2012 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

House Bill 1003 (Public Access Issues. HB 1093 amended into this bill) – The bill allows a member of the governing body of any public agency of the state – including state supported institutions of higher education – to participate in a meeting of the governing body of that entity via electronic communication and delineates those procedures. The provisions include numerous revisions to existing public meeting and public access laws. Purdue was successful in amending in language that would allow Purdue University to withhold personal information from public disclosure concerning persons under the age of 18 who participate in activities on campus. Status: Signed by Governor

House Bill 1116 (Military Education and Training) Requires a state educational institution to adopt a policy to award educational credit to an individual who is enrolled in a state educational institution and successfully completes courses that are part of the individual’s military service; meets the standards of the American Council on Education for awarding academic credit, and, meets the state educational institution’s role, scope and mission. The bill also requires CHE to adopt rules that establish uniform guidelines for state educational institutions to follow when implementing the requirements. Status: Signed by Governor

House Bill 1201 (I-Light) Purdue worked with the authors of the bill, Indiana University, Ball State University and various other private entities to amend the bill in the Senate in order to protect research and development activities currently being conducted on the I-Light network. Specifically, the language of the bill states in part, “The provision of communications service to a state educational institution or a private post-secondary educational institution in furtherance of education research for the direct benefit of students, faculty or staff. The provision of communications service under this subdivision may include the provision of communications service to a person that is not a state educational institution or a private postsecondary educational institution if: the person has a research and development relationship with a state educational institution or a private postsecondary educational institution, and; the communications service required by and provided to the person is used in the furtherance of the research and development relationship only; is provided only for a specific research and development project; is provided only for the limited duration of the specific research and development project, and; is not provided in competition with private sector communications service providers.” Status: Signed by Governor

House Bill 1220 (“Credit Creep” bill) The bill, as originally written, allows CHE to approve or disapprove existing or new associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees, or programs leading to a certificate or other indication of accomplishment and requires degree proposals submitted to the Commission for approval to provide justification for any additional credit requirements. It also requires each state educational institution to review its undergraduate degree programs to determine the number of credit hours required for the degree and to report the results to the Commission, including justification for any associate degree program of more than 60 hours or a baccalaureate degree of more than 120 hours. Purdue worked with numerous entities to amend the bill to address our concerns and as amended, now includes language that states, “In providing justification, if the state educational institution documents that the additional credit hours are required by: specific program standards established by external accrediting bodies; or occupational certification or licensure; the Commission shall accept the justification; and if the state educational institution documents that the additional credit hours are related to: employer requirements; or enhanced program quality and content, the Commission may accept the justification. The Commission shall require a review and report of the credit hours required for degree programs under this section at least every three years.” Status: Signed by the Governor
House Bill 1270 (SSACI/COPE)  This bill abolishes the State Student Assistance Commission and the Commission of Proprietary Education and places those agency responsibilities within the Commission for Higher Education. Purdue University and the other state education institutions monitored this bill closely, but remained neutral on the bill. The bill does request that the Legislative Council assign issues relating to the accreditation of proprietary institutions to an appropriate study committee. **Status:** Signed by Governor

Senate Bill 56 (Indiana University and Ball State University Boards of Trustee; Adds definition of “Research Intensive Campus”)  The bill removes certain residency requirements for members of IU and Ball State Boards of Trustees; modifies the manner in which alumni members of the IU BoT are elected and repeals a provision concerning emergency appointments to the Board. The bill also **adds a provision defining a “research intensive campus”** as a campus of a state educational institution that is classified or designated as a Research University (very high research activity) or a Research University (high research activity) or an equivalent successor designation that is established by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. **Status:** Signed by Governor

Senate Bill 182 (Credit Transfers)  Requires CHE to create a common course numbering system into which each state educational institution shall map its own course numbers, for courses in the core transfer library. Requires state educational institutions to create a statewide transfer general education core to be implemented by March 15, 2013. The bill also provides that an individual who holds an associate degree is considered to have met at least 30 semester credit hours of the general education requirements for a bachelor’s degree. It also requires a state educational institution to accept an associate degree from another state educational institution as credit toward a related bachelor’s degree.

Purdue worked with a number of entities to address our concerns. We were successful in our efforts to require the common course numbering to be mapped by CHE (vs a requirement to renumber all courses to match) and making the general education core based on learning outcomes. **Status:** Signed by Governor

SR 0009 (Senate Resolution)  Resolution urges the Legislative Council to establish a study committee to study changes to Indiana law requiring undocumented students to pay out-of-state tuition rates to attend Indiana’s seven public institutions of higher education. **Status:** Adopted by voice vote in the Senate

SCR 0019 (Senate Concurrent Resolution)  Senate Concurrent Resolution that urges the Legislative Council to assign an interim study committee to review the current oversight structure and governance of IPFW. **Status:** Adopted by voice vote in the both the Senate and House of Representatives

**Bills Failed**

**HB 1118 – University Tuition and fees (Caps)**

**HB 1287 - IPFW would require CHE to approve up to six graduate degree programs**

**HB 1290 - (also HB 1200 and SB 155) Higher education employment age limits**

**SB 54 - Use of eminent domain by state supported institutions of higher education**

**SB 179 - High school virtual instruction courses**

**SB 181 - Possession of firearms on state property**