CONTENTS
CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW
OTHER CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
Higher Ed Associations Send HEA Conference Recommendations to Congress  NEW
OTHER
AAMC and AAU Issue New Guidelines on Managing Conflicts of Interest

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The House did not meet today; while not taking votes, the Senate considered energy legislation (H.R. 3221), which is also the vehicle for the chamber’s mortgage-foreclosure prevention package (S. 2636).

The Senate will meet again on Monday, March 3, with the first recorded vote scheduled for 5:30 p.m. The chamber is expected to continue consideration of the mortgage foreclosure bill, as well as legislation to reauthorize the Consumer Product Safety Commission (S. 2045, S. 2663).

The House will meet in pro forma session on March 3. According to CQToday, the House next week is expected to consider an overhaul of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (H.R. 3773), legislation to require health insurers that offer mental health benefits to bolster those benefits (H.R. 1424), and possibly a resolution to create an independent House ethics board (H. Res. 895).

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

HIGHER ED ASSOCIATIONS SEND HEA CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS  NEW

The higher education community yesterday sent House and Senate education committee leaders recommendations for the upcoming conference on legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA). Fourteen higher education associations, including AAU, signed on to the package, which was organized by the American Council on Education. The extensive set of recommendations includes views and suggestions on key issues—including accreditation, college costs, new reporting requirements, and many others—to be considered during the conference on the House and Senate measures (H.R. 4137 and S. 1642).

The package of community recommendations is available on the AAU Web site.
Conferees have not been named. However, preliminary discussions have begun between bipartisan staff of the House Education and Labor and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committees. More staff discussions are scheduled for next week.

**OTHER**

**AAMC AND AAU ISSUE NEW GUIDELINES ON MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

AAU and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on February 28 released a new report that calls on all medical schools and major research universities to develop and implement institutional financial conflict of interest policies within the next two years, and to refine standards for addressing individual conflicts of interest.

The report, “Protecting Patients, Preserving Integrity, Advancing Health: Accelerating the Implementation of COI Policies in Human Subjects Research,” offers a detailed roadmap for academic institutions to identify, evaluate, and manage financial conflicts of interest in research that involves human research subjects.

The press release accompanying the report notes that the document is intended to refine and amplify both associations’ previously issued COI recommendations. (The AAU 2001 report on institutional and individual conflicts of interest is available here.)

The advisory panel that developed the report was co-chaired by Robert Rich, senior vice president for medicine and dean of the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and Mark S. Wrighton, chancellor of the University of Washington in St. Louis. Chancellor Wrighton was joined on the panel by Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan; Michael Drake, chancellor of the University of California, Irvine; and Robert Shelton, president of the University of Arizona.

End of document