

NAGPS Legislative Concerns Committee Meeting – February 1, 2011

Attendees:

Mary Winn, 2011 Legislative Concerns Chair
Jon Kowalski, 2011 President
Debra Scardino, 2011 Vice President
Matt Cooper, 2011 Director of Relations
David Grimes, 2011 Social Justice Chair
Jonathan Nutt, 2011 Midwest Regional Chair
Angela Jia, 2011 Northeast Regional Chair
Chad Foerster, 2010 Legislative Concerns Chair
Andy Guess, Legislative Concerns Committee Member
Colin Murphy, Legislative Concerns Committee Member
Conrad Ottey, Legislative Concerns Committee Member
Joe Reneker, Legislative Concerns Committee Member

Meeting Minutes:

1. Introductions
2. Discussion about the purpose of the committee
3. Spring LAD Prep
 - a. Updates from Committee Members
 - i. Colin Murphy – Recently in DC and met with many of the reps we met with at 2010 Fall LAD. Mike Thompson (H-CA) via education staffer wants to take the lead/step up on education.
 - b. Assign Tasks
 - i. Federal Budget (Taxes/CR/Omnibus/Graduate Student Loans)
 1. HR 5078 & HR 5600 were NOT passed (HR 5600 – IRS code extended by last Congress but did not make permanent)
 2. Because the final FY 2011 budgets for nearly all federal agencies have not been passed by Congress, the agencies are still operating at FY 2010 budget levels on the basis of a continuing resolution (CR) scheduled to expire on March 4. Meanwhile, the final touches are being put on the President's proposed budget for FY 2012. It will likely be released the week of February 14.
 3. Joe Reneker – will follow budgetary issues.
 4. Will specifically ask for HR 5078 & HR 5600 to be reintroduced (need sponsor & co-sponsors) while continuing to monitor tax reform.
 5. Stafford Loans – Conrad will research the discrepancies between graduate and undergraduate student loan interest rates. Colin stated that Rep Thompson and Rep ??? are highly interested in the issue.
 - ii. Open Access (SPARC)
 1. Still developing legislative agenda for year (Lieberman is retiring and may not be interested in reintroducing the bill)
 - a. Will continue to follow SPARC as they develop their legislative agenda. CMU & Pitt should continue

- b. Twitter – Encourage committee members to send articles and other items pertaining to NAGPS legislative agenda to post on twitter.
- 7. Next Meeting – Will schedule another meeting for the week before LAD. DoodlePoll will be sent out ASAP.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. From the White House on Education
 - a. Education: The president understands that to win the future, we have to win the race to educating our children. Building on the success of Race to the Top, he is calling on Congress to re-define and right-size the federal role in education, by replacing No Child Left Behind with a new law that raises expectations, challenges failure, rewards success, and provides greater flexibility for schools to innovate and improve results for their students. The president is also pledging to prepare an additional 100,000 science, technology, engineering and math teachers by the end of the decade. To help restore Americans global leadership in higher education, the president will continue efforts to strengthen the Pell Grant program and is calling on Congress to make permanent his American Opportunity Tax Credit, worth \$10,000 for four years of college.
 - b. To guarantee America's continued success, no race is more important to win than the one to education our children. That is why President Obama remains committed to the goal of preparing every student to graduate from high school ready for college and a career. The president is focused on ensuring that America reclaims its leadership in the world with the highest proportion of college graduates by the end of the decade. To transform our education system, the president called for:
 - i. Raising expectation to reform America's schools: Building on the success and reforms of Race to the Top, the president is pledging to work with Congress to apply a bipartisan approach to replacing No Child Left Behind/ The Administration's Blueprint for Reform calls for a re-defined federal role in education that will raise expectations for schools and students, and make room for states and school leaders to lead the way in improving results. The president's budget will call for bold restructuring of federal funding to focus on a new goal of college and career readiness for all students.
 - ii. Preparing 100,000 new STEM teachers: President Obama has proposed efforts to prepare 100,000 new teacher in science, technology, engineering and math -- key skills for the best jobs in America. The president's plan will expand promising and effective teacher preparation models and prepare more of the nation's top STEM graduates for a teaching career.
 - iii. Promoting college access and completion: The president will continue efforts to strengthen the Pell grant, promote more affordable student loans, and revitalize and expand access to American's community colleges. In addition, the president called on Congress to make permanent the America Opportunity Tax Credit that's worth up to \$10,000 for four year of college and has helped millions of middle class

- families reinvest real dollars in their children; higher education.
- iv. Reforming immigration laws to stop expelling talent: The president asked Congress to work with him to reform our immigration system in a comprehensive manner so that we stop expelling talented and responsible young people, whether they were brought here by their parents as a child, or come from other countries to pursue college and advanced degrees. As we work to rebuild the economy, our ability to thrive depends, in part, on restoring responsibility and accountability to our immigration system.

“Cutting the deficit by gutting our investments in innovation and education is like lightening an overloaded airplane by removing its engine. It may make you feel like you’re flying high at first, but it won’t take long before you feel the impact.”

- c. Education and the Workforce Committee will start hearings on ESEA the week of February 7th.
2. Senate Bill: S.5. *Doesn’t really deal with grad-prof education but displays the emphasis that will most likely be put on education*
 - a. A bill to reform schools and give America's children the tools they need to succeed; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reform America's Schools to Educate the Leaders of the Future Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should—

- (1) ensure that all students have equitable access to a high-quality, well-rounded education that prepares them to succeed in college and a career;
- (2) fix No Child Left Behind's accountability system while continuing to focus on the success of all students;
- (3) provide States and districts the resources to turn around our lowest performing schools;
- (4) collaborate with teachers to put in place systems to measure teacher quality and supports to help teachers improve student achievement; and
- (5) promote programs that encourage parent engagement, community involvement, and youth development.

3. SOTU Follow-Up: Secretary of Education Arne Duncan answered questions about the

education issues the President discussed in his State of the Union Address in a roundtable discussion. The 38-minute video is available at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2011/01/27/open-questions-state-union-and-education>. Sec. Duncan also did an interview with The Hill on Friday: Education secretary: 'No Child Left Behind' has led to a 'dumbing down'. Here is an excerpt about funding cuts:

The Hill: You said recently that education reform is a chance for bipartisan governing. Education is something that both parties have rallied around, but in the current climate where there is a lot of talk about budget cuts, do you think that is possible?

Secretary Duncan: I do think it's possible. It's possible and we want to continue to invest in education, not in the status quo but in this new vision of reform in where we're going. But I think what folks haven't really understood is reauthorizing the law, that's a legislative fix, that doesn't cost a nickel. There is no price tag attached with that. So these are two separate conversations, and we need to have them both and we need to have them at the same time, but fixing the law, we need to do and we need to do now, and there's no dollars attached to doing that.