

Federal Issues Update



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About AASCU

- AASCU is an association of 420 public colleges and university presidents
- Represent regional public colleges and universities
- One of the “Big Six” (ACE, AASCU, APLU, NAICU, AAU, AACCC)
- Tracks and advocates on state and federal policy matters

What is  oing on in



ashington?

Key Observations

- The broad parameters of the Trump approach to higher ed were outlined in the campaign---change borrowing, control costs.
- Stances on some broader issues are clear (i.e. immigration). What will come of it?
- The Higher Education Act is long overdue for reauthorization (2013)
- Congress has some new leaders in key positions, movement on higher ed legislation unclear

Elections have consequences...

Control of Congress

- Republican President Elected-Donald Trump
- U.S. Senate:
 - Pre-Election: 46 in Democratic Caucus, 54 in Republican Caucus
 - Post-Election: 48 in Democratic Caucus, 52 in Republican Caucus
- U.S. House:
 - Pre-Election: 186 in Democratic Caucus, 246 in Republican Caucus, 3 Vacant
 - Post-Election: 194 in Democratic Caucus, 241 in Republican Caucus

Congressional Leadership

Senate

- Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee Chair: Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee)
- Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) (?)



U.S. House

- Education and Workforce Committee Chair: Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- Ranking Member: Bobby Scott (D-VA)?



Higher Education in 2017

Key issues:

1. Regulations
2. Affordability
3. Undocumented Students
4. Pathways for Borrowers
5. Accreditation
6. Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
7. Department of Education
8. Other

Regulations

- Likely movement toward deregulation
 - Teacher Preparation
 - Borrower Defense to Repayment
 - State authorization
 - Gainful Employment



Affordability

- Ripped colleges for administrative “bloat”
- Wants colleges to reduce costs, spend large endowments
- Roll back regulations
- Nothing on state disinvestment

Undocumented Students

- DACA is in serious jeopardy. Will it just wither away?
 - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
 - Administrative action---not a law.
 - Temporary relief from deportation
 - Two-year work permits
 - Students get temporary Social Security numbers, helps them access certain forms of state/institutional aid and jobs. Other benefits as well.

Undocumented Students



Yes, Trump can boost deportations and gut the Dreamer program for young immigrants



MARY SANCHEZ NOVEMBER 11, 2016 1:51 PM

Will Trump feed 'Dreamers' to the wolves?

Pathways for Borrowers

- GOP Platform: Return to a bank-based lending system over direct lending. Would cost taxpayers.
- Trump on student debt: Let's restructure it, gov't should not make money on it.
- Trump's Income-Based Repayment Plan: increase to 12.5 percent income from 10 percent. Forgive any left over after 15 years of full payments instead of 20.
 - More generous program, would consolidate income-driven plans. Will conservatives go along?

Accreditation

- Nobody is happy about accreditation. GOP says it stifles competition and innovation, Democrats say it doesn't protect consumers. Are both right?
- GOP Platform:
 - Decouple accreditation from federal aid.
 - “States should be empowered to allow a wide array of accrediting and credentialing bodies to operate.”
 - Would this be a bonanza for waste, fraud and abuse?

HEA Reauthorization

- Overdue for reauthorization
- Big push for simplify the FAFSA, financing and tax reforms, program integrity and institutional oversight
- Would have to use budget reconciliation bill to overcome filibuster

Department of Education

- Trump/GOP have talked about eliminating/scaling back the U.S. Department of Education
 - Very unlikely, would take enormous political capital
 - Downsized?
 - Also: who would take over distribution of funds?
 - Scale back/cut funding enforcement of Title IX, OCR has 216 investigations pending

Other issues

- The free college efforts have suffered a setback
- Student unit record data efforts?
- What will happen to front-end affordability?
- Pell volume will be under review in Republican Congress
 - Republican budget would freeze Pell for 10 years
 - Cuts in spending on research

Conclusions

- There are a wide array of federal higher education issues that need to be addressed
- The details Trump higher ed agenda are largely undefined, Republican Congress focused on reducing funding and regulations, market-oriented solutions
- This is a pivotal moment---let your federal delegation know your perspective!

Questions

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