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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.

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

GRASSLEY, WELCH PLAN COLLEGE ENDOWMENTS ROUNDTABLE

Senators Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) announced on August 26 that they will sponsor a roundtable on college and university endowments and costs on Monday, September 8. The session, entitled “The Use of Endowment Funds and Making Higher Education More Affordable,” will take place at 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building and run from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. The press release states that Members of the public may attend on a space-available basis and may submit comments or papers to endowments@finance-rep.senate.gov.

There will be three panel discussions on the following topics: Understanding College Costs, What is an Endowment?, and Are Mandatory Payouts Beneficial?. Princeton University President and AAU Vice Chair Shirley Tilghman will represent AAU on the panel on mandatory endowment payouts. Other participants in the three sessions include American Council on Education President Molly Corbett Broad and John Walda, President of the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
The Department of Education has taken the first steps toward implementation of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), the measure signed into law earlier this month that reauthorized the Higher Education Act.

The Department has scheduled a series of six public hearings that will permit members of the public to suggest implementation issues that might be appropriate for negotiated rulemaking. The hearings are scheduled as follows:

September 19, 2008, at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
September 29, 2008, at the University of Rhode Island, Providence, Rhode Island
October 2, 2008, at Pepperdine University, Malibu, California
October 6, 2008, at Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina
October 8, 2008, at the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC
October 15, 2008, at Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio

Further information about these hearings and related matters can be found on a new page on the Department of Education Web site devoted to implementation of the HEOA.

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