

Clayton State University Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: November 17, 2025

Time Called to Order: 11:17 AM

Location: UC 260

Presiding Officer: Michael Lindsay, Chair

Senator Attendance

Present:

Arts & Sciences: Antoinette Miller, Eugene Ngezem, Michael Lindsay (Chair), Erica Gannon, David Peña

Business: Stacey Reynolds (Vice-Chair), Larry Menter, Anthony Hannah

Health: Hae Ryong "Harry" Chung, Kendolyn Smith, Crystal Marchant, Kimberly Campbell

STEM: Ken Nguyen, Caroline Sheppard, Vivian Padin-Irizarry, Steve Burnett

Library: Adam Kubik, Erin Nagel

Absent:

Business: Kate Cotter-Reilly, Anthony Hannah

Health: Crystal Marchant,

STEM: David Williams,

General Attendance

Teams: Arianne Adams, Dennis Attick, Shuju Bai, Jennie Bergen, Eric Bridges, Stephen Burnett, Brigitte Byrd, Jacob Chacko, Xueyu Cheng, Penelope Cliff, Shannon Cochran, Mesa Davis, Deborah Deckner, Kitty Deering, Kevin Demmitt, Martha Fairley, Elnora Farmer, Antoinette France-Harris, Michelle Furlong, Brian Goldman, Joie Hain, Nayab Hakim, Charlie Harris, Jonathan Harris, Markala Harris, Dwayne Hooks, Kimberly Johnson, John Keener, Ebrahim Khosravi, Elliot Krop, Mary Lamb, Michael Lindsay, Samuel Maddox, read.ai meeting, Paul Melvin, Larry Menter, Keith Miller, David Murray-Stoker, Erin Nagel, Ken Nguyen, Fireflies.ai Notetaker, Vivian Padin-Irizarry, David Pena, James Pete, Leah Pieper,

Melanie Poudevigne, Stacey Reynolds, Mya Richardson-Echols, Board Room, Hae Ryong, Caroline Sheppard, Kendolyn Smith, Erica Taylor, Naquilla Thomas, Eckart Werther, Carol White, Tammy Wilson, Karen Young

In-Person: Appended to minutes

Note: Names of those in Teams and attending in-person are provided in both areas

Agenda

1) Introduction of Senators

- a) Roll call of Senators; attendance noted

2) Approval of Minutes

- b) Minutes from the November 03, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

3) Remarks and Q&A – Dr. Georg Lewis, President

- a. Jim Pete filling in for President Lewis
- b. Campus updates
 - i. Commencement speakers have been identified
 - ii. Archie – selections for the fall semester attendance have been sent out; college graduations this semester instead of full university graduation.
 - 1. Will be a quick turnaround; hosting a basketball game same day as graduation on 12/6
 - 2. Remember attendance is part of the faculty handbook
 - iii. AASCU meeting occurred last week discussing Washington policy changes and updates. Will provide the presentation to faculty
 - iv. Laker food drive competition is still ongoing
 - 1. Raised 5,000 from alumni
 - v. Inviting SA-VP candidates to campus next week. Open presentations. Welcome faculty feedback
 - vi. Football team won inaugural South Athletic Conference Championship
 - 1. Thanks to student affairs for game-day management
- c. Enrollment, marketing, and student success
 - i. Spring goal is 6,070. On our way there
 - ii. Website updates were due 11/07
- d. Student Affairs
 - i. Winding down for the semester and have a few events for students
 - 1. Destress fest – relaxation and sensory room
 - a. 12/2-5
 - 2. CRAM JAM / Midnight Breakfast
 - a. 12/1 9pm – 12am
 - ii. One stop shop held in the upper level of the library

1. 1 / 8 – 9 and 12–13
- iii. Remember the Laker Care Pantry
 1. Discussed students that were able to be helped by the pantry
 2. Donate to Edgewater Hall – they are not always 8–5pm so be sure to call ahead
- e. Athletics
 - i. Basketball is getting underway
 - ii. Ladies' soccer made it to the peach belt, lost first round
 - iii. Men lost in second round
- f. ITS
 - i. If you have been contacted about replacing your computer, get in touch ASAP. 12/19 will block all computers still running Windows 10; still have between 50 and 60 outstanding devices that need to be updated
- g. Advancement and External Affairs
 - i. Faculty and staff fund drive
 1. 52.6% participation rate, increased by 53.3% y/y
- h. Good News
 - i. College of Business S.T.E.M social innovation challenge for entrepreneurs
 - ii. CSU Nursing visited Morrow
 - iii. Over 30 CSU dental hygiene students and three faculty participated in free teeth cleaning event
- i. Questions
 - i. Menter – how is the food competition going
 1. No update on specifics
 - ii. Are computers going to be touch screens?
 1. Yes, that is a focus

4) Remarks and Q&A – Dr. Jill Drake, Provost

- a. Enrollment
 - i. System had record high enrollment, 4.8% increase from 2024
 - ii. CSU 3.8% increase in enrollment and 3.9% FTE
- b. BoR meeting
 - i. Course modality study report
 1. Half of all graduate classes are online (57%)
 2. Board is looking into outcomes of online courses
 - a. Looking to make sure the online space is not offered simply because of faculty preference
 - ii. PTR report
 1. Many that go up pass; 50% of faculty that started in a tenure track position were not successful in earning tenure; others were moved from tenure track
 - a. Making clear that those that go into the process are those that have been successful; large numbers of unsuccessful PTRs should not be expected
 2. Questions –
 - a. Antoinette – is the report available?

- b. V-Provost – no, it is not available at this time and meeting not recorded
- c. Antoinette – it is difficult to address concerns without having the data
- d. Dr. Maddox – When they say faculty preference are they looking at the data about seated courses being low-enrolled compared
- e. V-Prov – That was not presented as far as I know
- f. Maddox – can this be communicated to the board; increasing enrollment but decreasing options
- g. Pete – Follow demand but regents are concerned with student outcomes from online courses
- h. V-Prov – making sure we are not offering courses simply because faculty preference, and the home office is working to help dispel this notion
 - i. Data that was presented was divided between mixed/face-to-face/online; most of ours are mixed
 - ii. Pete – also curious about what is a mixed/hybrid course; updating their understanding

iii. Various policy updates from the Committee on Academic Affairs

- 1. Exploration of classic learning test for admissions
- 2. New BoR Chair will take office January
- 3. The discussions are more detailed than simply are the courses online or are they in-person
- 4. Question –
 - a. Antoinette – has there been discussion on how these changes may affect enrollment? There are also data on things like QM trained faculty and outcomes for students; QM trained faculty have better outcomes
- 5. COAS Dean search posted online
- 6. PTR Revisions are due; Must be due by end of calendar year
- 7. Emailed invitation to participate on information session for a tool called studiosity
 - a. Want to pilot with CSU for free in Spring Semester
 - b. Essentially an AI writing tutor
 - c. Question –
 - i. can we get our conduct folks to look at compliance and how this will be used
 - ii. Miller – is there another way we can sign up for the pilot even if we cannot attend the info session?
 - iii. V-Provost – yes, and we will try to get the recording of the information session out
- 8. Starting in fall 2026 faculty must participate in minimum of two ceremonies each year
 - a. Will be college specific on how to do that
 - b. Question –

- i. Antionette – does this mean there will be more seats available for faculty?
- ii. Archie – we currently reserve for 50 and we are ideally hoping to be in the new convocation center so yes there should be a larger scope of seating options
- 9. Congrats to Dr. Vivian Padin-Irizarry
 - a. CSU Nominee Felton Jenkins, Jr. Hall of Fame

5) Standing Committee Reports

- a) University Curriculum Committee
 - i) Voting on UCC materials sent to Senators
 - ii) Pena moves to approve, Gannon seconds; motion carries, no nays
- b) Academic Policy Committee
 - i) Vote on posthumous degree policy update
 - ii) Miller moves, Pena seconds; no discussion approved unanimously
- c) Faculty Affairs Committee
 - i) No Report
 - ii) Senate will meet 12/1 and will vote on updated policy
 - (1) Faculty will be given 5 working days to review and 5 working days to vote pending Senate approval
- d) Student Affairs Committee
 - i) Working on developing conduct advising policy
 - (1) Looking to pair with majors; deadline goal of 3/26

6) Digital Measures Demonstration

- a. Links have been emailed out to faculty
- b. Provides step-by-step instructions for watermark; information will populate faculty profiles
- c. Digital measures information is pulled; only need to fill out BoR information but can fill out other information
 - i. Service and bio are not required; scholarship is
 - ii. Other information (how-to describes) is pulled from “web profile”
- d. Questions –
 - i. Mary – How can we force it to show things in the order we want?
 - 1. Martha explains how to order
 - ii. Antoinette – If we want to update our picture how do we do that?
 - 1. Send it in to MarComm

2. Antoinette – if they have the instructions, we can do it. But we have asked before and it hasn't been updated regularly
- iii. Eugene – Why can't we do it ourselves (changing pictures)
 1. There is an option under Watermark, but that is not populating the profile. We haven't put work into fixing that as it is not required.
- iv. Dr. Miller – Consider adding licensing and certificates
- v. A-Provost – this is about meeting BoR, not what is nice to have but rather what we must have.

7) USG Faculty Council Update

- a. Common things amongst USG institutions
 - i. Conternation about merit raises; Chancellor acknowledged missteps in rolling it out.
Next time there will be more focus on handling them (process).
 - ii. Salary compression and inversions
 - iii. Faculty retention – enrollment among USG is up. Number of DE and online students, as well as competing messages around these groups
 - iv. Concerns about public facing CV and Syllabi
 - v. Concerns about AI; student use and various software; Faculty use and how it should be approached
 1. Lots of brainstorming on what works and what other institutions are doing
- b. Had a visit from Chief Academic Officer
 - i. Record number of degrees awarded
 - ii. Focusing on micro-credentials
 - iii. Perdue discussed how merit raises are handled in the future
- c. Salary study to start in January and end by June/July to deal with inversion and compression issues
- d. View that CPHE is forcing SACS to become “better” and change their processes etc.
 - i. Waiting to see what guidelines will look like
 - ii. Competition is good (Purdue)
 - iii. Not forcing any institution to accept one or the other, but will leave it up to the institution.
- e. Question –
 - i. A. Provost – Chancellor noted he is not going to mandate?
 1. That is correct; but that does not mean the legislature won't

8) Bylaws Update

- a. Update at next Senate meeting

9) Adjournment

Time Adjourned: 12:28 PM

Minutes Prepared by: David Peña - Secretary

Date: 11/17/25

Class: Senate

Name	Senator Yes/No
Michael Lindsay	Y
Stacey Reynolds	Y
Adam Kubik	Y
David Penz	Y
Antoinette Miller	Y
Erica Gannon	Y
Eugene Ngezem	Y
James Petic	N
J. Celeste Walley-Jean	N
Reza Kheirandish	N
Cecilia Archie	N
Martha Fairley	N
Pinar Guntas	N
Nicelle Gause	N
Jeff Jacobs	N
Bridgette McDonald	N

President's Report

Faculty Senate

November 17, 2025

CAMPUS UPDATES

- Fall Commencement Speakers
 - Ms. Sherrie Miller – CSU Alumni & Trustee CSU Foundation/Senior V P of Business Development IDLogistics US
 - Mr. Milton Little – President United Way, Greater Atlanta
 - Mr. Cade Joiner – USG Board of Regents
- Student Speakers
 - Juan Angarita, English Major
 - Neonta Hayes, Business Major
 - Ebony Swinton, Criminal Justice Major
- AASCU Government Relations
- Laker Food Drive Competition
- Student Affairs VP Search – Finalist Stage (4-Candidates)
- Football Wins Inaugural *New South Athletic Conference* Championship 42-28 over Lighthouse Christian College

ENROLLMENT, MARKETING AND STUDENT SUCCESS

- Spring Enrollment Goal – 6,070

Upcoming Events

- Open Advising Available – No Appointments Needed

STUDENT AFFAIRS

- **"Destress Fest"**

Stress Management Workshops/

Relaxation and Sensory Room

December 2-5, Disability Services—Edgewater Hall

- **CRAM JAM / Midnight Breakfast**

Monday, December 1

9:00p-12:00a, UC Commons

ONE STOP SHOP

- **January 8-9, 8:00a-5:00p**
- **January 12-13, 8:00a-6:00p**

Upper Level Library

Admissions

Housing

Advising

HUB

Bursar

Laker Card

Financial Aid

Public Safety

LAKER CARE PANTRY

With two campus locations, The Laker Care Pantry addresses food insecurity and provide essential resources to Clayton State students. What began as a small initiative supported by campus donations has grown into a comprehensive basic needs resource, serving hundreds of Lakers each year and helping them stay enrolled, focused, and successful.

FALL 2025 AT A GLANCE

 381 students served

 16 visits with a household of 2 or more
20 visits with a household of 5 or more

 4,000 lbs of food and essential items donated



Most requested items: milk, canned vegetables, canned meats, breakfast items, and grains



"As a student the pantry has helped me to be more flexible with my spending because I can come once a week to get the items I need. I can worry less about how I'm going to stretch my paycheck while balancing my other financial obligations."

CSU
Cares

HOW TO DONATE:

DONATION DROP OFF:
CARE CENTER, EDGEWATER HALL SUITE 245

AMAZON WISH LIST:
Bit.ly/AmazonWishList-LCP



Campus Locations:

Student Activities Center Rm 115
Care Center Edgewater Hall Suite 245

Email: CareCenter@clayton.edu or
LakerCarePantry@clayton.edu

(678)466-5585

Student Care & Support

ATHLETICS

- **Basketball gets underway!**
 - Games begin this Friday – MBB
 - November 21 at 7:30 PM
 - November 22 at 3:30 PM

ITS

- All faculty and staff must upgrade their computers to devices compatible with Windows 11 by **December 19, 2025**. After this deadline, any computer still running Windows 10 will be unable to access the campus network. For assistance or questions about this transition, please reach out to **Jahdiel Baptiste** or **Jeremy Weed** in ITS-Client Services.

ADVANCEMENT & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- Faculty & Staff Fund Drive
 - Campaign ended October 31, 2025, with 52.6% participation rate (53.3% year over year increase)
 - Additional 81 part-time and retirees gave during the drive
 - Raised \$32,700 during the drive



GOOD NEWS

- College of Business S.T.E.M. Social Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurs
- CSU School of Nursing visited Morrow High School to discuss future job opportunities available to students
- Over 30 CSU Dental Hygiene students and three faculty members participated in the free dental cleaning event at the Villages at Carver Family YMCA in Atlanta

Provost's Report

Faculty Senate
November 17, 2025

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

	Current Enrollment	Fall 2024 Enrollment	Percent Change in Enrollment	FTE Fall 2025	FTE Fall 2024	Percent Change in FTE	Percent Full-Time Enrollment
Comprehensive Universities	107,515	100,050	7.5%	92,775	86,760	6.9%	66.8%
Albany State University	<u>6,820</u>	<u>6,809</u>	0.2%	<u>6,198</u>	<u>6,082</u>	1.9%	75.0%
Clayton State University	<u>6,406</u>	<u>6,172</u>	3.8%	<u>4,980</u>	<u>4,794</u>	3.9%	51.8%
Columbus State University	<u>7,690</u>	<u>7,937</u>	-3.1%	<u>6,436</u>	<u>6,603</u>	-2.5%	60.4%
Fort Valley State University	<u>3,177</u>	<u>2,905</u>	9.4%	<u>3,026</u>	<u>2,782</u>	8.8%	88.3%
Georgia College & State University	<u>7,304</u>	<u>7,097</u>	2.9%	<u>6,942</u>	<u>6,735</u>	3.1%	85.1%
Georgia Southwestern State University	<u>4,017</u>	<u>3,704</u>	8.5%	<u>3,185</u>	<u>2,948</u>	8.0%	57.7%
Middle Georgia State University	<u>8,828</u>	<u>8,409</u>	5.0%	<u>7,107</u>	<u>6,750</u>	5.3%	56.8%
Savannah State University	<u>3,178</u>	<u>3,208</u>	-0.9%	<u>2,990</u>	<u>2,970</u>	0.7%	85.8%
University of North Georgia	<u>20,317</u>	<u>19,298</u>	5.3%	<u>17,246</u>	<u>16,443</u>	4.9%	64.3%

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- BOR Meeting Updates, cont.
 - Course Modality Study Report
 - PTR Report
 - Committee on Academic Affairs
 - GGC approved to offer MA in Teaching in Secondary Education
 - Policy Revisions
 - Exploration of Classics Learning Test for Admissions
 - BOR Chair Elect (January)
- Dean, COAS Search Update
 - www.academicsearch.org/csudean
- PTR Revisions & Faculty-Wide Vote
- Studiosity Informational Sessions & Pilot
- Commencement

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Vivian Padin-Irizarry, CSU Nominee
Felton Jenkins, Jr. Hall of Fame Faculty Award

CLAYTON
STATE
UNIVERSITY

THANK YOU!



Imagine the Possible

AASCU
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FOR PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS

November 14–17, 2025 • Nashville, TN





Washington Policy Update

FROM CAPITOL HILL TO YOUR CAMPUS



Luis Maldonado

Vice President for
Government Relations
and Policy Analysis
MaldonadoL@aascu.org



John Patrick Walsh

Assistant
Vice President,
Federal Relations
WalshJ@aascu.org



Kiersten Wills

Government Relations
Policy Manager
WillsK@aascu.org

Federal Funding

FY2026 APPROPRIATIONS

Govt Reopens – Continuing Resolution (CR)

CR REOPENS GOVERNMENT THROUGH JANUARY 30

- On November 10, the Senate passed a ‘clean’ continuing resolution that extends current funding through January 30 on a 60-40 vote, after 8 Democrats crossed party lines.
- Despite various reservations, the House GOP was able to rally all but two of its members and pass the CR on a 222-209 vote with the help of six Democrats.
- The legislation was rushed to the White House where President Trump immediately signed the bill, ending a record 43-day shutdown late Wednesday night (November 12).

Govt Reopens – Continuing Resolution (CR)

PART 1: CLEAN CR THROUGH JANUARY 30

- The ‘clean’ continuing resolution extends current funding through January 30 for most facets of the federal government.

PART 2: THREE BILL MINIBUS

- Attached to the CR were three full-year spending bills: MILCON-VA, Agriculture, and Legislative Branch.
- Notably, passage of the Ag bill restores yearlong funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Govt Reopens – Continuing Resolution (CR)

PART 3: RIF REVERSAL + FEDERAL BACK PAY

- Federal employees furloughed, laid off or excepted during the shutdown will be rehired.
- ALL federal employees, including those furloughed, will receive back pay “at the earliest possible date.”

PART 4: ACA EXTENSION VOTE

- Leader Thune has promised a standalone vote on a 1-year extension of the expiring ACA tax credits in December.

Keep In Mind

SPENDING BILLS STILL IN FLUX

- The House and Senate now turn to their remaining appropriation bills which vary widely and will require intense negotiations.
- The House has moved all appropriations bills out of committee but only passed three. The Senate still has four bills in committee.
- The Senate plans to act as early as next week on four bills, including the FY26 Labor-H bill, in a second minibus.

TRUMP ON CR: “I’LL ABIDE BY THE DEAL.”

- “The deal is very good.” President Trump has agreed to the Senate-negotiated terms of the CR, but doubts remain.

President's FY26 Budget

- Cuts align with recent executive orders and OMB directives
- ED cut by **\$12.4B** to \$66.7B (15% reduction)
- Reduces Pell by **-\$1,685** to new maximum of **\$5,710**
- Programs **defunded** include:
 - TRIO
 - FSEOG
 - TQPs
 - FWS - cuts by **\$980M (80% reduction)**
 - * GEAR-UP
 - * CCAMPIS
 - * Hawkins Centers of Excellence

Senate FY26 Labor-H Bill

- Senate Appropriations Committee marked up and passed its **FY26 Labor-H bill** on July 31 by a **26-3 vote**.
- Department of Education funded at \$79 billion for FY26 (requires retention of staff in mission-critical positions)
- Maintains the current maximum Pell award of **\$7,395**
- Sustains funding for:
 - TRIO
 - FSEOG
 - TQPs
 - FWS
 - Title III and V programs
 - GEAR-UP
 - CCAMPIS
 - Hawkins Centers of Excellence
 - PSSG

House FY26 Labor-H Bill

- The House Appropriations Committee passed its **FY26 Labor-H bill** on a **38-35** party-line vote.
- Department of Education funded at \$67 billion for FY26 (**15% reduction**)
- Higher Education funded at \$2.7 billion for FY26 (**-\$367 million reduction**)
- Maintains the current maximum Pell award of **\$7,395**
- Rejects elimination of funding for:
 - TRIO – flat funded (\$1.19B)
 - GEAR-UP – flat funded (\$388M)
 - FWS – **cuts** by 37% (\$779 M)

House FY26 Labor-H Bill

- **Eliminates** funding for teacher training opportunities, cutting \$2.19 billion in Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (*plus* \$1.7 billion in advanced funding from FY25)
 - Additional Title I and II cuts may impact individual institutions that were grantees or LEA partners
- **Defunds** the following programs:
 - FSEOG
 - TQPs
 - PSSG
 - CCAMPIS
 - Hawkins Centers of Excellence
 - **Title III and V programs**

Grants At Risk

GRANT IMPOUNDMENT, RESCISSION, AND
CANCELLATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FOR PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS

AASCU

Administration Rescission Requests

- On July 17, Congress passed [H.R. 4, the Rescissions Act of 2025](#). The \$9.4B rescission request passed the Senate on a 51-48 vote and by 216-213 in the House.
 - Most funds were allocated to:
 - State Department and USAID
 - ~\$1B for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting
 - A formal rescission request requires Congress to act within 45 days.
 - Congress may accept, reject, or partially approve the request.
- On August 29, the Trump Administration [formally announced](#) its use of the “pocket rescission” to cancel \$5 billion in foreign aid funding that had previously been tied up in litigation.

The Pocket Rescission

WHAT IS A “POCKET RESCISSION”?

A pocket rescission is a controversial maneuver, widely considered illegal, by which a president attempts to cancel congressionally approved funds by waiting until the end of the fiscal year to propose the cuts.

WHAT IS THE “POCKET LOOPHOLE”?

By submitting the proposal less than 45 legislative days before FY25 funds expired on September 30, the executive branch ensured the money could not be spent, even if Congress disapproved of the action.



The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) adamantly opposes the Department of Education's decision to stop awarding over \$350 million in grants to all Minority-serving Institutions (MSIs). These colleges and universities are vital links between millions of low-income families in hundreds of thousands of communities and their hopes of a better future through the attainment of higher education.

AASCU STATEMENT OPPOSING ED'S ELIMINATION OF MSI FUNDING

Funding for MSIs in FY25/26

- In July, the Department of Justice (DOJ) released a [determination](#) that Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) programs “violate the equal-protection component of the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause,” and that DOJ would not defend them in ongoing litigation.
- Following this action, on September 10, ED [announced](#) a decision to “end funding to racially discriminatory discretionary grant programs at Minority-Serving Institutions.”
- Totaling approximately **\$350 million**, funding for the affected grant programs was reprogrammed by the Department into HBCU and TCCU investments.
- On September 15, ED [announced](#) additional grant investments in HBCUs and TCCUs. The **\$495 million** investment should see their FY25 awards rise to **\$1.34 billion** and **\$108 million**, respectively.

Funding for MSIs in FY25/26

PROGRAMS ELIMINATED (\$350 Million)

- Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (Title III Part A);
- Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions (Title III Part A);
- Strengthening Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (Title III Part A);
- Strengthening Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (Title III Part A);
- Minority Science and Engineering Improvement (Title III Part E);
- Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V-Part A); and
- Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (Title V-Part B).

Funding for MSIs in FY25/26

- Prior to the DOJ and ED announcements, the President's FY26 budget request to Congress called for flat-funding almost all Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).
- ED has committed to distributing grant funding for MSIs that comes from FY25 mandatory spending, including **\$132 million** under Title III, Part F:
 - Alaska Native- and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions
 - Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions
 - Developing HSI STEM and Articulation Program
 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 - Predominantly Black Institutions
 - Strengthening Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions

Other Grants Impacted

TRIO – MCNAIR & UPWARD BOUND GRANT PROGRAMS

- Over 100 TRIO programs received cancellation notices.
 - (TRIO is flat-funded in both House and Senate Labor-H bills)

GEAR-UP

- AASCU has learned that at least nine of the 100 grant recipients have received cancellation or discontinuation letters from ED.
 - (GEAR-UP is funded in both House and Senate Labor-H bills)

HAWKINS CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- AASCU was informed that FY24 awardees received notices of discontinuation from ED.
- FY25 awards have not been announced and are no longer expected.

Courts In Action

LEGAL UPDATES AND DECISIONS



212

Executive Orders
signed by President
Trump since January 20



519

Cases brought against
the Trump
Administration (as of
November 12, 2025)



24

Number of cases that
have been closed (as
of November 12, 2025)



260

Cases awaiting ruling



138

Cases blocked (31),
temporarily blocked (86),
or blocked pending
appeal (21)



8

Cases closed or
dismissed in favor of
the Administration

As of November 12, 2025

Pocket Rescissions – Recent Challenges

- In mid-August, a three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that only the Government Accountability Office (GAO) could bring a constitutional claim, alleging a violation of law under the Impoundment Control Act, against the government.
- On August 21, the SCOTUS released a 5-4 decision in *NIH v. APHA* that **lifted** a previous injunction against the impoundment of research grants. In the majority decision, Justice Barrett indicated that plaintiffs seeking relief should follow a simultaneous, dual path when filing claims:
 - Violations of the Impoundment Control Act are properly brought before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.
 - Violations of the Administrative Procedures Act may be adjudicated in federal district courts.

Pocket Rescissions – Recent Challenges

- Further complicating matters was a concurring opinion by Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh, which claimed Judge Young and other lower courts were intentionally ignoring the *precedent set in a previous “shadow docket” decision* allowing the cancellation of teacher prep grants in April.
- Following these actions, the Trump Administration announced in late August its intent to use the pocket rescission to cancel \$5 billion in foreign aid funding.
- On September 4, a federal judge ruled the maneuver illegal and ordered the administration to release and spend the congressionally authorized funds.
- However, on September 9, Chief Justice Roberts issued a temporary stay of the lower court’s order, allowing SCOTUS more time to consider the appeal.

Pocket Rescissions – Legality

EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITION

- Led by OMB Director Vought, officials claim the 45-day withholding period is a loophole that allows for inaction despite congressional action.

CONGRESSIONAL OPINIONS

- Bipartisan criticism of OMB's position has led to multiple letters from Congress opposing the interpretation and actions taken.

GAO POSITION

- The nonpartisan GAO concluded in 2018 that the law does not permit a president to withhold funds past their expiration date.

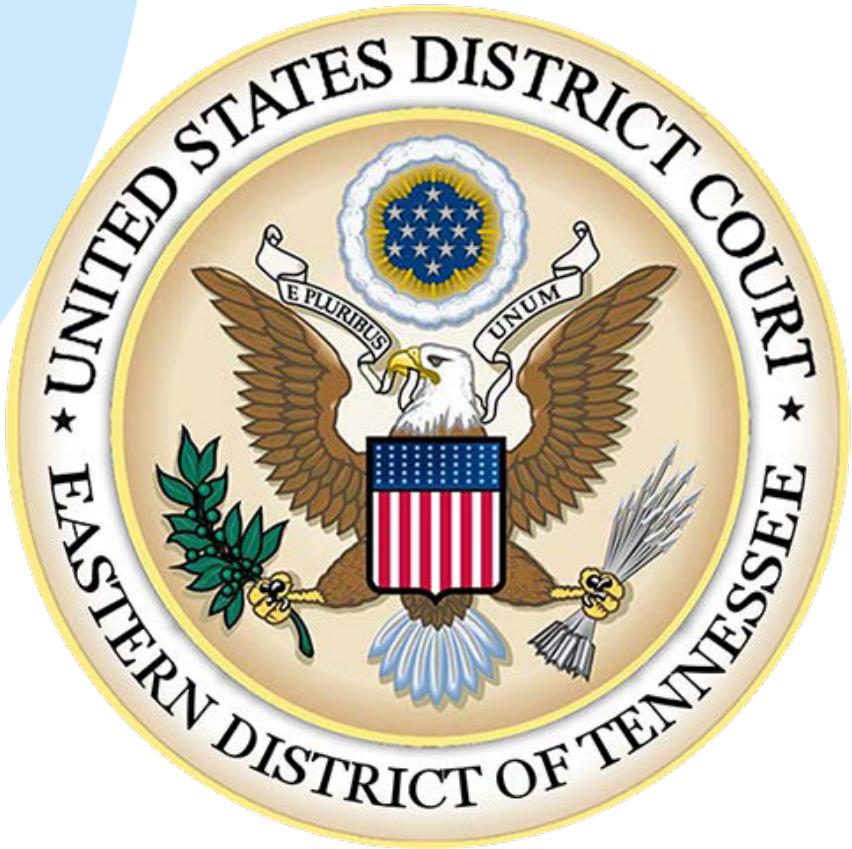
Tennessee HSI Lawsuit

TN AND SFFA V. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, MCMAHON

Tennessee HSI Lawsuit

- Students For Fair Admission (SFFA) and the State of Tennessee filed suit in federal court against the constitutionality of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) funding
- Arguing against the program's consideration of the race/ethnicity of students to determine eligibility for funds
- Claims IHEs in TN are discriminated against for funding based on an arbitrary combination of students' race/ethnicity, which are not found in the state
- References the Supreme Court's decision against the use of race-based admission programs at Harvard and the University of North Carolina

Tennessee HSI Lawsuit



- On July 24, LatinoJustice PRLDEF and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) announced they have submitted a **motion** to intervene in the case.
- On October 14 the court **decided** both organizations had standing to intervene and would be allowed to defend the statute.

Regulatory Update

LATEST FROM THE DEPARTMENTS AND
WHITE HOUSE

Trump Administration Releases Unified Agenda

- On September 4, 2025, the second Trump Administration released the Spring 2025 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions.
- The Unified Agenda, which is published twice a year, is a government-wide publication of rulemaking actions agencies are currently working on and expect to take in the coming months.
- The Unified Agenda contains both regulatory and deregulatory actions (i.e., new regulations, reductions/eliminations, and withdrawals).
- It also includes expected release dates for regulations the administration plans to propose and withdrawals of those regulations it no longer wishes to pursue or defend.

Negotiated Rulemaking

CURRENT AND FUTURE REGULATORY
ACTIONS

THE REIMAGINING AND IMPROVING STUDENT EDUCATION (RISE) COMMITTEE

- The committee held two week-long sessions in September and November.
- Addressed federal student loan-related changes within the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB), including:
 - Loan limits
 - Elimination of Grad PLUS
 - Definition of professional degrees
 - Institutional flexibility
- Under extreme pressure from the Department, negotiators reached consensus on the proposed federal student loan changes.

THE REIMAGINING AND IMPROVING STUDENT EDUCATION (RISE) COMMITTEE

- The committee ultimately approved a compromise defining a professional degree as:
 - i. Signifies both completion of the academic requirements for beginning practice in a given profession and a level of professional skill beyond that normally required for a bachelor's degree;
 - ii. Is generally at the doctoral level, and that requires at least six academic years of postsecondary education coursework for completion, including at least two years of post-baccalaureate level coursework;
 - iii. Generally requires professional licensure to begin practice; and
 - iv. Includes a four-digit program CIP code, as assigned by the institution or determined by the Secretary, in the same intermediate group as the fields listed in paragraph (2) (i) of this definition.”

THE REIMAGINING AND IMPROVING STUDENT EDUCATION (RISE) COMMITTEE

- Programs eligible for the higher, **professional degree** loan cap (\$200K):
 - Medicine (M.D.)
 - Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
 - Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.)
 - Optometry (O.D.)
 - Law (L.L.B. or J.D.)
 - Veterinary medicine (D.V.M.)
 - Osteopathic medicine (D.O.)
 - Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P. or Pod.D.)
 - Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.)
 - Theology (M.Div. or M.H.L.)
 - Clinical psychology (Psy.D. or Ph.D.)



**DR. TIMOTHY KING
(NEGOTIATOR)**

**Vice Provost for Student Success,
Jacksonville State University (AL)**



**MR. MATTHEW ELLSWORTH
(ALTERNATE)**

**Director of Financial Aid,
Western Carolina University**

**RISE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATORS
Representing the Public Sector**

THE ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACCESS THROUGH DEMAND-DRIVEN WORKFORCE PELL (AHEAD) COMMITTEE

- Will hold two five-day sessions in December and January
- Focused on Workforce Pell, institutional and programmatic accountability, among other topics

Session Dates and Times:

December 8-12, 2025,
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern

January 5-9, 2026,
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern

O BBBB UNIFIED AGENDA CONFLICT

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT IMPLEMENTATION – JULY 1, 2026

- The work product of these sessions, including any final proposed rule, **will not meet** the *Federal Register*'s November 1 publishing deadline for implementation by July 1, 2026, setting up a conflict with the Unified Agenda.
- Normally, the Department would seek a waiver or announce extensions of the implementation dates.
- OMB and ED have indicated that the administration plans to move forward with implementation in 2026, arguing that Congress was aware of the impossible-to-meet November 1 deadline and intended to waive that provision by publishing the bill with an implementation date of **July 1, 2026**.

Departmental Actions

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FOR PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS

AASCU

Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education

10-POINT COMPACT LAYS OUT ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES

- The 10-point compact expands upon administration priorities within higher education, outlining its definition of excellence while providing a working description of a 'politically neutral' campus environment.
- While offered as an incentive to 'good actors' in higher education, failure to adapt to the priorities outlined in the compact is likely to incur future scrutiny and oversight by the Department of Education.
- Originally nine universities were invited to join, but after multiple denunciations the compact was opened to all interested institutions.

Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education

FUNDING ADVANTAGE FOR CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE

Signees would have access to administrative officials, events, and ‘substantial and meaningful’ federal grants in exchange for agreeing to:

- Ban the use of race or sex in hiring and admissions;
- A 5-year tuition freeze;
- Cap international undergrad enrollment at 15%;
- Practice meritocracy in admissions (require SAT/ACT) and grading (curb grade curving and inflation); and
- Promote and enforce and ‘politically neutral’ campus climate.

Federal Grantmaking Oversight (EO)

- On August 7, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking.”
- EO seeks to strengthen oversight of federal grants to ensure they are aligned with “American interests” and achieve measurable impact.
- Requires agencies to review grant notices and awards for consistency with the Administration’s priorities while allowing OMB to revise/restrict/terminate discretionary grants that “no longer align with priorities or the national interest.”
- Senior officials are now responsible for approving new grants.
- May ban/deny funding that promotes racial discrimination, denies biological sex, supports illegal immigration, or promotes “anti-American” values.

College Admissions Transparency

- On August 9, President Trump issued a **Presidential Memorandum** titled “Ensuring Transparency in Higher Education Admissions.”
- Directs ED to expand data collection through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to increase transparency in college admissions.
- Stems from Administration concerns that IHEs are still using race as a factor to determine admissions post-*SFFA v. Harvard* decision.
- Expanded reporting beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year to include detailed admissions and scholarship data disaggregated by race and sex and strengthened compliance monitoring.

International Students

DHS AND USCIS ANNOUNCE NPRM ATTEMPTS

Duration of Status NPRM

- On August 28, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) **published** a proposed rule to replace the "Duration of Status" (D/S) system with fixed admission periods for F-1, J-1, and I visa holders.
- The proposed rule requires international students to apply for extensions of stay for programs longer than the fixed term (generally up to four years for F-1 and J-1).
- Additional considerations include rules on changing majors and a shortened grace period (30 days) upon program completion.



Duration of Status NPRM

AASCU JOINS COMMUNITY LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- On September 8, AASCU joined fellow higher education stakeholders in a [letter](#) asking that the administration exempt nonimmigrant visas, including F, J, and M student visas, from the June 2025 travel ban.

HIGHER ED COMMUNITY RELEASES PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDANCE

- Following the letter, AASCU joined community stakeholders in creating a high-level [guidance document](#) for affected institutions seeking to submit public comment on the proposed rule before the September 29 deadline.

International Students

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA VETTING POLICY

- Embassy and consulate interviews for international students have been on hold
- The State Department just issued a new policy to review the social media postings of international students and visiting scholars requesting a J, F, and M visa.
- Screening for “hostility” toward the United States
- Student/scholar visa interview requests have been restarted
- Embassies should prioritize interviewing students looking to “study at a U.S. university where international students constitute 15 percent or less of the total student population.”
- Concerned about the lasting damage to discourage international students from pursuing their studies in the US

A Note About H1-B Visas

NEW \$100,000 ANNUAL FEE FOR H1-B VISAS

- On September 19, the White House announced a new \$100,000 annual fee for new H1-B visa applicants
 - (i.e. not renewals or current visa holders).
- The announcement, released as a Presidential Proclamation, seeks to “fix” a program allowing specialized foreign workers to enter the country.
- Immigration hardliners have long viewed the program as rife with exploitation, allowing for the displacement of domestic workers, and sought to discourage use of the program.

A Note About H1-B Visas

NEW WEIGHTED LOTTERY

- On September 24, a new H1-B wage-weighted lottery process was announced that would tie the chance of selection to potential income.
- This system is designed to increase the chances of selection for higher-paid workers while still allowing for the possibility of selection at all wage levels, though Level 1 wages may have a significantly lower probability of being selected.
- If finalized, the new rule would likely apply to the Fiscal Year 2027 H-1B cap season, which starts in March 2026.
- It is assumed that current exemptions for Higher Education will remain in place. (Guidance from USCIS and CBP)

Congressional Actions

RELEVANT HEARINGS LEGISLATION

Hearings of Interest

No More Surprises: Reforming College Pricing for Students and Families

- House Hearing: Focus on total cost transparency of college.
- Majority mentioned previous legislation that proposed standardized financial aid offers, net price calculators, and maximum price guarantees.
- One witness disagreed with the premise of state disinvestment, claiming an annual increase of \$56/student.

Antisemitism in Higher Education: Examining the Role of Faculty, Funding, and Ideology

- House Hearing: Majority focused on “administrators and their staff lacking the moral clarity to condemn and punish antisemitism.”

Hearings of Interest

The Future of College: Harnessing Innovation to Improve Outcomes and Lower Costs

- House Hearing: Counterpart to Senate HELP hearing on cost transparency. Witnesses to be announced.
- Tuesday, November 18 at 10:15 am ET. Hearing can be streamed [here](#).

Reforming Financial Transparency in Higher Education

- Senate Hearing: Bipartisan focus on college cost transparency, the need for standardized student aid letters, and better data to inform families and prospective students before applying for admission.
- Chairman Cassidy (R-LA) used the hearing as an opportunity to tout the reintroduced [S.2511, the College Transparency Act](#), a bipartisan and bicameral bill cosponsored by Sen. Warren (D-MA).



POLICY & ADVOCACY

MARCH 24-25, 2026 • WASHINGTON, DC

AASCU on the Hill

**Join us and make your voice heard
in the halls of Congress.**

Early bird registration ends Jan. 16. →

AASCU





**Thank You,
Dr. Kolison!**

President, SUNY Fredonia

First AOTH26 Registrant



**Thank You,
Dr. Tandberg!**

President, Adams State
University

**Most Engaged in 2025 -
Washington Policy Update
Webinars**



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FOR PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS

AASCU

Washington Policy Update Webinar

December 3, 2025

Scan to Register!

