
MARCH 2019

REGION III

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



1. FEDERAL UPDATES

- The House Education and Labor Committee made a bipartisan [announcement](#) that it will hold five higher education hearings in the near future as a first formal step in an effort to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) this Congress. The five hearings will cover: 1) the cost of college; 2) accountability in higher education; 3) improving student outcomes; 4) the role of community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions; and 5) innovation in higher education. Dates for these hearings have not been announced.
- The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is holding the second session of full committee negotiated rulemaking this week, covering issues related to accreditation and innovation. ED has released an updated version of its proposed accreditation regulations that will be the subject of the negotiations. There continues to be disagreement over ED's proposed regulations, and it appears that the full committee negotiated rulemaking is headed toward no consensus on some of the main issues related to accreditation. Information regarding the ongoing negotiated rulemaking, including archived webcasts of the negotiations and relevant ED materials, can be found [here](#). The full committee and the three subcommittees are scheduled to meet again for their third and final sessions in March.
- The House Administration Committee advanced the For the People Act (H.R. 1) by a 6 to 3, party-line vote. The bill would, in part, require IHEs to appoint "campus vote coordinators" responsible for helping students register to vote and create a competitive grant program for IHEs that sponsor large on-campus voter mobilization efforts and invite candidates to speak on campus, among other things. While the bill is likely to pass the House, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has already expressed his opposition to the bill, so it is unlikely to be taken up in the Senate.

2. TITLE IX UPDATES

- ED accepted comments on its proposed Title IX regulations for one additional day on Friday, February 15, receiving over 1,000 additional comments bringing the total number of [comments](#) to over 105,000. ED is legally required to read and address all comments, and the publication of a final rule is unlikely in the near future.

3. FINANCIAL AID

- ED's Inspector General (IG) [released](#) a report finding that, while ED "regularly identifies" issues with its student loan servicers, it fails to adequately follow up with servicers on these issues. This is notable in part because any issues that student loan services have could impact an institution of higher education's cohort default rate.

ED announced that it has stopped providing federal funding to Argosy University due to concerns that the University had been failing to distribute the federal financial aid money it had received to students. The Dream Center had purchased Argosy University in 2017 and had been working to convert it to nonprofit status. The University has until March 11 to appeal the decision.

4. STATE HEADLINES AND UPDATES

Alabama:

[AL: Alabama colleges to report outcomes, earnings for graduates](#)

(Date posted: February 19, 2019)

[AL: Data on Alabama universities coming soon, step toward performance-based funding](#)

(Date posted: March 1, 2019)

Florida:

[FL: Lawmakers Eye 'Systematic Problem' On University Spending](#)

(Date posted: February 27, 2019)

Georgia:

South Carolina:

[SC: A proposal to keep SC tuition costs down is one step closer to becoming law](#)

(Date posted: February 19, 2019)

[SC: SC college tuition freeze seems likely as lawmakers unveil yet another proposal](#)

(Date posted: February 20, 2019)

[SC: SC WINS scholarship could help cover entire tuition for technical college students](#)

(Date posted: February 25, 2019)

Tennessee:

Texas:

[TX: More than a dozen bills filed in Texas legislature to address sexual assault](#)

(Date posted: February 4, 2019)

[TX: Texas community colleges warn they may consider tuition hikes in the face of property tax reform](#)

(Date posted: February 19, 2019)

Virginia:

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ Attached to this newsletter is a list of public policy division sessions that will be offered at this month's NASPA National Convention in Los Angeles.

NASPA Public Policy Blogs:

- Learn, Engage, and Represent: Preparing to Participate in the National Student Affairs Day of Action on March 12, 2019, by Teri Lyn Hinds, Director of Policy Research and Advocacy, (2/14/19)
- [February 11th NASPA Policy Update](#), (2/11/19)
- [A Personal Note on Letter-Writing Advocacy and the National Student Affairs Day of Action](#), by Diana Ali, Assistant Director of Policy Research and Advocacy, (2/7/19)
- [The Highs and Lows of Collegiate Cannabis Prevention, Part II](#), by Laurie Jevons, Assistant Director, Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Initiatives, (2/5/19)
- [February 4th NASPA Policy Update](#), (2/4/19)
- [NASPA'S COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSED TITLE IX RULE](#) (NASPA Blog), by Teri Lyn Hinds, Director of Policy Research and Advocacy, (2/1/19)
- [The Highs and Lows of Collegiate Cannabis Prevention, Part I](#), by Laurie Jevons, Assistant Director, Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Initiatives, (1/31/19)
- [January 28th NASPA Policy Update](#), (1/28/19)
- [Advancing the Movement on Emergency Aid—Reflections from NASPA's National Convening on Emergency Aid](#), by Omari Burnside, Assistant Vice President for Strategy and Practice (1/25/19)

- [TITLE IX: ACTIVATING YOUR CAMPUS FOR NOTICE AND COMMENT](#) (NASPA blog), by Suzannah Rogan, Campus Advocacy, Prevention, and Education (CAPE) Project Coordinator, Doane University, (1/17/19)
- [Your Role in Our Representative Democracy: Submitting Comments on Proposed Rules](#), by Teri Lyn Hinds, Director of Policy Research and Advocacy (1/17/19)
- [January 14th NASPA Policy Update](#), (1/14/19)
- [Resource Guides for Responding to the Department of Education’s Proposed Title IX Rule](#), (1/10/19)

Public Policy Briefings & Upcoming Events:

- **February Policy Briefing** on February 14, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. ET: [Learn. Engage. Represent: Grassroots Policy & NASPA’s National Student Affairs Day of Action](#). This year, NASPA’s National Student Affairs Day of Action (NSADA) will coincide with the NASPA 2019 Annual Conference in March. The Policy and Advocacy Team is releasing new content to assist you in your participation, and is emphasizing our commitment to equity and inclusion through partnership with NASPActs. Join us for this month’s policy briefing to learn more about NSADA and NASPActs, to gain tips on how to get involved no matter where you’re located nationally, and to become part of a movement to amplify the voice of student affairs in our representative democracy.
- **Policy Sessions at #NASPA19:** Please see the highlighted programs attached to the email with the agenda.
- **March Policy Briefing** on March 21, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. ET: [State Investment in Higher Ed: Free College and Promise Programs in 2019](#). As our national economy continues to recover from the 2008 recession, state budgets are shifting toward a greater investment in education. Free college and college promise programs continue to capture legislative attention, with 45 pieces of legislation appearing in 19 states plus DC by early February, per a recent report by the Education Commission of the States. The policies vary, almost none are truly open to all students for all institutions, and analysts from the Education Trusts and other organizations have raised concerns about equity in how many of the programs are designed. Join us on March 21, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. ET for a free briefing that will review the 2019 legislation and surrounding conversations.

If you want to get more involved in public policy at the state level, the following states have State Public Policy Directors that you can contact. Here is the listing of State Public Policy Directors in Region III:

Dr. Jody Conway	Florida - University of South Florida	jodyconway@usf.edu
Darryl Holloman	Georgia – Spellman College	dholloman@spelman.edu
Neil Jamerson	South Carolina - Furman	neil.jamerson@furman.edu
Dr. Heidi Leming	Tennessee - TBR	hleming@tbr.edu
Dr. Thomas Moorman	Texas - University of North Texas	Thomas.moorman@unthsc.edu

This monthly newsletter is compiled by the NASPA Region III Public Policy Representative, Dr. Heidi Leming. If you would like to send suggestions for the next newsletter, please email heidi.leming@tbr.edu.

