**Minutes of the Space Grant Alliance Board Meeting**

**Portland, OR**

**October 22, 2009**

Board members present

Yervant Terzian, NY, Chair

Mary Sandy, VA, Vice Chair

Majid Jaraiedi, WVA, Treasurer

Chris Brown, NC, Secretary

Luke Flynn, HI

Paul Hardersen, ND

Bill Garrard, MN

Richard Berendzen, DC

Raji Patel, MA

Peter Schultz, RI

Board members absent

Pat Hynes, NM

Richard Conn Henry, MD

Guests

Chris Koehler, CO

Mike Wiskerchen, CA

Bill Byrd, IA

Joe Danek, VSA-TIG

Wally Fowler, TX

John Gregory, AL

* Chair Terzian called the meeting to order at precisely 8 am.
* Terzian reminded us that this was his last meeting as Chair as his term ends on December 31, 2009.
* Reviewed of slides (“State of the Alliance”) to be presented to the general meeting of the Alliance**.**
* Discussed the FY 2009 Omnibus budget for Space Grant vs. the Actual budget for Space Grant. $40 million was appropriated for 40 states at $815K and 12 states at $615K. In reality 35 states received $785K and 17 states received $590K. There was a Consortium Development competition in which 8 of the 17 eligible states applied and 5 were funded with an additional $195K for one year. After all the states were funded in FY 2009, including the Consortium Development competition, there is still some $1.5 million that was not distributed to the states.
* Discussed the FY 2010 budget. The House calls for $45.6 million wherein 42 states would receive $900K, 10 states would receive $700K and $800K would be left. The Senate recommended funding Space Grant at the President’s budget level of $28.4 million. The budget has not yet passed, and we are in a continuing resolution until October 31, which is expected to be extended for another 1-3 months.
* Joe Danek of VSA-TIG shared with the board that the delay in passing a budget is due in part to several amendments that were added on, but he expressed optimism that the final number may come in at the $40-$42 million level.
* Chris Koehler let the board know that it is likely that we will not know the 2010 budget number prior to the release of the RFP for the next 5 year cycle. Therefore, most likely we will all need to submit proposals with budgets that reflect that lower number, and then if there is a plus-up, we will submit a second budget as well.
* The future direction of Alliance activity was discussed. Principally, we need to work to increase the President’s budget request, which has been stagnant at around $28 million since 2005. Approaches include working with NASA HQ, working closer with the Senate Appropriations committee, and finding a “champion” in the Senate for Space Grant. Other discussion included trying to get Space Grant in front of NASA Administrator Bolden, getting Space Grant on the radar screen of some of the large university’s presidents or chancellors so they can advocate, and rethinking our strategy of visiting Capitol Hill in March only.
* Terzian expressed concern that the Alliance does not have enough time during the National meetings, and solicited ideas for carving out more time. One idea included on-line conferencing. Koehler gave an action item to Terzian to tell the Executive Committee how much time would be adequate for Alliance business at the national meeting.
* Majid Jaraiedi gave the Treasurer’s report. Most states have paid or have good reasons for their delay. An audit was conducted and all was in good order. A copy of the Alliance’s tax returns was delivered to Terzian. Jaraiedi requested that Terzian form a sub-committee to look at how to use the extra funds in the Alliance account . Terzian thanked Jaraiedi for his service as Treasurer. Jaraiedi said he would be glad to serve as Treasurer as long as he is elected to do so. He also noted that invoices for the 2010 dues will be mailed on November 4, 2009.
* Terzian asked Koehler for an update from the Executive Committee. Koehler asked if we have a “plan B” if we only get $28 million in the budget, and was concerned about the meaning of revectoring/redirection of the program emphasis that was mentioned by Diane DeTroye at the regional meetings. He shared that there will be a No-Cost-Extension for all the grants. He also shared that as far as asking for support at NASA HQ for increasing the funding for Space Grant that this is an awkward time in light of the situation where many programs are being cut. He expressed concern that with Diane DeTroye’s hectic workload that Space Grant does not get her full attention, and this is evident in her communication with all the states. Finally, he shared that Joyce Winterton is an advocate for Space Grant and communicates directly with Administator Bolden.
* Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 am.