

NAGPS Legislative Concerns Committee Meeting – March 15, 2011

Attendees:

Mary Winn, 2011 Legislative Concerns Chair
Chad Foerster, 2010 Legislative Concerns Chair
Colin Murphy, Committee Member
Joe Reneker, Committee Member

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order 9:02 PM
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Spring LAD Wrap-Up
 - a. Attending schools (# of Attendees) included Columbia (2), MIT (4), Ohio State (8), Oklahoma State (1), University of North Texas (1), University of Colorado Boulder (2), University of California San Diego (2), Ole Miss (1), Carnegie Mellon (3)
 - b. At least 75+ visits
4. Legislative Action Center
 - a. Need to develop stances and letters on the issues, particularly the federal budget, to post to the LAC so people can begin to use the Write Congress function
5. Current Issues
 - a. **Open Access**
 - b. **FY12 Budget**
 - i. Subsidized Loans
 1. CBO: For education programs it proposes the following options:
 - a. Eliminate Subsidized Loans to Graduate Students
 - b. Change the Interest Rate Structure for Student Loans (the interest rate on all new federal student and parent loans would be set to the interest rate on 10-year Treasury notes at the beginning of the academic year in which the loan is originated plus 3 percentage points)
 - c. Eliminate Certain Grant Programs for Elementary and Secondary Education (includes proposed elimination of 21st Century Community Learning Centers)
 - d. Restrict Pell Grants to the Neediest Students (make students with an EFC exceeding \$2,500 ineligible for a Pell grant)
 - ii. Javits Fellowship
 - c. **Taxes/Loans**
 - i. HR 953 - Make College Affordable Act of 2011
 1. Sponsor (Ron Paul [TX])
 - a. Introduced various time during the 106th Congress (including Harold Ford)
 - b. Joe will ask ?
 - c. Need to formulate NAGPS stance and compose letter
 - d. **Healthcare Reform Bill**

- i. Mary updated committee on a meeting member of the Board had with United Health Care about how the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act may affect the price of health care insurance for graduate students
 - ii. No action necessary at this time
 - e. **Clery Act**
 - i. Mary informed the committee about the Clery Act and loop holes in the Act that allow higher education institutes get around the reporting of crime statistics, particularly sexual crimes
 - ii. Working with Kristi Kremers and David Grimes to write a letter
 - f. **Immigration**
 - i. H.R. 43 –
 - 1. Introduced by Issa [CA]
 - 2. Eliminates lottery program for Green Cards with 55,000 Green Cards currently allotted to the lottery program (5% of total Green Cards)
 - 3. Allocates those 55,000 green cards to individuals that graduated from the STEM fields
 - 4. Democrats don't support because it eliminates the lottery, elitist (i.e. Markey [MA – 7th])
 - 5. Discussed the pros and cons
 - a. Cons - Elitist, may not be supported by many academics
 - b. Pros – Allocates more Green Cards to the grad-professional students that NAGPS represents
 - 6. Need to develop stance and letter
 - a. Mary will put an announcement in the Annunciator asking for feedback about the bill from NAGPS members
 - b. Joe will get more #s on the Green Cards and the effect this bill would have
- 6. Summer Legislative Action Week (May 16th – 20th)
 - a. Solicited ideas from committee
 - i. MIT & local schools will be promoting Open Access with a signature drive and working with Nick at SPARC
 - b. Need more ideas and help with developing materials for LAW
- 7. Fall LAD (Oct 2nd – 4th)
 - a. Discussed hotel options as there are some other big conferences scheduled during early Oct.
 - i. Last year stayed in Virginia for \$90 per night
 - ii. Other Recommendations
 - 1. Hotel Helix
 - 2. Capital Skyline
- 8. Open Floor/Questions
 - a. Colin requested we move meeting to 10:00 PM Eastern
 - i. No objections
- 9. Adjourn 9:51 PM

Committee Meetings (3rd Tuesday at 10:00 PM EST)

April 19, 2011

May 17, 2011

June 21, 2011

July 19, 2011

August 16, 2011

September 20, 2011

October 18, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 20, 2011