



**Northern Illinois  
University**

## **Springfield Legislative Update**

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Chief of Staff

## **Will we get a budget?**



Pros:

- Legislators have made it clear they want a full-year budget
- Concerned about negative effects on bond agency ratings and threats to accreditation
- Election year
- 15 Republican representatives and one Republican senator voted for last year's budget, most of whom are not running for reelection

## Will we get a budget?



Cons:



## Budget possibilities



- Rauner's proposed budget would give NIU **\$81.9 million**
  - This is our budget assumption
- We have asked for FY15 budget of roughly **\$91 million**
- Rauner's pension cost shift proposal is likely dead for this session
- Some discussion of a partial year budget until after the election
- Any budget outcome is likely to "kick the can" down the road

## Higher Education Atmosphere in Springfield



- Concern over “wasteful” spending by universities
- Demand for accountability
- Concern over outmigration of students and cost of college
- Calls for consolidation or closures
- Establishment of Higher Education Working Group

## Investment, Performance, and Accountability Compact (IPAC)



### **NIU obligations:**

- The Northern Illinois University (NIU) Board of Trustees may not increase the base rate of in-state undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees by more than the rate of inflation
- 50% of new freshmen will be from underserved populations, defined as Pell eligible, first generation, or an alum of Chicago Public Schools
- NIU will provide the equivalent of at least 20% of the state appropriation to financial aid for Illinois residents
- NIU will maintain at least a 75% first-to-second year retention rate and at least a 50% six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen in undergraduate programs
- NIU will increase accountability to the state by providing an annual report card on key indicators, published and updated on the university website.

### **State obligations:**

- Lock-in state funding commitment for 5 years
- Reinstate Certificate of Participation program
- Create Illinois Excellence Fund

## NIU's legislative priorities



- Predictable, adequate, and stable funding in return for a commitment to accountability
- Flexibility to operate in an efficient manner
  - State University Civil Service System reform
  - procurement reform
- Capital renewal funding

## Bills to watch



- University Surplus Real Estate (SB3288)
- Higher Ed Performance Metrics (HB4991)
- 3-year Teacher Licensure (HB4956)
- Community College 4-year Nursing Degree (SB888)
- Higher Education Centers of Excellence (SB2234/HB4103)

## Higher Education Centers of Excellence (“Brady/Rose”)



Among other things, the bill would:

- Create a uniform admission application to be accepted at all public universities in Illinois.
- Provide automatic admission to an academically appropriate public university for any high school student with a grade of B or better average if they maintain their B average through graduation.
- Automatically refer any student who is not offered admission to a public university to the community college district where they live and provide the student with enrollment information.
- Require that a student who is accepted to a public institution of higher education receive an acceptance letter from that institution setting forth any grants or scholarship offers extended by the institution at that time.
- Study the opportunity for merit-based financial aid.
- Study the concept of multi-year budgeting and report specific recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2019.

## Higher Education Centers of Excellence (“Brady/Rose”)



The bill empowers the IBHE to:

- Conduct a study ranking the quality of academic departments to corresponding other departments at other public universities and campuses in Illinois.
- Produce a statement of excellence for each campus.
- Institute an economic efficiency review of each campus and the top eight ranked academic departments statewide.

## Enhancing NIU's Springfield presence



- Replacing our contract lobbyist with a Springfield-based state legislative liaison
- Establishment of an Alumni Advocacy program
- Creation of the NIU Caucus

## Inaugural NIU Caucus Members



*Legislators:*

Rep. Steve Andersson\*  
 Rep. Kelly Burke  
 Rep. Tim Butler  
 Sen. Cristina Castro\* (co-chair)  
 Sen. John Curran\*  
 Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia  
 Rep. Tom Demmer  
 Rep. Mike Fortner  
 Sen. Toi Hutchinson\*  
 Rep. Stephanie Kifowit\*  
 Rep. Anna Moeller\*  
 Rep. Bob Pritchard  
 Sen. Tom Rooney\*  
 Rep. Carol Sente  
 Rep. Joe Sosnowski\* (co-chair)  
 Sen. Dave Syverson  
 Rep. Litesa Wallace\*  
 Rep. Grant Wehri



*Staff:*

Mark Bonne\* (Sen. Stadelman)  
 James Mendez (Illinois State Senate Democratic Caucus)  
 Kayla Sorensen\* (Sen. Bertino-Tarrant)  
 Miles Sodowski\* (Illinois State Senate Democratic Caucus)

\*Alumnus