Current legislation pertaining to the creation of a Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Possible Impact on Institutions of Higher Education

Signed into law November 25, 2002	
Undersecretary for Science and Technology	Bill language creates an Undersecretary for Science and Technology, whose many responsibilities will include developing a national policy and strategic plan for identifying countermeasures against chemical, biological, nuclear, and other terrorist threats, establishing and coordinating the R&D activities for the new Department; and developing and overseeing the administration of guidelines for merit review.
Directorate of Science and Technology	The House version of HR 5710 creates a Directorate, which would be headed by the Undersecretary for Science and Technology.
Extramural Research	The Undersecretary will create and operate an extramural research program that will: *"ensure that colleges, universities, private research institutes, and companies (and consortia thereof) from as many areas of the United States as practicable participate; ensure that the research funded is of high quality, as determined through merit review processes developed; and distribute funds through grants, cooperative agreements, and contacts through competitions that are as open as possible."* The main extramural research program is the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA). The program will administer an acceleration fund authorized at $500 million. Funds will be administered for: • Basic and applied homeland security research to promote revolutionary changes in technologies that would promote homeland security; • Advance the development, testing and evaluation, and deployment of critical homeland security technologies; • Accelerate the prototyping and deployment of technologies that would address vulnerabilities
R &D Center for Homeland Security	Creates, within one year of enactment, a university-based center(s) for homeland security. In selecting colleges and universities the following criteria would be used • Expertise in the training of first responders • Expertise in responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction • Expertise in emergency medical services • Expertise in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear countermeasures • Strong affiliations with animal and plant diagnostic labs • Expertise in food safety • Affiliation with the Department of Agriculture labs or training centers • Expertise in water and wastewater operations • Expertise is port and waterway security • Expertise in multi-modal transportation • Nationally recognized programs in engineering • Expertise in educational outreach and technical assistance • Expertise in border transportation and security • Expertise in interdisciplinary public policy research, and communication outreach regarding science, technology & public policy.

Health Related Research	In regards to human health-related research relating to countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) will set the priorities, goals, objectives, policies, and develop a coordinated strategy with the Secretary of DHS.
Classification of Research	In most cases, research conducted or supported by DHS will be unclassified.
Science & Technology Council	Establishes a Homeland Security Science & Technology Advisory Committee. The Committee is headed by the Undersecretary of Science and Technology, and is composed of 20 members appointed by the Undersecretary, from a wide variety of affected groups, including citizen groups. (This provision sunsets after 2 years.)
Homeland Security Institute	Establishes a federally funded R&D center, whose duties may include; systems analysis, risk analysis, simulation, economic and policy analysis, and others. (This provision sunsets after 2 years.)
Select Agents Registration	Does not transfer the functions of the select agent registration program to DHS. It does, however, require the Secretary of DHS to collaborate with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General in determining any new biological agents and toxins to be listed as "select agents."
Department of Energy (DOE) Program Transfers	Transfers the following programs from DOE to DHS: programs and activities relating to chemical, biological national security, and supporting programs directly related to homeland security of non-proliferation & verification R&D; programs relating to nuclear smuggling and assessment; life sciences activities of the biological and environmental research program related to microbial pathogens; the Environmental Measurements Laboratory; and the advanced scientific computing research program at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.
National Laboratories	Allows the Secretary to establish a headquarters laboratory for DHS at any national laboratory, and to establish any additional laboratory unites at other national labs. If a headquarters lab is to be established, criteria for the selection must be established and published in the Federal Register.
Department of Defense (DOD) Program Transfers	Transfers from DOD to DHS: The National Bio-Weapons Defense Analysis Center, and functions related to the Center.
DOJ Office of Science and Technology	Creates a new Office of Science and Technology within the Department of Justice responsible for law enforcement technology – including administering a program of research, development, testing, evaluation, and cost-benefit analyses in fields that would improve the safety, effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement technologies.