
FEDERAL RELATIONS

No Action on the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

Until the adoption of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), which authorized student loans and programs, the federal government had little influence on the operation of universities and colleges in the United States. But by creating stipulations to receiving the benefits of the HEA, Congress has wielded considerable influence over higher education ever since.

The federal role in higher education is often characterized as making sure all Americans have equal access to educational opportunities. Now pressure has increased for federal lawmakers to intervene in other aspects of higher education.

Addressing campus sexual assault, controlling rising costs of college, and regulating the growing for-profit higher education industry are just a few of the issues that are addressed by legislation currently introduced in Congress. Despite an abundance of proposals and countless hearings, Congress has only passed one bill related to higher education since it convened in January 2015: the Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 which, despite its name, phases out the Perkins loan program. Although the bills currently under consideration are unlikely to pass in the immediate future, evaluating them reveals the current areas of federal interest in higher education. These categories can be broadly defined as student aid and access, controlling costs, and political interest. Reauthorization of HEA, which is seven years overdue, will hopefully be achieved during the 115th Congress.

Congress Will Return From the Longest Recess in 30 Years

When Congress returns right after Labor Day, following the back-to-back political conventions and five weeks at home, they look to remain comprehensively stuck on legislation that at other times during the year seemed to be ripe for a “Mission Accomplished” headline. The only ironic silver lining is that — safely assuming the budget get suspended until after the election — nothing will truly trap lawmakers in this self-made morass. They should have no trouble making their scheduled appointments with the exits, House members on September 30 and Senators a week later. It is assumed that instead of passing the 12 annual spending bills, Congress will reach a compromise of sorts – the fiscal year ends September 30, after all – and will adopt a continuing resolution that will probably extend into early 2017.

Before Congress adjourned, leaders of both parties committed themselves to searching for a legislative response to the national divide on questions of policing and race. These have only been exacerbated since five Dallas police officers were shot dead and seven more wounded during demonstrations against police shootings of African Americans in Louisiana and Minnesota. But such bipartisan successes have been few and far between.

Disagreement about how much funding is needed to fight the Zika virus means the government won't have anything extra to spend against the mosquito-borne virus before fall, by which time the public health crisis may have peaked. Provisions that each side is insisting on, and which the other side cannot abide, have deadlocked talks on the most comprehensive rewrite of energy policies in a decade.

A classic dispute between deregulatory Republicans and strong-government Democrats has hobbled legislation to accelerate approvals of new medicines and medical devices and boost federal research funding. Hardening anxieties on both sides of the law-and-order divide what might have been the most comprehensive rewrite since the 1990s of laws governing federal criminal punishment.

The “lame duck” session

Completing the annual defense authorization bill, which Congress has done without fail since 1962, will be high on the agenda for the lame-duck session, as will the annual debate over extending, modifying or abandoning a raft of expiring tax provisions. If former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton should win, her election would boost prospects for the Senate GOP swallowing its pride and confirming the somewhat centrist Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

Whether she or Donald Trump wins the presidency, however, a dead end seems assured for one of the biggest potential achievements of the 114th Congress. There will be no votes on approving the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade liberalization accord, which President Obama helped negotiate but both his would-be successors have spurned.

A comprehensive overhaul of customs laws, pushed to enactment this winter as way to boost TPP’s prospects, now stands among the marquee achievements of the year. It’s joined by a law that for the first time federally regulates tens of thousands of toxic chemicals in consumer goods, a rescue package for financially strapped Puerto Rico, a measure making it easier for Americans to obtain government records, and new sanctions designed to further isolate pugilistic North Korea.

STATE RELATIONS

Liquor License Issue

A representative from Kelley Cawthorne and I met recently with three staff members of the State’s Liquor Control Commission (LCC) to try and resolve the latest determination by the LCC regarding the University’s liquor license.

Our goal going into the meeting was to discuss how we can take our liquor license in and out of escrow and how we can drop and add locations on our campus from the license, if needed. After sharing with the LCC a list of the events we currently had scheduled and where the events were scheduled to be held, we were able to come to what we believe is a fairly simple solution.

For the scheduled events at McGregor, because it is a licensed Class C facility, there is nothing we need to do. At McGregor, the caterer (Aramark) serves the food and we serve the alcohol. For the scheduled events elsewhere, we just need to make sure that the caterer we hire (Aramark) has a catering permit. That caterer can then serve the alcohol and the food. We received confirmation of this by an e-mail from the Director of the Licensing Division at the LCC.

We are still working with Special Events and the State to see if there should be a permanent solution made in the state's Liquor Control Code.

Thompson Appointment

Dr. Lyke Thompson was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to a new Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board to develop a statewide strategy to help prevent childhood lead exposure. Dr. Thompson is the director of WSU's Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University. He has been studying lead poisoning in Michigan since 1999.

Next URC Brown Bag Lunch

The next URC Brown Bag Lunch is scheduled for September 19th. The title is set to be "Mobility in the 21st Century." Michigan's leading research institutions will discuss the technological advances in mobility taking place in our state to gain greater insights into the future of transportation and Michigan's potential to shape that future.

The format for the luncheon will include a welcome and opening remarks from Jeff Mason, Executive Director, Michigan's University Research Corridor, followed by 15-minute presentations by each speaker. A short time will be allotted for questions from attendees.

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Speakers Library, 2nd Floor, Capitol Building

Stephen Remias, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, will represent Wayne State University on the panel. Professor Remias's topic will be, "Using Connected Vehicle and Infrastructure Data to Improve Transportation Operations and Management."

Potential Funding for Biz Accelerators

Government and Community Affairs, along with a representative from Kelley Cawthorne, recently held a conference call with our Office of Economic Development (OED) regarding the potential for state funding for business accelerators.

Apparently in previous fiscal years, the state budget has included line item appropriations for incubator/accelerators in specific counties/regions across the state that were mainly used for technology based programs. In recent years, there has not been funding allocated for these efforts. Given the recent focus on the need for jobs, opportunities, and placemaking activities in urban areas around the state, OED wants to explore the possibility of getting funding for economic development work in neighborhood commercial corridors from the state inserted as a line item into next year's budget.

From OED's perspective, this funding may be used to support their Retail Boot Camp and SWOT City programming in Detroit. Additionally, OED has recently been in discussions with representatives of Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo about the potential for doing this work in their communities.

We will be exploring the possibility of building a coalition of support from the cities listed above (and possibly more) to successfully get funding to support these efforts.

WSU Lobby Day

We have tentatively scheduled a WSU Lobby Day in Lansing for March 21st of next year.

At this point, our plan is to contact various Deans and have them identify students that might want to highlight an area of study (research, etc.) in a booth in the halls of the Capitol. Our hope is to have at least one wing of the Capitol full of students, faculty and displays (booths) from various colleges at the University. Lawmakers and staff would be notified about the lobby day and they would come by before and after their respective sessions. We also plan to host a lunch for lawmakers (and the participants from WSU) at the Capitol. This would not be a formal sit-down lunch but one where individuals can come by, grab a lunch and talk with people from WSU.

We will have a group of students/faculty attend a portion of Senate and House sessions, and to be recognized by the chambers.

The Board of Governors will be invited to participate; we will have BOG members and the President meet with specific lawmakers during the day. If there is interest from Alumni Affairs, we might host a reception in the afternoon; however, that may turn into a long day for those being bussed to and from Lansing. We believe a lunch might be a better option than a reception in the afternoon.

Participants would be set up in the Capitol by 9:30 a.m., as Senate session usually begins at 10 a.m. I anticipate the day concluding and the bus leaving Lansing around 2 p.m. or 3 p.m.

Primary Election

In the August primary election, more than 1.4 million people voted in the state, which is about a 19 percent turnout. Below is a breakdown of the notable primaries that affect the Detroit Caucus.

- Of the 23 state House incumbents who faced a primary, all won their elections, including Detroit Caucus Chairman, Representative Brian Banks. He won his primary with 44 percent of the vote with his main challenger receiving 37 percent of the vote.
- Wayne State Chair of the Board of Governors, Gary Pollard, lost his primary for the 9th House District to Sylvia Santana, wife of current Representative Harvey Santana. Sylvia received 49 percent of the vote to Governor Pollard's 30 percent.
- In the only state Senate primary, Ian Conyers defeated former Representative Fred Durhal Jr. by just over 1,400 votes. Mr. Conyers, the great nephew of Congressman John Conyers, will succeed former state Senator Virgil Smith.

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- Former Rep. Bettie Cook Scott will return to the House of Representatives. She left the House in 2010 after two terms to make an unsuccessful run for the state Senate. She will get a chance to serve a final term after edging out Carla Tinsley-Smith, the daughter of term-limited Rep. Alberta Tinsley-Talabi by 23 votes, 1,655 to 1,632.

Democrats need a nine-seat swing if they are to take control of the House. Many pundits believe that the Democrats will pick up seats, but are divided on whether or not Democrats will gain enough seats to take control.

State Parties Nominate WSU Board Candidates

During the last weekend of August, the Republican and Democratic state parties nominated two candidates each to run for the Wayne State University Board of Governors in the November election.

Democrats nominated former Michigan AFL-CIO President Mark Gaffney and downtown campus Vice President for Wayne County Community College, Yvette Anderson. Mr. Gaffney is an instructor at WSU's Center for Labor Studies.

Republicans nominated Kim Shmina and Michael Busuito for the Board. Dr. Busuito has been a candidate for the BOG previously and is a plastic surgeon and a Board member of the WSU Physician's Group. Dr. Busuito earned his medical degree in 1981 from WSU School of Medicine. Ms. Shmina is a nurse practitioner who has been teaching at WSU since 2006. She lost a race for Republican State Party Chair in 2015.

Assisting Legislative Offices

We recently assisted State Representatives Laura Cox (R-Livonia) and Kurt Heise (R-Plymouth Twp.) with matters involving their constituents. We believe that in both cases, the matters have been resolved to the satisfaction of the legislative offices.

Rep. McCready at Business School Groundbreaking

The Chairman of the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Mike McCready, attended the Ilitch School of Business at Wayne State university groundbreaking ceremony. With the assistance of the Government and Community Affairs team, we were able to secure VIP parking and seating for Rep. McCready and his guest. The Representative also met briefly with President Wilson.

Rep. McCready was very grateful for the "VIP" treatment and excited about the Business School's project. He expressed his excitement on social media by posting pictures on his personal and political Facebook accounts.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

New Detroit's Camp Enterprise

New Detroit's Camp Enterprise challenges Detroit area students who have an interest in business. Started in 2003 as a one-day camp, Camp Enterprise has evolved into a four-day camp held each summer. Although the three URC schools have all participated in the past, this year the camp was held at only Wayne State and Michigan State University. The Camp experience empowers young people with leadership skills, college preparation, and a life changing team business planning experience.

The camp is targeted to rising high school juniors or seniors that have demonstrated an interest in business. At the camp, the students are immersed in a highly competitive learning environment with other students from the Detroit area, and are joined by business professionals from a variety of disciplines interested in helping teach our young people about business. In the end, the experience brings out the very best in the students. They become better equipped for educational and professional success.

Skills learned at this year's Camp Enterprise included:

- How to create a business plan
- Teamwork (*presented by WSU's Mort Harris Staff*)
- Study Skills (*presented by WSU's Academic Success Center*)
- Working under pressure
- College life
- Presentation skills
- Legal aspects of business
- Campus Tour (*presented by WSU's Admission's Department*)
- Personal Financial Education
- Business Ready! Dress for Success

This is the sixth year WSU has sponsored this event on campus. On Saturday, June 25th, the camp's overall orientation was held at General Lectures, where more than 300 parents and students attended the event. On Wednesdays July 6th and July 20th, WSU's College of Engineering held two groups of 100 plus students in Danto Auditorium.

On Saturday, August 27th, WSU's College of Engineering hosted the wrap up and evaluation session in Danto Auditorium with parents and students who participated in this year's Camp Enterprise. The College of Engineering, Business and Auxiliary Operations, Academic Success Center, Admissions Department, and the Mort Harris team, were all instrumental in making this year's Camp Enterprise the best yet.

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Wayne Cares Appreciation Event

Planning is underway for a new annual event that will honor individuals from across the university who best exemplify the spirit of WSU's commitment to community service. Helping to build a successful community is part of Wayne State University's urban mission. Wayne Cares is a university outreach initiative that brings together the university community for the purpose of charitable giving and outreach.

Goals of this event include celebrating and publicizing WSU's commitment to serving the greater community; thanking members of the WSU community for their volunteerism and incentivizing this work; encouraging increased volunteerism across all levels of the university; and promoting the accomplishments of the previous year.

The event is tentatively scheduled for the spring, and we are currently exploring possibilities for collaboration with other divisions on campus. We are also beginning to formulate nomination and awardee criteria at regular meetings.

Growing Detroit's Young Talent Program Intern

This summer, the Division of Government and Community Affairs hosted a student from the Growing Detroit's Young Talent Program for a six week opportunity to work within and learn about WSU and our division.

During her time with our office, Deja Spencer, a rising senior at Cornerstone Leadership and Business High School, worked on numerous special assignments and was able to attend various events on campus. In addition to participating in a weekly informational brown bag lunch, Deja assisted at an event with Detroit youth that Mayor Duggan hosted on campus, a community event for the dedication of Viola Liuzzo Memorial Park, and the WSUPD 50th Anniversary.

Deja also attended a number of meetings with various university officials, actively participated in DGCA staff meetings, and attended a meeting of the President's Community Advisory Group. She focused on two main projects this summer. Deja called more than 100 local organizations and non-profits obtain the most up to date contact information for these entities. She also took on a substantial research project that explored community engagement best practices at various universities, as well as national organizations that aid universities in community engagement strategy. This project resulted in a PowerPoint presentation and Q&A with DGCA staff.

HEALTH AFFAIRS

Task Force on the Safe Use of Controlled Medications

President Obama and Governor Snyder have called on universities to do a better job with training health professionals treating addiction, especially as it involves the growing opioid crisis. In response, David Hefner and the Health Science Deans have created a task force to identify

ways to incorporate changes to the curriculum. The task force includes faculty from all four health science related schools and colleges, as well as a representative from student services. The task force has finalized its first report, which is a joint document on 20 top priorities the university should focus on. The task force is unique in that it is interprofessional in makeup and vision. While each school and college will have their own specific curriculum changes, the joint document will provide direction on what is most important regardless of the health profession. The joint document will be presented to President Obama's advisor on addiction, Michael Botticelli, during his visit to campus on September 13th. The Deans and their faculty should be commended for their work on the task force and their leadership in working outside of their own silos to do what is best for all students and the community.

Psychiatry Residency Training Grant

Unlike most graduate medical education programs that are funded by Medicare, the WSU-DMC Psychiatry Residency Program is funded by a special arrangement between the DMC, WSU, the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. As a result of leadership changes at the DMC, this arrangement was at significant risk dropping off, potentially shutting down the residency program. The consequence of such action would have devastated the mental health safety net in Wayne County and the entire state, especially since this is the largest psychiatry residency program in the Midwest. After months of negotiation, a new contract was approved by all parties, funding the program for both 2015 (retroactively) and 2016. WSU has received \$4,464,900 for 2015 and \$4,464,900 for 2016.

Because of the ongoing Tenet negotiations, there is no agreement yet on the 2017 contract.

Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reform – MiDoc's

In response to the multitude of concerns from state legislators on the State Medicaid GME Program, we worked with the legislature in 2013 to create the MiDocs program. MiDocs is a consortium of Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University, and their medical schools, to create a pilot program that will help create new physicians practicing in primary care and other targeted specialties to train and serve post-residency in the most medically underserved communities in the state. The program will be needs-based, focused on quality metrics, be financially accountable and transparent, and will produce an annual audited statement that shows the efficacy of the program, based on those guiding principles. The MiDocs consortium submitted its report to the legislature in April, including a plan for a pilot program. The pilot program will include a leadership role for the Michigan Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and will create a new legal entity named MiDocs, which will distribute program funding on behalf of the legislature. To date, the legislature has appropriated \$500,000 for the effort. We have requested distribution of these funds directly to AHEC. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has agreed to the distribution, but we are still awaiting final action from the Department to this effect.

We successfully received new boilerplate language for the 2017 budget, which was passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. We are now preparing a final proposal with our consortium colleagues, which will be presented to the Governor's office and the

legislature this fall.

WayneSOM LEAD

Since 2009, Doug Skrzyniarz, associate vice president for Government Health Affairs in our Division, has been teaching a nationally innovative class to medical students on the subject of advocacy and health policy. Students have been trained on effective advocacy strategies, communication techniques, the basics of state and federal health policy, and take an annual trip to Lansing to advocate on a health related issue. The students also receive instruction on health finance, healthcare philanthropy, and professional leadership. Past guest lecturers include Senator Stabenow, Congressman Schwarz, Congressman Schauer, State Senator Colbeck, and BC/BS CMO Tom Simmer.

Starting this academic year, the program has been expanded to include more formal leadership development training. The changing health care environment is demanding more and more from physicians, especially in helping lead interprofessional medical teams and doing a much better job in communicating with their patients. Physicians need to be better prepared in transformational leadership to inspire their patients, colleagues, and employees, to strive for excellence. We are kicking off this year with a guest lecture by Director Michael Botticelli, who is President Obama's White House advisor on drug addiction. The lecture will focus on the need for health care professionals to de-stigmatize addiction treatment and play a more proactive role with their patients on that issue.

WayneSOM LEAD is one of the only such programs in the country. Doug Skrzyniarz has been asked to present at the AAMC Annual Meeting to share details of the program, why it is successful, and how other schools can do the same.

Lycaki-Young Fund

We are proud to report that the State has appropriated \$5.6 million to fund another year of the Lycaki-Young program. This program helps fund a long list of life-saving behavior health and addiction services including the largest methadone clinic in Michigan. It makes up approximately one-third of the budget for the Department of Psychiatry and has led directly to new innovative treatments on mental health. For example, these funds have helped reduce inpatient admissions for crisis patients by more than 90 percent and significantly improved health outcomes.