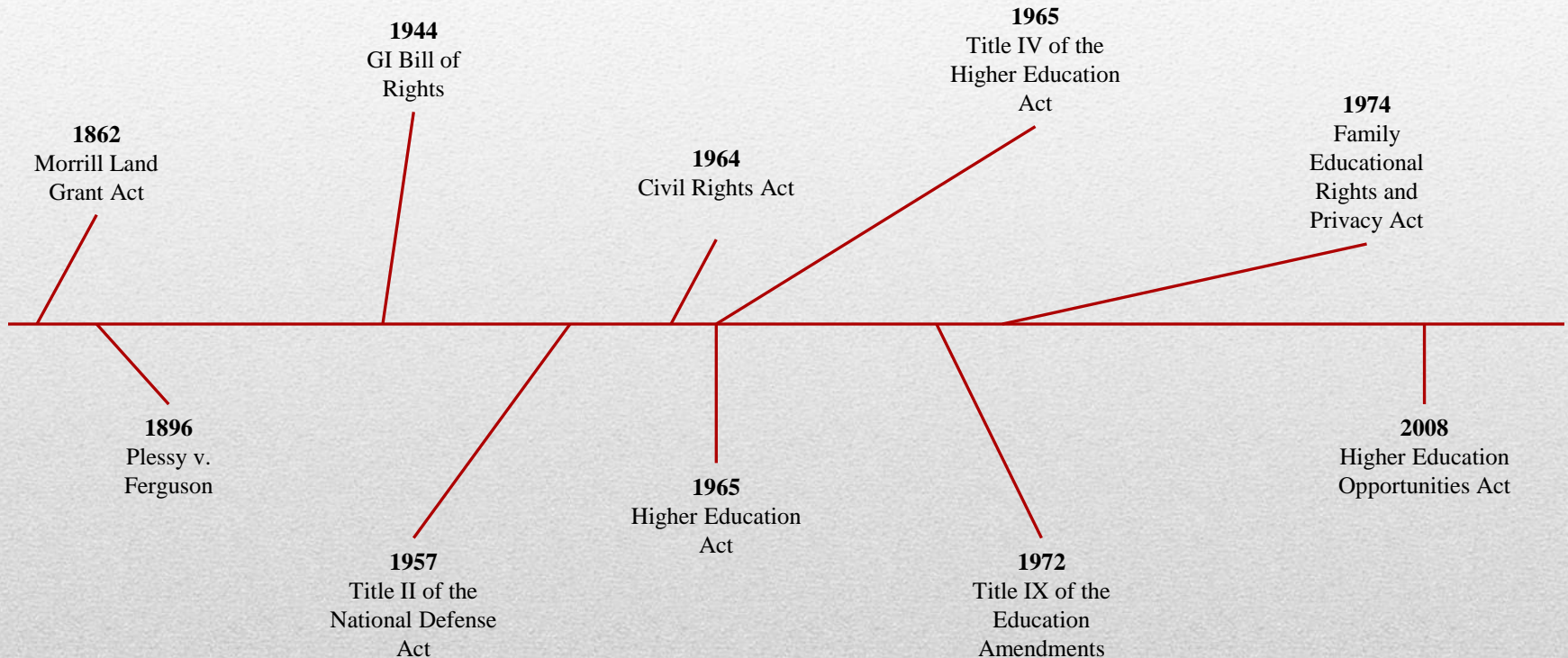


Political Issues in Higher Education

Lynsey Nejman

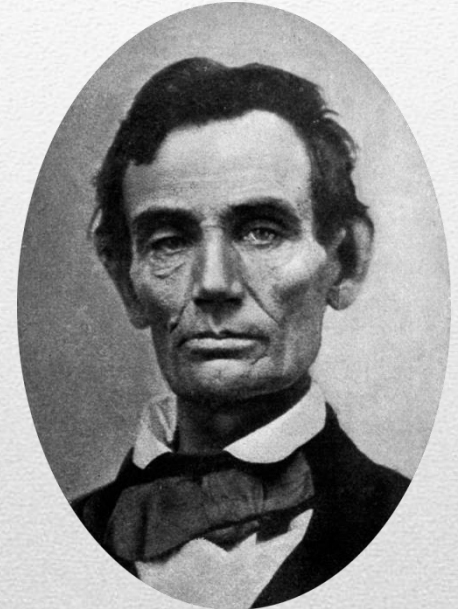
Georgia Southern University

A Timeline of American Higher Education Policy



Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862

- Signed by President Lincoln during Civil War in 1862 and named after Justin Morrill who served in the House and Senate from Vermont
- Federal Government gave each state a portion of western lands to sell and use the profit to create land grant institutions
- Many states created liberal arts colleges
- Created “A&M” schools: agriculture, mechanics, mining and military instruction
- Established precedence of private institutions collecting state funding



Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896

- Morrill Land Grant Act of 1890 required states to create a land-grant universities for black students if there was one for white students
- Plessy v. Ferguson upheld this decision with “separate but equal” in the Supreme Court decision in 1896
- Established Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCU’s
- Plessy v. Ferguson increased the number of black students receiving secondary education, and created the need for college educated teachers for the new segregated schools
- This precedent was used in the 1950 Supreme Court case, Sweatt v. Painter which established facilities in HBSU’s must be equal to those in white colleges
- Overturned in 1954 with Brown v. Board of Education, but most HBCU’s remained segregated



GI Bill of Rights, 1944



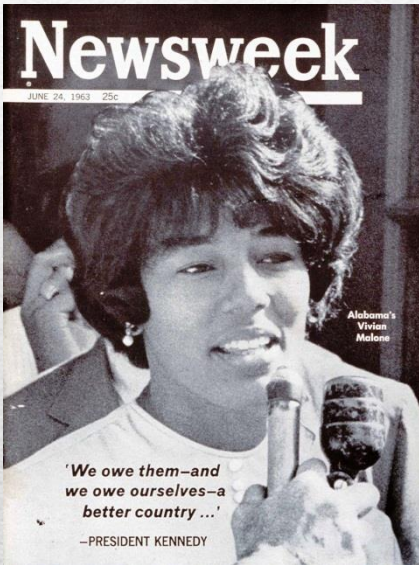
- Signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944 as an effort to help convert wartime economy to peacetime economy
 - Each serviceman received a year of education for 90 days service, plus one month for each month of active duty – up to 48 months
 - Caused college enrollment to double almost immediately
 - Institutions had to be approved to receive funds – this created the importance of regional accrediting bodies
 - With influx in applicants, colleges began using admissions testing as part of selection process
 - Created the mass higher education system we know today
-

Title II of the National Defense Act of 1957

- Signed by President Eisenhower to promote education in areas that would help the U.S. win the Cold war:
 - Science
 - Math
 - Modern foreign language
 - Provided low interest loans and cancelled loans for those who became teachers
 - Need based funding
 - Created the basis for future STEM funding
 - Established government funding for specific programs and majors
-



Civil Rights Act of 1964



- Enacted by congress and signed by President Johnson
 - Title II – abolished discrimination in public accommodations, e.g. cafeterias and student centers
 - Title III – abolished discrimination in facilities, e.g. student housing
 - Title IV – abolish discrimination in any institutions using federal financial assistance
 - The federal government could withdraw all financial assistance to any institution that did not comply
-

Higher Education Act of 1965

- Signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson at his alma mater, Southwest Texas State College. He sat at the same desk where he worked as a student assistant.
- Part of the Great Society Legislation and supported by the Truman Commission
- Created and established the concept that higher education should be available to all, regardless of monetary ability
- Consolidated overlapping programs
- Provided grants for library books and other research material
- Made two-year colleges and technical colleges eligible for financial assistance
- Established Teacher Corps to further develop teacher education
- Supplied financial assistance for facilities at institutions



Title IV – HEA of 1965



President Lyndon B. Johnson
signing the Higher Education Act
of 1965

- Revamped college financial aid
- Restructured need based grants, work-study programs and other campus-based aid
- Created guaranteed student loans – the predecessor to FFEL
- Created “Talent Search,” similar to the Upward Bound program, created in 1964
 - Helps low income, first generation and other disadvantaged students prepare for college

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972

- Signed into law by president Nixon
- Bars discrimination in higher education funding based on gender
- Most recognized for women's sports, but there are nine other parts to the bill
- The percentage of women in high school and college athletics has more than quadrupled since the bill was signed
- The bill is also extending to protect women against sexual harassment



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

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 **BUCKLEY**
JAMES L. BUCKLEY FOR SENATOR

- Sponsored by Senator James Buckley in 1974, it is commonly known as the “Buckley Act”
- Signed into law by President Ford
- Applies to any institution providing education, from Pre-K to Post-secondary
- Gives parents the right to view all education records regarding their children
- Once a student turns 18, only the student has the right to disclose any information
- Students must give schools consent to disclose any information to parents
- In order to work at a university, all employees must sign a “Buckley form”

Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008

- Signed into law by President Obama
- Reauthorization of Higher Education Act of 1965
- Increased Federal Pell Grant amounts
- Standardized financial aid award letter
- Created transparency requirements for cost of attendance, such as COA calculator on institution websites
- Required campus security reporting
- Many new and additional reporting requirements



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