

NAGPS Legislative Concerns Committee Meeting – February 17, 2011

Attendees:

Mary Winn, 2011 Legislative Concerns Chair
Akos Nemeecz, Committee Member
Chad Foerster, 2010 Legislative Concerns Chair
Colin Murphy, Committee Member
Joe Reneker, Committee Member
Jon Kowalski, 2011 President
Meredith Niles, Committee Member

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order 9:05 pm EST
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Spring 2011 LAD Issue Updates and Lobby Documents
 - a. Open access to federally funded research (Mary Winn)
 - i. FRPAA is unlikely to be reintroduced with the passage of AmericaCOMPETES as AmericaCOMPETES calls for the formation of an Interagency Working Group to discuss and report on open access by Jan 2012.
 - ii. Committee identified to focuses for LAD:
 1. Educating new legislators about the history and need for an open access policy
 2. Ask for sponsors to reintroduce FRPAA in the House and Senate and/or urge legislators to extend the current NIH policy to the 3 departments outlined in the 2010 Omnibus Spending Bill: Dept. of Health & Human Services, Dept. of Education, and Dept. of Labor
 - b. Taxes/Budget (Joe Reneker/Mary Winn)
 - i. FY12 Budget calls for ending in-school loan subsidies for graduate and professional students as well as the consolidation of the Javits Fellowship Program with GAANN (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need)
 1. Reason for ending subsidies: subsidies are poorly targeted and are off-set by income-base loan repayment plans (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2012/assets/trs.pdf> - p. 174)
 2. Meredith is going to research the average amount of interest graduate/professional students would be paying per year (rough estimate is \$1132.00 per year)
 3. Ask legislators to reduce the number of subsidized loans for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.
 - ii. HR 5078 – Higher education affordability and equity act of 2010.
 1. With the potential elimination of in-school loan subsidies, Chad argued, and the committee agreed, that we should ask for legislators to reintroduce HR 5078.
 - iii. FY11 CR – HR 1

1. HR 1 makes a lot of cuts to STEM, NIH, NSF, and a variety of education programs.
 2. Committee agreed that we need to speak with Senators about reinstating funds to these areas.
 - c. Student Loans/Stafford Loans
 - i. See Taxes/Budget
 - d. Clery Act
 - i. David Grimes and Kristi Kremers are meeting on Friday, Feb 18th and will provide Mary with more information at that time
 - e. Immigration
 - i. The International Students Concern Chair did not provide the committee with issues to discuss at LAD
 - ii. Committee thought it would be best to wait until the summer/fall when congress may be dealing with immigration
 - iii. MIT will be continuing conversations about H-1B visas. Joe will provide the leave behinds he created for H-1B visa reform as well as FRPAA
 4. Spring 2011 LAD Lobby Training Session
 - a. There will be no professional lobby training but Mary, Akos, and Jon (along with Nick Shockey from SPARC) will organize and run a training session.
 5. Summer 2011 Legislative Action Week
 - a. Dates: May 16th – 20th
 6. Fall 2011 Legislative Action Days
 - a. Dates: Oct 2nd – 4th
 - b. Chad noted it might be difficult to schedule visits if this coincides with the return from summer recess.
 7. Schedule Monthly Committee Meetings
 - a. Tuesdays and Thursdays are best for those present. NO to Monday and Wednesday.
 - b. Will send out Doodle Poll
 8. Open Floor/Questions
 - a. Given the requests in the FY12 Budget, Chad emphasized the need to get members close to DC to attend LAD.
 - i. Johns Hopkins, College Park, George Mason, etc.
 - b. Need to e-mail LAD attendees with information on issues as well as lobby basics (i.e. white papers, documents, Lobbying 101 and 201, YouTube Videos, online Advocate Reporting Form)
 - c. Jon Kowalski – Working on setting up Doyle award presentation
 - d. Important to set up meetings with Dept of Ed and White House during LAD
 9. Adjourn – 9:40 pm EST