

Legislative Updates of Interest for Higher Education Week of April 27 – May 1, 2009

Budget Update –

During the week, the Senate continued its debate on the State's budget. Efforts to pass an alternative budget (i.e., the Ryberg/Davis proposal) to the Senate Finance Committee budget recommendations were not successful. Senate Finance Committee recommendations were given second reading late Tuesday. By the end of session on Wednesday, the Senate had passed the Senate Finance Committee recommendations with few amendments. A copy of the budget as passed by the Senate is available at http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118_2009-2010/appropriations2009/sp09ndx.htm. The budget now goes back to the House, which has an opportunity to make additional amendments. If differences remain between the House and Senate budget recommendations, the budget will be sent to Conference Committee so that differences may be worked out before the budget is finalized and sent to the Governor. Once the Governor receives the budget, he has five days to act by signing the budget into law, issuing vetoes, or letting it take affect without his signature.

For higher education, recommendations for recurring funding are the same as advanced by the Senate Finance Committee. The Senate budget for higher education includes recurring base funding that is level with current FY 2008-09 funding inclusive of the 2% March statewide reductions with the exception of CHE and Tuition Grants which would receive administrative reductions for travel of \$24,415 and \$1,746, respectively. The base funding recommendations are similar to the House budget recommendations except that the House budget was passed prior to the 2% March statewide reductions and included base funding inclusive of reductions as of January. A copy of the House budget recommendations is available at http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118_2009-2010/appropriations2009/hp09ndx.htm. In regard to the federal stimulus funds, the Senate adopted the Finance Committee's recommended allocations as outlined in Part III of the budget. For higher education, allocations from the education stabilization funds total approximately \$100 million and are spread across higher education institutions based relevant to the recent budget shortfalls. Under the government services stabilization funds, the Greenville University Center receives \$364,440.

The lottery expenditures recommended by Senate Finance were also adopted by the Senate without any changes. The lottery expenditures are similar to those passed by the House except for lottery technology funds and the expenditures of excess unclaimed prize fund monies. The Senate budget includes \$12 million (current year's allocation) for technology funds for two-year and four-year public institutions. The technology allocation was reduced in the House budget. Also, the Senate allocates the first excess unclaimed prize funds over those certified to provide \$2 million for the CATT/ReadySC Program and applies the balance of excess unclaimed prize funds to restore lottery technology funds up to a total of \$12 million. Like the House budget, the Technical College Allied Health Initiative and the Critical Needs Nursing Initiative are funded at \$4,000,000 and \$1,000,000, respectively, with excess unclaimed prize funds. The Senate provides any remaining unclaimed prize funds after the specified expenditures and allocation of technology funds for the merit scholarship programs (Palmetto Fellows, LIFE and HOPE), whereas, the House allocates any remaining funds after specified expenditures to Need-based grants. Other higher education funding included in the Senate budget recommendations are nonrecurring allocations for Need-based grants (\$500,000) and for the University Center of Greenville (\$500,000). The House budget includes a nonrecurring allocation for Need-based grants of \$2,000,000.

In the House –

During the week, the following bills were introduced and referred to Committee: [S.377](#), requiring a public institution of higher learning to develop a credit card marketing and solicitation policy, was referred to House Education and Public Works; [S.593](#), relating to carrying of guns by concealed weapons permit holders onto school campuses in a locked compartment of a vehicle, was referred to House Judiciary; and [H.4004](#), a joint resolution to authorize the University of South Carolina to develop and construct a new facility for the Moore School of Business in the Innovista district on the Columbia Campus, was referred to House Ways and Means. A joint resolution, [S.700](#), which was passed by the Senate and is the same as

H.4004 was introduced in the House on Thursday and placed on the calendar without reference. Other bills to advance in the House during the week included: [H.3841](#), the Technical College Administrative Efficiencies Act, which was approved with amendments and sent to the Senate on Wednesday; [S.12](#), which would establish a SC Tax Realignment Commission for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations regarding SC's tax system, was amended, received second reading, and now awaits final approval of the House; and [H.4000](#), a concurrent resolution introduced and adopted on Wednesday, which would provide for sine die on May 21 with provisions for returning for no more than three days as agreed to by the House and Senate for consideration of those items as specified in the resolution. [H.3442](#) which would create a Workforce Department Appellate Panel, provide for transfer of the Workforce Management Act Program to the Department of Workforce, create the Department of Workforce, and replace the Employment Security Commission with the Department of Workforce was recommitted to Judiciary.

In the Senate –

As reported above, the focus in the Senate centered on the State's budget. Also during the week, the Senate approved and sent to the House [S.700](#), a joint resolution to authorize the University of South Carolina to develop and construct a new facility for the Moore School of Business in the Innovista district on the Columbia Campus, and [S.377](#), requiring a public institution of higher learning to develop a credit card marketing and solicitation policy. The Senate approved [H.3616](#) with amendments and returned the bill to the House. This bill would provide Enterprise Campus Authority for several of the technical colleges. [H.3872](#), which would provide Greenville Technical College with the ability to establish an Enterprise Campus Authority, was introduced from the House and placed on the Senate Calendar without reference. The authority for Greenville Technical College is also provided in H.3616 as amended by the Senate. The concurrent resolution passed by the House relating to sine die adjournment, [H.4000](#), was introduced in the Senate.

Bills Enrolled for Ratification –

On Thursday, [H.3378](#), relating to mandatory furlough provisions for state agencies, and [S.97](#), relating to members of the Central Carolina Technical College Board, were ratified and now await consideration of the Governor.

Other News –

The House and Senate met in Joint Session on Wednesday to elect members of college and university boards of trustees. Those elected to seats under consideration included the following:

- *Coastal Carolina University Trustees:* Ms. Natasha M. Hana to the 1st Congressional District Seat 1; Mr. Larry Biddle to the 1st Congressional District Seat 2; Mr. Robert G. Templeton to the 1st Congressional District Seat 4; Mr. William L. Lyles Jr. to the 3rd Congressional District Seat 6; Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson to the 4th Congressional Seat 8; Mr. Robert D. Brown to the 5th Congressional Seat 10; Mr. J. Wayne George to the 6th Congressional District Seat 12; and Mr. William H. Alford to the At-Large District Seat 14.
- *College of Charleston Trustees:* Mr. Daniel Ravenel to the 1st Congressional Seat 1.
- *SC State University Trustees:* Ms. Linda Edwards-Duncan to the 5th Congressional District Seat 5; Mr. Maurice G. Washington to the 6th Congressional District Seat 6; Mr. Matthew T. Richardson to the At-Large Seat 8; and Mr. Jonathan Pinson to the At-Large Seat 10.
- *Winthrop University Trustees:* Mr. Dalton B. Floyd Jr. to the At-Large Seat 9.

Thursday marked the “cross-over” deadline for legislation. A bill that originated in one body and has not been sent to the other body by the cross-over deadline now requires a two-thirds vote of the body to be considered. As a reminder, the 2009 session is the first year of the two-year session. Bills that have not passed by the end of the 2009 session will be carried forward into next year.