



FEDERAL UPDATE

October 2016

The Report on Congressional & Administration Activities

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

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WASHINGTON UPDATE

In September, Congress returned to Washington, DC from a seven-week recess. On Sept. 28 Congress passed a continuing resolution in advance of Sept. 30, the last day of the federal fiscal year (FY), keeping the government funded through Dec. 9. University of California (UC) Federal Governmental Relations (FGR) remains actively engaged in appropriations advocacy efforts and is working with the California congressional delegation and other key policymakers to support the University's key priorities in advance of the passage of final FY 2017 appropriations legislation. More information is available below.

During the summer recess and throughout September, FGR undertook a coordinated effort to engage our congressional delegation on a number of positive fronts, including updates on graduation student profiles; highlights about UC's presence at the Olympics; information on UC's new undergraduate admissions application, as well as the new opening date for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; an overview of UC's accountability report; and a look at the new Bay Area Council Economic Institute report, which highlights UC's contribution to California's economy.

Upon Congress' return, September saw several advocacy events, including the UC-sponsored congressional briefing "[University of California Admissions from A to G](#)," the Rally for Medical Research; hospital outpatient department advocacy efforts; the Department of Energy's National Lab Day; university startups demo day; the Committee for Education Funding's legislative conference and gala; the California State Society's Back to College Night; and the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students fall legislative action days. Detailed information about each event is available below.

Congress is now in recess until after the November elections.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 APPROPRIATIONS

On Sept. 28, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) ([H.R. 5325](#)) that avoided a government shutdown on Oct. 1. The Senate passed the measure in a vote of 72-26, and the House passed it in a vote of 342-85. President Barack Obama signed the legislation on Sept. 29.

The stopgap measure extends current funding levels through Dec. 9 and provides \$1.1 billion to address the Zika virus; a full year of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military

construction projects; and funding to help states respond to recent floods. The measure does not include funds to help repair the lead-contaminated water system in Flint, MI, which was an issue that held up passage. However, House and Senate leaders have committed to include Flint funding as part of a water projects authorization bill that is scheduled to be completed later this year.

Appropriations Advocacy

In the weeks leading up to the CR's passage, FGR urged members of the California delegation to approve a short-term stopgap measure so that Congress would have the time needed to complete FY 2017 appropriations legislation before the end of the current calendar year. For the most part, funding for programs of importance to UC will fare better in complete appropriations than they would in a CR. On behalf of President Napolitano, FGR again shared with members of the California delegation the [University's FY 2017 federal funding priorities](#).

FGR continues to advocate, in partnership with our campus and lab colleagues, to members of Congress for the passage of final FY 2017 appropriations legislation with the highest possible funding levels for the program priorities of the University. For additional information, please contact Marjorie Duske at Marjorie.Duske@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6306; Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308; or Julie Clements at Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6309.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Access, Success and Persistence in Reshaping Education Act

On Sept. 21, Sens. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) introduced the Access, Success and Persistence in Reshaping Education (ASPIRE) Act, legislation that would provide incentives to four-year institutions to expand access to higher education for low-income students and to increase graduation rates. The bill would require institutions that have poor records of enrolling low-income students, using the percentage of Pell Grant recipients, to improve their access over several years or pay a penalty. Similarly, institutions with low six-year graduation rates would be required to increase their success or be penalized. Poor performing institutions could compete for federal improvement funds, and there would be rewards for institutions that exceed the standards. UC President Janet Napolitano had discussions with Sen. Coons during the drafting of this legislation and offered her support for his work to increase institutional accountability for student success. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

Federal Funding Accountability for Sexual Harassers Act

On Sept. 19, Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) introduced legislation aimed at targeting sexual abuse and harassment that occurs in federally funded science, technology, engineering and math research fields. The legislation would require higher education institutions to report all substantiated findings of sexual abuse or harassment by professors to every federal agency that has awarded that institution competitive research and development grants in the past 10 years. The bill would also require institutions to report incomplete investigations that have been ongoing for more than six months. Agencies would be required to consider this information when making funding decisions. Given how little time is left in the current Congress, this legislation is unlikely to advance. However, it will likely return as the basis for similar legislation

in the next Congress. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

UC Congressional Briefing on the Admissions Process

On Sept. 27, FGR hosted the seventh in a series of Capitol Hill briefings for the California congressional delegation, congressional leaders and federal agency officials entitled “[University of California Admissions from A to G](#).” Participants included:

- Charles Nies, vice chancellor of student affairs, UC Merced, who outlined UC’s commitment to students through K-12 outreach, community engagement, academic preparation and school partnership programs that raise academic achievement.
- Youlonda Copeland-Morgan, vice provost of enrollment management, UCLA, who explained the comprehensive review practices UC campuses use in making admissions decisions.
- Michael Miller, interim assistant vice chancellor of enrollment management and director of the office of financial aid and scholarships, UC Santa Barbara who described UC’s Education Financial Model, which is the basis for UC’s commitment and success in helping UC students finance their education.

The event was moderated by Christopher Carter, director of student financial support at UC’s Office of the President who linked the systemwide policies to the practices on UC’s individual campuses. More than 40 people were in attendance at the event.

Following the briefing, the panelists met with representatives from Lumina Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Third Way and College Board to discuss the unique work the University of California does in promoting and expanding educational opportunity in California, and in financing the costs of college.

Briefing materials, including the speaker [presentations](#) and a [fact sheet](#) created by FGR on UC’s programs, are available [online](#). For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

Rally for Medical Research Advocacy Day

On Sept. 21 and 22, early and senior career researchers from UCSF, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and UCLA participated in the American Association for Cancer Research’s annual Rally for Medical Research, an advocacy event that featured almost 400 individuals from more than 126 partner organizations, meeting with 80 percent of the Senate offices and two-thirds of the House offices.

In its fourth year, the Rally for Medical Research was formed to raise awareness of the urgent need for an increased investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). UC researchers discussed advances they have made in the fields of endocrinology, immunology, neuroscience and oncology as beneficiaries of NIH research grants. They thanked the California delegation and leaders of the House Appropriations Committee for increasing NIH funding, and they urged the House and Senate to support \$34 billion in NIH funding for FY 2017.

In advance of the event, FGR compiled a [fact sheet](#) highlighting the relationship between UC and NIH. Additionally, in coordination with the Rally's social media efforts, FGR developed a social media guide that was shared with Office of the President communications team members, campus communicators, campus government relations directors and UC Health government relations directors. For additional information, please contact Julie Clements at Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6309.

Hospital Outpatient Department Advocacy Efforts

On Sept. 13, the American Hospital Association, in conjunction with its state hospital associations, including the California Hospital Association, sponsored a hill day focused on alerting legislators to provisions of the recently issued Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rule that would operationalize the hospital outpatient department (HOPD) site-neutral payment provisions in Section 603 of the Bipartisan Budget Act.

During meetings with legislators representing districts across California, FGR and UCSF staff highlighted UC related HOPD projects that would be adversely impacted should the site-neutral payment policy for HOPDs go into effect as proposed. FGR also shared a UC-specific [fact sheet](#) developed by FGR for the event.

As part of the ongoing efforts on this issue, FGR contacted the California congressional delegation regarding two "Dear Colleague" letters from the offices of Reps. Devin Nunes (R-CA) and Joseph Crowley (D-NY) and Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Charles Schumer (D-NY). A letter from UC Health to Acting CMS Administrator Andrew Slavitt detailing the adverse effects of operationalizing HOPD site-neutral payment policy was also provided to the delegation. FGR has encouraged the California delegation to sign onto Dear College letters and advises individual UC hospitals to follow up with their legislators. For additional information, please contact Julie Clements at Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6309.

UC-affiliated Labs join National Lab Day on Capitol Hill

On Sept. 13, leaders of Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Los Alamos National Lab, and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab were among more than 40 scientists and administrators from the Department of Energy's (DOE) national laboratories who participated in a DOE-sponsored event entitled "Advancing Environmental Stewardship Through Innovation" on Capitol Hill. This fourth DOE "National Lab Day" featured a panel discussion by laboratory, industry and academic researchers, meetings between laboratory directors and congressional leaders, and an exhibition demonstrating laboratory expertise in areas of sustainability, Earth systems science, safety and health, and emergency response. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and several members of Congress spoke to a congressional audience about the role of the interdependent and multidisciplinary network of national labs in advancing innovation in the U.S.

UC FGR assisted our federal relations colleagues from the laboratories and lab contractor organizations in the planning and execution of the event. DOE plans to hold its next "National Lab Day" in Spring 2017. For additional information, please contact Chris Carter at Chris.Carter@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6310.

University Startups Demo Day on Capitol Hill

On Sept. 20, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego and UC Irvine participated in a [University Startups Demo Day](#) on Capitol Hill that was organized by the [National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer](#) (NCET2). The event showcased thirty-five university startups, named “Best University Startups, 2016,” by NCET2, including startups from UC Berkeley – [Nventi](#), UC San Diego – [Curtana Pharmaceuticals, Inc.](#) and UC Irvine – [Anvyl](#). As a membership organization that works directly with university technology transfer offices, startups, companies and venture capitalists to foster commercialization efforts, NCET2’s goal for the Demo Day was to raise awareness in Congress about the important role universities play in the formation of startups and the commercialization of discoveries. NCET2 plans to host similar events in the future.

As part of the Demo Day, the startups participated in pitch presentations before an audience of venture capitalists and government staff, and had the opportunity to network with other companies and venture capitalists. In addition, representatives of the startups participated in meetings arranged by UC governmental relations staff with California congressional delegation offices to highlight the work of the startups and to raise awareness about UC’s role in fostering the creation of startup companies and the commercialization of university discoveries. UC FGR staff also participated. Advocacy materials highlighting UC’s role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship were distributed during the meetings.

The meetings offered an opportunity to highlight UC’s commercialization efforts. For additional information, please contact Kamala Lyon at Kamala.Lyon@ucdc.edu or (202) 974-6312.

Committee for Education Funding Legislative Conference and Gala

On Sept. 21, 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. FGR’s Director for Education Carolyn Henrich served as co-chair of the event. The legislative conference, held prior to the dinner, featured a panel discussing what the American people think about education and a panel discussing the evolution and future of education policy. At the awards dinner, more than 400 members of the education community, including many congressional and administration staff, gathered to honor Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), former Director of the Budget Service for the Department of Education Thomas Skelly and former Executive Director for the Committee for Education Funding Joel Packer for their education advocacy and service. The CEF conference and gala provides an opportunity to highlight the need for robust and sustained investment in federal educational programs and to showcase CEF’s advocacy role in the education community. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

Back to College Night

On Sept. 16, 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, which highlights higher education institutions across 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. FGR, 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. California Reps. Lois Capps (D-CA), John Garamendi (D-CA) and Jerry

McNerney (D-CA) [visited the UC tables](#). For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

National Association of Graduate-Professional Students Fall Legislative Action Days

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) hosted its semi-annual event, "Legislative Action Days," in Washington Sept. 10-13. FGR staff met with NAPGS UC representatives to discuss their advocacy strategies and also assisted them in setting up their congressional meetings. UC was represented by graduate student leaders from UC San Diego and UC Davis who met with staff of members of the California congressional delegation. NAGPS is a student-run organization that advocates on behalf of graduate and professional students nationwide. During this trip, NAGPS focused on the need for increased federal research funding, improved public service loan forgiveness, streamlined repayment options for graduate student borrowers and open access for research. NAGPS advocacy is an important complement to UC's efforts on all of these issues, where we share common priorities. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Henrich at Carolyn.Henrich@ucdc.edu or 202-974-6308.

Federal Update

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

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