**National Space Grant Alliance Board of Directors Meeting**

**Washington, DC**

**March 1, 2011**

**4pm-6pm**

**Participants**: Yervant Terzian , Tery Shehata, John Gregory, Jobi Cook, Pete Schultz, Pat Hynes, Angela Des Jardins, Majid Jaraiedi, Chris Koehler, Mary Sandy, and Jaydeep Mukherjee

**Guests:** Joe Danek, Carolyn Fuller

Vice-chair John Gregory chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair, Chris Brown**.**

**February 18, 2011 Telecon Minutes** : Majid Jaraiedi’s name was excluded from the names of participants. Pat Hynes motioned to approve the amended minutes. Terry Shehata seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Treasurers Report**: Majid Jaraiedi told the Board that the collection rate for 2010 was 95%. As of February 28, 2011, 32 states had paid the dues for 2011.

**March 2, 2011 General Board Meeting Agenda**

* Chair’s Report
* Approval of D.C. Alliance Meeting Minutes
* Update from Van Scoyoc Associates and The Implementation Group
* Treasurer’s Report
* Other Old Business
* New Business
* Adjourn

**Update by Carolyn Fuller**

* Uncertainty on the Hill
* House supposed to vote on Continuing Resolution (CR) this afternoon, unclear on the Senate side
* Series of two weeks or one week CR for the next two months
* Existing CR has Space Grant at $45.6 and this CR expires on Friday
* Space Grant budget for FY2012 is at $26.7M (President’s budget)

Joe Danek reminded the Board about the Presidents STEM agenda that stresses on quality at every level and broader participation in programs.

**Briefing by Mary Sandy and Chris Koehler**: Mary Sandy and Chris Koehler gave an update on their meeting, along with Dick Henry, with Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland Commerce, Science Justice Subcommittee staffer. They were told that with the change in Congressional fiscal climate we can’t rely on the Congressional committee to fix the budget discrepancy and we have to redouble our efforts with Members of Congress for their individual support. The staffer also suggested that Space Grant should do what Sea Grant did recently, i.e. work with the Office of Management and Budget and the Administrator to secure the appropriate funding in the President’s budget, which make it much easier for them to support. They were also told that there is a need to focus on the FY12 budget. For FY2011, NASA might rely on the Authorization level.

**Points to discuss at the General Meeting:**

The consensus was to start the General Body Meeting by 8am so as to finish the meeting by 9am.

There was a lot of discussion on the topics that the Space Grant Directors should talk about during their Hill Visits tomorrow. John Gregory listed 6 important topics for Space Grant Directors to discuss during their hill visits.

* Thank your Reps for their consistent support over the years. History: Each year NASA lowballs SG, and Congress increases the level. (For EPSCOR states, the same applies).
* What is Space Grant? Use the NSGA Fact Sheet to make some key points. Emphasize innovative STEM education and workforce development needs to maintain US technology leadership in a competitive world. Mention 1:1 matching using State resources. New members need to understand the program.
* Show them what you do in your State (and in their districts) with the money. Show specific programs, colleges, high schools to give local color.
* What are the risks to this program in the current fiscal environment? Facts are: Congress appropriated $45.6M for SG in FY 2010; Congress authorized $45.6M for FY 2011 and 2012 for SG. However, if Appropriations bills do not have a line item for SG, NASA may revert to their own requested level of $28M (2011) and $26.7M (2012). This is a reduction of over 40%.
* What would this mean? Student programs and student numbers would be cut proportionately. Cuts would be magnified by the 1:1 matching funds also lost to the program.
* What are we asking? That we be left at the 2010 enacted levels as also authorized. That specific language be included in the Bill, directing NASA to fund SG at these levels.

There was a discussion on the timing of the Dear Colleague letter. The initial feedback from some of the congressional delegates was that this is not the right time to ask for a letter. Carolyn told the Board that she would like to get a feel on how many would consider signing or sponsoring a Dear Colleague letter in the future. Yervant wanted to know what actions we should take in two weeks since the present CR will expire in 2 weeks. Carolyn mentioned that we should do a Dear Colleague letter in April and via email.

There was a request for a telecon soon to address these issues. The next telecon was scheduled for March 17th at 3pm

Meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaydeep Mukherjee