

NAGPS Legislative Concerns Committee Meeting – August 18, 2011

Attendees:

Mary Winn, Chair

Eli Paster, MIT

Meredith Niles, UC Davis

Joe Amisi, Grand Valley State University

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order 10:12 pm
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Current Legislative Issues
 - a. Open Access (Mary) – No Update. Still in holding pattern.
 - b. FY12 Budget (Mary)
 - i. In-school Interest Subsidy –
 1. The Budget Control Act eliminated the subsidy. National media outlets have picked up the story & interviewed NAGPS (Inside Higher Ed, Arizona Republic, Pittsburgh Tribune Review) as well as international media outlets (NHK Japan Broadcasting).
 2. Will continue to follow the budget as the year progresses.
 - c. Funding
 - i. NSF & Other Science Funding (Meredith)
 1. No updates. Meredith will follow up.
 - d. Taxes & Loans
 - ~~i. Make College Affordable Act (H.R. 953)~~
(<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h953/show>)
 1. No cosponsors or much movement since introduced. Decided to focus on other bills.
 - ii. Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act (H.R. 2028)
(<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h2028/show>)
 1. Makes educational loans a dischargeable debt under bankruptcy code.
 2. 23 Cosponsors. All Democrats. House Judiciary.
 3. Will continue to follow.
 - e. Clery Act (Meredith)
 - i. Campus SaVE Act (H.R. 2016/S. 834)
(<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-s834/show>)
 1. Letters to Congress finalized. Need to update the Legislative Action Center and send the letter to members on the Senate HELP committee and House E&W committee.
 2. Meredith continuing to speak with CA co-sponsors
 - a. McKulskey, Boxer, Maloney
 3. MIT has been following the issue and will send the letter to their representatives.
 - f. Immigration (Joe Amisi)
 - ~~i. H.R. 43~~ (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h43/show>)

1. No cosponsors and much movement since introduced. Meredith spoke with Issa staff and seemed uninterested in pushing the legislation. Decided to focus on other bills.
- ii. Immigration Driving Entrepreneurship in America Act (H.R. 2161) (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h2161/show>)
 1. Has some promise. Will continue to follow.
 2. Meredith will talk with her contacts in the Lofgren office to get an idea on the current status of the bill.
- iii. StartUp Visa Act 2011 (H.R. 1114/S. 565) (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-1114>) (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s112-565>)
 1. Will continue to follow. Few co-sponsors but sponsored by some heavy hitters. Mary will contact the Senate sponsors. Meredith will talk with Maloney's staff.
- g. Higher Education/Other (Tiffany Thacker/Joe Amisi)
 - i. ~~H.R. 2117~~ (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h2117/show>)
 1. Decided to focus on other bills.
 - ii. Student Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 998 & S. 555) (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h998/show>) (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-s555/show>)
 1. Questions about how the bill will affect change and its relation to Title IX and other non-discrimination laws.
 2. Continue to follow.
 - iii. ~~DREAM Act 2011 (S. 952)~~ (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-s952/show>)
 1. No direct affect on grad students. Decided to focus on other bills.
4. NAGPS Legislative Issues ListServ (<http://nagps.org/discussions>)
5. Fall LAD
 - a. Schedule Question & Answer Session
 - b. Advocacy Training Materials – Need to update advocacy training materials and documents.
6. Fall LCC Newsletter – Want to put out the newsletter after fall LAD (mid-October). Calling for any articles on current issues or general articles/information on advocacy (writing op-eds, scheduling meetings, etc.)
7. Transition to Next LCC Chair – Need someone to take over as an interim LCC Chair starting in Sept/Oct. Interim chair would most likely be officially nominated and approved by the board at the September or October Board of Directors meeting. If interest, contact Mary (lcc@nagps.org).
8. Open Floor/Questions
 - a. Joe had a question about potential funding for LAD.
9. Adjourn 11:07 pm

Committee Meetings (3rd Thursday at 10:00 PM Eastern)

September 15, 2011

October 20, 2011

November 17, 2011

December 15, 2011