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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The Senate did not meet today; the House met but took no votes. When the chambers reconvene next Monday, December 17, the Senate will begin consideration of the $60.4 billion supplemental spending package for Hurricane Sandy recovery. House leaders have not yet announced the legislative schedule for next week.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

STILL NO “FISCAL CLIFF” AGREEMENT  NEW

President Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met again yesterday at the White House, but apparently were still unable to reach a deal to stave off the year-end “fiscal cliff.” If no agreement is reached, the Bush-era tax cuts and other tax benefits will expire at the end of the year and sequestration – across-the-board cuts in defense and nondefense spending – will kick in. The New York Times reported this morning that pessimism is mounting that a broad deal can be struck “that bridges the substantial gap between the parties on taxes and entitlements like Medicare.”

AAU UNIVERSITIES RESPOND TO THREAT OF FISCAL CLIFF

AAU universities have responded in a big way to the threats to research and education from the looming fiscal cliff. Among other activities, AAU presidents and chancellors have sent their own letters and co-signed group letters to Washington policymakers, and they have written a number of op-eds that have been published in regional and national publications. University news bureaus have covered the story as well. AAU has posted here the letters, op-eds, and campus news stories that it has received.

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