**CGA NEWS**

(5-28-13)

To:       CGA

From:   A۰P۰L۰U Congressional and Governmental Affairs Staff

* Still Seeking Campus Responses to APLU Finance/Sequestration Survey
* House Passes Student Loan Interest Rate Bill
* House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Approves DATA Act
* Still Seeking Campus Responses to APLU Finance/Sequestration Survey

For the last few years, APLU has gathered information on the effects of the financial climate at member universities and the strategies being used by university leaders to make budget decisions in times of financial distress and uncertainty. This year APLU has partnered with the Association of American Universities (AAU) and The Science Coalition (TSC) in an effort to better understand the impact of the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts of sequestration through this online survey.

CGA are encouraged to urge your institutions to complete the survey.  The survey log in information was sent on May 1 to the chief academic officer on each APLU campus. Institutions that have partially responsed or have not yet responed received a reminder email today.  The deadline for submissions has been extended 1 week until June 7.

Institutions are encouraged to answer the questions to the best of their ability and to use the open-ended responses to elaborate on the any uncertainties facing the campus.

* House Passes Student Loan Interest Rate Bill

Before the House left last week for recess, they passed *The Smarter Solutions for Students Act* ([H.R. 1911](http://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ans_-_h.r._1911_final.pdf" \t "_blank)) on Thursday. It passed by a recorded vote of 221 to 198, with four Democrats voting in favor and eight Republicans opposing. As mentioned in CGA NEWS (5-10-13), this legislation would preventing student loan interest rate from jumping from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1 by setting subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loan interest rates using a formula based on the 10-year Treasury Note plus 2.5 percent and graduate and parent PLUS loans using a formula based on the 10-year Treasury Note plus 4.5 percent. It offers an 8.5 percent cap on Stafford Loan interest rates and a 10.5 percent cap on PLUS loans.

The House also approved the *Improving Postsecondary Education Data for Students Act* ([H.R. 1949](http://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ans_-_h.r._1949_final.pdf" \t "_blank)) last week. This legislation directs the Department of Education to convene a committee to conduct a study on the factors students and families want, need, and already consider when choosing a higher education institution.

* House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Approves DATA Act

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved [the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act of 2013 (H.R. 2061)](http://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO00/20130522/100921/BILLS-113HR2061ih-DATAAct.pdf" \t "_blank) last Thursday, which was introduced by Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD). The DATA Act was approved by voice vote with an [amendment](http://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO00/20130522/100921/BILLS-113-HR2061-I000056-Amdt-1.pdf" \t "_blank) in the nature of a substitute. The Presidents of APLU, AAU, and Council of Governmental Relations (COGR) sent the attached letter expressing support for H.R. 2061.

Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mark Warner (D-VA) introduced a [companion DATA Act](http://www.scribd.com/doc/142767282/DATA-Act-of-2013" \t "_blank) in the Senate last week.

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

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