



AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES
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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The House did not meet today; the Senate resumed debate on a procedural motion to proceed to healthcare legislation, with no roll call votes.

The Senate will hold an unusual Saturday session tomorrow to vote on the motion to move to consideration of the healthcare bill, after which the Senate will likely adjourn for the Thanksgiving recess. The Democratic leadership needs 60 votes to gain approval of the procedural motion; if it passes, the Senate will consider the bill itself after the recess.

Following the Thanksgiving recess, the House will reconvene on Tuesday, December 1. Assuming the Senate is able to recess, it will reconvene the week of November 30.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

SPEAKER PELOSI HELPS LAUNCH AAU-APLU-TSC INITIATIVE *UPDATED*

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) headlined a Capitol Hill press conference on November 17 at which AAU, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and The Science Coalition [announced](#) the launch of ScienceWorksForUS, their joint initiative to inform the public of the benefits of the Recovery Act research investment. The focus of the project is a website (www.ScienceWorksForUS.org) that highlights Recovery Act-sponsored research in all 50 states.

Speaker Pelosi was joined at the press event by Representative Rush [Holt](#) (D-NJ), House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN), and Representatives Ed Markey (D-MA) and Bill Foster (D-IL), as well as University of Arizona President Robert Shelton. Also participating were University of Pennsylvania Vice Provost for Research Steven Fluharty,

Rutgers Vice President for Research Michael Pazzani, Ohio State Vice President for Research Caroline C. Whitacre, and researchers from Princeton and Johns Hopkins.

In her [remarks](#), the Speaker said:

“ScienceWorksForUS is leading the way in tracking our achievements in science and lighting the way to a greater commitment to research. The website ScienceWorksForUS.org—which highlights the way Recovery Act funds have made their way into academic laboratories—reflects what’s possible when smart investments in the public sector are placed in the hands of our scientists, innovators, and academies of higher learning. This initiative is built on a simple fact of our history: innovation rests at the heart of American success and leadership.”

President Shelton said in his [introduction](#) to the event:

“The funds for research are part of the reinvestment the nation must make to grow a strong economy that is based on addressing 21st century challenges, including improving health and meeting energy needs in ways that help slow climate change. The result will be an economy that produces well-paying jobs for the long-term.”

ScienceWorksForUS is intended to be a two-year project, so the three associations will ask their member campuses to continue to provide the project with information about their Recovery Act-funded research grant totals, press releases, news stories, and links to their own university Recovery Act websites.

SENATE APPROVES NINTH FY10 FUNDING BILL; INOUEY DISCUSSES FY10 OMNIBUS BILL

The Senate approved its version of the FY10 Military Construction-Veterans appropriations bill (H.R. 3082) on November 17, bringing to nine the number of appropriations bills the chamber has passed this year. Still outstanding in the Senate are Financial Services, Labor-HHS-Education, and State-Foreign Operations. The House has approved all 12 of its bills. Five [bills](#) have been enacted, with three still in House-Senate conference committees: Defense, Transportation-HUD, and Commerce-Justice-Science.

According to CongressDaily, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-HI) said he expects an end-of-year omnibus appropriations package to include no more than four of the FY10 spending bills—Financial Services, Labor-HHS-Education, State-Foreign Operations, and Defense, which likely will serve as the legislative vehicle.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SEEKS NOMINEES FOR INNOVATION ADVISORY GROUP *NEW*

The Department of Commerce (DOC) is [seeking](#) nominees for a new Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship whose purpose is to “identify and recommend solutions to issues critical to enabling entrepreneurs and firms to successfully commercialize new ideas and technologies into high-growth, innovation-based businesses and to create new jobs.”

The new advisory council was announced by Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke in a press [release](#) on September 14, 2009.

Campus federal relations representatives may wish to work with their senior research officers to identify and nominate individuals from their universities. It is important to ensure that DOC has a good pool of university nominees.

The deadline for nominations is close of business, Monday, November 30.

According to the *Federal Register* [notice](#) of November 17, nominees will be selected to provide a balance of perspectives and expertise, with diversity in industry, experience, and geographic area. Priority “may be given to successful entrepreneurs, innovators, angel investors, venture capitalists, and other experts drawn from non-governmental organizations, foundations and non-profits that have significant experience in innovation and entrepreneurship.” Candidates are limited to U.S. citizens who are not full-time government employees, registered foreign agents, or federally registered lobbyists.

OTHER

AAU PRESIDENT OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACADEMIES’ STUDY OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

AAU President Robert M. Berdahl, speaking before the National Academies Board on Higher Education and Workforce on November 3, offered key points that he believes the National Academies’ study of the future of research universities should address. His follow-up written statement, “[Renewing the Partnership](#): Thoughts on the Current Status of American Research Universities,” is now available on the AAU website.

The Board is the oversight body for the panel being assembled to conduct the study, which was [requested](#) by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), and Representatives Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Ralph Hall (R-TX).

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