January 11, 2013

CONTENTS
CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Higher Education Community Provides Comments to DOD on Student Complaint Form
NEH Invites Nominations for 2014 Jefferson Humanities Lecture
OTHER
Supreme Court Action Ends Challenge to NIH Funding of Embryonic Stem Cell Research

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The House and Senate are in recess; the House will reconvene on Monday, January 14. The Senate will reconvene on Monday, January 21, for a joint session of Congress for the President’s inauguration.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY PROVIDES COMMENTS TO DOD ON STUDENT COMPLAINT FORM

The American Council on Education (ACE) on January 7 sent a letter on behalf of the six presidential higher education associations to the Department of Defense (DOD) providing comments on its “Student Complaint Intake Form for Service Members and Their Families.”

The proposed complaint form and process, which were issued on November 6, 2012, prompted a number of concerns for the associations, including that the current draft of the form allows service members and veterans to comment on their grades. The associations agreed that this violates principles of institutional autonomy. The letter states, “We do not believe that it is the intent of the federal agencies to turn the federal government into arbiters of grades: such a move would be unprecedented and wholly inappropriate. Grading decisions should remain in the academic domain. We respectfully request that the question about grades be removed from the final version of the form.”

NEH INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 JEFFERSON HUMANITIES LECTURE

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is inviting institutions to nominate a distinguished scholar to deliver the 2014 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. NEH’s annual
Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities award recognizes an outstanding scholar who has made significant contributions to the humanities and who has the ability to communicate the knowledge and wisdom of the humanities in a broadly appealing way. The lecturer is expected to present an original and substantive address that is of interest to both scholars and the lay public.

More information about the lectureship, including a list of previous lecturers and instructions for submitting a nomination, is available here. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Sunday, February 3, 2013.

OTHER

SUPREME COURT ACTION CHALLENGE TO NIH FUNDING OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The Supreme Court on January 7 declined to hear an appeal of a DC Circuit Court of Appeals decision upholding a previous court’s ruling in favor of federal funding of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research. The Supreme Court action effectively ended the case of Sherley v. Sebelius, in which two adult stem cell researchers had contended that funding of hESC research by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was unlawful and should be halted.

In a statement following the decision, NIH Director Francis Collins asserted that federal funding of hESC research will continue. “Patients and their families who look forward to new therapies to replace cells lost by disease or injury, or who may benefit from new drugs identified by screening using stem cells, should be reassured that NIH will continue supporting this promising research,” he said.

End of document

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