



FEDERAL UPDATE

October 2014

The Report on Congressional & Administration Activities

Office of Federal Governmental Relations • 1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW • Washington, DC

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WASHINGTON UPDATE

September was a busy month with several legislative activities occurring including the passage of a short term continuing resolution to fund the federal government through December 11 and additional action on legislation to address sexual assault. Details about the legislative activity, along with a chart showing the current status of the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations legislation are highlighted below.

Additionally, in September, the National Institutes of Health announced the recipients of research grants for the BRAIN

Initiative in which several UC campuses received a number of grants. Additional details about the BRAIN Initiative and the grants are below.

September also saw a number of advocacy events in DC including the Council of Vice Chancellors for Research meeting, the Golden Goose Awards, Rally for Medical Research Day, National Laboratory Day, the Committee for Education Funding Legislative Conference and Gala, Back to College Night and a congressional briefing hosted by UC San Diego and UC Riverside focusing on research associated with wildfires. Details about these advocacy and engagement events are highlighted below.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 APPROPRIATIONS

On September 23, President Obama signed H.J. Res 124, a short term continuing resolution that would fund the federal government until December 11, 2014. The resolution set the discretionary funding level for the federal government at an annual rate of \$1.012 trillion. The legislation also included funding to provide assistance to Syria, extended the operating authority of the Export-Import Bank, provided funding to respond to the outbreak of the Ebola virus, provided U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement with funding flexibility, and extended the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

To date, the House has passed seven fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations bills, while the Senate has completed none. However, the Appropriations Committees in both chambers have produced drafts of most appropriations bills that are expected to serve as markers for negotiations toward an FY 2015 omnibus measure – several appropriations bills grouped together. Action on appropriations legislation is expected to continue again after the November general election.

Below is a chart of the current status of the FY 2015 appropriations bills:

Bill	HOUSE		SENATE		President
	Committee	Chamber Passage	Committee	Chamber Passage	
Agriculture HR 4800 S 2389	29-May roll call (31-18) H Report 113-468		22-May roll call (30-0) S Report 113-164		
Commerce-Justice-Science HR 4660 S 2437	8-May voice vote H Report 113-448	30-May roll call (321-87)	5-Jun roll call (30-0) S Report 113-181		
Defense HR 4870 S Draft	10-Jun voice vote H Report 113-473	20-Jun roll call (340-73)	17-Jul voice vote S Report 113-211		
Energy-Water HR 4923 S Draft	18-Jun voice vote H Report 113-486	10-Jul roll call (253-170)			
Homeland Security HR 4903 S 2534	11-Jun voice vote H Report 113-481		18-Jul voice vote S Report 113-198		
Interior-Environment HR 5171 S Draft	15-Jul roll call (29-19) H Report 113-551				
Labor-HHS-Education H Draft S Draft					
Military Construction-VA HR 4486 S 3215	9-Apr voice vote	30-Apr roll call (416-1)	22-May roll call (30-0)		

	H Report 113-416		S Report 113-174		
State-Foreign Operations HR 5013 S 2499	24-Jun voice vote H Report 113-499		19-Jun roll call (25-5) S Report 113-81		
Transportation-HUD HR 4745 S 2438	21-May roll call (28-21) H Report 113-464	10-Jun roll call (229-192)	5-Jun roll call (29-1) S Report 113-182		
Budget Resolution H Con Res 96 Senate Draft	2-Apr roll call (22-16) H Report 113-403	10-Apr roll call (219-205)			President does not sign
Continuing Resolution H J Res 124 Senate Draft		17-Sep roll call (319-108)		18-Sep roll call (78-22)	19-Sep public law 113-164

UC FGR will continue to advocate, in coordination with our campus and laboratory colleagues, for the passage of appropriations legislation with the highest possible funding levels for the program priorities of the University.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Sexual Assault Prevention Legislation

The first report and recommendations of the UC President's Task Force on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence and Sexual Assault were presented to the UC Regents on September 17. President Napolitano shared the report with several members of the California congressional delegation, including Senator Barbara Boxer, who in late July, along with Congresswoman Susan Davis, introduced S. 2695, the Survivor Outreach and Support Campus Act ("SOS Campus Act").

Senator Boxer and Congresswoman Susan Davis, the House sponsor of the SOS Act, praised the announcement that the UC system was creating independent victim's advocates to support sexual assault survivors on every campus. In a press release, Senator Boxer said, "The University of California is setting a powerful example for colleges across the country by creating a victim's advocate on each of its campuses to help end the epidemic of sexual assault," Senator Boxer added, "I am so proud of the UC system and call on every university to follow its

lead.” A copy of the press release is available [here](#). Soon after UC’s announcement, CSU Chancellor Tim White and California Community College Chancellor Brice Harris also agreed to take steps to voluntarily implement the SOS Campus Act.

Additionally President Napolitano, along with several UC chancellors and student groups have made a [pledge](#) to the [“It’s On Us”](#) campaign that was created by President Obama to stop sexual assault.

President Napolitano seeks to have UC become a national leader in preventing and combating sexual violence and sexual assault and UC will continue to work with Senator Boxer and Congress on addressing campus sexual assault. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

Looking Forward

With Congress currently scheduled to be in recess until mid-November for the district work period and the general election, many members of Congress, including those in the California congressional delegation are continuing to engage with FGR and their constituents on issues of importance to the University including student financial support, research funding, and addressing sexual assault.

When Congress reconvenes on November 12, it is anticipated that they will continue to work on the FY 2015 appropriations process and several policy issues related to federal funding. The combination of appropriation authority for the federal government to operate ending on December 11 coupled with the return of sequestration in January and the changes to the political makeup of the House and Senate due to the election could make for a period of increased congressional activity prior to the December holidays.

POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATE

Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies

On September 30, the National Institutes of Health announced the recipients of a \$46 million investment in BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) research. The University of California received 14 of the 58 awards, for a total of approximately \$10.5 million. Six campuses – UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC San Francisco – received BRAIN grants and many of the principal investigators were in attendance at the associated White House event which focused on the President’s ongoing commitment to BRAIN research. For additional information, please contact Shoshana Derrow at Shoshana.Derrow@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6309

Department of Defense Tuition Assistance

The UC campus applications for Voluntary Education Partnership “Memoranda of Understanding” (MOU) with the Department of Defense (DoD) for participation in the Tuition Assistance (TA) program have been “provisionally” approved.

The DoD reviewed the UC and CSU systems tuition policies and found that both use a “flat-rate” pricing model, meaning students pay tuition and fees and can take a range of units for the same

amount. The Principles of Excellence outlined in the White House Executive Order, which directs DoD on this matter, requires that tuition identify a cost *per unit or credit hour*. DoD is required to engage in detailed discussions with service members about their TA limits and the related out-of-pocket costs that may have to assume, and DoD does not believe that is possible with a flat-rate tuition schedule.

Rather than deny TA benefits to active duty military personnel attending UC or CSU, the DoD is providing a 90-day period during which DoD will work with the two systems to find a resolution to the tuition rate compliance issue. UC is exploring possible options that would be acceptable to DoD for the approximately 40 recipients of TA at UC campuses. The expiration date of the 90-day review period is Monday, December 22, 2014. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

UC Council of Vice Chancellors for Research Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

On September 8-9, the Council of Vice Chancellors for Research met at the UC Washington Center for their annual Washington, DC meeting. Hosted by FGR, the Vice Chancellors met with several executive branch science and technology leaders and senior congressional staff to discuss federal research and education opportunities and initiatives in the context of UC budget and policy priorities.

A major theme in the discussions was the importance of strong and steady federal investments in and the nation's commitment to research, education and innovation programs to ensure continued US scientific leadership that will benefit the economy and our quality of life now and for future generations.

Among the executive branch guest speakers were: Lawrence Tabak, Principal Deputy Director of NIH; France Cordova, Director of the National Science Foundation; Arati Prabhakar, Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; Jo Handelsman, Associate Director for Science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; David Danielson, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Department of Energy; and Cheryl Martin, Acting Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, which is also in DOE.

On the second day, the Vice Chancellors met with a number of California congressional delegation offices, including Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. For more information, please contact Marjorie Duske at Marjorie.Duske@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6306.

Congressional Briefing Hosted by UC San Diego and UC Riverside

The Hazards Caucus Alliance, in partnership with UC Riverside, UC San Diego, the National Fire Protection Association and the Western Governors' Association hosted a congressional briefing on September 11 highlighting the challenges wildfires pose. Dr. Richard Minich, UC Riverside, provided his expertise on the environmental conditions that allow the emergence of wildfires and how to mitigate future fires. Dr. Ilkay Altintas, UC San Diego, provided an overview of the WIFIRE project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, to use imagery and

sensors to provide real time information to first responders to help provide a better understanding of where and how fast a fire will spread. This briefing is one of many congressional briefings hosted by the University. For additional information, please contact Chris Carter at Chris.Carter@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6310.

National Laboratory Day on Capitol Hill

On September 16, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory, UCOP Vice President for Laboratory Management Kim Budill, as well as representatives from UC FGR, participated in National Lab Day on Capitol Hill. This event, hosted by the Department of Energy, included a briefing with US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz along with a Science and Technology Exhibition of the important work conducted throughout the national laboratory system. The event provided researchers and the laboratories the opportunity to engage with members of Congress about the importance of federal support for the national laboratory system. For additional information, please contact Chris Carter at Chris.Carter@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6310.

Back to College Night

On September 17, UC FGR participated in Back to College Night on Capitol Hill, an annual event sponsored by the California State Society, of which UC is an active member. At the event, highlighting higher education institutions in California, all ten UC campuses and the Office of the President were represented and alumni were able to reconnect with one another and with their University. In total, there were over 45 universities and colleges participating in the event and more than 300 UC alumni who registered to attend the event. UC, along with the California State University system helped coordinate the event in an effort to engage with members of Congress and their staff on the value of California higher education. For additional information, please contact Charles Melton at Charles.Melton@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6325.

CEF Legislative Conference and Gala

On September 17, the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) hosted its annual legislative conference and “Gala” awards dinner to honor congressional champions who support strong federal investment in education. The legislative conference featured a panel on addressing the “Implications of the 2014 Elections for Education,” which was moderated by NPR Education Correspondent, Claudio Sanchez. A number of Members of Congress and White House officials addressed the participants, thanking them for their ongoing advocacy efforts to protect federal funding for education.

Additionally, members of the education community, including congressional and Administration staff, were present at the conference to see Representative George Miller (D-CA) receive CEF’s “Richard Riley Career Service Award,” on the eve of his retirement. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY), and Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) were also recognized for their education advocacy and service.

The CEF conference and gala provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the need for robust and sustained investment in the federal educational programs and to showcase CEF advocacy role in the education community. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

Rally for Medical Research Day

On September 17 and 18, UC FGR participated in the Rally for Medical Research, an advocacy event that featured 300 organizations, more than a hundred participants, and approximately 200 meetings with congressional offices. In its second year, the Rally for Medical Research was formed to raise awareness of the urgent need for an increased, stable investment in the NIH. Along with FGR, campus representatives participated in the Rally, and spoke of the importance of NIH funding to their research and the overall health of the patients they treat. For additional information, please contact Shoshana Derrow at Shoshana.Derrow@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6309.

UC Scientist Larry Smarr recognized at the Golden Goose Awards

At the third annual Golden Goose Award ceremony at the Library of Congress on September 18, The Science Coalition, Association of American Universities and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities recognized eight scientists and engineers – including Dr. Larry Smarr from UC San Diego – whose federally funded research from the NSF in the 1980s helped lead the creation of a national supercomputing research center housed in an academic setting. The Golden Goose demonstrates the human and economic benefits of federally funded research by highlighting examples of seemingly obscure studies that have led to major breakthroughs and resulted in significant societal impact.

Members of Congress, representatives of the academic, scientific and business communities, media and others attended the award ceremony at the Library of Congress, which was hosted by former CNN anchor Miles O'Brien. Additional information on the Golden Goose Awards can be found [here](#). For additional information, please contact Chris Carter at Chris.Carter@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6310.

Federal Update
A publication of the University of California's Office of Federal Governmental Relations

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