
FEDERAL RELATIONS

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) was elected the 64th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. After some chaos, Speaker Ryan was the almost unanimous choice of the Republican Party. While, in theory, any Member of Congress may vote for any individual to be Speaker, it has always fallen among party lines.

Speaker Ryan will decide whether to try to renew, modify or let the following programs expire:

Early November: Debt Limit

EXPIRING LAW: Congress suspended the debt ceiling through March 15 in February 2014. After March 15, the limit was set at \$18.1 trillion, reflecting all borrowing that happened during the suspension.

Turning the borrowing limit back on didn't have an immediate effect. The Treasury Department is using "extraordinary measures" to juggle the government's cash flow. These have included limiting payments to retirement funds for federal workers and suspending the daily reinvestment of the Treasury securities held in a portion of the Thrift Savings Plan, the 401(k) for federal workers.

While the exact timing of the need for action has been in flux, the Treasury Department that it will exhaust its extraordinary measures on November 3.

Some Republican lawmakers have said that limits on new spending may need to accompany an increase in the debt ceiling. That dynamic led to the Budget Control Act of 2011, which imposed spending caps and sequestration in exchange for an increase. The Speaker has supposedly said he wants to deal with the issue before he leaves. A "clean" debt limit measure with no strings attached could be pursued.

December 11: Appropriations

EXPIRING LAW: The federal government is currently operating under a so-called continuing resolution (CR) until December 11. The President signed a CR on September 30, after a showdown over funding for Planned Parenthood. Democrats in the Senate held together to block a CR with defunding language, and Boehner's resignation made it easier for him to push through the relatively "clean" short-term funding bill.

The CR continued federal funding at roughly the same rate as provided in the fiscal 2015 omnibus. The CR also extended several expiring programs, such as additional funding to cover the cost of wildfire suppression in the West and authority for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue shuttle program closeout activities.

DYNAMICS TO WATCH: President Obama has said he won't sign another short-term measure, and lawmakers have yet to agree on how to deal with the spending caps in place for fiscal 2016 under the Budget Control Act.

Members want to spend more than the caps, but disagree about where and how to do so. Republicans proposed using additional funding in the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO, or war funding) accounts to fund base needs of the Defense Department. The White House and

congressional Democrats want to adjust the spending caps to allow more for base defense and nondefense programs. That fight may first play out if the President vetoes the defense authorization bill that would allow \$38.3 billion in OCO funding for programs usually funded through base accounts.

That could intensify talks on the caps. Any increase will probably require offsets, given the precedent set in the deal negotiated in 2013 by Wisconsin Republican Paul Ryan and Washington Democrat Patty Murray, then the leaders of the House and Senate budget committees. Nailing those down -- and deciding what else to include in the package -- could be a top priority for Boehner.

House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers said he and his cardinals would need about a month to write spending bills once top line funding levels are settled -- setting an unofficial deadline of November 11. Even if funding levels are resolved, expect a give-and-take on which policy riders will be included in the final product.

Absent action by December 11 on an omnibus or CR, the government may face an end-of-year shutdown. Demands by the most conservative members of the House -- and the reaction by the new speaker -- could force another showdown that increases the chances of a lapse in funding.

Several other programs have lapsed already.

HIGHER ED: Higher education programs were last reauthorized during the 110th Congress, which was eight years ago as we are in the 114th session of Congress. The authorizations in that measure ran through fiscal 2014, though language in the General Education Provisions Act allowed for an automatic extension through fiscal 2015. One high-profile victim of the lapse is the Perkins loan program. The House passed a one-year extension, H.R. 3594, on Sept. 28, which Senate HELP Chairman Lamar Alexander has blocked. Next steps are uncertain. A long promised Senate draft of a higher education reauthorization bill is unseen, although the Senate has had hearings and the House as well. In the House, the key Education and Workforce Committee has had zero hearings. This is, in all likelihood, an issue that will be continued in the 115th Congress.

CHILD NUTRITION: Authority for some federal nutrition programs under the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," ran out on Sept. 30. Most of the major programs have continued to operate: the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program are considered mandatory spending and are permanently authorized, while discretionary funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) was continued in the CR. Still, lawmakers are working on another reauthorization bill and could tackle issues such as nutrition standards for school lunch programs.

Congress Unable to Extend the Perkins Loan Program

Congress was unable to extend the reauthorization of the Perkins Loan program. The program, which grants loans to students with exceptional financial need, was authorized until the end of FY 2014 as part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. However, a provision in the General Education Provisions Act provided that, in the absence of legislation to extend or repeal a program administered by the Department of Education, the authorization of a program's appropriations is extended for one additional fiscal year beyond its expiration date. Given that no action was taken last year, the authorization for the Perkins Loan program was automatically

extended until the end of FY 2015, but the program was set to expire at the end of September. It is expected that the next vote on the CR will take care of this issue.

Department of Education Releases Competency Based Education (CBE) Guidance

Last week, the Department of Education released a Competency-Based Education Experiment Reference Guide for institutions of higher education that are participating in a CBE Experimental Site. In 2014, the Department launched a number of experiments under the Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI) as an opportunity to learn more about CBE and experiment with Title IV disbursement models for students enrolled in CBE programs. The guidance is aimed at helping new CBE providers as they implement the experiment. The Department also indicated that it would issue another expansion of the CBE experiment to allow more institutions to participate in ESI and it plans to gather additional data from participating institutions to evaluate the impact of CBE programs on enhancing learning outcomes, lowering college costs, and improving completion rates in higher education.

First in the World Grant Awards and FY2016 Outlook

The Department of Education announced that 17 colleges and universities received awards through the First in the World (FITW) grant program. FITW is designed to support the development and dissemination of innovative solutions for how to address widespread higher education challenges, particularly for students that are at risk of not completing their degrees like adult learners, working students, part-time students, low-income students, students with disabilities, and first-generation students. The competition solicited applications in a number of focus areas, such as improving teaching and learning, improving student support services, developing and using new assessments of learning, and improving success in developmental education. While Wayne State University was one of the applications for this program, we did not receive a grant through this program.

There were more than 300 applications submitted for FITW's two competitions: development grants to seed and rigorously evaluate earlier stage innovations, and validation grants to test, at a broad scale, interventions supported by significant evidence. In the end, the Department awarded \$60 million to 17 colleges and universities in 14 states.

This year may be the last year for FITW given that both the House and Senate proposed to eliminate the program in their FY 2016 appropriations bills. If Congress chooses to pass a year-long Continuing Resolution, it is possible that FITW will continue for another year, though it will remain a target for elimination in an omnibus package.

Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Week

The Vice President of Government and Community Affairs and the Director of Federal Relations attended the following issue forums during the Congressional Black Caucus legislative week:

Rep. Brenda Lawrence – Miss Representation: How Women are Portrayed in the Media

Summary: First Lady Michelle Obama, Secretary Hillary Clinton, and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi are among the most powerful American political figures of our time. They speak regularly about the issues of grave importance regarding domestic and international issues. Yet media coverage of their platforms is dominated by degrading terms. This forum was a standing room

only event, and as it was hosted by Rep. Lawrence, had many individuals from Detroit in the audience. Several leaders from Detroit's NAACP chapter were in the audience, and the young director of the NAACP was the moderator for the panel.

Rep. John Conyers, Jr. – In Pursuit of Policing and Criminal Justice Reform

Summary: This panel featured voices from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Wayne County Sheriff Director Benny Napoleon, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch, and other civil rights and justice advocates. The Attorney General's dad was in the audience, and Patrick and I had the opportunity to sit next to him and talk to him for a little while. The Attorney General was delayed in her arrival due to a meeting with the President. However, we all knew when she arrived because there was a loud roar outside the room from the people gathered in the hall of the convention center. The Attorney General spoke for about 30 minutes and gave a very educational and inspirational speech.

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton – The Media are the Messengers: Negative Black Images in the Media, Movies and News, and What to Do About Them

This forum focused on talk shows, television shows and news features that have inconsistent and disjointed representation of African Americans in the media. This feature, which was pretty much moderated by TV One's Roland Martin (Mr. Martin also made a cameo appearance in Rep. Brenda Lawrence's forum as well), was like the other forums standing room only, and despite being hosted by DC's non-voting Representative, had a good number of individuals from Detroit.

Rep. John Conyers, Jr. – Full Employment in the 21st Century: Innovative Strategies for Inclusive Growth

While the reported jobless rates in America is now under six percent, for African Americans it still hovers around 13% when we take into account those too discouraged to continue to look for work. This session focused on Rep. Conyers' full employment legislation, a higher minimum wage, and innovative strategies to promote locally driven job creation. It also addressed the systemic challenges of stagnant wages, declining benefits and unsatisfactory opportunities for long-term advancement. While this forum was well attended, it was not as energetic as the other forums we attended this week.

Rep. Andre Carson – Hip Hop Caucus and Politics

The panelists and audience participants discussed the reach, influence and power of the hip hop community in the current political landscape. This discussion examined the community can continuously harness its voting, economic and cultural strength to shape the policies and political future of America. This event was moderated by Roland Martin, and was very fast moving, interesting and engaging. We attended this event because Rep. Carson and his office personally invited us. Rep. Carson's Chief of Staff is the former Chief of Staff to Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick.

STATE RELATIONS

WSU/AHEC Grant

In late September, Wayne State University (WSU) and the Michigan Area Health Education Center (AHEC) were awarded a one-year \$750,000 grant from the state related our autism initiatives.

In previous budget years, the state dollars that were made available to universities for autism initiatives were reserved for only a few select universities, and did not include WSU. Government relations representatives from State Relations, the School of Medicine and the College of Nursing worked together on campus and in Lansing to make a significant change in the budget. The process is now an open grant competition for the funding. Because of this change, we were able to compete for the funding and were awarded the \$750,000.

URC Brown Bag Lunch

The University Research Corridor (URC) held its first brown bag legislative lunch on October 5th at the Capitol in Lansing. At least 37 legislative staff and URC officials were present at the event and heard from an individual from each of the state's top research universities. Officials from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Small Business Association of Michigan were in attendance as well.

The topic of the lunch was: "Commercializing research - How universities bring technologies to the market." Wayne State's speaker was John SantaLucia, a professor of Chemistry at Wayne State University and the co-founder, president and CEO of DNA Software, Inc.

We are working with the other universities to plan the next lunch for early next year.

Weapons Legislation Moves to Full Senate

In mid-October, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed legislation that would prohibit open carry in gun-free zones such as schools, dorms, classrooms, churches and hospitals, and instead allow those with concealed pistol licenses to carry a concealed firearm in those facilities.

The committee reported two bills by a 4-1 vote. SB 442 by Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) and SB 561 by Sen. Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive). The single vote against the bills was by the only Democrat on the panel, Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren).

Sen. Green's bill makes the concealed carry change in the state's handgun licensure law while Sen. Meekhof's makes the concealed carry change in the penal code.

Several universities were in attendance and turned in cards of opposition.

Similar legislation was passed by the legislature last year but Governor Snyder vetoed the bill. In the past, he has had opposition to essentially eliminating gun-free zones.

It is unclear at this point when a vote might take place in the full Senate but it is fairly certain the votes are there to pass the bill.

Rep. Banks Education & Employment Fair

Representative Brian Banks (D-Detroit) held an Education and Employment Fair in Harper Woods on October 26th. The Fair featured university and community college admissions representatives and employers from numerous companies and staffing agencies.

Wayne State University (WSU) is one of 10 public universities that participated and sponsored the event. The School of Medicine, Law School and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences joined in and took part in the event.

Joint House/Senate Higher Ed Appropriations Committee

In late September, the House and Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee held a joint hearing to hear from Oakland University and Eastern Michigan University presidents on their schools' tuition increases. These institutions were the only two to go over the tuition cap set in the state's Higher Education budget.

While not very contentious, there were some direct questions from the Republican lawmakers on why these institutions needed to increase their tuition so high. The Democrats on the Subcommittees appeared much more sympathetic with the universities.

Detroit Delegation Tour

The Detroit Delegation tour of the School of Medicine and the College of Nursing has been moved to December 14th. The tour and lunch for the delegation was originally scheduled for earlier in the fall.

Detroit legislators are scheduled to tour the College of Nursing and have a discussion with, and presentation from, Dean Clabo. Lunch will follow at the College of Nursing.

After lunch, a shuttle will take lawmakers to the Tolan Park Psychiatry Facility. The School of Medicine will provide a briefing on the benefits the Department of Psychiatry provides to the Medicaid population in Wayne County, and will then provide a short tour of the HIV - AIDS clinic.

House Road Plan

In mid-October, the House of Representatives passed several bills whose aim it is to fix and repair the state's roads and bridges.

When fully implemented in 2021, the plan would devote an extra \$1.2 billion for roads, with \$600 million coming from the state's general fund, \$400 million from a hike in registration fees, and \$200 million from higher fuel taxes, while also providing \$200 million in tax relief through a sweetened Homestead Property Tax Credit. If the economy is doing well, the plan also provides for further tax relief, starting in 2019, through an income tax rollback.

The House plan provides only \$400 million in extra road money for 2016-17; \$440 million for 2018; \$750 million for 2019; \$950 million for 2020; and \$1.2 billion not until 2021. Also, since road user fee money such as fuel taxes and registration fees are constitutionally dedicated to transportation expenditures and general fund revenues are not, there are concerns that future lawmakers can scrap the plan and use general fund money for other priorities.

Also concerning for higher education is the \$600 million in general fund dollars and the funding for the tax relief because there is NO detail as to where that money will come from.

Talks with SBO re Matriculation Fee

Earlier in the fall, we were in talks with the State Budget Office (SBO) regarding Wayne State's new one-time \$250 matriculation fee and how it is reported in the Higher Education Institutional Data Inventory (HEIDI). The SBO, after conferring with the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies, felt that we needed to include the matriculation fee in the calculation of average tuition and fees (one-time, freshman class, detailed below). As you may know, our new matriculation fee is a combination of a graduation and orientation fee. There are apparently a couple other universities in Michigan that apply the same fee in the same manner.

According to the SBO, they have attempted to apply the same methodology to all of the universities where applicable. For example, some universities only apply a graduation fee at the time of graduation, making it exclusively a graduation fee and excluded under the HEIDI definition.

According to the SBO, the inclusion or exclusion of the fee does not impact tuition restraint for Wayne State in the current year; the 3.2% cap is met either way at 3.19% under their estimate.

We are happy to comply with the SBO if directed to do so, but we simply want to ensure that other universities comply in the same manner. For instance, it appears that other universities apply a graduation and/or orientation fee and they do not have to report it this way.

After several discussions, the state has agreed to allow our reporting to remain as is and will most likely revisit this subject next year.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Wayne State University's America's Thanksgiving Parade Preview Party

The Division of Government and Community Affairs will host an intimate gathering to bring together university officials, friends, and supporters to celebrate our mutual commitment to serving the community, thank our allies, and reflect on all we have to be grateful for. This family-friendly preview party, held at the Tierney House on Wednesday, November 25th – Thanksgiving Eve – from 5-7 p.m., will give attendees the unique opportunity to view the 2015 float lineup prior to parade day, enjoy festive fall hors d'oeuvres, and interact with parade staff and volunteers as they make their final preparations for the big day.

Invitees include university officials, community leaders, and government officials.

National Make-a-Difference Day

Partnering with the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program and Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies, and the WSU Dean of Students Office, Government and Community Affairs coordinated the University's participation in Make-A-Difference Day 2015. More than 150 students attended the Davison Elementary: Safer Pathways to School Event which secured 13 vacant properties, cleared three blocks of trash, and removed a block of graffiti from a vacant property in the Davison School vicinity. This project has directly increased safety for students walking to and from school.

AmeriCorps secured materials and trained volunteers, Boulevard Trumbull Towing sponsored the purchase many of the supplies, the City of Detroit provided the boards, WSU's Department of Facilities Planning and Management donated dumpsters, WSU Dean of Students Office supplied paint and people power, and the Detroit Police Department and WSU Police Department cleared all properties and provided support throughout the day. Many, including KIND Bars, came together to provide food and beverages throughout the day.

University Television was on hand to film footage for the MLK Tribute Program.

WSU Community Engagement Meeting

On Wednesday, September 23, Government and Community Affairs convened a meeting of all WSU Community Engagement personnel. Thirty-eight people attended, representing many of the university's schools, colleges, and departments. This meeting served as a first step to re-open lines of communication and coordination between all community engagement officers university-wide.

As a team, we discussed the role of the Division of Government and Community Affairs, broad community engagement goals, the Barthwell Group Study, and announcements and upcoming events. Time left for open discussion was productive and steered the development of additional resources to help the team communicate, resulting in the creation of a listserv and a shared calendar of events. Following the meeting, we shared the minutes, a directory of community engagement officers, and the WSU policy for contacts with federal and state government officials with the group.

The group will continue to meet quarterly with the next gathering scheduled for Tuesday, December 8.

Martin Luther King Tribute – Adopt a Classroom

On Thursday, October 15, Government and Community Affairs partnered with the HIGH Program and WSU Marketing to facilitate an event where WSU First Lady Jacqueline Wilson passed out backpacks to 250 6th – 8th graders at Davison Elementary and Middle School. While many Davison students had already received free new backpacks and supplies donated by other organizations, 250 students did not get new bags this year. WSU and Mrs. Wilson filled the gap and provided backpacks, school supplies, and WSU informational materials to these remaining students. Mrs. Wilson spent an hour with the students, emphasizing the importance of education, and answering numerous questions about all aspects of the university.

University Television recorded this event to be used as part of the footage shown during our MLK Tribute.

Community Reception at Wayne State University Football Game

On Saturday, September 19, 2015, the Division of Government and Community Affairs (DGCA) hosted approximately 40 members from the community to attend the Warrior Night Football Game. WSU played Malone University Pioneers. DGCA hosted the attendees in the tent, located at the south end zone. This is the second year that DGCA held this event.

Upcoming events

Wayne Cares Combined Charitable Contributions Campaign

Every year, Community Relations hosts the United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) and the Black United Fund (BUF) combined charitable contributions fundraiser. United Way provides our community with an independent safety net of health and human services by supporting a number of community service agencies. The Black United Fund is a community-based resource center that assists community efforts through referrals, funding, consultation and/or technical assistance. Both organizations provide numerous community service programs through a large network of volunteers and donors. The 2015 campaign will start on November 9, 2015, and end on December 11, 2015. Our goal this year to raise \$75,000.