



**Higher Education Act Reauthorization Conference
General Talking Points on NAICU Priorities
February 2008**

- **College Cost:** While we understand the concern by Congress over college prices, we find it difficult to see how the multitude of overlapping and inconsistent requirements in the House and Senate bills will remedy the situation. Several provisions are particularly inappropriate, confusing, or redundant, and should be addressed in the final bill.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Even as colleges are being asked to operate more efficiently and to reduce prices, we are being subjected to numerous new mandates and reporting requirements. Many of these are confusing and redundant, making them unlikely to produce information of use to students and their families. At a minimum, we ask that you remove some of the most onerous and time-intensive proposed requirements.
- **Accreditation:** Thank you for assuring that accreditation will not be used as a tool for dictating institutional academic decisions. Please preserve and maintain these features in the final bill.
- **Teacher Education:** We strongly oppose federal mandates on curriculum elements and program outcomes.
- **Academic Bill of Rights:** Independence and diversity of mission are the hallmarks of private nonprofit education in the United States. Both would be jeopardized by federal government attempts to define and regulate "balance" in opinions expressed in the classroom and on campus.
- **Student Loan Sunshine:** Thank you for finding a reasonable, balanced approach to this situation that will be a powerful force in restoring the public trust.

**Higher Education Act Reauthorization Conference
Specific Recommendations on NAICU Priorities
February 2008**

College Cost

- Make the effective date of cost provisions prospective, as provided in the House bill. Colleges have already set their 2008-09 tuition and fees, so it is too late to change them. If the intent is to modify the behavior of institutions, we should be given the opportunity to do that as part of our planning for subsequent fiscal years.
- Eliminate entirely the cost provisions in Title VIII of the House bill – particularly the redundant language on the reporting by institutions with net price increases exceeding the postsecondary education price index (PEPI) in any year.
- Eliminate the Senate bill provisions requiring admissions materials to include net price by income quartile. To do this, institutions would have to collect income information from unaided students – something that has not been the case in the past.
- In the House bill, remove the Higher Education Price Information Summary line that calls for instructional expenditures per student. This information is misleading and without value in measuring institutional efficiency and effectiveness.
- Remove the additional reporting requirements that were added on the House floor through the Murphy-Myrick amendments. The legislation already gives students and their families access to an institution's past pricing history. Requiring institutions to predict future increases is likely to lead to confusion and misinformation.

Reporting Requirements

- On the House College Navigator/Senate U-CAN consumer information lists, eliminate the data items that would require colleges to submit additional information to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). In particular, remove the House bill requirement that graduation rates be broken down by income category, which would require colleges to collect income data from all of their students.
- Remove the Senate bill provisions calling for the collection of income and post-graduation data, and for even more complicated reporting of graduation rates.
- Remove the House bill provision requiring complex reporting information related to textbooks
- Remove the House bill provision requiring institutions to notify the campus community within 30 minutes of a "significant emergency or dangerous situation."

- Eliminate the endowment reporting requirements added to the House bill by the Welch amendment. The legislation already addresses this matter elsewhere, and in addition, the Senate Finance Committee is currently conducting a study of endowment practices.

Accreditation

- Maintain the provisions in both bills that preserve an institution's ability to choose how it will demonstrate success with respect to student achievement, and that restrict the ability of the Secretary of Education to regulate in this area.
- Maintain the revisions, also in both bills, that include congressional appointees to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI).

Teacher Education

- Eliminate the provisions in both bills that include quantifiable goals for production of teachers in certain fields, and for the program of study used by the college. We regard this mandate on teacher education curricula and outcomes to be an inappropriate federal control and an extremely troubling precedent.
- As an alternative to the direct federal curriculum mandate, the final bill could inform the public on colleges' efforts to address teacher shortages and needs by requiring additional information in the existing Institutional Report Card.

Academic Bill of Rights

- Remove the provisions of the Senate bill dealing with student speech and association.

Student Loan Sunshine

- The Senate should recede to the House version, as it contains the most recent improvements to this important provision.