



Date: December 16, 2008

To:

**Re: Recent Passage of Higher Education Opportunity Act
Important Changes Impacting UArts**

As many of you know, on August 14, 2008 Congress reauthorized the Higher Education Act of 1965 via its new Higher Education Opportunity Act (H.R. 4137). This quite complex law contains a substantial number of new provisions that will impact us here at UArts – these cover a wide range of topics such as: new data that must be disclosed to current and prospective students, additional federal reporting requirements, changes in policies and procedures for emergency notification, fire safety, crime reporting, student financial aid, and much more.

It is tremendously challenging to wander through this legislative “forest” trying to figure out which of the new regulations relate to your area of responsibility, interpret their meaning, and gain a clear sense of their effective dates. But --- help is on the way! The folks at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) have put together the attached booklet, HEA 101 – President’s Quick Guide to the New Law, which highlights 24 key areas of impact. They have also set up a very helpful website www.HEA101.org that will be updated as new information becomes available.

The President has asked me to work with all of you to ensure that you have the information necessary for UArts to be in compliance with this new legislation. So, to break this down into manageable parts, below you’ll see a chart that lists each of the key topics, an identified UArts Lead and associated staff for each topic, and a direct link to the website which provides additional information for that topic.

Here’s the game plan:

- A. Check the chart below to see what topics you have been assigned as UArts Lead.
- B. For a brief topic synopsis, read the attached Quick Guide.
- C. For more detailed information, click on the link in the chart below.
- D. If you feel that there is a more appropriate person to be designated as the Lead on a specific topic, please let me know as soon as possible.
- E. By January 30th, let me know via e-mail the status of where we are on the topic.

Important Caveats:

- 1.** Do keep in mind that provisions have their own unique effective dates. However, most of the act became effective when the President signed the bill on August 14, 2008, and colleges are expected to make a good faith effort to comply immediately.
- 2.** As the Quick Guide states “there remains a number of unanswered questions about the new law ... some aspects of the law will remain vague until final regulations are in place; and because congressional intent appears to differ from the actual legislative language.”
- 3.** On a few topics, there may be really nothing that we have to do but be aware of what the feds are required to do on their end.

Of course, if you have any questions as we make our way through this transition, don't hesitate to let me know.

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Higher Education Opportunity Act – Areas of Potential Impact

Key Issue	UArts Lead	Others Who May Need to Be Involved/Informed	Helpful Weblinks
Accreditation			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/heaguide/news_room/campus-guide-accreditation
College Costs			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/college-costs
Textbooks			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/textbooks
Campus Crime Reporting			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/campus-guide-campus-crime-reporting
Campus Emergency Procedures			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/campus-emergency-procedures
Consumer Information			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/consumer-information-on-college-navigator
Graduation Data – Student Right to Know			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/disaggregation-of-graduate-data
Disciplinary Proceeding Disclosures			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/cohort-default-rate
Disclosures to Students & Prospective Students			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/disclosures-to-students-and-prospective-students
Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/drug-and-alcohol-abuse-prevention
Drug Violation Penalty Notice			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/drug-violation-penalty-notice
Fire Safety			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/fire-safety
Lobbying Certification			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/lobbying-certification
Missing Person Procedures			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/missing-person-procedures
Peer-To-File File Sharing			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/peer-to-peer-file-sharing
Post-Graduate Information			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/post-graduate-information
Teacher Preparation Report Cards			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/teacher-preparation-report-cards
Transfer of Credit			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/transfer-of-credit
Voter Registration			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/loan-counseling
LEAP Grant			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/leveraging-educational-assistance-program-leap

Key Issue	UArts Lead	Others Who May Need to Be Involved/Informed	Helpful Weblinks
Student Aid Improvements			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/student-aid-improvements-for-private-college-students
Student Aid Simplification			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/student-aid-simplification
Student Loan Sunshine			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/student-loan-sunshine-provisions
Veterans' Readmission			http://www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/hea101/news_room/veterans-readmission