Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization Recommendations

Below are highlights of some of NACS’ recommendations for HEA reauthorization. For more detailed recommendations and proposed language, please contact Richard Hershman at (202) 778-4598 or rhershman@nacs.org.

Preserve and Enhance Course Material Affordability and Transparency Provisions

- Continue the textbook disclosure provisions in Sec. 133, while strengthening them to improve meaningful and actionable transparency.
- Encourage institutions to post verified information and discourage last minute changes.
- Clarify that institutions are required to disclose mandatory course material fee information appropriately.
- Address the timing problems of posting information during earlier registration.
- Require publishers to disclose information to staff aiding in the procurement of course materials.
- Encourage higher education institutions to create faculty adoption deadlines for course materials and encourage faculty to work with campus stores during this process to help find quality course materials that are affordable for students.
- Revise Sec. 133(e) to focus on supporting campus stores’ efforts to support implementation.
- Maintain flexibility for institutions of higher education to innovate and fit the unique needs of their campuses.

Update Terminology in HEA and Improve Cost of Attendance Estimates

- Update dated terminology for course materials, supplies and equipment in Secs. 133, 401(e), 472, and 455(j) so they are consistent and reflect modern day course materials and delivery.
- Clarify that institutions are required to disclose cost of attendance allowances for course material costs as defined by Sec. 133 separately from other academic related costs such as supplies and equipment.
- Encourage institutions to factor in average net-cost and spending data on course materials into net-price calculators to produce more accurate information for students.

Continue Efforts to Make Course Materials More Accessible for Students With Disabilities.

- Reauthorize and update HEOA Subpart 3 to create an inclusive process to establish voluntary accessibility guidelines for postsecondary electronic instructional materials as H.R. 1772 proposes and support innovative initiatives.

Federal Work Study

- Preserve Federal Work Study as a separate grant program. Enhance its focus on career building opportunities including in the retail sector.