CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

The House and Senate are in recess. Both chambers are scheduled to reconvene on Tuesday, November 13, following the elections.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

ASSOCIATIONS AND FBI ISSUE NEW REPORT ON OVERSIGHT OF DUAL USE LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH

AAU, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have released a new report from their meeting in September on the review and oversight of dual use life sciences research.

The report, “Bridging Science and Security for Biological Research: A Discussion about Dual Use Research Review and Oversight at Research Institutions,” describes best practices and lessons learned from existing, voluntary dual use review and oversight programs, and lists outstanding challenges and potential policy solutions in this arena. Included in the report are concerns about the pending federal policy for oversight of dual use research, particularly in the context of research regulations already affecting institutions.

The meeting, held September 13-14 of this year, was the second of three meetings organized by the three associations and the FBI to strengthen collaboration and foster discussion between the research and security communities on issues related to biosecurity. A first report, more broadly focused on biosecurity issues, was released in April, and a third meeting and report are anticipated by the summer of 2013.
The College Board on October 24 published its two annual reports on college costs: “Trends in Student Aid 2012” and “Trends in College Pricing 2012,” which show that costs and student debt levels are leveling off.

**College Pricing**

The *Trends in College Pricing* report found that for public four-year institutions, the average published in-state tuition and fees increased by $399 (4.8 percent) to $8,665 between 2011-12 and 2012-13. *Inside Higher Ed* reports that this increase was the smallest increase in 10 years. However, with total grant aid and tax benefits included, the estimated average in-state net tuition and fees were $2,910, an increase of $290 (11 percent). By comparison, the average in-state net tuition and fees five years ago, in 2007-08, were an inflation-adjusted $2,470, which means there has been a five-year increase of just under 18 percent.

The report points out that in 2011-12—the latest year for which the information is available—total state appropriations for public colleges and universities declined by 11 percent, after adjusting for inflation. That one-year decline followed a three percent decline in 2010-11. State appropriations per full-time equivalent (FTE) student dropped in 2010-11 by 9.8 percent from 2011-12 and have dropped approximately 25 percent since 2006-07.

The average published tuition and fees at private four-year institutions increased by $1,173 (4.2 percent) to $29,060 between 2011-12 and 2012-13. With total grant aid and tax benefits, the estimated average net tuition and fees was $13,380, an increase of $780 (six percent). By comparison, the average net tuition and fees five years ago, in 2007-08, were an inflation-adjusted $13,870. After inflation, this represents a decline of about 3.5 percent.

At both public and private four-year institutions, the average full-time undergraduate student received enough grant aid to cover a significant portion of tuition and fees, but not other expenses.

Published prices for public and private nonprofit doctoral institutions by Carnegie classification followed the same pricing trends as the public and private four-year, nonprofit sectors overall from 2011-12 to 2012-13.

The source of data for the College Board’s report on college pricing is its annual survey of colleges and universities, which the organization conducts through an online questionnaire. The data for 2012-2013 came from the Board’s survey of October 2011.

**Student Aid**

The *Trends in Student Aid* report focuses on Academic Year 2011-12, lagging the college pricing report by one year. The report shows that undergraduate students who received student
aid in 2011-12 received 51 percent of their aid from grants, 40 percent from loans, and nine percent from a combination of tax credits or deductions and Work-Study. For graduate students, these percentages were 29 percent, 68 percent, and three percent, respectively. Total federal, state, institutional, and private aid distributed to both undergraduate and graduate students was $237 billion in 2011-12. Students also borrowed about $8 billion from private, state, and institutional sources to help finance their educations.

Among other findings, the report shows 9.4 million students—or 37 percent of all those in higher education—received a Pell grant in 2011-12. In that same academic year, 2.9 million graduate students received $1.4 billion in federal grants (in 2011 dollars).

Total educational borrowing, including federal student and parent loans, as well as non-federal loans, declined by four percent in real terms between 2010-11 and 2011-12, the first decline in at least 20 years. Of those students who first enrolled in academic year 2003-04, some 40 percent had never borrowed from federal and nonfederal sources by 2009, while 25 percent had borrowed $10,000 or less and two percent had borrowed more than $50,000. Private student loan volume dropped to its 2001-02 level of approximately $6 billion in 2011 dollars.

The number of families benefiting from the federal education tuition deduction declined from three million in 2008 to 1.2 million in 2010, while the number benefitting from the education tax credit increased from 5.2 million to 11.9 million. On-line tables in the report provide a year-by-year breakout: 60 percent of the education tax deductions went to families with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of between $100,000 and $160,000, while 23 percent of the tax credits went to those families with an AGI between $100,000 and $180,000.

End of document

Please visit us at www.aau.edu and follow us on Twitter at @AAUniversities.