**National Space Grant Alliance Telecon Minutes**

**September 27, 2010**

**Board Members in attendance**: Bill Garrard, Dick Henry, Carolyn Fuller, Chris Brown, Raji Patel, Yervant Terzian, Pete Schultz, Mary Sandy, Jaydeep Mukherjee

**Congressional Update (Carolyn Fuller)**

* House bill –SG is at the level requested in the testimony
* Senate Bill –Budget level
* A Continuing Resolution (CR) is expected to run to early December. The CR will be at last years appropriated level.
* Department and agency have a lot of discretion regarding the appropriated level and the president’s budget level. OMB may suggest most agency’s to proceed with the President’s budget level.

Mary Sandy then gave the Board an update with her meeting with Jim Stofan on August 31st in which she talked about concerns in the funding delays. Jim Stofan followed up with a telecon with Mary and Diane Detroye on September 20th. Mary said that she felt that Jim heard the concerns and he made the point that there should be a better review process for the next cycle and adequate staffing. Mary also added that Jim will be at the national Space Grant meeting on Friday

Carolyn Fuller then talked about some feedback she got from key Congressional folks specially to think about Space Grant as an extension program that makes NASA data available not only to students and teachers but the community in general and thus broaden Space Grant’s scope and effort

**SG Overview Presentation**

* Mary got data slides from Diane and will pass it on to Chris Brown and Yervant Terzian
* Joe Danek working on OMB appointments

**DC Dues**

* Mary Sandy got in touch with Eric Day
* Eric spends 15-20 hours on the Alliance meeting
* Hourly rate is $60.00, Alliance cost is $1,200.00 Consensus to pay $1,200.00
* Yervant thinks Alliance should pay for the Alliance rooms at both Fall and Spring
* Mary agrees but adds that there is no need to pay for staff time at the Fall meetings

**By Laws**

It was suggested that there should be a change in Article IV Section 1 by adding the statements underlined.

“Each member will be represented by their respective designated representative, the Director of the Space Grant Consortium. In the event that a member’s designated representative is unable to attend a meeting of the Alliance, the designated representative may designate an alternate who shall have all the powers and duties of the designated representative, including voting. The designated representative must identify the alternate in writing to the Chair of the Alliance Board. ”

It was also suggested that the Article IV Members, Section 1 Members be clarified as follows:

“Section 1. Members. The alliance shall be a membership organization composed of one class of membership of no more than 52 members with each Space Grant Consortium … being considered as one member. Each member will be represented by their respective designated representative, the Director or Co-Director of the Space Grant Consortium (provided the Co-Director has responsibilities which are essentially equivalent to that of the Director).”

* Bill Garrard suggested to Eliminate “Voting by proxy will not be permitted” from the by-laws to remove discrepancy
* Yervant suggested adding “Prior to the meeting “ in the first corrected statement and removing the word “essential” from the 2nd corrected sentence
* Mary said that Co-directors titles appear to have been accepted by NASA
* The Consensus was to remove the word “essential” and keep the rest since any questioning about appropriateness will come to the Board anyway
* Bill Garrard will make the changes and send it to Mary
* Mary will present the changes at the Alliance meeting

**Next Board Meetings**

* Board Meeting 11:00 AM to 12:45PM on Thursday (14th)
* Full Alliance Meeting 4:15PM to 5:30PM on Friday (15TH)

**Contingency Funds**

* Reserve fund in interest bearing CD (around $250K) with $90K in checking account
* Majid Jaraiedi was concerned that if he does a full financial disclosure some states may not pay for the dues when they see the amount in the reserve funds
* Current expenses $175K
* Bill Garrard suggested that there be full disclosure
* Chris Brown added that we should come up with a time period for the contingency funds and said that a sensible time period would be 1 year.
* Mary Sandy will discuss with Majid regarding the amount of reserve fund and thought that one should have at least an 18 month reserve
* Yervant thought that there should be 2 years’ worth of reserve funds.
* Consensus was for 2 years of reserve fund

**Draft Alliance Meeting agenda**

* Mary Sandy discussed the items in the Alliance Meeting agenda

**Minutes Approval**

* August 17th telecon minutes: Yervant Terzian moved for approval, Raji Patel seconded. All in favor
* DC transition meeting minutes: Yervant Terzian moved for approval, Bill Garrard seconded. All in favor