strong community affairs strategic plan is the collection of data that will assist in establishing ways in which the University is involved with the community. School, colleges and divisions were asked to survey their employees and submit a list of those who are involved in community and professional organizations on behalf of the University. The survey results will be useful in assessing the University's current activities and in identifying a new and more focused direction for the University's outreach efforts.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Conference - The April 8th conference, titled "Bearing Responsibility: External Options, Internal Choices," was attended by 104 K-12 Metro Detroit area teachers, members of the Jewish and Armenian community, and University faculty and staff. The keynote speaker was Morton Winston, past chair of the board of Amnesty International-USA, who provided comments on humanitarian rescue.

Lansing Legislative Alumni Reception - The Office for Governmental and Community Affairs partnered with the Division of Development and Alumni Affairs to host the first joint legislative and alumni reception in Lansing on May 6, 1998 at the Radisson Hotel. Over 225 legislators, legislative staff, state department and agency officials, Wayne State alumni from the Detroit and mid-Michigan area, students and University officials attended. Wayne State music students provided entertainment.

Prior to the reception, the Office for Governmental and Community Affairs provided a tour of the Capitol for Detroit area alumni and students. Senator Virgil Smith's (D-Detroit) office provided a brief tour of the Senate floor. The visit to the Capitol also included a tour of the House Appropriations room, Representative Morris Hood's office, and discussion with students, faculty, and alumni in attendance on the state appropriations process as it relates to higher education.

Damon Keith Event - The Honorable Damon J. Keith will be presented with the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award by Justice Clarence Thomas on Friday, June 5, 1998 at 6 p.m. in the Community Arts Auditorium. President Reid will preside over the program. Following the ceremony, a reception will be held in the Community Arts Gallery and foyer. A private dinner to honor Judge Keith will also be held in the President's apartment. We anticipate over 600 individuals in attendance, including many Detroit area community leaders, legislators, and members of the state and federal judiciary.

Congressional/Alumni Reception - The Office for Governmental and Community Affairs, in partnership with the Division of Development and Alumni Affairs, will host a Congressional Reception on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The event is scheduled for June 9, 1998 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building-Room B339. Members of the Michigan Congressional delegation and their staffs, other targeted members of Congress, key Congressional staff, department, and agency staff, WSU Cabinet and Deans have been invited.

Italian Room Opening Reception - The dedication of the Italian Room, the 13th room in the Ethnic Heritage Center, is scheduled for June 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. The program will be at 5:30 p.m. President Reid and Michelle Quaroni, Consul of Italy, will participate in the program. A musical selection "Sonata Da Camera Accademica", composed for the dedication of the room by James Hartway, faculty member of our Music Department, will be performed at the dedication. Approximately 150 people are expected to attend.

Detroit Festival of the Arts - This year's Festival will take place September 18-20, 1998. Co-chairs of the Festival are Peter Cummings, Peter Cummings Assoc., and John Lobbia, Detroit Edison. Most of the Festival sponsors from last year will continue to sponsor the Festival again this year. Major Festival sponsors are Detroit Edison, NBD and AAA. Wayne State University is a presenting sponsor. Anticipated audience: 250,000.