

# Issues on the Horizon for 2008-09

## **National/International:**

- Presidential election
- Major weather events and natural disasters
- War in Iraq
- Middle East conflict—Israel and Lebanon; pressure for divestment
- New terrorist attacks around the globe
- National debate over immigration policy
- International scholars—enrollment trends; visa issues, including increased enforcement of visa policies and deportation of students and employees who have violated their visa status
- Safety of faculty, students and alumni traveling abroad; use of travel registry
- Influenza—plans for potential pandemic
- Potential requests for disclosures about gifts from foreign sources

## **University Leadership:**

- President's vision and goals; strategic planning
- Executive compensation
- Open positions and searches

## **Academic Affairs:**

- Concerns about faculty recruitment and retention
- Efforts to reduce textbook prices
- Flexible tenure proposals
- Relationship with faculty governing body
- Faculty compensation; gender-based salary gaps
- Climate for faculty and students of color
- Admissions—issues related to student enrollment and recruiting
- Recruitment and retention of students of color; graduation rates
- Financial aid and affordability; access for low-income students
- Academic summer programs—health issues, security, cost
- Challenges to academic freedom
- Grade inflation
- Rankings

**LGBT issues:**

- Challenges to same-sex partner benefits
- Issues related to gender identity and gender expression
- Gender-neutral housing

**Student Affairs:**

- Student mental health issues
- Climate for students of color, LGBT students, Jewish and Arab students, etc.
- Racist and hate incidents
- Greek community—hazing; alcohol; discipline
- Alcohol issues
- Student activism
- Sexual assaults
- Illnesses in residence halls
- Controversial student traditions

**Research:**

- Innovation and tech transfer themes
- Embryonic stem cell research—research activities, legal and political environment
- Native American artifacts and repatriation issues
- NIH and other federal grants—federal oversight
- Federal funding trends
- Research integrity—investigations; conflict of interest
- Animal research protests—activities of ELF and ALF

**Development:**

- Fundraising campaign
- Fundraising for need-based student aid
- Possibility of controversial donors
- Concerns about big gifts at same time as budget cuts, rising tuition
- Potential interest in gifts from foreign sources

**Human Resources:**

- Rising cost of health care benefits; any planned changes in benefits
- Retiree benefits
- Compliance hotlines
- Stricter I-9 compliance efforts by federal government
- Labor contract negotiations
- Efforts to unionize new employee groups

- Student activism re labor issues
- Child care offerings

### **Government Relations:**

- November elections
- State budget challenges
- Student loan/international studies investigations at federal and state levels
- Congressional attention to tax policies (UBIT, etc.)
- Federal involvement in accreditation process
- Tuition controls at the state and federal levels
- Pressures for continued cost-cutting
- Continued state efforts to regulate university activities
- Concerns about residency rules (military families; illegal immigrants)
- Federal Higher Education Act reauthorization

### **Athletics:**

- Student athletes in trouble
- Fan behavior

### **Medical Center:**

- Growth/construction of new facilities
- Patient privacy/HIPAA
- Patient safety issues
- Uncompensated care

### **Town-Gown Relations:**

- Local economic development
- Land acquisition
- Scarcity of parking
- Students of color—discrimination concerns
- Alcohol issues; large parties
- Construction noise

### **Legal issues:**

- RIAA lawsuits; illegal downloading; settlements
- Other pending lawsuits

### **Business Operations:**

- Sarbanes Oxley and attention to financial fraud, conflicts of interest
- Results of various audits

- Cost-saving efforts and business efficiency steps
- Endowment—earnings, payout rates and uses
- Investments—performance; tax strategies
- Divestment; socially responsible investing
- Energy conservation efforts
- Ethical purchasing movements

**Safety and security:**

- Computer security
- Identity theft
- Terrorist threats—security at events; research labs and sensitive materials
- Fire safety—residence halls; off campus
- Campus crime—residence halls; sexual assault; violent crime trends; relationship with communities of color
- “Undercover” reporters gaining unauthorized access to University facilities

**Information technology:**

- Notification process for IT security incidents
- E-mail spoofing
- Increase in phishing scams