Themes of the Week:

The House and Senate are back for an unusual four day session week. This marks the only week that either chamber is in this month – right now the House is scheduled for six days in December and the Senate three – and that will wrap us session until after the holidays.

State Happenings

Hearings and Committee Schedules
Both the House and Senate have some hearings and meetings scheduled on various topics. We will monitor these and make sure to update you on those relevant to higher education.

Bills on the Move
The Senate is moving out a package of bills today in a meeting to be called off of the floor to change the law and constitution regarding reporting of and statute of limitations on sexual assault.

HB 962 (Rozzi) This legislation amends Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to extend and eliminate the statutory limitations for certain civil and criminal proceedings relating to sexual abuse. These changes include: for civil penalties – extension for filing after turning 18 from 12 to 37 years and allows for no limitations on damages awarded. For criminal penalties the legislation adds additional crimes to list with no limitations on filing and adds institutional sexual assault to the 12 year requirement. In addition, it extends the age of filing from the current 50 to 55 years.

HB 963 (Gregory) This legislation amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to allow for a two year window to file suit for anyone whose statutory limitations have already expired. This legislation will have to pass both this session and next and subsequently advertised and placed on the ballot in the general election in order for the amendment to take effect.
This legislation amends Title 42 to clearly state that no past or future agreement can prohibit an individual from communicating with law enforcement at any time.

IRRC Scheduled to Vote on Overtime Exemption Rulemaking
On Thursday, November 21st, IRRC is scheduled to vote on the Administration’s updates to the rules regarding overtime. We are aware that several entities and members of the General Assembly wrote letters explaining the issues that will be incurred if these rules go into effect mainly due to the increase in the wage minimum and exemptions from the federal law.

Outlets are reporting that there may be a compromise in the works that would swap out the Administration’s push for the increased overtime rules in exchange for an increase in minimum wage. We should know soon as there are only a few days before the IRRC vote.

Applications for the Military Family Program Open
Governor Wolf held a press conference to tout the expansion of the Military Tuition program to spouses and children as provided for in HB 1324. Those enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year will be able to take advantage of this benefit. More information can be found here.

Federal Happenings

Title IX Meetings Scheduled
The Education Department sent the administration’s final Title IX rule to OMB for approval. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has scheduled nearly two dozen meetings with civil rights groups, law firms, education groups, women's group and concerned parents through Dec. 19, according to the website.

Save the Date

AICUP will be on the Hill April 7, 2020 –

Hope you can join us to advocate for the independent nonprofit colleges across Pennsylvania! This year we expect over 45 schools and 300 students to attend!

Check out details on our Speech Contest in partnership with PHEAA here

Nichole F. Duffy
Vice President of Government Relations