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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The Senate is in session today with no votes scheduled. It will reconvene Tuesday, August 1. Next week, the Senate is expected to move toward final passage of legislation on offshore energy production, if sufficient votes are found to invoke cloture. It is also expected to take up the FY07 Defense appropriations bill. If the Senate were to complete this bill, it would be its second approved FY07 appropriations measure, the other having been the Homeland Security measure. The Senate might also consider a conference report on the pension reform bill, should one emerge. When the Senate adjourns next week, it will begin its August recess.

The House is in session today and may consider any or all of the following: the above-mentioned conference report on pension reform legislation, a bill to increase the minimum wage, and a bill to reduce the estate tax. When it adjourns today (or perhaps this weekend), it will begin its August recess.

CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM BILL
INTRODUCED IN SENATE  NEW

On Thursday, July 27, Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Norm Coleman (R-MN) introduced the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Act of 2006 (S. 3744). The bill creates a new national program that seeks to make study abroad an integral part of undergraduate education in the United States. The legislation authorizes the recommendations made by the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program (http://www.lincolncommission.org/report.html).

The goal of S. 3744 is to increase the number of American undergraduate students studying abroad to one million students within 10 years. It would create a fellowship program that would
reflect the diversity of the undergraduate population, increase the number of study abroad students in developing countries, and make study abroad programs accessible to students enrolled in all types of institutions, such as community colleges and minority-serving institutions.

NASULGC President Peter McPherson chaired the Commission that developed the program; AAU worked with the Commission and strongly supports the program. A description of the bill is attached.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**NACUBO ENCOURAGES COMMENTS ON RULES PROPOSED BY EPA ON HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL**

As reported in the June 14 CFR Update, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued proposed rules that would give colleges and universities flexibility in determining how best to dispose of hazardous wastes from their laboratories. The new rules would be optional. According to the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), institutions could choose whether to follow the new performance-based regulations or remain subject to existing rules. NACUBO notes that the proposed rules offer alternatives to its proposals and that EPA requests comments on the options.

NACUBO encourages colleges and universities to review the proposed rules and submit comments to EPA. The deadline for comments is **Monday, August 21**.

The May 31 NACUBO explanation of the EPA proposed rules is available on the association’s Web site at: [http://www.nacubo.org/x8097.xml](http://www.nacubo.org/x8097.xml).

The EPA proposed rule is available in the May 23 edition of the *Federal Register* (volume 71, number 99, pages 29711-29752). It can be accessed online through the NACUBO Web site at: [http://www.nacubo.org/x8079.xml](http://www.nacubo.org/x8079.xml).

**DHS ANNOUNCES SEVENTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

On Wednesday, July 26, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the seventh DHS Center of Excellence (COE), the Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science. Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, will lead a consortium researching advanced information analysis and computational technologies. According to its press release, DHS will award a combined total of $10.2 million over the course of three years to Rutgers, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of South Carolina to conduct research on informational analysis. Rutgers and its partners will collaborate with the Institute of Discrete Science and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to develop simple, efficient software algorithms and architectures for use in computing applications.

For more information about the newest DHS center, please visit the DHS website at: [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5755](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5755).
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