



NEWS at <http://www2.nea.org/he/nche/news/images/news1206.pdf>.

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## Higher Education Issues

Ann Shadwick, NEA Higher Education At-Large Director, CA highlights the higher education issues as follows: **GR Report:**

**Student Loans:** The House has passed H.R.5 which would reduce the interest rate on subsidized student loans by half with a phased-in rate reduction. The bill now moves to the Senate.

**Reauthorization:** Since the 109th Congress did not complete reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the 110th Congress will have to start over. NEA priorities remain access, quality, watching accountability moves, student services, diversity, academic freedom and teacher education.

**Higher Education for Immigrants:** NEA plans to work to re-introduce bills from the 109th Congress that would allow states to develop their own residency rules, thereby allowing them to offer in-state tuition and other higher education benefits to talented students with undocumented immigration status.

**Social Security Fairness Act:** NEA has worked to have new versions introduced. H.R.82 (Berman D-CA and McKeon R-CA) now has 182 co-sponsors. Feinstein is introducing the Senate version and has 10 co-sponsors.

**HE Victories:** NEA now has 89,646 full time higher education members, another 25,000 part time faculty members and over 17,000 education support members. In the past two years NEA has won twelve elections.

**Spellings Commission Saga:** NEA's recommendation for the rules committee, Marsha Smith, was not appointed. Committee appointments have been very conservative (lists sent out previously). Basically the attitude seems to be "if you don't agree go away." NEA continues to monitor the Washington scene carefully and will continue to keep Congress apprised of any efforts to circumvent them.

**Student NEA Proposed Bylaw Amendment:** The Board supported a proposed Bylaw amendment (goes to the RA this summer) that would allow the Executive Committee to rule on a case by case basis whether an individual eligible for both Student and Active membership could be a Student member.

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## NEA Board Highlights

**February 9-10 NEA Selected Board Actions.** The Board took actions on the following proposed positions from the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Report:

- **Standing Rule Amendment 1:** To require 3 speakers for and 3 speakers against any item being debated by the RA. *NEA Board voted in opposition.*
- **Standing Rule Amendment 2:** To require all points of information raised during the RA debate begin with "who, what, when, where or how". *NEA Board voted in opposition.*

- **Standing Rule Amendment 3:** To require acronyms and abbreviations be spelled out when first used in a new business item. NEA Board voted in support.
- **Standing Rule Amendment 4:** Limit to 3 the number of consecutive points of information that can be raised for or against any item that is being debated by the RA. *NEA Board voted in opposition.*
- **Standing Rule Amendment 6:** To require that a delegate who is recognized to speak may yield the balance of their allotted speaking time to another delegate only after speaking for or against the item being debated. *NEA Board voted in opposition.*
- **Constitutional Amendment 1:** To allow the NEA BYLAWS to provide NEA Membership for certain persons who are not education employees. *NEA Board voted in opposition.*
- **Bylaw Amendment 1:** To place the statement of the NEA Core Values into the NEA Bylaws. *NEA Board referred the matter to the NEA Executive for further study.*
- **Bylaw Amendment 2:** To clarify the effective date of membership for persons who join the Association for a particular membership year prior to the September 1 start of that membership year and to clarify the eligibility of such persons to receive Association benefits and services. *This came from the NEA Board.*
- **Bylaw Amendment 3:** To prohibit the inclusion into any RA agenda of items, practices, or procedures that are likely to discriminate against any delegate. *NEA Board voted in opposition.*

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## Articles from the National Scene

### Defeat "For Profit Model"

Read how a proposed private, for-profit business was defeated at the University of Illinois by pro-active faculty. [Jobs, News and Views for All of Higher Education - Inside Higher Ed :: Defeat for For-Profit Model](#)

### Holding Trustees Accountable

The Association of Governing Boards finds four new areas to assure accountability for Trustees in today's turbulent academic environment. <http://www.agb.org/user-assets/Documents/AccountabilityStatementFinalforWeb.pdf> and [Jobs, News and Views for All of Higher Education - Inside Higher Ed :: Holding Trustees Accountable](#)

### What's in Your 403b

A controversial study comparing TIAA-CREF to Vanguard suggests some short comings in TIAA. The paper causing the discussion is entitled "What's in Your 403(b)? Academic Retirement Plans and the Costs of Underdiversification."

[Jobs, News and Views for All of Higher Education - Inside Higher Ed :: Rating the TIAA-CREF Returns](#)

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