CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

Both the House and Senate are out of session for the spring recess. The Senate will return to session on Monday, April 8 and the House on Tuesday, April 9.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

ASSOCIATIONS EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SENATE FY14 BUDGET RESOLUTION

A group of 11 higher education associations, including AAU, sent a letter to all Senators on March 22 expressing strong support for the Senate version of the FY14 budget resolution. The letter praised the measure’s potential reversal of the massive, indiscriminate funding cuts in research and student aid imposed by the sequester. It also raised concern about “the possible inclusion of the charitable giving deduction as a means to reduce tax expenditures through limitations on itemized deductions.”

The Senate FY14 budget resolution was considered on the Senate floor and approved by a vote of 50 to 49 on March 23. The House approved its version of the budget resolution on March 21; the associations’ letter expressing concerns about the House measure can be viewed here. Numerous observers have expressed doubt that the House and Senate will reconcile their two very different versions of the budget blueprint. (See the March 22 edition of the AAU Weekly Wrap-up for more information on the House and Senate budget resolutions.)

ADMINISTRATION WILL ISSUE FY14 BUDGET ON APRIL 10  NEW

The White House will release its FY14 budget on Monday, April 10.
The FY14 budget is more than two months late, which the Administration attributes to the congressional delay in resolving final FY13 appropriations as well as the budget sequester, which went into effect on March 1.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCES CLEAN ENERGY MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE**

The Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has launched the Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative (CEMI), a new Department effort focused on expanding U.S. manufacturing of clean energy products and significantly increasing efficiencies in the use of energy in manufacturing.

As described on the initiative website, “Growing U.S. clean energy manufacturing competitiveness requires an ‘all hands on deck’ approach, with the nation's private and public sectors, universities, think tanks, and labor leaders working together to identify and commit to a path forward.”

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