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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

The House and Senate are out of session and will return for legislative business on Monday, September 8. The Senate is operating under a “conditional” adjournment resolution that provides for several pro forma sessions to prevent the President from making recess appointments.

When the Senate returns to session on September 8, it will take up the FY09 Defense authorization bill (S. 3001). No legislative program has been announced for the House.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

AAU, COGR COMMENT ON DEEMED EXPORT CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS; COMMERCE EXTENDS COMMENT DEADLINE  UPDATED

AAU and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) have submitted comments to the Department of Commerce on recommendations by the Deemed Export Advisory Committee (DEAC) for modifying federal deemed export control policies.

Today the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security announced that it is extending the deadline for comments to September 22. The initial deadline for comments was August 18.

The AAU-COGR letter, dated August 15, articulates principles that the Commerce Department and its new Emerging Technologies and Research Advisory Committee should consider in determining which technologies should be controlled for purposes of deemed export.

BACKGROUND
Following the withdrawal by the Department of Commerce of proposed regulations to restrict the use of certain lab research equipment by international students and faculty, the Secretary appointed a Deemed Export Advisory Committee. Last December, the DEAC issued a report containing specific recommendations for changes to existing deemed export regulations.

AAU and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) submitted comments in February that praised these rules in general but raised serious concerns about specific provisions involving loyalty oaths and the status and definition of fundamental research. The Department issued a specific request for comments in the Federal Register in May.

OTHER

CGS REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT TRENDS NEW

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) on August 21 released a report on international graduate student application, admission, and enrollment trends. According to CGS, the rate of increase for applications and admission of international students is declining.

The report shows that overall applications for studies in the U.S. by international graduate students increased six percent in 2008. The rate of increase was slower than the nine-percent increase reported the previous year. The slowdown is most notable for students from India and China and in education and life science fields. About 60 percent of the institutions that responded to the CGS survey in both 2004 and 2008 still had fewer international graduate applicants this year than they did in 2003.

There was also a slowdown in the increase in offers of admission to four percent, from gains of eight percent in 2007 and 12 percent in 2006.

“This latest report highlights the continued slowdown in the growth of international students pursuing graduate studies in the U.S.,” said CGS President Debra W. Stewart in a press release. “This emerging trend line has long-term implications not only for U.S. graduate education but also for our nation’s competitiveness in the global economy.”

The report is a product of a four-year empirical examination of data from CGS members.

The CGS report also provides information on the collaborative degree programs U.S. universities are establishing with institutions abroad. It states that 38% of CGS members report at least one joint, dual, or other collaborative graduate degree or certificate program, almost a ten-percent increase compared to last year.

“U.S. graduate schools…continue to establish collaborative degree and certificate programs with institutions overseas as one response to intense global competition.” Stewart said.

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