Graduate Professional Town Hall

March 29, 2017
NASFAA’s Webinar Series
Graduate Professional Town Hall
Presented March 29, 2017

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators

NASFAA’s 2016–17 Webinar Series
Graduate Professional
Town Hall
March 29, 2017

Today’s Presenters and Moderator

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Handouts

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Questions and Answers

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Agenda

• New Dynamics in Washington
• Reauthorization & Funding Outlook
• Graduate/Professional Issues
  – Graduate Loan Limits
  – Public Service Loan Forgiveness
  – Federal Work Study
• Question/Answer

New Dynamics in Washington

• Republicans control House, Senate, and White House for the first time in a decade.
• First “unified” government since 2009–10 (Obama and Democratic Congress)

New Dynamics in Washington

• Still some uncertainty in the executive branch:
  – What will a Trump/DeVos Department of Education look like?
  – Will Trump let Congress lead on higher education issues?
  – Will President Trump champion any particular higher education issues or initiatives?
The Top Priorities

1. Obamacare Repeal
2. Tax Reform
3. Immigration
4. Obama-era Regulation Repeal
5. Infrastructure Package?

HEA Reauthorization Outlook

- Comprehensive HEA bills possible in later half of this year, but movement beyond committee work unlikely because of major issues taking time and attention
- All bets are off for HEA in 2018, a midterm election year
- Perkins Loan Program extension unlikely

HEA Reauthorization Outlook

- Republican higher education priority issues:
  - One Grant, One Loan, One Work Study
  - Regulatory Relief
  - FAFSA Simplification
  - Risk-sharing/Accountability
  - Fair-value Scoring of loan program
  - Modifications to forgiveness benefits
  - Elimination of Grad PLUS
Federal Budget & Funding Outlook

- Federal Government operating under a continuing resolution (CR) for FY2017 (award year 17–18) through April 28
- Return of the debt limit in the first half of the year
- Sequestration suspension expires for FY2018 (award year 18–19)

FY2018 Trump “Skinny Budget”

- Light on details, but included…
  - $3.9 billion cut to Pell Grant “surplus”
  - “Significant” cuts to Federal Work-Study
    - Revision of allocation formula
  - Elimination of FSEOG
  - ~$200 million cut to TRIO and GEAR UP
- Full budget expected in May, including loan proposals

Graduate Loan Limits

- A lot of interest on Capitol Hill
- Overview of existing proposal
  - FAST Act
- Loan limits within the context of “one grant/one loan” proposals
- NASFAA Graduate Loan Limit Task Force
Public Service Loan Forgiveness

- Interest and concern from Capitol Hill
- General skepticism of forgiveness programs
- NASFAA proposal & advocacy

Federal Work Study

- Proposals from President Trump’s “skinny budget”
  - Reduced funding
  - Modifications to allocation formula
- Other proposals from Capitol Hill

Thank you for joining us!
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The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) provides professional development for financial aid administrators; advocates for public policies that increase student access and success; serves as a forum on student financial aid issues; and is committed to diversity throughout all activities.

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