

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education

Week of February 5-9, 2007:

In the House – Ways and Means Budget Subcommittees continued their work. The Higher Education, Tech and Cultural Subcommittee met on Wednesday to take up provisos and receded at the call of the chair. Another subcommittee of Ways and Means also met on Wednesday and took up legislation including H.3170 which is a bill to provide incentives for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE students majoring in science or mathematics. The subcommittee amended the bill to provide for a technical correction and to add a provision to enable credit earned through performance on science and math advanced placement (AP) tests to count toward the minimum hours required in science and math in the freshmen year. Full Ways and Means met on Thursday and voted to report out H.3170 favorably as amended. Later that day, the House has received the Committee report on H.3170. New bills relating to higher education were introduced including: H.3434 relating to a tuition assistance program for National Guard members and H.3476 relating to teacher certification.

On “This Week in the Statehouse” Speaker Harrell, the program’s host, featured the Research Centers of Economic Excellence Endowed Chair program. Speaker Harrell discussed the program with guests Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President of USC, and Dr. Richard Swaja, who holds an Endowed Chair in Regenerative Medicine at MUSC. Streaming video of this program, which aired Tuesday, February 6, is accessible at <http://web3.sctv.org/twih2007/harrell-02-06-07.wmv>

In the Senate – The Higher Education Subcommittee of Senate Education met on Wednesday. The subcommittee decided to report out favorably to the full committee S.7 relating to home school student eligibility for LIFE, S.321 relating to statutes for licensing nonpublic postsecondary institutions and use of bond funds and exemption of seasonal/temporary recruitment activities, and S.75 relating to the tuition prepayment program’s ending participation to new enrollees. The subcommittee also considered S.341 relating to free tuition for children of select active duty military and decided to carry over this bill. The full Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 14.