**National Space Grant Alliance**

**Telecon Minutes**

**January 7, 2011, 2pm EDT**

**Attendees**: Mary Sandy, Yervant Terzian, Angela Des Jardins, John Gregory, Peter Schultz, Chris Brown, Majid Jaraiedi, Bill Garrard, Dick Henry, Barrett Caldwell for Chris Koehler, and Jaydeep Mukherjee

**Not present**: Pat Hynes, Terry Shehata

**Guests:** Carolyn Fuller, Joe Danek

**Welcome to New Board Members:** Mary Sandy welcomed the new Board Members, Angela Des Jardins, Paul Johnson and returning member Peter Schultz.

Mary Sandy informed the Board that Steve Ruffin will talk to the Board at 2:15pm regarding his conversations with Robert Braun, NASA Chief Technologist.

Chris Brown, as the new Council Chair, asked the Board about setting up a fixed date for a monthly telecom. After some discussion, the consensus was that Chris Brown will poll the Board Members via email for a convenient date.

**Steve Ruffin’s meeting with Robert Braun:** Steve Ruffin joined the telecom at 2:15 pm to talk to the Board about his meeting with Robert Braun. Steve bought up 2 concerns that the Directors had from the recommendations suggested by the NASA’s Education Design Team (EDT). The 2 concerns were the reduction in graduate fellowships and the suggestion for a new 5 year proposal from SG states. Robert Braun informed Steve that neither he nor his staff met with the EDT.

Barrett Caldwell informed the Board that he talked with Chris Koehler yesterday and that Chris took all the 34 responses to the recommendations from the EDT and sent it to Diane Detroye. Diane then sent the responses, along with her own feedback, to the EDT. Barrett also informed the Board that Chris Koehler was very happy with Diane’s response to the EDT. Barrett also said that NASA’s Associate Administrator for Education, Leland Melvin will attend the National Space Grant Director’s Spring Meeting in Washington, DC.

**Barrett Caldwell’s Council Update:** Barrett gave the Board an update on the Council on behalf of Chris Koehler. He said that Diane Detroye is working on the budget issues. There was a concern that the Summer of Innovation funds was connected to the Space Grant funds. However, Chris Koehler does not think that the two are linked in terms of funding. The Board was also informed that there was a clerical error in the SOI request for proposal regarding the citation of the Space Grant law and it will be removed.

**Updates from VSA, including Continuing Resolution and Its Implications – Carolyn Fuller:** Carolyn mentioned that there was no formal guidance on the Continuing Resolution (CR). Most of the agencies have been asked to spend as less as possible and some Republicans would like to go back to the FY08 budget level. However, this might not happen this year. Joe Danek said that the Republicans want to reduce the federal budget by $100B and advised the Board to be prepared for delays this year. He also advised the Board to focus on the 2011 and 2012 budgets.

Yervant Terzian volunteered to update the grant start dates for the states and will email it to the Board. Joe also mentioned that he has been trying to make calls to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and to Leland Melvin to discuss Space Grant. Mary Sandy suggested that Chris Koehler and other Directors should accompany Joe for these meetings.

Telecon adjourned at 3:10pm