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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

Congress is out of session and will meet again for legislative business on Monday, November 15, for the lame-duck session.

The House adjourned on September 30. The Senate finished its legislative business on September 29, but it is reconvening every few days in pro forma session to keep President Obama from making recess appointments during the period before the lame-duck session.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT POSTS COMMENTS ON COMMERCIALIZATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH NEW

Last March, the White House solicited public comments on how best to encourage commercialization of university research. The Department of Commerce has now created a website that provides an overview of the request and the 205 responses it received. The responses are sorted by type of organization—including universities, non-profit organizations, associations, and corporations—and by private individuals. The comments submitted by a group of five higher education associations, including AAU, can be viewed here.

OTHER

CAMR, UC FILE NEW AMICI BRIEFS IN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL CASE

The Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR), the state of Wisconsin, and the Genetics Policy Institute filed a joint amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the
D.C. Circuit on October 18 in support of the Justice Department’s position against the preliminary injunction halting federal funding of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research. The brief details how Congress has shown strong support for hESC research and how researchers would be harmed should funding be cut off. AAU is a member of CAMR.

The Court of Appeals has stayed the preliminary injunction, allowing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue funding the research until the appeals court makes another ruling.

The University of California also has filed an amicus brief in which it argues that the plaintiffs should not have been granted standing in the case. The UC brief describes why the plaintiffs, as adult stem cell researchers, have not suffered a competitive injury from NIH funding of hESC research, and notes that, in any case, it is institutions and not individuals that are the actual grantees.

Both the CAMR and UC briefs are available on the CAMR website.

A brief is due from the plaintiffs by Oct. 28; a Justice Department response will be due by November 4.

PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE FROM ESC BRIEFING ON ENERGY RESEARCH DRIVING INNOVATION

Three presentations from the October 20 congressional briefing on how Department of Energy science is helping U.S. industry compete are now available on the AAU website. The Capitol Hill session was sponsored by the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC), in conjunction with the House R&D Caucus.


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